



For Immediate Release
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Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Set for November 10

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will induct the Class of 2011 in a ceremony at 10 a.m. November 10 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium on West Broad Street in Columbus. Twenty Ohioans from all walks of life will join 408 others who are enshrined in the Hall.

The Hall is dedicated to recognizing Ohio veterans who, after their military service, put their skills and abilities to work in their local communities – and by their continued service and positive accomplishments, inspired their fellow citizens.

“It’s a great day to be able to honor 20 Ohioans who have served both their country and community,” said Tom Moe, Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and a 2009 inductee of the Hall. “These men and women represent one of the great things about our veterans’ community – that when someone leaves the military, they very often continue to serve.”

This year’s inductees are:

WILLIAM K. BALSER

Newark – United States Army Veteran – Korean War

Mr. Balsler has held office in the American Legion at the district level, and also served as commander of the Department of Ohio. Most recently, he served on the Legion’s national Homeland Security Commission. He has coached youth baseball as well as the baseball team at The Ohio State University – Newark Campus. In addition he umpired baseball and refereed basketball at both the high school and college levels for over 35 years. He also speaks frequently on veterans and patriotism at local schools.

ROBERT W. BURR

Delaware – United States Army Veteran – Korean War

Mr. Burr is Past Commander of the VFW Post #3761 and currently serves as the Vice Commander of the VFW Post #3297. He was past Ohio State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart where he traveled to Washington, D.C. to seek legislative action for veterans of America. Robert’s youngest son Tommy was a hemophiliac, and in recognition of the need for blood donations in Ohio’s communities, he became an active blood donor, contributing over eleven gallons to date.

JOHN H. CAIPEN

Kent – United States Army Veteran – Korean War

Following military service, Mr. Caipen balanced his Ohio Edison career with volunteer work. He volunteered at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center and has accumulated over 8,259 volunteer hours. He has also been recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for his dedication and support while serving as a member of the Honor Guard at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio. He is also a Past Commander of the American Legion Post #496 in Kent, as well as a past district commander.

MARGARET DELILLO-STOREY, PSY.D, PCC, BCETS

Canton – United States Army Veteran – Operation Desert Shield & Operation Desert Storm

Dr. Margaret Delillo-Storey retired after 23 years in the Army, completed her degrees and embarked on a second career as a counselor and speaker in the field of trauma and PTSD care. She is a founding Member of the Stark County Traumatized Child Task Force. This work complements her employment in the Perry Local School System as District Mental Health Counselor. She also continues to see individuals on a part time basis at Northeast Ohio Behavioral Health.

GIFFORD B. DOXSEE, Ph.D

Athens – United States Army Veteran – World War II and Former Prisoner of War

Dr. Doxsee returned from the war and earned a doctorate at Harvard University. Today he continues to volunteer at the Good Works Shelter for people without homes, and is a weekly volunteer at Appalachian Community Hospice in Athens, Ohio. In addition, he volunteers at the Kairos Prison Ministry at the Hocking Correctional Facility in Nelsonville, Ohio. He is also founder and multi-term board member of the Athens County Historical Society and Museum. In May of 2011, he was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

SEAN S. ENNIS

Berea – United States Army Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. Ennis followed his military service by becoming involved with the March of Dimes for over 20 years. He is a board member and trustee of Honor Flight Cleveland (a group that takes World War II veterans to Washington D.C. to view the WWII Memorial). In addition, he works as a volunteer at the Cleveland airport USO and as a goodwill ambassador at the airport. He serves as a volunteer/advisor at the Vietnamese Tax Clinic in Cleveland. He has also held offices in both the Vietnam Veterans of American and the VFW.

LINDA L. HART

Monroe – United States Navy Veteran – Vietnam War

RICHARD G. HART

Monroe – United States Marine Corps/United States Air Force Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. and Mrs. Hart are first-time husband and wife inductees for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. They both grew up in the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home and both served in the Vietnam War. After the war, Linda returned home and obtained her nursing degree while Richard enlisted in the Air Force, retiring after 23 years of service. The couple

has hosted fundraisers every year since the Iraq War began in 2003 to pay for care packages, scholarships and postage, and mailed care packages to overseas troops nearly every week since. The Harts host the Slippery Step N.C.O. Club in their basement with arcade games, food and old jukebox music in order to entertain troops at home and to raise funds for troops overseas. Together they have raised funds to help pay for a fellow Vietnam veteran's liver transplant. They adopted an entire platoon in Iraq and kept them supplied with everything they could not get in-theater, for the most part at their own expense. The Harts also raised funds for scholarship awards in the name of a Marine killed in Iraq.

WILLIAM J. HARTNETT

Mansfield – United States Navy Veteran – Korean War

Mr. Hartnett followed his service by becoming a teacher and coach for several school districts. He was then a superintendent, followed by Vice President and interim President of North Central State College, and an adjunct faculty member at Ashland University. He has been active in AMVETS and the Korean War Veterans Association, and is a past president of his county Chamber of Commerce. He served eight years in the Ohio House. Gov. Ted Strickland appointed him as the first Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

WILLIAM B. KNEPP

Milford – United States Army Veteran – Korean War

After his military service, Mr. Knepp embarked on a business career and often speaks to business students at Live Oaks Vocational School. Also, he has frequently spoken at area elementary schools about patriotism and the legacy of veterans. He serves as Clermont County's Town Crier, and founded the Milford Jaycee talent show as well as the Miami Glen Performing Arts Association. In addition, he established the Korean War Veterans United Committee to construct a Korean War memorial in Clermont County.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MARSH, J.D.

Toledo – United States Navy Veteran – World War II

After his service, Mr. Marsh earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Ohio Wesleyan University and a Juris Doctor degree at George Washington University Law School. He has practiced law since 1955 and also volunteered for several organizations. He has served in numerous national and state positions, to include Elections Supervisor in Bosnia, the Ohio Elections Commission, and the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio. He is also a 55-year member and Past Commander of American Legion Post #335 in Toledo.

EDWARD J. MECHENBIER

Beavercreek – United States Air Force Veteran – Vietnam War and Former Prisoner of War

General Mechenbier served a total of 44 years in the Air Force, the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, retiring as a Major General in 2004. Following his retirement he joined the Board of Trustees of the American Veterans Heritage Center, which preserves the history of the Dayton VA Medical Center. He is a member of the VFW and the American Legion and is active in support of the Blue Star Mothers and VA hospital outreach programs. In addition, he serves on the Board of Advisors of the Dayton chapter of A Special Wish Foundation.

RALPH H. PHILLIPS (deceased)

Shelby – United States Army Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. Phillips started his own machine shop, was drafted to serve in Vietnam, but returned to grow Phillips Machine and Welding into a family of companies with annual sales over \$60 million and a 200-person work force. He was active in humanitarian efforts through Rotary International and at home with several veterans organizations and the Shelby Chamber of Commerce, Richland County Foundation, and the Community Improvement Corporation, among others. He was also a mentor to the Boy Scouts and Future Farmers of America.

JAMES D. ROSS

Newcomerstown – United States Army Veteran – Vietnam War

Following his service, Mr. Ross became active in veterans affairs. He is a past commander of his local American Legion and VFW posts, and a past president of his Vietnam Veterans of America chapter, among other memberships. He has also designed a monument to represent Tuscarawas County veterans at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman. He speaks at local schools and visits veterans in nursing homes and in hospice, and also works with area funeral homes to ensure that veterans receive a military funeral.

RICHARD D. STOBBS

Westerville – United States Army Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. Stobbs has been a public servant and advocate for veterans since his Army service. He is a former sheriff of Belmont County and is currently serves as Law Enforcement Liaison, Ohio Attorney Generals' Office. He has chaired the Ohio Gold Star Family Committee and spearheaded legislative efforts to make the Gold Star license plates a reality. He is a member of several veterans and civic organizations in the state and of his armored cavalry unit in Vietnam. He is also active with the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Ohio.

THEODORE M. STULTS II

Canton – United States Army Veteran and Ohio Army National Guard

Mr. Stults followed his initial military service into the business world, becoming president and CEO of Buckeye Feed Mills. He volunteers with and contributes to a number of veterans and civic groups, to include Doctors Hospital of Stark County, Walsh University, and the 555th Honors Detachment, which performs military funerals at Western Reserve National Cemetery. His memberships include the Reserve Officers Association, the 37th Division Veterans Association, and the Civil Air Patrol, a volunteer Air Force auxiliary. He participated as a volunteer in over 50 search/rescue, counter-drug and homeland security missions.

ARTHUR J. TABER, JR. (deceased)

Flat Rock – United States Marine Corps Veteran – World War II

Following his time in the Marines, Mr. Taber devoted himself to veterans and community issues. He served at the post, state and national levels of the VFW, as well as being an active member of local civic organizations. He was instrumental in providing state VA funds for the Ohio Veterans Home Chemical Dependency building and program. In addition, he served as Farm Manager at the United Methodist Children's Home in Bellevue and initiated an athletic boosters fund raiser for the local high school that continues today.

MILLER F. TOOMBS, M.D.

Portsmouth – United States Army Veteran – World War II

Following World War II, Dr. Toombs earned a medical degree in 1950, using his G.I. Bill benefits. During a 50-year practice, he also served as an anesthesiologist, surgeon and later Chief of Staff at Scioto Memorial Hospital, as well as being named a member of the Ohio State Medical Board. The doctor and Mrs. Toombs donated over a half a million dollars to Shawnee State University as an endowment to the Children's Learning Center. In 2008, Dr. Toombs was honored by Scioto County Medical Association as Physician of the Year.

EDWARD L. TURLO

Columbus – United States Army Veteran – World War II

Mr. Turlo followed his Army service with service to underprivileged youth. He was a founder of the Columbus Area Development and Training School (CADATS), which taught courses in clerical, auto repair, machine shop and the building trades and placed hundreds of students in jobs during his 12 years as president. He is Senior Vice Commander of the VFW Post #2398 and serves in the post's Honor Guard. He continues to volunteer at his local food pantry and in activities for students at the Ohio School for the Blind.

NED R. YOUNG

Circleville – United States Navy Veteran – World War II

Following his Navy service and a career at Ross/Abbott Laboratories, Mr. Young established National Engineering Design Company (NEDCO) and consulted on many local projects. He was active in area veterans' organizations, to include the Soldiers Monumental Association of Pickaway County, in which he did the design work necessary to restore local cemeteries. He implemented a fundraising plan for the Amanda-Clearcreek Alumni Association that now provides scholarships annually to high school graduates.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 1992 by former Gov. George Voinovich to recognize the post-military achievements of outstanding veterans. Charter members of the Hall's Class of 1993 included the six Ohio military veterans who were elected President of the United States and all Medal of Honor recipients from Ohio. Honorees of the past 17 years include astronauts, government officials, police officers, community leaders, and veterans' advocates.

The Hall of Fame Foundation, a committee of veterans, serves as advisors for the Hall of Fame and selects approximately 20 inductees annually from nominations provided by all citizens of Ohio. Men and women chosen for induction into the Hall come from all eras, all branches of service and all walks of life. The members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame are honored in a permanent display on the second floor of the Riffe Center in downtown Columbus.

Additional information and profiles of past inductees are available at:

http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame.aspx

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