



For Immediate Release

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Ohio Holding Women Veterans' Conference in September

COLUMBUS – Mark your calendars now and plan to be on hand Saturday, September 28 at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus for the bi-annual Ohio Women Veterans' Conference. Registration is from 8-10 a.m., and the conference runs from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Organizers say the event will live up to the theme, "Interesting. Informative. Intrigued?" The keynote speaker will be Jessica Lynch, who was severely injured in the ambush of her unit early in the Iraq War in 2003 and was rescued by Special Operations forces from an Iraqi hospital. Ohio's Adjutant General, Major General Deborah Ashenurst, will also address the conference.

Women comprise more than 14 percent of America's Armed Forces, but women veterans have unique health care needs among both the young as well as the aging veteran population. Women also suffer the same physical wounds as male veterans, as well as post-traumatic stress and even military sexual trauma, which can affect both genders.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services maintains an active Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, which hosts the conference in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System of Ohio. The event provides a vital forum to network with veterans of today's conflicts and all eras dating back to World War II. It also 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 in 2011 drew over 500 women veterans, so advance registration is advisable. For more information, click on the link for "Women Veterans Advisory Committee" at www.ohiovet.gov.

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