

Veteran Newsletter

December 2013



Six veterans of World War II received a very special honor this month at the Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky when they received the Medal of Knight of the French Legion of Honor. The award goes back to the time of Napoleon, and was given to these veterans for their part in liberating France from the Nazis. See story on pages 3 - 4.

Welcome to 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.

Last Chance for the Ohio Veterans Bonus for Gulf War Era Vets....

Time is almost up for veterans who served anywhere in the world during the Persian Gulf War to apply for the Ohio Veterans Bonus – **the deadline for applications for veterans of the Persian Gulf War era is December 31, 2013.**

If you served during this time – or know anyone who did – *PLEASE* make them aware of the deadline.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is available to veterans who served anywhere in the world during the time of the Persian Gulf War or the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Service must have been for more than 90 days active duty, not for training.

Have questions about veterans benefits? Call 1-877-OHIOVET (1-877-644-6838)



Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



Eligibility periods and deadlines are below:

- Persian Gulf: eligible period is from August 2, 1990 through March 3, 1991 **(deadline to apply is December 31, 2013)**;
- Afghanistan: eligible period is, from October 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President; and for
- Iraq: eligible period is from March 19, 2003 to December 31, 2011 **(deadline to apply is December 31, 2014)**.
- Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents currently.

The bonus pays \$100 a month to veterans who served in the Persian Gulf theater, or in the countries of Afghanistan or Iraq, up to a maximum of \$1,000. For veterans who served anywhere else in the world during the eligible periods, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum. Veterans medically discharged due to injuries sustained in combat can receive \$1,000, 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.



Anyone needing more information or who want to apply can call toll-free to 1-877-OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838) option 2, or see:

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

Veterans can also apply for the Bonus at their local Veterans Service Office in their home county. To find the location of your county office, see the Ohio map and select the appropriate county at:

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

Your County Veterans Service Office can also help you determine what other federal and state benefits you're eligible for and help you apply for them.



Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



Honoring Six Veterans of the Fight to Liberate France.....



Six Ohio veterans who helped liberate France during World War II were honored in an emotional ceremony on December 6 in the Veterans Hall Great Room at the Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky when they were awarded the Medal of Knight of the French Legion of Honor.

The medals were presented to each veteran, and the family members of two recently deceased

veterans who had received the medal earlier but did not have a ceremony, by Honorary Consul of France Stephen Knerly Jr., assisted by Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell.

“Collectively, you saved France, and France will never forget,” Honorary Consul Knerly said.

“Gratitude and remembrance for are, for the heroes who saved France, forever in the hearts of the French people....the Ohio veterans here today are among those heroes.”

Director Gorrell spoke of the intertwined history of the two countries, who both guaranteed each other’s liberty, beginning with the Marquis De Lafayette fighting on the American side during the Revolution.

“It is fitting that Lafayette’s grave in Paris is covered with American soil,” Director Gorrell said.

“The United States was honored to return the favor and sent its soldiers to fight on French soil during two world wars to help preserve French independence. Today we see this friendship continued as the people of France honor six men who fought and were wounded in one of those wars....to honor their service and sacrifice, our two countries join together again.”

The veterans honored were:

- **Charles Malachosky, 92, of Cuyahoga Falls.**

Mr. Malachosky entered the Armed Forces in 1942 and served as a Technician 5th Grade in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2nd Armored Division. He served overseas from February 1944 until April 1946, and participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Malachosky is a recipient of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the American Theater Ribbon.



Monthly Update



Veteran Newsletter

- **Richard R. Robb, 95, of the Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky.**

(The award was accepted by his nephew, Robert McCurdy).

Mr. Robb entered the Armed Forces in 1941 and served as a Technician 5th Grade in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 27th Infantry Battalion, 4th Armored Division. He served overseas from January 1944 until October 1944, and was wounded by shrapnel in Normandy in August 1944. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Robb is a recipient of the Purple Heart Medal, the Distinguished Unit Citation, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five battle stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

- **John W. Stauffer, 91, of the Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky.**

Mr. Stauffer entered the Armed Forces in 1942 and served as a Private First Class in Company E, 331st Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division. He served on the European mainland from June 1944 until November 1945, and was wounded in Normandy in August 1944. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Stauffer is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five battle stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the World War II Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the American Campaign Medal, as well as the Jubilee of Liberty Medal from the Government of Normandy.

- **John J. Turk, 89, of Novelty.**

Mr. Turk entered the Armed Forces in 1943 and served as a Technician Fifth Grade in Battery A, 67th Anti-Aircraft Gun Battalion. He served on the European mainland from February 1944 until December 1945, and participated in the campaigns of Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Turk is a recipient of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

- **John Weske, of Sandusky.**

(The award was accepted by his daughter, Ms. Jan Bucholz).

John Weske entered the Armed Forces in 1943 and served as a Technical Sergeant in Company B, 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. He served on the European mainland from June 1944 until December 1945, landing in Normandy at Omaha Beach and taking part in the battle of St. Lo. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Southern France, and Rhineland. Mr. Weske is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four battle stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

- **Robert E. Zonneville, 88, of Mentor.**

Robert E. Zonneville entered the Armed Forces in 1943 and served as a Staff Sergeant in Company H, 121st Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. He served overseas from December 1943 until July 1945, and was wounded at St. Lo in July 1944 and wounded again in Northern France in September 1944. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Zonneville is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Certificate of Merit, and three Overseas Service Bars.



Monthly Update



Veteran Newsletter

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon, and is presented to "...those who have achieved remarkable deeds for France." People who have been named Knights of the French Legion of Honor include those in the military, government, industry and the arts.

U.S. veterans who participated in the liberation of France during World War II are eligible for the award of Knight of the Legion of Honor. For information, contact the Claire March at the French Consulate in Chicago, at (312) 327-5221, or Claire.march@diplomatie.gouv.fr.

"Wreaths Across America" Comes to Sandusky Veterans Home...



At 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 14, about 100 volunteers braved inclement weather to meet at the Ohio Veterans Home - Sandusky Cemetery and place 2,146 wreaths on the veterans' graves. The cemetery there contains the remains of veterans who were residents of the Home from the original Civil War veterans who came there in 1888 up to the present day.

Following the wreath-laying, a ceremony was held at noon in the Veterans Hall Great Room to honor service members from each branch of service. These activities were held in coordination with similar activities at veterans' cemeteries across the nation. An earlier wreath-laying took place at the Ohio Statehouse at noon on December 9 – the same time as in other state capitols – by Medal of Honor recipient Ron Rosser, a veteran of the Korean War.

The mission of the Wreaths Across America organization is to Remember, Honor, & Teach about the service and sacrifices of our veterans, active military, and their families.

Jobs for Veterans Update...

Below is information we hope that everyone is sharing with other Ohio veterans – the latest information on job-seeking strategies for veterans. There is some new information we share here each month, just as we believe there's also a new veteran each month in need of it.



Monthly Update



Veteran Newsletter

Companies Looking to Hire Veterans: Ohio veterans stand to benefit from the fact that many national companies with operations in the state have stepped up their previously-announced commitments to hire veterans to work in many different parts of their businesses. They include AT&T, Chase Bank, GE, Home Depot, Starbucks, Walmart, Verizon, and Xerox. Information on current jobs is available on the individual company web sites; go to www.google.com to search by company name.

The Ohio insurance industry has 17,000 new jobs to fill in many different areas. These jobs are available in insurance companies all around the state. For more information, see: <http://insurancecareers.org/veterans>

Help for Employers to Hire Veterans: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is tackling the mission of helping veterans find employment by reaching out to employers. The agency has developed a Veterans Hiring Guide that provides a central location for information about tools to hire veterans and the business incentives that are available for doing so. The VA's goal is to help employers find job-seeking veterans or to assist employers with their own ongoing efforts at veteran hiring programs. The guide also includes resources for employers seeking to attract military spouses. Development of the guide was a joint effort between the VA, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Departments of Defense, Labor and Education. The Veterans Hiring Guide is available at: <https://www.vetsuccess.va.gov/public/employers.html>

Finding Jobs Online: You can also look for jobs online. "Ohio Means Jobs" is the state's primary job web site, listing the vast majority of both private sector and public jobs open in Ohio. The site is at <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/>, or simply type in "Ohiomeansjobs.com." The available jobs are posted in the "Job Seekers" area.

Be sure to register and post your resume on the site – and don't forget to indicate that you *are* a veteran. The site automatically posts veterans' resumes first for any job that matches the qualifications they've stated in their resume – so employers who go to the site will see veterans' resumes before they see anyone else's. 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 head of the line for jobs.





Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



This web site also has an area with other resources for veterans, to include translation of military to civilian skills and frequently asked questions about the process. The link is below:

<http://www.ohiomeansveteranjobs.com/infocenter>



Finding Jobs In-Person: If you want to start a face-to-face job search, there's in-person assistance available throughout Ohio that knows where the local jobs are. 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 regionally around the state.

Contact info can be found online at:
<http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/wiamap.stm>

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 also assist with skills translation and resume preparation – and they know where the jobs are locally. The Job Centers also have resources to assist disabled veterans with qualifying for, finding and keeping meaningful employment.

For a Job Fair, or any Employment Event, Be Prepared for Interviews, and Know Your Skills:

Before you attend any job fair 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 in 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.



Veteran Newsletter

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/>

Schools and Companies Offering Job Training:

Job training that could lead to employment in the emerging shale industry and in manufacturing is available throughout Ohio.

Stark State College and Eastern Gateway Community College offer training targeted to shale jobs.

Cincinnati State College offers training aimed at industrial jobs.

Siemens Corporation offers training geared to engineering manufacturing jobs.

Find out more at the schools' and company's web sites;

conduct your search using www.google.com.



The Holidays are Here Again....

In the midst of December, most of us are in a somewhat frenzied time of decorating, gifting and holiday preparations. However our faith calls us, whether we pause with our families to celebrate Christmas, continue the celebration of Hanukkah from November, or join together for Kwanzaa – or if we choose to celebrate all three holidays – soon we'll turn the page on 2013 and look ahead to what's in store for 2014.

Many of us will have our families and friends by our side. But there are many in our community who can't be home, but will instead celebrate with a larger, but nonetheless very tight-knit family – the men and women serving in our military. From Afghanistan to Okinawa, from the surface of the Pacific to the



Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



skies above Europe – or from a lonely barracks in California or Texas – our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, active duty and deployed members of our National Guard and Reserves – will join together and make the most of the holidays. Whether in harm's way or standing guard at a lonely place, this band of brothers and sisters will join in religious services, carol-singing, sharing packages from home along with family stories, putting up trees in unlikely places and eating whatever holiday meal that's available. Just as it is in the memories of those who served during holidays far from home, we can also be sure that it will be a memorable time for all of them, wherever they serve.

And for those who miss them, or just wish them well, let us never forget that it is their service – and their sacrifice – that makes it possible for the world to enjoy this truly most wonderful time of the year.

Happy Holidays!

Veteran Newsletter Puzzle Answers...

Below are answers to November's puzzle, titled "Military Branches." Hope you had fun figuring it out!

"Military Branches" Puzzle

Eight clues are arranged randomly below. Each clue's answer contains one of the words to the right. From there, enter each answer to fill in the empty spaces. Once all answers have been correctly entered, the boxed spaces, when read top-to-bottom, left-to-right, will contain a short phrase, the answer to this month's puzzle.

Clues

- Place to watch the Buckeyes (2 wds)
- Quiet types
- Roman arenas
- Confidential
- Female flight attendant
- Packs like sardines
- Of, like, or befitting royalty; In a royal way
- Herb containing white flowers known to ease sharp pains

S T I T C H W O R T
 C O L O S S E U M S
 K I N G L I N E S S
 S T E W A R D E S S
 I N T R O V E R T S
 O H I O T A V E R N
 U N R E P O R T E D
 O V E R C R O W D S