



June 2013



# Veteran Newsletter



Veterans in Ohio got a huge helping hand from Governor John Kasich on June 11 when he signed an Executive Order to streamline the process of professional licensing and college credits for veterans. The order directs state agencies, boards and commissions to take military training into account for licensing, and also directs the Board of Regents Chancellor to simplify the process of awarding college credits for the same. Read more in the story on Page 1.

*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](http://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.

## **Governor Signs Executive Order to Help Veterans Get Credit for Professional Licenses and Schools...**

The signature of Governor John R. Kasich on Executive Order 2013-05K on June 11 will open greater opportunities for Ohio veterans to obtain professional licenses and college credits as a result of their military training.

"You're driving a truck in Afghanistan and you come back to America, you should be certified to drive a truck," Governor Kasich said after signing the order. "If you've been on the battlefield and you're a medic and you're saving people's lives, you ought to be able to be back here

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



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with certification as an emergency responder.”

The Executive Order specifically directs the state’s departments, boards and commission to take military education, training and service into account when granting professional licenses. It says they must review, revise and streamline the process of granting professional licenses to veterans to ensure that their training, experience and service is taken into consideration during this process.

The order also directs the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, in collaboration with the presidents of Ohio’s public colleges and universities, to review the credit-granting process and identify procedures to simplify it in order to grant credit for military education and training.

"These changes make sense, not just for veterans, but for Ohio," he said. "Our aim here is to tear down senseless barriers for those who served the country and let them know that we're a state that values not only their service, but their talents and their experiences."

Under the terms of the Executive Order, all agencies and institutions must identify any barriers to streamlining licensing and granting credits and report this to the administration by December 31, 2013 – along with recommendations for reforms. Many changes may require state legislation to fully implement. But the Governor’s Executive Order formally begins the process and sets deadlines to accomplish it.

## **Act Quickly – Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Nominations are Due by June 30...**

The time to recognize a deserving veteran is almost up – nominations for this year’s class of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame are **due Sunday, June 30**.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame does not recognize veterans for their military rank or deeds. Rather, it honors Ohio veterans for their accomplishments after their military service. The Hall’s purpose is to recognize veterans who used their skills and abilities on behalf of their local communities – and by their continued service and positive accomplishments, inspired their fellow citizens.

There are currently 443 members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. They include the six Ohio military veterans who were





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elected President of the United States, all Medal of Honor recipients from Ohio, astronauts, government officials, police officers, community leaders, and veterans' advocates.

The Hall of Fame Executive Committee, made up of veterans, serves as advisors for the Hall of Fame and selects not more than 20 inductees annually from nominations submitted by the public. Men and women chosen for induction into the Hall come from all eras, all branches of service and all walks of life. The members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame are honored in a permanent display on the second floor of the Riffe Center in downtown Columbus.

Additional information, nomination guidelines and forms, as well stories of past inductees, are available at:

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

## Ohio Hosts National Women Veterans Conference...



Columbus played host June 10-13 to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference of the National Association of State Women Veterans Coordinators (NASWVC). The delegates, representing a number of states, to include Alaska, were women veterans who are responsible for administering programs in support of women veterans in their respective states.



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Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tom Moe welcomed delegates to the conference. During the week, the women heard from a number of distinguished speakers, including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Undersecretary for Benefits Allison Hickey; Joyce Cange, Director of the Cleveland VA Regional Office; Betty Moseley Brown, Associate Director of the VA Center for Women Veterans; Wilma Vaught, Foundation President for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial; and W. Clyde Marsh, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.

A panel discussion during the conference examined the circumstances, impact and treatment of Military Sexual Trauma. Panelists included three survivors, Army veteran Michelle Covert, Air Force veteran Jackie Williams, and Marine Corps veteran Sarah Plummer, as well as VA clinical therapists Dr. Kathleen Chard and Dr. Kristin Rodzinka.

"I really appreciate Ohio hosting our conference this year," said NASWVC President Pamela Luce, of Kentucky. "We were in a great place with great hospitality, and it really helped give us a positive atmosphere for all that we accomplished."

Business sessions included a review of pertinent federal legislation and the best practices to gather information and assist women veterans.

The conference ended with a business meeting of newly-elected officers. Karen Kish of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services had earlier been elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander.

### **Time Running Out for Gulf War Era Veterans to Collect Ohio Veterans Bonus.....**

If you served on active duty in 1991 during the time of the Persian Gulf War, you now have less than six months to apply for the tax-free Ohio Veterans Bonus. **The deadline for applications for veterans of the Gulf War era is December 31, 2013.**

The law that implemented the Ohio Veterans Bonus set a deadline of December 31, 2013 for Persian Gulf War era veterans to apply. Other provisions of the same law that authorized the Bonus resulted in a December 31, 2014 application deadline for Iraq War veterans. No deadline has yet been announced for the Afghanistan War.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is available to veterans who served more than 90 days active duty, not for training, during the periods of the Persian Gulf War and the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.



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- 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**).
- Payment can also be received for 90 days or more of active duty service, not for training, anywhere in the world during these periods. However, the Bonus is higher for veterans who served in the Persian Gulf or in Afghanistan or Iraq. 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 elsewhere, 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.

Gulf War era veterans should waste no time applying – December 31 will be here before you know it.

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/](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 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.





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## Veterans and Jobs in Ohio...

Please read below for the latest information on jobs for Ohio veterans. If you're in search of employment, even if you've read much of this information before, it's still a valuable guide. Please share this information with other veterans.



### Latest Job Fair:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and local partners are joining forces to host a Hiring Our Heroes veterans' job fair in the Cleveland area on June 21, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Cuyahoga Community College-Advanced Technology Center, 3409 Woodland Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. The event is free and is open to veterans, active duty military, guard and reserve members, and military spouses.

A workshop for veterans and other military job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 8:00 a.m.

Beside the Chamber, others hosting the event include the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the Ohio Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, NBC News, and other local partners.

For further information and to register, see:

<http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/cleveland-oh3>

### Companies Stepping Up to the Plate:

In recent weeks, other companies have announced initiatives to hire veterans, nationally as well as in Ohio. They include AT&T, Chase Bank, Xerox, and Ohio's insurance companies. Information is available on their web site.

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## Schools and Companies Offering Job Training:

Job training that could lead to employment is being offered 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.

## 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.



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/>



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## Online Job Assistance:

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 which are open in Ohio. But the real key to this site for veterans is that it get you to the front of the line to be considered for the available jobs.

This site is a partnership between Ohio and Monster.com. Once on the site – at <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omi/>, or simply type in "Ohiomeansjobs.com" – go to the "Job Seekers" area to find the opportunities for veterans.



But 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. The link is below:

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

## In-Person Job Assistance:

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 also 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.



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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.

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

Active duty military families have the base community to turn to for support, while Guard and Reserve families, although spread over a larger area or even the entire state, also have their own family support groups for assistance. But whatever their situation, all military families have a common bond in needing information about the services available to them.



The U.S. Department of Defense is working to fill that void. It provides military families with a weekly online newsletter from the Military Community and Family Policy office. The newsletter, which anyone can subscribe to, informs families of policy updates and changes as well as other items of interest. There are also helpful tips for navigating through the Defense community.

See the latest edition at:

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=OUTREACH:COVER:0::::DAY,MONTH,YEAR:17,June,2013>

## **Veteran Newsletter Crossword Puzzle...**

Crossword fans, we believe we've come up with a real brain teaser to keep you busy this month. The puzzle on the following page contains a quote about patriotism, but you'll to do a lot of work to reveal it. Put your brain to work and have fun! We'll reveal the solution next month.



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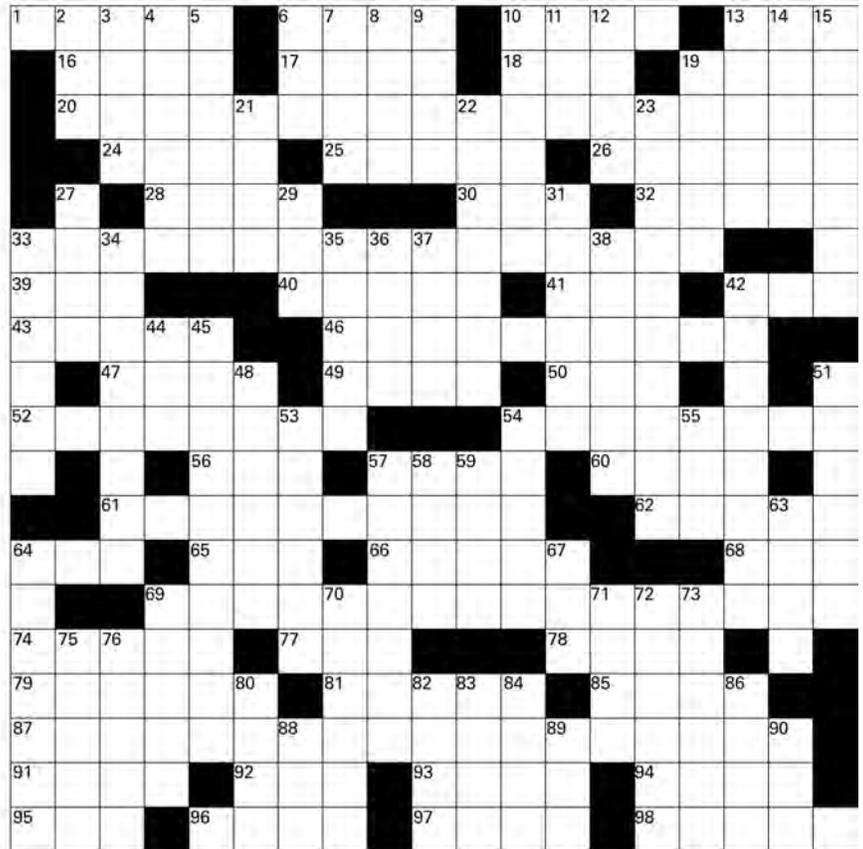


## Across

1. Butterfly's youthful state of existence
6. One of Saint-Saens' musical subjects
10. Eggs of crustaceans and fish
13. Type of order
16. Stare with evil intent
17. One-time great Ohio State lineman
18. It succeeds a phone number, often
19. Florentine river
20. Start of a patriotic quote
24. Wordsworth or Frost work
25. Native American abode
26. They're in the airplane business
28. Writer Bombeck
30. Scientist's hangout?
32. Type of cotton fabric
33. Patriotic quote, continued
39. Complication of the brain in premature babies (abbr.)
40. Wheat
41. Gloria in excelsis \_\_\_\_\_
42. Helicopter hangout?
43. Star of YouTube's Overly Attached Girlfriend vids
46. Patriotic quote, continued
47. Bus driver on The Simpsons
49. American mathematician and activist
50. Language spoken in China's Hunan region
52. South American plant with large white flowers
54. Ornamental shrub also known as japonica
56. Network connection type
57. Type of diet
60. Prefix pertaining to the desert or solitude
61. Patriotic quote, continued
62. Smell
64. \_\_\_\_\_ one's trade
65. Phoenician name for Tripoli
66. Large Argentinian rodents
68. Roman sun god
69. Patriotic quote, continued
74. Substance extracted from another without chemical change
77. \_\_\_\_\_ Angeles
78. Winglike
79. Rubbish, hogwash
81. They shine in Vegas
85. Spanish ladies (abbr.)
87. Patriotic quote, continued
91. Film star Sharif
92. French river that flows into the Rhone
93. Deliberately wound a soldier with an explosive device
94. Law school organization (abbr.)
95. A habitual drunkard
96. Remnant at the bottom of a glass
97. Protein-rich vegetable
98. Tests for wannabe lawyers (abbr.)

## Down

2. Priestly linen
3. Actor and comedian Jon
4. Government decision prohibitor
5. Major highway
6. One of Vivaldi's seasons (abbr.)
7. Houston Texan sackmaster
8. Pain
9. Tide in which there is the least difference between high and low tide
10. Microwave assignment



11. Kitchen supply designer
12. Italian volcano
13. Takes hold of
14. Cancel
15. A greatly appreciated aid or event
19. A sharp edge at the meeting of two surfaces that are at an angle
21. Harry Potter actress
22. Willie and Ricky
23. Clint Murchison and Sid Richardson, perhaps?
27. Thin bright green seaweed genus
29. Singer Adam
31. Warehouse for storing wine
33. American poet quoted in this puzzle
34. Cleveland neighborhood
35. Tiny quantities
36. This Gun for \_\_\_\_\_
37. Hunch-backed helper
38. Label anew
42. King David, for one
44. To the \_\_\_\_\_ degree
45. Dickens' \_\_\_\_\_ Cities
48. Delivered a speech
51. Eggo, for one
53. Line for hauling in a sail
54. Ratio of the side adjacent to a given angle to the side opposite
55. Dancing with the Stars judge
57. Alcoholic beverage made of camel's milk
58. Cry of surprise
59. Through, poetically
63. Warm dry Alpine wind
64. Native American abodes
67. Large body of water
69. Yellowish paint color
70. Firming and strengthening muscles
71. Plus more
72. Tusked whale
73. Works of the stage
75. Florentine cathedral
76. Form of consumption tax in America (abbr.)
80. Off in the distance
82. Kills, slangily
83. Roman tyrant
84. To Kill, as in a dragon
86. Actress Ward
88. Hurry or hasten
89. New York airport code
90. Canadian time zone (abbr.)