



For Immediate Release
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Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Set for November 8 in Dayton

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will induct the Class of 2012 in a ceremony at 11 a.m. November 8 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton. The Ohio veterans' community and members of the public are cordially invited to attend and honor the 15 Ohioans in this year's class who are joining the 428 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.

“This will be a great day to honor 15 Ohioans who have served both their country and community, particularly in such a distinctive venue as the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, surrounded by exhibits honoring other great men and women who've served our nation,” said Tom Moe, Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and a 2009 inductee of the Hall. “The men and women we're honoring in the Hall of Fame's Class of 2012 represent one of the greatest things about our veterans' community – that when someone leaves the military, they very often continue to serve.”

This year's inductees are:

DAVID M. BRADLEY

Westerville, Franklin County - United States Army Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. Bradley has served as Executive Director of the Vietnam Veterans of America and as Executive Director, Franklin County Veterans Service Commission. He was instrumental in securing a grant for social service organizations to assist veterans suffering from Agent Orange, and in establishing a Veterans Monument at Port Columbus International Airport. He also established the Columbus Mayor's Veterans Advisory Board.

ROBERT L. DEAN

Warren, Trumbull County – United States Air Force Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. Dean serves as President of Warren City Council and on several civic boards. Has been an honored civil servant and community volunteer for many years and has been recognized by the YMCA and Ohio Fraternal Order of Police, among several others. He also served on boards of both the Ohio Veterans Homes and Trumbull County Habitat for Humanity. He is a recipient of the “Who’s Who in Black Cleveland” Award for both 2005 and 2006.

ROBERT J. DIXON

Circleville, Pickaway County – United States Marine Corps Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. Dixon is active in local veterans’ organizations and established and commands the AMVETS Honor Guard. He teaches flag etiquette to Scouts and schools and is a frequent visitor to veterans both homebound and in nursing homes. He volunteers at the Chillicothe VA Medical Center and constructs flag poles for disabled veterans. He also privately assists indigent veterans’ families with both vehicle problems and burial expenses.

JACK L. ERNEST

Richmond, Jefferson County – United States Marine Corps Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. Ernest founded Welcome Home Ministries, Inc. to counsel both Vietnam veterans and veterans of other eras, providing them life assistance as well as serving as advocating for them in their communities. He has since greatly expanded his ministry to partner with other ministries and raise funds to return to Vietnam, traveling there more than 40 times on humanitarian missions to helping residents with medical care and provide educational scholarships.

HAROLD J. FILLMORE

Oak Harbor, Ottawa County – United States Navy Veteran – World War II

Mr. Fillmore has served 58 years in local veterans’ organizations and as a civic official and volunteer. He volunteered with the Boy Scouts and taught patriotism and positive values. He designed and built veterans’ burial flag cases, and spearheaded the design and construction of a veterans memorial. He also spearheaded a project to plant trees throughout Oak Harbor to bring a sense of civic pride and awareness of local history to the community.

LAWRENCE V. FORNES

Dayton, Montgomery County – United States Marine Corps Veteran – World War II

Mr. Fornes was a foster parent for over 20 years and served as a Catholic Youth Organization coach for baseball and softball, as well as a Cub Scout leader. He has actively volunteered at the Hospice of Dayton and is a member of the Retired Senior Volunteers, delivering medication and providing transportation to medical appointments at local nursing homes and hospices. He also volunteers at youth homes and shelters for abused women.

JAMES P. FORTUNE

Vandalia, Montgomery County – United States Army Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. Fortune is a small business owner who has donated over \$500,000 of equipment and supplies to organizations in need. He is a double amputee who mentors others at the Dayton VA Medical Center, accumulating over 20,000 hours of volunteer service and serves as a volunteer cook for many civic organizations. He has also held a district office in the Disabled American Veterans and served as CEO of the Dayton National Cemetery Memorial Committee.

RICHARD P. HARTMANN

Kettering, Montgomery County – United States Navy Veteran and Naval Reserve

Mr. Hartmann is a former council member and mayor of Kettering who helped guide the city through the 1993 BRAC and the loss of an Air Force station. In its place, he was instrumental in establishing a business park that within four years attracted new businesses providing a comparable number of jobs and tax revenue. He also chaired a local Labor Day celebration. He is a trustee at Capital University and is active in his Chamber of Commerce and as a church and civic volunteer.

KATHLEEN A. HAYES

Sidney, Shelby County – United States Army Veteran and Army Reserve – Operation Iraqi Freedom

Ms. Hayes is a nurse who works in hospice care at the Dayton VA Medical Center. She founded an Ohio hospice partnership for veterans and led a committee to establish standards of care and best practices for hospice care in all VA facilities. She is an active member of several veterans' organizations and a volunteer nurse on Honor Flights for Shelby County veterans. She also serves on the board of the American Veterans Heritage Center in Dayton.

STEPHEN W. HECK, JR.

Loveland, Clermont County – United States Air Force Veteran – Operation Desert Shield/Storm/Calm

Mr. Heck is a pilot who became a science educator. He has been selected as an Astronaut Educator in the Citizens in Space Program and is undergoing intensive training in science, technology, engineering and math, as well as some astronaut training, that will culminate in a sub-orbital flight and provide him the experience to educate future scientists and astronauts. He gives national presentations on this program, and is also an assistant football coach and motivational speaker.

WALTER P. KNAKE, JR.

Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County – United States Army Veteran

Mr. Knake is a psychologist who developed a nationally-recognized and effective group therapy for PTSD. He implemented this therapy in both community settings and in prisons. He has also spoken frequently to local schools to increase understanding of the experiences of Vietnam veterans. In his practice, he offers affordable rates for veterans and has been an advocate for them at VA appeal hearings. He is also sought after as an expert court witness.

MARY C. MCHUGH

Reading, Hamilton County – United States Navy Veteran – World War II

Ms. McHugh was accepted as a Sister of Notre Dame in 1954, and taught school before spending many years with Catholic Social Services helping the poor. She has tutored inmates, worked on a suicide prevention hotline, and volunteered in a newborn nursery. She volunteered more than 10,000 hours at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. She was instrumental in reviving the first American Legion post in Ohio strictly for female veterans, and has held several offices there.

CHARLES D. METCALF

Oakwood, Montgomery County – United States Air Force Veteran – Vietnam War

Mr. Metcalf served 14 years as Director of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. He launched a major capital program to expand it to include Cold War and Missile galleries and exhibits on space, Presidential aircraft, and the Air Force's global reach. His efforts increased visitation by over 200,000 annually and resulted in the museum twice receiving the highest recognition from the American Association of Museums. He also serves on several charitable boards.

ROBERT L. QUEISSER (deceased)

Cleveland, Cuyahoga County – Ohio National Guard

Mr. Queisser was a successful businessman in both Zanesville and Cleveland as well as an Ohio National Guard veteran. He was also the father of two sons who served in World War I, and designed the Blue Star Service Flag in 1917 as a symbol of their overseas service. The flag quickly became adopted by both government and the public to honor children deployed in the Armed Forces, and appears in paintings by Norman Rockwell. This flag remains in use today.

JAMES W. SNYDER

Kettering, Montgomery County – United States Marine Corps Veteran – Korean War, Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm

Mr. Snyder has served as a firefighter and banking industry security director. He was instrumental in establishing the Ohio Korean War Memorial and oversaw arrangements for the 50th and 60th anniversary commemorations in the Miami Valley. He serves on the board of the American Veterans Heritage Center in Dayton and is an active volunteer with a number of veterans' and civic groups, to include Wreaths Across America and the Boy Scouts.

NOTE: The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is located at 1100 Spaatz St., Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433.

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 18 years include astronauts, government officials, police officers, community leaders, and veterans' advocates.

The Hall of Fame Executive Committee, comprised entirely of veterans, serves as advisors for the Hall of Fame and selects no more than 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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