



For Immediate Release
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Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky Offers Independent Living

COLUMBUS – Eligible veterans who need some medical care but are capable of living independently have open rooms waiting for them in the “Dom” at the Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky.

The “Dom,” short for “Domiciliary,” provides shelter, food and necessary medical care to eligible veterans who are able to access their own care, meaning they do not need the nursing services provided elsewhere in the veterans’ home.

“It’s a really sweet deal,” said Rick Hatcher, Superintendent of the Ohio Veterans Homes, located in Sandusky and Georgetown. “Our Dom administrator, Andrea Klausung, has put together a great community where veterans can live almost entirely on their own, but with a lot of services close at hand.”

The Dom is in a separate wing of the Sandusky veterans’ home complex. Each resident has their own room, with cable access, and a shared bath. The wing features two reading lounges, a computer lounge with a printer and free Internet service, its own dining facility, and a large meeting hall. Recreational facilities, clubs and regular activities allow veterans to participate in everything from the gym and power walking to crafts, gardening or Lake Erie fishing and trips to local attractions. Residents also have the opportunity to work in support functions.

Currently, about 100 rooms are available. Much of the cost for a veteran’s stay at the Dom is funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs, although each resident is charged a monthly assessment fee based on their ability to pay.

“This is one of the best-kept secrets in Ohio,” Hatcher said. “We can offer a very nice place to live for a veteran who just needs a little bit of assistance. They can live among other veterans but also have a very high degree of privacy, in a setting where we value all of our veterans, and at a very affordable price.

“I’d encourage everybody who’s looking for this type of care to come up and take a tour. We’d be very happy to have you, and I believe you’d find that we offer a very attractive and also cost-effective option for a veteran and their family,” Hatcher said.

Veterans and family members interested in learning more about domiciliary care at the Ohio Veterans Home can call (866) OHIO-VET (866-644-6838) toll free, or local (419) 625-2454, ext. 1231 or 1237, or visit http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_homes/admission.aspx .

County veterans service offices in every county can also assist in this process. For contact information, call (877) OHIO-VET (877-644-6838) toll free, or see the map at www.ohiovet.gov .

Traditionally, the Ohio Veterans Homes have achieved excellent ratings on inspections conducted by both the Ohio Department of Health and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as above average ratings on family member satisfaction in an annual survey conducted by the Ohio Department of Aging.

The Ohio Veterans Homes are state-operated nursing homes for eligible Ohio veterans. To qualify for admission, veterans must have served during a declared war or military conflict, must have been honorably discharged from the U.S. military and must have been Ohio residents for at least one year during his or her lifetime. The veteran must be infirm or disabled and incapable of earning a living.

The Ohio Veterans Home - Sandusky is a 427-bed nursing home facility. Sandusky also maintains 293 independent living beds in a domiciliary setting. The Ohio Veterans Home - Georgetown offers 168 beds for nursing home care, including a 21-bed hospice unit. Two levels of care are offered at the homes: standard care for those veterans in need of any intermediate level of care, and special care for veterans with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

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Media needing more information, contact - Mike McKinney at 614-728-0235 or Michael.mckinney@dvs.ohio.gov.

For information on admission to the homes, see http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_homes.aspx .