



Ohio Department of Veterans Services

★ *Monthly Update* ★

March 2013



Welcome to the twenty-fourth edition of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services e-newsletter!

We thank you for your service to our country. As a veteran, you've earned a number of benefits that you may not be aware of.

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).

Questions about veterans benefits?

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

New Exhibits at the Statehouse Honor Veterans...

On March 4, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services unveiled two very special exhibits at the Statehouse, with help from Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor and ODVS Director Tom Moe.

Exhibits were unveiled in the corridor east of the Ohio Statehouse Museum Gallery to honor Ohio's military women and members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. The women's exhibit depicts Ohio women who served in the military throughout history and relates some of their contributions. The exhibit dedicated to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame provides information about the Hall and showcases some of its members, both veterans who are world-famous for their life achievements as well as others who are known primarily within the communities they served.

Three active duty military ladies from Cleveland, who are featured in the near-life-size photo that accompanies the exhibit, were on hand for the unveiling. Shown in the accompanying photo, they are (l-r) Staff Sgt. Tonya Black of the Army, Staff Sgt. Michelle Serrano of the Marine Corps, and Petty Officer Lauren Laughlin of the Coast Guard. Ironically, none of the ladies is from Ohio.



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Both Lieutenant Governor Taylor and Director Moe made remarks prior to the unveiling. They also recognized women veterans serving in the Ohio General Assembly, some of whom were in attendance at the event.

The exhibits will remain in the Statehouse indefinitely.

Vietnam Commemoration Is Next Week...

Vietnam Veterans Day in Ohio will be celebrated from March 26-29. This year is the first state-level commemoration of the day enacted by the Ohio General Assembly and signed by Governor John Kasich last year, designating March 30 as Vietnam Veterans Day in Ohio. The commemoration is being held March 26-29 due to the Easter holiday.

It kicks off Tuesday with a 10 a.m. opening ceremony at the Ohio History Center, at I-71 and 17th Avenue in Columbus. That's followed by an 11 a.m. panel discussion by Vietnam veterans at the History Center, and the opportunity there at 1 p.m. to record their recollections of the war for a living history project. All these events are free.

The four days of the commemoration are filled with special ceremonies and exhibits both at the Ohio History Center and the Statehouse, all free. The centerpiece of the commemoration is The Wall That Heals, the premier Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall, from Washington, D.C. It will be exhibit at the Ohio History Center following the opening ceremony on Tuesday through midnight Friday.

Wednesday: 10 a.m. panel discussion by former POWs at the History Center; 12:30 p.m. panel discussion by women Vietnam veterans, Living History interviews from 1 to 4 p.m., both at the History Center; special exhibits at the History Center and the Statehouse.

Thursday: 10 a.m. panel discussion by veterans on the aftermath of Vietnam; 3 p.m. closing ceremony at the Statehouse Atrium; special exhibits at the History Center and the Statehouse.

Friday: 4 p.m. at The Wall That Heals, Wall Retirement and Remembrance ceremony.





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The state commemoration also marks the 40th anniversary of the end of America's role in the Vietnam War. The date of March 30 signifies the first date that troops would have returned home from Vietnam after leaving the country on March 29, 1973. The theme of the commemoration, expressed in the event's logo, is to finally welcome home and honor all those who served there, and to remember those who didn't make it back.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Buckeye State Council, are joining together to

sponsor the commemoration. A volunteer committee of veterans' organizations and local officials has been working the past few months to make the event a reality. The Ohio Veterans and Fraternal Charitable Coalition has also graciously underwritten a significant portion of the costs of the event.

"It's important that we establish Vietnam Veteran's Day so that the people of Ohio can unite in one voice and say that they are grateful and proud of the veterans of that conflict," Director Moe said. "It is a voice that is finally saying to them, 'welcome home.' "

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services' web site contains a special section with a complete schedule of events and other details of the commemoration at:

http://dvs.ohio.gov/home/vietnam_veterans_commemoration.aspx

Veterans and Jobs in Ohio...

As we do every newsletter, we want to give our veterans community an update on Ohio's jobs situation.



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“Hiring Our Heroes” Job Fair: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is hosting a “Hiring Our Heroes” hiring fair in Dayton on March 26.

The fair takes place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dayton Marriott, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409. It features a number of both national and local employers, and are open to veterans, active duty, Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses. For additional information and links to register for the event, see:

<http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/events?page=1>

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/>

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.



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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.

The special section also contains information on how to volunteer to support the commemoration. Volunteers are needed to help reach out to veterans and veteran organizations, staff the events, greet veterans, provide services to veterans and their families who are in attendance, and several other functions.

The special web section for the commemoration is at:

http://dvs.ohio.gov/home/vietnam_veterans_commemoration.aspx

Iraq War Anniversary...



The Iraq War began 10 years ago this week, on March 20, 2003. March 20 marks the 10th anniversary of the Iraq War. Much has been written in media the past few days about the decisions and the effects, but what seems to be missing is a tribute to the veterans.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services says a heartfelt thanks to the thousands of American men and women, all volunteers, who went to Iraq, braved enemy fire and roadside bombs, and successfully completed all military and humanitarian missions they were

asked to perform. We salute each and every man and woman who served in Iraq. You fought, bled, and died and many have endured life-altering circumstances on our behalf. You are owed our enduring gratitude for being willing and able to serve our country and our support as you move forward in your lives. We also say thank you to all of your families who stand beside you, in good times and bad.