



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

October 2012



The VA provides mammograms for all female veterans. For assistance on how to access VA health care and how to find the VA location nearest to you, contact your County Veterans Service Officer.

Questions about veterans benefits?

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

Welcome to the nineteenth edition of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services 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, www.ohiovet.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.

Finding Work in Ohio...

There's an increased focus nationwide on getting veterans into jobs, a development that all of us welcome. That trend is certainly present in several ways in Ohio. It's hard not to find a Verizon storefront these days, whether in Ohio or across the country. This nationally known company is actively involved in hiring veterans, and has created a special section on their web site as a guide. Take a look at: http://www22.verizon.com/jobs/workinghere_transitioningmilitary.html?CMP=DMC-CVZ_ZZ_ZZ_Z_ZZ_N_X285

Standard Textile is another national company with an Ohio presence that's interested in hiring veterans. The company has a number of varied job openings at its Cincinnati facility.

Find out more at: <http://www.standardtextile.com/careers/job-openings>

We've all heard about the impact of shale jobs and other energy jobs... many are available now, others require training. But the Ohio Board of Regents has developed an online tool to show the training available and the jobs it's



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

linked to -- as well as the jobs out there that the training leads to, or that are open right now.

Check it out at: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/press/ohio-launches-new-tool-linking-job-seekers-and-energy-opportunities>



Manufacturing is making a rebound in Ohio, and one school is taking advantage of it for the benefit of veterans. Cincinnati State has partnered with GE to help veterans translate their skills and gain the technical training needed to become certified in the today's advanced core manufacturing techniques – making veterans competitive for the types of jobs that manufacturers across the state need to fill. Classes begin in January.

Find out more in "Upcoming Events" at: <http://www.cincinnati-state.edu/>

Another plus for veteran job-seekers is that just about every month, there is a job fair somewhere in the state – and the Ohio Department of Veterans Services will always tell you about it through our social media, news update announcements to our listserv subscribers, and in this newsletter.

However, before you attend any events or visit any employer, remember these common tips:

- Have a current resume;
- Have a cover letter that's geared to the type of job being sought;
- Present a professional appearance, e.g., suit and tie, or dress/skirt or pantsuit.

To prepare an effective resume, you have to be able to translate military experience to civilian experience. The Army and the Navy have developed online "cool" web sites that help veterans translate their military skills into terms civilian employers can understand. The sites, which stand for "credentialing opportunities online," allow a veteran to select their military skill code and then see the types of jobs their training and experience translates to, as well as any certifications that are needed. There is no Air Force, Marine, or Coast Guard "cool" site. However, the Air Force does offer similar resources on its Community College of the Air Force site, at the Credentialing and Education Research Tool (CERT) page; Marine skills are similar to those found in the Army and Air Force; and Coast Guard skills are similar to those found in the Navy.



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

The “cool” sites are below:

<https://www.cool.army.mil/index.htm>

<https://www.cool.navy.mil/overview.htm>

<https://augateway.maxwell.af.mil/ccaf/certifications/programs/>

So prepare yourself for your new mission....and check out the additional employment information below.

Other Ways to Get a Job, In-Person or Online...

In-Person: If you want to start a face-to-face job search, there’s employment assistance available not far home. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) is in an active partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor to operate Job Centers in each county, usually centrally located in the county seat; contact information is easily accessible by searching online or in the phone book.

While the Job Centers are open to all residents, but are also staffed with counselors who specifically assist veterans. Their primary clients are veterans with barriers to employment, of which long-term unemployment definitely qualifies. Counselors can assist with skills translation and resume preparation. The Job Centers also have resources to assist disabled veterans with qualifying for, finding and keeping meaningful employment.

Periodically, the Job Centers work with local partners to host regional job fairs across the state, which we’ll tell you about here and in our social media.

Online: If you like the online approach, there’s a “monster” ready to assist you.

Just one mouse click away on your computer is “Ohio Means Jobs,” the state’s job web site which has a real advantage for veterans by getting them to the front of the line for available jobs. The site is the result of a partnership between Ohio and Monster.com, and is on the web at Ohiomeansjobs.com.





Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

Once on the site – at <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omi/> – veterans should go to the “Job Seekers” area, and that’s where the opportunities open up.

First, veterans need to post their resume and indicate that they *are* a veteran. What this does is present veterans’ resumes first for any job that matches the qualifications they’ve posted in their resume. The resume should be reviewed every month and electronically “updated” – whether any additional information is added or not – to keep it refreshed and at the front of the line for jobs.

This site has a searchable data base of thousands of jobs across Ohio, with private business, federal, state and local government, and schools. While it’s still advisable to check local ads in the places in Ohio you’d like to be, the Monster.com system will capture the great majority of employment ads from throughout the state.

There’s also a military widget on Ohiomeansjobs.com that will automatically links to additional information for veterans. This includes resources to help build a resume by translating military experience to civilian terms. It also includes links to veteran-friendly employers – companies that have made a commitment to hire veterans – as well as other resources:

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

Ohio Guard and AMVETS Are Also Active on the Job Front...



It’s a readiness issue – the Ohio National Guard believes that a crucial aspect of maintain their force is finding full-time jobs for their part-time soldiers. To help this process, they’ve joined forces with AMVETS to find employment for Guard men and women who are looking.

The Guard has partnered with AMVETS to create the web site below. It features statewide job postings for veterans:

<http://ohiovetscan.com/>



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

The Guard is also actively working with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) to help soldiers returning from deployments. The Guard is surveying soldiers in deployed units before they return home to determine how many need employment when they get back. JFS Job Center Counselors are then contacting these soldiers when they return home to work with them and help them find work.

Sign up for VRAP...

The second phase of the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) is now in high gear, and eligible veterans need to take the time to sign up.

VRAP is intended to get unemployed veterans aged 35-60 re-trained and re-employed in high-demand occupations nationwide. VRAP is part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. The program offers up to 12 months of job training assistance under the Montgomery G.I. Bill at the rate of \$1,473 per month.

A second phase of the VRAP program began with the new federal fiscal year on October 1. This phase is open to 54,000 eligible veterans, including those who were too late to be accepted for the first phase. Applications are being accepted now, so don't delay in getting yours in. Benefits will begin after the start of the new fiscal year.

The first phase began in May 2012 and was open to 45,000 veterans. This number was exceeded prior to the September 30 deadline. Applications pending at that time are being considered for the second phase.

Please note that applications must be made online through the VA's eBenefits program. A web tool will assist veterans in working through this.

For more information, see: <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>

An Extra Kicker for Veterans from Social Security?...

Those who serve in the active military have paid into the Social Security system since 1957. But what many veterans don't know is that this military service may have earned them extra earning credits that will increase the size of their Social Security benefit when they retire.

For anyone who served on active duty or active duty for training between January 1957 and December 31, 2001, you receive an extra earnings credit on your military earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 per year. This credit has the effect of increasing the size of your monthly Social Security retirement benefit.



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

The Social Security Administration (SSA) says on their web site that for those who served between 1957 and 1967, the extra credit is added to your record when you apply for Social Security. For those who served between 1968 and 2001, the credit has already been applied to your records. Due to a law change, military service from January 2002 forward no longer qualifies for the extra earnings benefit.

Bottom line, if you're a veteran of post-1957 – 2001 service who's receiving Social Security benefits and you're not certain if you're receiving the additional extra earnings credit, make an appointment at your local Social Security office to find out. Be sure to bring your DD 214.

For veterans of the affected era who haven't reached eligibility for Social Security and have yet to apply, be sure to take your DD 214 to your local SSA office at the time when you do apply. Your service may already be credited, but it's certainly prudent to ask and be sure.



Also, a quick note to military retirees – in most circumstances, you will continue to receive your full military retirement benefits and also the full benefit that you have earned from Social Security.

Find out more about the military extra earnings credit in this section of the SSA web site:

<http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>



Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Coming Soon...

The Ohio veterans community and friends are cordially invited to attend the induction of the Class of 2012 of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. This year's ceremony will be held in Dayton. It begins at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 8, at the Museum of the U.S. Air Force, 1100 Spaatz Street, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

Fifteen distinguished Ohio veterans will be honored this year. They are:

DAVID M. BRADLEY

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

Served as Executive Director of the Vietnam Veterans of America and as Executive Director, Franklin County Veterans Service Commission. He also established the Columbus Mayor's Veterans Advisory Board.

ROBERT L. DEAN

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

Serves as President of Warren City Council and on several civic and historical boards. Has been an honored civil servant and community volunteer for many years, and received the "Who's Who in Black Cleveland" Award in 2005 and 2006

ROBERT J. DIXON

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

Active in local veterans' organizations and established and commands AMVETS Honor Guard. Teaches flag etiquette, volunteers at the VA and nursing homes, privately assists indigent veterans' families with burial expenses.

JACK L. ERNEST

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

Founded Welcome Home Ministries, Inc. to work with Vietnam veterans as well as other veterans and has advocated for them in their communities. Has also traveled to Vietnam more than 40 times on humanitarian missions.

HAROLD J. FILLMORE

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

Served 58 years in local veterans' organizations and as a civic official and volunteer. Designed and built veterans' burial flag cases, and spearheaded the design and construction of a veterans memorial.

LAWRENCE V. FORNES

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

Foster parent for over 20 years, youth coach for baseball and softball, and a Cub Scout leader. Serves as a Retired Senior Volunteer, active at local nursing homes and hospices. Also volunteers at youth homes and shelters for abused women.

JAMES P. FORTUNE

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

Small business owner, 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, and serves as a volunteer cook for many civic organizations.

RICHARD P. HARTMANN

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

Former mayor of Kettering, helped guide city through 1993 BRAC and establish new business park. Active in Chamber of Commerce and a church and civic volunteer, also a trustee at Capital University.



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

KATHLEEN A. HAYES

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

Serves as a nurse at the Dayton VA Medical Center in hospice care, and founded an Ohio hospice partnership for veterans. Active volunteer with veterans' organizations and veterans' historical board in Dayton.

STEPHEN W. HECK, JR.

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

Pilot and science educator who was selected as an Astronaut Educator in the new Citizens in Space Program and will undergo sub-orbital flight. Presents at the national level, also an assistant football coach and motivational speaker.

WALTER P. KNAKE, JR.

Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County – United States Army Veteran

A psychologist who developed effective group therapy for PTSD, to include implementing it in prisons. Offers affordable rates for veterans, is an expert court witness and an advocate at VA appeal hearings.

MARY C. MCHUGH

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

Accepted as a Sister of Notre Dame in 1954, taught school and volunteered as a social worker. Also tutored inmates and volunteered for suicide prevention. Revived first American Legion post in Ohio strictly for female veterans.

CHARLES D. METCALF

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

Served 14 years as Director of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. He launched a major capital program to expand it and increased visitation by over 200,000 annually. Also serves on several charitable boards.

ROBERT L. QUEISSER (deceased)

Cleveland, Cuyahoga County – Ohio National Guard

Successful businessman and Ohio National Guard veteran and father of two sons who served in World War I. Designed Blue Star Service Flag in 1917 to honor them, and 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

A firefighter and banking industry security expert, he was instrumental in establishing Ohio Korean War Memorial and oversaw 50th and 60th anniversary commemorations. Also an active volunteer on veterans' history board and for civic causes.

Congratulations to all this year's honorees!



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★



VA Helps Women Veterans Detect Breast Cancer...

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and an appropriate time to remind all of our mothers, sisters and daughters to be sure that they've done the screenings necessary to detect this disease.

What you may not know, however, is that the VA leads the country in breast cancer screening rates for the past 15 years. Female veterans have received screenings at a rate of 87 percent, well outpacing the private sector rate of 71 percent, and Medicare and Medicaid rates of 69 percent and 71 percent, respectively.

The VA provides mammograms for all veterans, and currently provides access for over 337,000 women. Find out more at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2395>

If you're a female veteran in need of a mammogram and don't know where to go, contact your local county veterans service office for information on getting connected to the VA health system and the nearest facility in your area. To find your veterans service office, see the map at: www.ohiovet.gov

Remember Hispanic Heritage Month...

The time from September 15 to October 15 is set aside each year as National Hispanic Heritage Month. At this time, we pay tribute to the more than 1.1 million veterans of Hispanic heritage who have served our country in every conflict, from the American Revolution to our wars today. This number includes 42 Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War to the Vietnam War.

The patriotism of all these veterans is expressed in the words of the late Master Sgt. Roy P. Benevidez, a Medal of Honor recipient from Vietnam who later wrote a book titled, "Men of Honor: One Man's Journey from Poverty and Prejudice." In this book, he wrote:



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

I believe that there is no greater calling for a man or woman to serve in the military of a free nation. I believe that it is a calling that transcends all others because imbedded deep within the soul of every free man or woman is the knowledge that every freedom we have was earned for us by our ancestors, who paid some price for that freedom. Each and every generation must relearn those lessons, and they are best learned by doing. The strength of every free nation depends on this transfer of knowledge. Only through the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation will free men survive.

We salute all our Hispanic veterans, male and female, from Ohio and across the nation. Your contributions have helped guarantee our freedom throughout all conflicts, and continue to this day to keep us safe and free and our military strong and resilient.

Thanks to each and every one for your service.

