



October 2013



# Veteran Newsletter



The biggest news for the Ohio veterans community this month is the appointment of a new Director for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

Tim Gorrell is an Ohio native who is a Retired Army Col. and a public servant.

We're all looking forward to moving ahead with him at the helm.

Find out more about Col. Gorrell 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.

## **New Director Assumes Duties November 1...**

Everyone in the Ohio Department of Veterans Services extends a warm welcome to Col. Tim Gorrell (U.S. Army, Retired), who assumes his duties as Director of the department on November 1.

Col. Gorrell was appointed to the job by Governor John Kasich on October 4. The new Director is currently serving as Deputy Inspector General for Ohio. He replaces Director Tom Moe, who retired in July.

"I'm grateful to Col. Gorrell for taking on this important assignment. Ohio veterans deserve someone of his distinction fighting for them,

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



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to make sure they get the services our country owes them as well as to provide them the support they need to succeed in the civilian workforce,” Governor Kasich said in a news release. “I’m also grateful to Assistant Director Jason Dominguez for his service as interim director during this time of transition,” he said.

Col. Gorrell is a native of Toronto, Ohio and a 1981 graduate of the University of Akron, where he was a varsity football player. He earned his Army commission as a field artillery officer through Officer Candidate School in July 1982. His service includes tours in Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kuwait. He commanded a base support battalion in Schweinfurt, Germany and later served as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Third Army in Kuwait. Col. Gorrell’s final active duty assignment was as Command Inspector General of the Ohio National Guard. He began working as the state’s Deputy Inspector General in 2012.

We join everyone in the Ohio veterans’ community in welcoming Col. Gorrell to his new position, and we look forward to continuing to move ahead under his leadership in the coming months.

All of us at ODVS also want to say thank you to Jason Dominguez for guiding us the past few months as our Interim Director, and for continuing his service as Assistant Director.

## **Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Set for November 7 in Columbus...**

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will induct the Class of 2013 in a ceremony at 11 a.m. November 7 at Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium in Columbus. The Ohio veterans’ community and the public are cordially invited to attend and honor the 15 Ohioans in this year’s class as they join the 428 others 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. They are veterans who have continued to serve others, and by their continued service and positive accomplishments, inspired their fellow citizens.





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It's not too early to nominate deserving veterans for the Class of 2014. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2014. Information and a nomination form can be found at:

[www.ohiovetshof.gov](http://www.ohiovetshof.gov)

This year's inductees are:

## **ANNA K. BEALL**

*Dayton, Montgomery County - United States Army Nurse Corps Veteran – World War II*

Anna was an Army nurse in the Pacific Theater during World War II. After the war, she worked at the Dayton Mental Health Center until her retirement in 1983. She has been a volunteer for 30 years at Hospice of Dayton and also a tour guide at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. Anna also speaks to students at the Stivers School about her military experiences and service to country. She also volunteers with the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress.

## **STEPHEN J. BUTCHER**

*Pataskala, Licking County – Ohio Air National Guard Veteran – Persian Gulf War Era*

Steve Butcher is a retired Sergeant Major from the Ohio Air National Guard. He has twice been elected Mayor of Pataskala. He is also the owner of Butcher's Restaurant, which every year on dates close to Memorial Day and Veterans Day, serves free meals to veterans all day. As Mayor, he helped create a "Veterans Green" and was instrumental in raising funds to preserve an old theater, establish a community museum, and re-open a closed swimming pool.

## **ROBERT E. DERR**

*Cincinnati, Clermont County – United States Marine Corps Veteran – Korean and Vietnam War Era*

Robert "Bob" Derr enlisted in the Marine Corps at 17 and came home to establish a business he operated for 36 years. He's been a volunteer for more than 35 years at a Clermont County children's charity and over 30 years at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. He also chairs the Fallen Heroes of Clermont County Memorial Committee to commemorate the service of the 14 residents of Clermont County who fell during the Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## **HARRY A. DONOVAN**

*Fairlawn, Summit County – United States Navy Veteran – World War II*

Harry Donovan is a World War II Navy veteran who became a Certified Public Accountant who later owned his own firm. He is an active supporter of the Wounded Warrior Project and has established a scholarship fund for children of veterans. He donates and volunteers with the Summit County Stand-Down for homeless veterans as well as at the new Valor Home for homeless veterans, named after his son, Harry Donovan, Jr. Harry has also served on many community and church boards.



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## **CARLOS M. EASTERDAY**

*Pleasant City, Noble County – United States Army Veteran – Korean War*

Carlos Easterday served during the Korean War, returned home and saw the need in his community to help those less fortunate during the holiday season. He and his wife began a tradition of offering a free community-wide dinner on Christmas Day, which has grown to serve 300 meals annually and deliver another 300. This effort is a tradition as well for many families of volunteers. Carlos has also recruited local teens to ensure a flag is placed on the graves of local veterans.

## **ROGER H. GARDNER**

*Warren, Trumbull County – United States Army Veteran/Ohio Army National Guard Veteran – Korean War Era and Vietnam War Era*

Roger Gardner is a veteran of both in the active Army and the Ohio Army National Guard. He was instrumental in the construction of several veterans' memorials in Trumbull County. He has logged over 2,300 volunteer hours at the Warren VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic and nearly 6,000 volunteer hours at the Youngstown VA clinic. Roger is a frequent speaker in the "Tell America" program in local schools, sharing his military experiences and encouraging patriotism.

## **DAVID R. HINDS**

*Dublin, Delaware County – United States Marine Corps Veteran – Vietnam War*

David Hinds returned from Vietnam and tirelessly served veterans and others both in his hometown of Zanesville and later in Dublin. In 1979, he received the Presidential Outstanding Community Achievement of Vietnam Era Veterans Award. He's led projects that include the Zanesville Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program, and the Zanesville Marine Corps League Toys for Tots. In 2013, he helped raise funds to establish a Grounds of Remembrance Memorial in Dublin Veterans Park.

## **ALEXANDER P. KISH**

*Newton Falls, Trumbull County – United States Army Veteran – Korean War*

Alexander Kish is a Korean War veteran who was instrumental in bringing the Western Reserve National Cemetery to Rittman. He organized an Honor Guard of veterans' organizations that provides military honors during burials there. He helped raise funds that purchased over 400 phone cards for veterans at the Brecksville VA Hospital and active duty soldiers at Fort Drum, New York. He has also organized a fundraiser to provide summer camp for underprivileged children in Trumbull County.

## **JOHN F. KUFFNER (deceased)**

*St. Mary's, Auglaize County – United States Navy Veteran – World War II*

Jack Kuffner served in the Navy in World War II and became an attorney who practiced in St. Marys for 50 years. He was Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Auglaize County for 24 years and later the Prosecuting Attorney, and also served as a Judge on the Auglaize County Common Pleas Court, receiving the Ohio Supreme Court Award for "Superior Judicial Service." He was a member of several civic boards and was active in the Masons, Kiwanis and veterans' organizations.



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## **HARRY A. SEIFERT, JR.**

*Kettering, Montgomery County – United States Army Veteran – Cold War*

Harry Seifert is an Army veteran and a Dayton businessperson who was a leader in the effort to revitalize Dayton's downtown business district and neighborhoods. He is strongly involved in the restoration of the Wright Brothers, Paul Dunbar and VA campus historic areas. Harry's leadership also brought together business and community leaders and the Dayton VA Medical Center to forge the Community Covenant to support the employment of veterans throughout the Miami Valley.

## **RONALD J. SEMAN**

*Parma, Cuyahoga County – United States Air Force Veteran – Korean War*

Ronald Seman is a Korean War veteran who launched a long career in media. He originated "The Cleveland Veteran" radio program which promoted veterans' activities and later wrote a weekly veterans' column while at the Cleveland Press. He continues to write the "Veterans' Beat" for several local newspapers. He is an active member of several veterans' organizations and long-time supporter of the USO. Ron has also organized and emceed many veterans' events over the years.

## **SHARON A. R. STANLEY**

*Circleville, Ross County – United States Army Veteran – Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Global War on Terrorism*

Sharon Stanley was an Army nurse who serves at the national level as Chief Nurse of the American Red Cross. She is responsible for the training and deployment of Red Cross nurses and ensures they are up to current standards in all areas to include disaster response and blood collection and distribution. She has increased the presence of Red Cross volunteer nurses in both military and VA hospitals. The International Red Cross honored her in 2013 with the Florence Nightingale Medal.

## **CARL W. SWISHER**

*Columbus, Franklin County – United States Navy Veteran – Vietnam War Era*

Carl Swisher returned from his Navy service and started his own business. He also became active in the American Legion and was both 12<sup>th</sup> District and Department of Ohio Commander. Carl chaired the Buckeye Boys State Committee for more than 15 years, and is active on several other American Legion committees. He has personally sponsored Veterans' Day parade floats and youth sports teams. He now represents the Legion on the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission.

## **JOSEPH K. VRABEL (deceased)**

*Poland, Mahoning County – United States Army Veteran – Korean War*

Joseph Vrabel served in the Korean War and devoted himself to serving other veterans. He was active in both the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion. Joe was an avid promoter of Buckeye Boys State to which he generously donated and secured several local sponsorships. Joe was an active fundraiser for Gifts for Yanks, and helped obtain a van to transport veterans from Youngstown to the Cleveland VA hospital. He was known in his area as the "Veterans' Veteran."



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## **JOHN B. WILLIAMS**

*Bexley, Franklin County – United States Army Veteran – World War II*

John Williams served in World War II and later served his community in many ways. His complaint led to the development of an Affirmative Action Plan for the Columbus Post Office. John was a co-founder of the Reeb-Hosack Community Baptist Church and a contributing writer for the Columbus Call and Post. His work in South Linden led to the formation of the Greater Linden Block Watch Alliance. John's favorite saying is, "I'd rather wear out in serving others, than rust out in idle retirement."

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 1992 by former Gov. George Voinovich to recognize the post-military achievements of outstanding veterans. Charter members of the Hall's Class of 1993 included the six Ohio military veterans who were elected President of the United States and all Medal of Honor recipients from Ohio. Honorees of the past 18 years include astronauts, government officials, police officers, community leaders, and veterans' advocates.

The Hall of Fame Executive Committee, comprised entirely of veterans, serves as advisors for the Hall of Fame and selects no more than 20 inductees annually from nominations provided by all citizens of Ohio. 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 and profiles of past inductees are available at:

[www.ohiovetshof.gov](http://www.ohiovetshof.gov)



## **Ohio Women Veterans' Conference is a Huge Hit...**

More than 750 women veterans of all eras gathered on September 28 at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus for the Ohio Women Veterans' Conference. This conference was the largest women's veterans' conference in the nation, and continued Ohio's tradition of outreach and support to women who have worn the uniform of our military services.



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The theme was, “Inspirational. Informative. Intrigued?” Judging by the more than 300 comments received, this theme met or exceeded the expectations of those in attendance. The conference featured distinguished speakers and exhibitor booths that acquainted the veterans with the wide range of benefits available to them, from health care and injury compensation, to education, to temporary financial aid, as well as the veterans’ service organizations that can provide a place of common experience and advocacy. It was also a day for female veterans to meet and talk with each other, and to learn both the commonalities as well as the differences of their individual experiences.

The keynote speaker was Jessica Lynch, who was severely injured in the ambush of her unit early in the Iraq War in 2003 and was rescued by Special Operations forces

from an Iraqi hospital. Attendees also heard from retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice and veterans’ advocate Evelyn Stratton; Dr. Betty Mosely Braun, Associate Director of the VA’s Center for Women Veterans; Ohio’s Adjutant General, Major General Deborah Ashenhurst; and comedian and Army veteran Sheila Van Dyke. The day also included a panel discussion on benefits of concern to women veterans, and group photos of veterans present from the different services.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services maintains an active Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, a role of even greater importance at a time when more than 14 percent of the active military are women, and over 60,000 women veterans call Ohio home. The department sponsors the conference every two years in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System of Ohio. This year’s conference was the largest to date.

We hope you’ll join us in 2015!

If you’d like to view an album of photos from the 2013 conference, it’s available at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohioveteransservices/>



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## Getting a Job is Job One...

This month we continue our tradition of providing the latest information on job-seeking strategies for Ohio veterans. While much of the information on where to look is the same each month, we believe there's also a new veteran each month in need of it. Please share with all the veterans you know.

### Upcoming Cleveland-Area Job Fair:

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and several local partners are sponsoring a Job Fair for veterans and currently serving Guard and Reserve members on Tuesday, November 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. Employers as well as colleges, vocational institutions and veterans' service organizations will be on-site. Attendees will also receive a free ticket to an upcoming Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game. Veterans are asked to bring proof of service and register in advance; please visit:



<http://careerexpo.formees.com/f/cleveland/>

**Companies Looking to Hire Veterans:** There are currently 17,000 new jobs available among the many companies that make up Ohio's insurance industry. For more information, see: <http://insurancecareers.org/veterans>

Many other national companies with operations in Ohio have announced commitments to hire veterans. They include AT&T, Chase Bank, GE, Home Depot, Walmart, Verizon, and Xerox. Information on current jobs is available on the individual company web sites; go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) to search by company name.

**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 which are 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.



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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.

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 information 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.





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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/>



## **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](http://www.google.com).



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## Last Month's Veteran Newsletter Puzzle Solution...

Last month we provided a unique puzzle challenge, different from most. We hope you were able to successfully complete it. See the answers below.

### "Tug of War" Puzzle ANSWERS column A $\frac{V}{S}$ column B

Fill in answers for each clue in the grid below. The letters in the yellow boxes are the answers to the clues. The letters in the red boxes are the answers to the clues. The letters in the yellow boxes are the answers to the clues. The letters in the red boxes are the answers to the clues.

NOTE: When answers are filled correctly, all of the yellow boxes will be highlighted.

After selecting answers in the grid, you should notice that the letters in the yellow boxes are the answers to the clues. The letters in the red boxes are the answers to the clues. The letters in the yellow boxes are the answers to the clues. The letters in the red boxes are the answers to the clues.

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1	J	O	K	E	R	B	B	A	T	M	A	N								
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		3	H	E	A	T	S	P	U	R	S									
	4	S	P	I	N	K	S	T	Y	S	O	N								
	5	R	O	M	M	E	L	F	R	A	N	K	L	Y	N					
	6	G	R	E	E	C	E	P	E	R	S	I	A							
	7	E	N	G	L	A	N	D	F	R	A	N	C	E						
8	E	I	S	E	N	H	O	W	E	R	S	T	E	V	E	N	S	O	N	
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11	S	E	A	B	I	S	C	U	I	T	W	A	R	A	D	M	I	R	A	L

#### Clues

- Prankster
- X or Y, for example
- Police, slangily
- Former heavyweight boxer
- Known as "The Desert Fox"
- Athens locale
- 1966 World Cup champion
- "Ike"
- LeBron and Dwyane's turf
- One with a Cockney or Geordie accent
- Laura Hillenbrand novel
- Bob Kane creation
- People bound to a common purpose
- Boot accessory, perhaps
- Chicken dinner producer
- 2008 Ryan Phillippe, Eva Green picture
- Ancient kingdom located in present day Iran
- One who tours Tours would be in this country
- Treasure Island author
- Perennial Big Ten power
- Foster and Bates
- 1937 Triple Crown winner