



# Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

## June 2011

The Governor's Wreath-Laying Ceremony was held on May 27 to honor Ohio's fallen heroes. Hundreds attended the ceremony, including Ohio Governor John R. Kasich, who served as the keynote speaker.



**Questions about veterans benefits?**

Call 1-877-OHIOVET  
(1-877-644-6838)

*Welcome to the third edition of the Ohio Department of Veterans Service e-newsletter! The newsletter is a key source of information about issues of interest to our community of veterans in Ohio.*

We thank you for your service to our country. Because you're a veteran, you've earned a number of benefits that you may not be aware of. Most of these benefits originate at the federal level with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Based on the time you served, you may be eligible for compensation for injuries, health care, educational assistance, home loans or many other benefits. There are also a number of state benefits available to Ohio veterans, to include the Ohio Veterans Bonus as well as direct financial assistance from the county to veterans in need.

The place to find out what you've earned and to apply is your county veterans service office. You can locate yours in the interactive map on our department home page, [dvs.ohio.gov](http://dvs.ohio.gov), or by calling 1-877-OHIO-VET (1-877-644-6838).

We will continue to provide you this newsletter each month. We hope it's of value to you and your family.

### **Good News for Service Members with Children...**

Deployed service members got some protection in child custody orders with the signature of Governor John Kasich on House Bill 121 on June 9.

The bill, sponsored by State Rep. Cliff Rosenberger of Clarksville, was passed unanimously in both the House and Senate of the General Assembly.

House Bill 121 states that Ohio courts may no longer find that past, present, or possible future active service in the military constitutes a change in circumstances that justifies a modification of an existing child custody order. It allows military parents with court-ordered visitation rights to be able to delegate those rights to a relative or other person who has a substantial relationship with the child, and requires that the other parent facilitate contact between the child and the military parent when that parent is on





# Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

active duty. The bill also contains a protection for the non-military parent by requiring the military parent, if seeking a temporary parenting time order, to notify the child's other parent and apply to the court as soon as reasonably possible.

## Reaching Out to Those Who've Been There...

The transition back to a normal life after a deployment can be a very challenging time for veterans and their families. To help, the VA has set up a 24-7 Combat Call Center as part of their Readjustment Counseling Service. The call center phone lines are all staffed by combat veterans. Veterans who are experiencing any type of readjustment problems, their families and concerned citizens they know are encouraged to call the Combat Call Center at any hour, day or night. The toll-free number is 1-877-927-8387 (1-877-WAR-VETS). For more information on this counseling service, see:



<http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

Any veteran in a crisis situation should call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 (1-800-273-TALK) and press 1 to be routed to the veterans hotline.

## Employment Update (Time Sensitive!)

The military-themed web site [military.com](http://military.com) is partnering with the NCO Association to offer a Veterans Employment Fair at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on Tuesday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is being held at the Hope Hotel and Conference Center, Bldg. 823, Area A. Military.com says that companies participating in the fair include those in the accounting, administrative and support services, advertising and marketing, aerospace and Defense, banking, consumer products, customer service, government, health care, hospitality, retail and real estate, among others.

Advance registration is required; more information is at the link below:

<http://www.military.com/career-expo/2011-wright-patterson-afb-career-fair/?ESRC=careerexpo.se>



# Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

The following central Ohio job postings are provided by Richard Isbell, Veterans' Affairs Coordinator for the City of Columbus:

- Federal Billing Analyst, State of Ohio, Department of Transportation, Central Office.  
The candidate for this position is responsible for billing and accounting of a number of federal highway and domestic assistance funds, and serves as the department's liaison with the Federal Highway Administration. Must be familiar with federal transportation programs and fluent in Word and Excel. Applications must be submitted by noon on Saturday, June 11. Additional information and application procedures are at the address below; search for this job under Department of Transportation: <http://careers.ohio.gov/>
- Senior Impact Director, United Way of Central Ohio.  
This position facilitates and supports the development and implementation of comprehensive action plans for addressing community concerns to reduce vacant and abandoned housing and reduce crime in five targeted Columbus neighborhoods. Applications must be submitted by June 15; additional information is at: <https://home.eease.com/recruit/?id=648531>
- International Operations Professional.  
This position leads, motivates and cross-trains a team that will provide exceptional customer service. It will involve negotiation with airlines and steamship lines. The successful applicant will have a working knowledge of international freight operations, leadership ability, the ability to multitask, and fluency in Excel, Word and Powerpoint. Submit resumes to Aileen Wellwood-Brown, 614-570-3049, e-mail: [aileen@empoweringpersonnel.com](mailto:aileen@empoweringpersonnel.com)
- General and Program Administrator, Thurber House.  
The candidate for this position is responsible for dealing with the public concerning ticket orders, management of the organizational data base, operating the book shop, setting up, tearing down and performing miscellaneous duties at all adult literacy events, overseeing rental of the center, mail distribution, and management of the web site. Requires familiarity with social media and PayPal, good communications and interpersonal skills, and multitasking ability; knowledge of Photoshop and InDesign is a bonus. One to two years of office experience is required. Send a resume to Susan Jaffe at: [sjaffe@thurberhouse.org](mailto:sjaffe@thurberhouse.org)

Additional employment assistance is available from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Their Veterans-oriented site includes a listing of the top career fields in Ohio and the top Veteran-friendly employers. Check it out at: <http://my.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/VetCenter/Home.aspx>

Information on federal jobs for veterans is at: <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/>



# Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

What about Veterans interested in starting a business? The VA has a wealth of information available at: <http://www.vetbiz.gov/>

## Speaking of Veteran-Owned Businesses...

Veterans who are small businesses owners and are interested in doing business with the federal government may want to make plans to attend the National Veterans Small Business Conference and Expo, Aug.15-18 in New Orleans. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is hosting the conference, which will be the largest nationwide conference that's focused on helping veteran-owned businesses win federal contracts.

The conference provides an opportunity to learn, network, and market. It will offer new training sessions on navigating the federal acquisition process, business development, marketing, strategy, contract management, human resources, technology, and program management. The sessions are targeted both to businesses just getting started and those who are established and looking to expand.

For more information, see the news release at:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2087>

## Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Nominations Due...

The deadline is Thursday, June 30 to submit nominations for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2011. The Hall is dedicated to recognizing those Ohio veterans who have not only honorably served their country, but have then continued to serve and inspire the people of their communities by their actions and accomplishments. Up to 20 veterans are enshrined each year. The Hall was established in 1993, and members are recognized in a permanent display on the second floor of the Riffe Center, 77 S High St, in Columbus.

More info and stories of past inductees, as well as nomination guidelines and forms, are available at:

[http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans\\_hall\\_of\\_fame.aspx](http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame.aspx)





# Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

## Help for Homeless Veterans in Ohio...

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is dedicated to ending homelessness among veterans on a national level.

One of the priority projects for the agency is developing housing at locations across the country for homes and at-risk veterans and their families, particularly among veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq. The strategy is built on entering into public/private partnerships to utilize unused or underused VA buildings and transforming them into housing. Two projects currently under development are in Dayton and Chillicothe.

Read more about this VA initiative at:

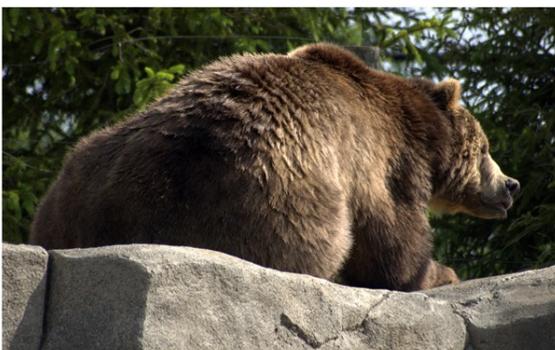
<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2113>

Several counties in Ohio have also constructed housing for homeless veterans. The best place to find out about such housing and what may be available in your area is to contact your county veterans service office, in each of Ohio's 88 counties. Contact information is found on the map on the Ohio Department of Veterans Services home page:

<http://dvs.ohio.gov/>

## Welcome Home at the Zoo...

The Chalmers P. Wylie VA Clinic in Columbus is sponsoring a special Welcome Home celebration for veterans of Operating Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom on Saturday, July 2 at the Columbus Zoo. The event is open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission to the zoo is free for veterans and their families, and the first 500 attendees will receive a free meal.



But there's a lot more there than animals and hot dogs – the Welcome Home is also a college and job fair. Representatives of Ohio State, Columbus State, Mt. Vernon Nazarene College, Devry University and many others will be on hand, and so will employers from the City of Gahanna, UPS, Macy's and several other area businesses.

The VA will enroll veterans for health benefits and provide information about women's health and mental health issues,



# Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

to name a few of the services. The Ohio Department of Veterans Services will also be on hand with information about the Ohio Veterans Bonus and other veterans benefits in Ohio.

For more information, call 614-257-5200 or toll-free at 888-615-9448, or visit:

<http://www.columbuswelcomehome.com/index.php>

## **Military Community and Family Weekly Newsletter...**

The U.S. Department of Defense has launched a weekly blog and online newsletter from Robert L. Gordon III, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy, that aims to provide policy updates and other information for military families, as well as helpful tips for navigating the Defense community.

Check out what's available at:

<http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/mcfp/weekly>