



Department of Veterans Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Thomas N. Moe, Director

For Immediate Release
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Ohio Women Veterans Conference to be Held First Weekend in October

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Veterans Services is teaming with the VA Healthcare System of Ohio to host the Ohio Women Veterans Conference on Saturday, October 8, 2011. The conference is in recognition of the fact that women veterans face circumstances different from their male counterparts particularly in regard to connecting these veterans with the benefits they've earned.

The conference will be held at the Aladdin Shrine Center, located at 3850 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and the conference gets underway at 10 a.m. The cost for the conference is \$10 per person.

“Over 60,000 Ohio women have made the selfless sacrifices necessary to protect and defend this nation,” said Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tom Moe. “But many are unaware of the benefits they've earned. We also know that there are other unique factors that have had an impact not only on their service but the rest of their lives, and we want to be sure to give them the information and the support they need and deserve.”

This year's conference features keynote speaker Janice Nark, a veteran of both Vietnam and Desert Storm. A professional motivational speaker, Ms. Nark shared a podium with dignitaries ranging from General Colin Powell to President Bill Clinton. Her message focuses on finding control in the midst of chaos. Conference attendees will also hear from a range of other professional military and military veteran speakers.

Women have performed a vital role in all military services throughout history. They also have significantly different health care needs from male veterans among both the young as well as the aging veteran population. Women veterans may also have post-traumatic stress not only from combat but sexual trauma as well.

The department's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans serves to bring women together to share experiences and resources on these issues, and connect women to organizations that can help. The bi-annual Women Veterans Conference provides a vital forum to network with veterans of today's conflicts and all eras dating back to World War II. The conference provides women veterans

the opportunity to not only learn more about these challenges, but also the resources and strategies available to overcome them.

The last conference, held in 2009, brought together over 700 veterans.

To learn more about this year's conference, or to get involved, call (614) 752-8941, or visit:
http://dvs.ohio.gov/home/committees/women_veterans_advisory_committee.aspx.

-30-

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