



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

November 2011

On November 10th, twenty veterans from our great state were inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, joining over 400 past honorees. Here are a few select photos from this year's ceremony:



Questions about veterans benefits?

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

Welcome to the seventh 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, 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.

Twenty Veterans Honored at Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame...

There couldn't be too many better ways to mark Veterans Day than to honor twenty Ohio distinguished veterans by inducting them into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Eighteen men and two women, including one husband and wife team, were inducted into the Hall by Governor John Kasich and Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tom Moe in a ceremony at 10 a.m. November 10 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Columbus. Recognition of their service by Governor Kasich, military escorts and special music welcomed the Class of 2012, who joined 408 other veterans 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. Honorees of the past 19 years include astronauts, government officials, police officers, community leaders, and veterans' advocates from all walks of life.

For a look at this year's ceremony, see the video of the event (<http://www.ohiochannel.org/MediaLibrary/Media.aspx?fileId=133306>)



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and photos of the honorees

(<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohioveteransservices/sets/72157628015830359>).

To see a biography of each honoree, take a look at this year's program

(http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame/inductees/class_of_2011.aspx).



Jobs for Veterans in Ohio....

Veterans have what employers are looking for: a solid work ethic, the ability to work effectively with others to accomplish any task, and hands-on experience in a number of different fields.

But are you ready for that job search? Is there anywhere you can get help to get ready?

There's no magic bullet, it will take time and effort on your part. Ohio does have some resources to help, though.

But first....

Do you have a current resume?

Do you have a cover letter that's geared to the type of job you're looking for?

Do you go to an interview or a job fair and present a professional appearance, e.g., suit and tie?

The federal government took action this month to help with veteran employment.

Both houses of Congress passed the Vow to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, and it was awaiting signature by President Barack Obama at this writing. This bill will provide tax credits to companies that hire veterans and job training through the G.I. Bill for pre-9/11 veterans. More details on this bill are here:

<http://veterans.house.gov/vow>

As part of the "Joining Forces" initiative launched by First Lady Michelle Obama, the National Resource Directory has developed a veterans job bank for use by both veterans and employers:

<https://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/jobSearch/index>



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But what's available here in Ohio?

First off, the Ohio National Guard has partnered with AMVETS to create a web site with job postings for veterans:

<http://ohiovetscan.com/>

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services provides a site with resources to help translate experience that also includes links to veteran-friendly employers as well as other resources, such as resume assistance:

<http://my.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/VetCenter/InfoCenter.aspx>

Information on federal jobs for veterans is at:

<http://www.fedshirevets.gov/>



Getting an Education...

It's been said many times, but that's only because it's true – getting an education is vitally important to getting a job, or being able to advance in your current job. The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill offers a very beneficial incentive for going to school, to include vocational training that similar programs in the past didn't cover. You can find out more here:

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



When you're looking at potential schools, the system in Ohio of public colleges and universities offers a wealth of academic disciplines that can lead directly to lucrative employment. The state has initiated several measures in recent years to make it easier for veterans to get an education here, whether they're Ohio residents or not. The Board of Regents is the gateway to what you need to know; check them out at:

<http://www.ohiohighered.org/veterans>



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What About That Ohio Veterans Bonus...

If you've gotten your bonus, you're one of nearly 50,000 Ohio veterans who've received it to date. It's important to keep it on everyone's front burner, though, because we have men and women coming back home every day after completing their terms of service, as well as National Guard and Reserve units returning from deployments, and we've got to do all we can to keep getting the word out.

Please take a look at the information below. If you're eligible, take the time to apply! If you've gotten your bonus, then please pass this information along to other veterans who need to know.

To be eligible for the bonus, you must be –

An Ohio resident who served honorably in the military for more than 90 days of active duty during the period Aug. 2, 1990 through March 3, 1991, or since Oct. 7, 2001.

The bonus is \$100 a month to veterans who served during the eligible periods in the Persian Gulf theater, or in the Iraq or Afghanistan theaters, up to a maximum of \$1,000. For veterans who served in other parts of the world during these times, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum. Veterans who were medically discharged as a result of combat service can receive \$1,000, regardless of how much time they spent in theater, plus up to \$500 for months of service elsewhere. Family members of those killed in action or who died from disease as a result of their in-theater service can receive a bonus of \$5,000 plus whatever the service member was eligible for, up to a total of \$6,500.

Application instructions and a list of the documentation required is at:

https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web/Default.aspx.

For more information, call 1-877-OHIO-VET (1-877-644-6838) or visit your County Veterans Service Office. To find your local office, see the Ohio map at: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/>

Homes for Homeless Veterans...

Ohio will be soon be able to put a roof over the heads of more homeless veterans, thanks to major construction announced recently by the VA at its hospital campuses in Chillicothe and Dayton.



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The agency said that 310 permanent and transitional housing units will be constructed at both the Chillicothe VA medical center campus and the Dayton VA medical center campus, as part of a nationwide effort to provide more than 1,000 units across the country.

The units will provide housing for homeless veterans, senior veterans, disabled veterans and other at-risk veteran populations and their families.

The VA's announcement didn't provide any details on construction time frames.



VA Expands Clothing Allowance...



The VA has published a final regulation that provides for more than one annual clothing allowance for some disabled veterans. These are veterans who have multiple prosthetic and orthopedic devices, or skin conditions caused by prescribed medications, and have to purchase special clothing as a result.

Eligible veterans can apply for the additional allowance next calendar year. Details are in the VA news release below:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2211>

Afghanistan Campaign Medal...

The Department of Defense announced that an additional campaign star has been authorized for the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. Service members can apply for the medal through their unit or military department.

The dates of the new phase of the campaign, as well as a recap of the periods of other campaigns in the war, are in the news release at:

<http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14899>



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Gulf War Illness Report...

The VA has published a Report of the Gulf War Illnesses Task Force. The report documents the VA's efforts to improve care and services to Gulf War veterans. The report can be read and commented on online.

To read more about the report, download a copy, and make a comment online, see:

<http://vagulfwartaskforce.uservoice.com/forums/137005-2011-report-of-the-gulf-war-veterans-illnesses-tas>

This Thursday is...

Thursday, November 24, is the day set aside by America to pause and give thanks for our blessings.

It's a time to re-connect with family and close friends, watch football, and enjoy the pleasures of tryptophan-induced relaxation. For those in the military or with family members serving far from home, the day can be bittersweet. But we hope you pull closer to those near you at home or to your comrades in arms and realize that, whatever our individual or family situations, there are still many things that we have to be thankful for. We also hope that America takes time to acknowledge the service and sacrifice that so many are giving on this day, and every day.

Happy Thanksgiving!

