



# Veteran Newsletter



## Month of the Military Child

April is "The Month of the Military Child." Ohio is home to approximately 33,000 youth in military families. This commemoration recognizes the contributions that military children make as their parents, guardians and families serve our nation. Because of their resilience and ability to deal with life-changing events, military children are an inspiration and a source of pride for our nation.

Click this link to download a certificate to recognize a military child for their service to our country: [http://www.militarychild.org/public/upload/files/MOMC\\_Certificate\\_2015\\_-\\_Form\\_B.pdf](http://www.militarychild.org/public/upload/files/MOMC_Certificate_2015_-_Form_B.pdf)

*Welcome to the Ohio Department of Veterans Services e-newsletter, a key source of info about issues of interest to our community of veterans in Ohio!*

To learn about the benefits you've earned, visit your County Veterans Service Office. Find yours via the map on our website, [www.ohiovet.gov](http://www.ohiovet.gov), by calling 1-877-OHIO-VET or via our free mobile app at <http://dvs.ohio.gov/HOME/Welcome>.



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## Get Connected for your Spouse, Kids & Grandkids

A veteran's widow was recently introduced to a service officer in her local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) for the first time. A friend from the Vietnam Veterans of America took her to apply for dependency and indemnity compensation compensation (DIC). She discovered she was eligible to apply because her husband died from a service-connected disability. The compensation is not income dependent and if she qualifies it could provide more income for her.

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



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As she left the CVSO she began to cry, because all their life she didn't know the CVSO was there for them, or that her husband could have qualified for compensation all of these years.

Post 9-11 veterans often are unaware that they are eligible for five years of free healthcare following their service. If a veteran is eligible for Medicaid, they are automatically moved up to priority 5 for service in the VA healthcare system and they can avoid the annual penalty for not carrying health insurance under the Affordable Healthcare Act.

Get connected with the resources and benefits you earned with your service and sacrifice for our country. If not for you, than for your spouse, your children and grandchildren. As a military member and veteran there are many programs available for all generations.

The CVSO located close to home in your county can help you get connected to U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs healthcare, disability compensation, financial assistance and even burial costs when needed. Take your spouse and children by the local CVSO and introduce them. Make sure they are aware of the resources that you have earned for them. For instance, veterans and dependents may be eligible for Emergency Financial Assistance in times of need.

Many Ohio veterans also don't know we have two veterans' homes that provide long-term nursing care for Ohio veterans at a third-of-the-cost of private nursing homes. The U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs can also help pay for private nursing home care. Make sure your family members know to report that you are a veteran, so you can use VA benefits before you liquidate your assets for Medicaid spend down.

Vietnam Veterans now know that exposure to Agent Orange can impact their children and grandchildren. Veterans of any era should report health concerns big or small to their VA healthcare provider and file a claim for VA disability compensation so it will be documented, should those health concerns be related to something later in life. Veterans must file a claim with the VA to receive service-connected disability compensation.

As men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces you are the bravest, most courageous of America's citizens. You may not want to report health conditions or be ready to check in with your CVSO, but do it for your family and your long-term peace of mind. Learn more at: [www.ohiovet.gov](http://www.ohiovet.gov)



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### ***Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission***

Ohio is one of 35 states involved in the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunities for Military Children, which is working to ensure that military children are properly enrolled in schools, have eligibility for school activities and have assistance in meeting graduation requirements.

Learn about the compact on this website: <http://www.mic3.net/>

For additional information, contact Pete Lupiba, the council's state commissioner, at:

[Pete.Lupiba@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Pete.Lupiba@education.ohio.gov)

## **Governor Kasich Appoints Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman as Ohio Adjutant General**

Gov. John Kasich recently announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman as Ohio's 82nd adjutant general. Bartman had been serving as interim adjutant general since Jan. 10.

Bartman is a member of the governor's cabinet and is responsible for the command of the Ohio National Guard, which consists of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Militia, totaling more than 16,000 personnel. Bartman supervises the commanding officers of these components in day-to-day operations and management of readiness as well as the fiscal, personnel, equipment and real property resources within their organizations.



"It is an honor to be selected as the 82nd adjutant general for the State of Ohio. The Ohio National Guard has a long tradition of excellence, and I am excited to have the opportunity to lead such an outstanding group of service men and women," Bartman said. "The Ohio National Guard is ready to respond to any call for help from the citizens of this great state or the nation."

Throughout his career, Bartman has served in various operations and command positions in the Air Force and the Ohio Air National Guard. He is a command pilot with more than 3,200 flying hours on



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several different aircraft models, including the F-16. Bartman flew 29 combat missions in Iraq during Operations Provide Comfort, Northern Watch and Southern Watch. He has served as the Senior Joint Air Component Coordination Element Director for the 7th Air Force to the commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea for Ulchi Freedom Guardian '14.

He was the Air National Guard lead to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force for the Total Force Task Force to develop strategic options for the active, Guard and Reserve total force capabilities to meet the current and future Air Force requirements. Prior to his selection as interim adjutant general, Bartman served as Ohio assistant adjutant general for air since January 2011. In that role, he was responsible for directing Air National Guard operations and establishing policy to ensure mission readiness of more than 4,500 personnel in four flying wings and six support units. From April 2011 to April 2014, Bartman served as the special assistant to the director of the Air National Guard for operations in Washington, D.C.

Bartman graduated from The Ohio State University in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering and earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Boston University in 1992. He entered military service in September 1982 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program, where he was a distinguished graduate. He is also a lifetime member of the National Eagle Scout Association. Bartman is married to Christi Scott Bartman, J.D., Ph.D., and they have three children: Ashley, Nathan and Aubrey.



## Homegrown by Heroes Program

Homegrown by Heroes is a new recognition program between the state's Ohio Proud marketing program and the Farmer Veteran Coalition that certifies Ohio agricultural products from farmers, ranchers, and fishermen who have served or are still serving in any branch of the U.S. military.

The Bush Valley Farm owned and operated by retired military members Scott and Jean Bush, was recently inducted into Ohio's Homegrown by Heroes program. Ohio Department of Agriculture Director David T. Daniels, DVS Director Tim Gorrell and Farmer Veteran Coalition Executive Director Michael O'Gorman visited the farm as part of Ohio Agriculture Week.

The Bush Valley Farm provides quality, farm-raised pork, sheep and poultry that can be custom ordered to any specification.



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Ohio Proud is the state's signature marketing program aimed at helping consumers identify agricultural products that are at least 50 percent made, grown or processed in Ohio. There are currently 491 Ohio Proud partners located across 78 counties, and that number continues to grow. Homegrown by Heroes, started by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and launched nationally by the Farmer Veteran Coalition last year, is a similar marketing program that allows farmer veteran's to affix a distinctive label on their agricultural products.



The Farmer Veteran Coalition, based in Davis, California, helps veterans develop careers in agriculture through collaborations of the agricultural and military communities.

To qualify to use the Homegrown By Heroes label, one must have served honorably or still be serving in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, and be at least 50 percent owner and/or operator of the farm business. Eight farms in Ohio have been certified to date. Veterans of all eras are encouraged to apply by visiting [www.hgbh.org](http://www.hgbh.org) or emailing [HBH@farmvetco.org](mailto:HBH@farmvetco.org).

Ohio Agriculture Week is celebrated each March to educate Ohioans about the importance of the state's \$105 billion food and agriculture industry, on our dinner plates and beyond.



## From Helmets to Hardhats

Are you a veteran interested in joining a highway team? Apply for the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Apprenticeship Program seasonal highway maintenance worker positions starting at \$14.85/hour.

ODOT District 6 encompasses an eight county region in Central Ohio, including Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, and Union counties. District 6 is responsible for 4,797 lane miles of roads and 1,557 bridges.



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## Program Highlights:

- Paid training
- Ability to perform full complement of highway maintenance duties upon program completion
- Opportunity to work additional seasons based on performance evaluation
- CDL fee reimbursement and use of ODOT equipment for testing
- Eligibility to apply for regular full-time Highway Technician positions upon program completion



For more information, submit your resume to: [Regan.Morrison@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:Regan.Morrison@dot.state.oh.us)

## Time to Nominate a Veteran for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame honors veterans who have served their communities following military service. Please help us help us honor these very special veterans – the deadline for nominations for the Class of 2015 is June 30.

“The veterans selected for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame are the heart and soul of our communities, the people who didn’t stop serving when they came home from the military,” said DVS Director Tim Gorrell. “They’re the people everybody counts on to do the things that need to be done to make Ohio a great place to live. I encourage everyone to take the time to nominate the veterans that they know for this honor.”

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 1992 to recognize the achievements of veterans in community service after their military service ended. 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 include astronauts, government officials, police officers, community leaders, and veterans’ advocates.

The Hall of Fame Executive Committee, made up of veterans, selects not more than 20 inductees annually. Men and women chosen for induction into the Hall come from all eras, all branches of service and all walks of life.



All Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame members are honored in a permanent display on the second floor of the Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in downtown Columbus.



Additional information, nomination guidelines and forms are available at:  
[http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans\\_hall\\_of\\_fame.aspx](http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame.aspx)

## VA No Longer Collecting Net Worth Information for Purposes of Financial Assessment for Health Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) currently collects income and net worth (asset) information from Veterans who apply for enrollment in VA health care to determine eligibility and/or copay responsibility. To align the VA's health care program with other federal health care programs' financial assessment requirements, effective January 1, 2015, VA will no longer collect Veterans' net worth information for purposes of financial assessment for health benefits.



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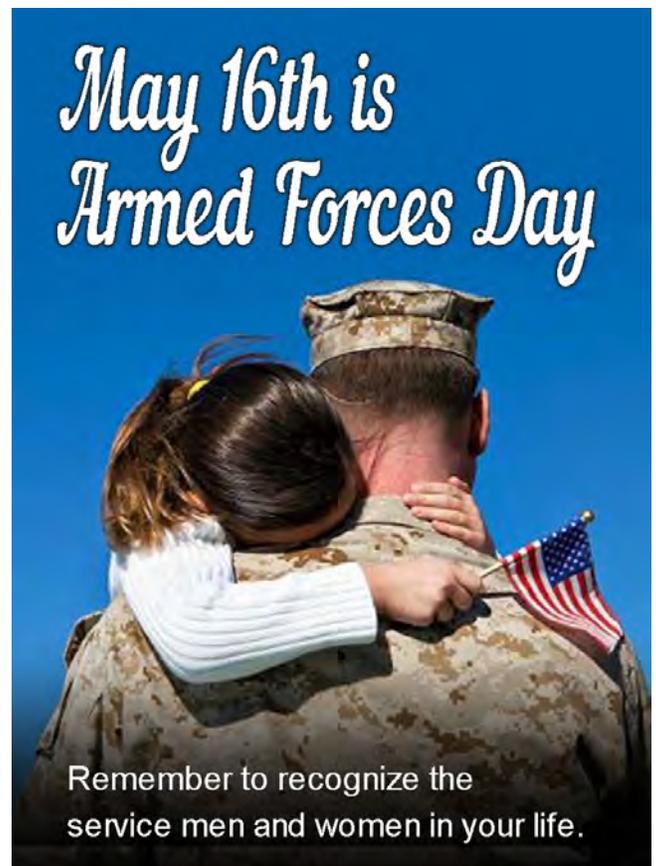
For purposes of VA health care enrollment and benefits, VA will consider only a Veteran's previous year's gross household income (earned and unearned income), and deductible expenses to determine eligibility and/or copay responsibility. VA will continue to consider a Veteran's net worth in determining eligibility for extended care services.

Although the thresholds are the same for Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA), there are important differences in how both administrations use net worth in determining benefits:

- VBA uses the threshold as an independent financial variable as an indication that an application for Pension may need further development.
- VHA combines the net worth with income in determining eligibility for VA health care enrollment and copay responsibility.

VHA will send letters to Veterans who have been placed in Priority Groups 7 and 8 because their net worth placed them over the VA income limits for consideration of Priority Group 5. The letter will inform Veterans they may now be eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group based solely on their previous year's gross household income, and suggest they complete and submit an enclosed VA Form 10-10EZ, Health Benefits Renewal, for consideration.

This change will positively impact approximately 53,000 Veterans the first year and it is estimated that over five years, nearly 135,000 Veterans. This change reduces paperwork burden (1010EZ/R) as reported to public through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This change also will lessen out-of-pocket expenses for lower income Veterans.





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## Inaugural Women Veterans 5k a Chilling Success

More than 177 braved the bitter cold for the Inaugural Women Veterans 5k at Glacier Ridge Park in Dublin, Ohio. There was a great line-up of speakers sharing their amazing stories. The event was hosted by the Fallen 15. Thanks to all who participated, volunteered and sponsored the successful event. Hope to see you at the next years' run.



## Ohio Women Veterans' Conference set for September 12

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the largest Women Veterans Conference in the nation. The Ohio Women Veterans Conference will kick off Saturday, September 12 at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. Check-in is from 8-9 a.m., and the conference runs from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Organizers say the event will live up to the theme, *"What empowers you? Pass it on!"*

The last conference in 2013 drew more than 700 women veterans, so advance registration is advisable. For more information, visit: [www.ohiowomenvets.gov/Ohio\\_Women\\_Veterans\\_Conference](http://www.ohiowomenvets.gov/Ohio_Women_Veterans_Conference)



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## Colleges and Universities Begin Training for Translating Military Experience into College Credit

As many of you know, DVS partnered with the Higher Education Strategic Military Implementation Team to put House Bill 488 into effect, including translating military experience into FREE college credit and improving on-campus services for veterans and their families.

Starting this month, Ohio college and university faculty who make course equivalency decisions for military training, experience, and coursework will be participating in training workshops across Ohio. These workshops are designed to be “hands on” and will provide them with tools and guidance on how to make such decisions. The intent is for these individuals to return to campus and apply what they’ve learned to improve how colleges and universities handle military-related course equivalency decisions.

## Veterans who are Inmates Craft Benches for Ohio Veterans Home

We would like to thank the [Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction](#) - Belmont Correctional Institution for the donation of the benches, a model truck and a tank to the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. The benches and models were made by incarcerated veterans at the institution.



## 150th Anniversary of the Repose of President Lincoln and Civil War Encampment at the Ohio Statehouse ~ April 29 - May 4

The Ohio Statehouse will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the repose of President Abraham Lincoln in the Ohio Capitol Wednesday, April 29, 2015. The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board is honored to commemorate the Columbus memorial visit the Lincoln Funeral Train made during its journey from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Illinois in the spring of 1865. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the Ohio Statehouse like few Ohioans have and help commemorate this historic event.



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The west side of the Ohio Statehouse will be decorated as it was April 29, 1865, and a pair of historically correct 36 star United States flags will fly above the Ohio Capitol as well. A replica of the catafalque that supported President Lincoln’s casket will be on display in the Ohio Statehouse Rotunda from April 29 to May 4. This is historically accurate to the Ohio Capitol repose of President Lincoln in 1865. For a schedule of the week’s events visit: <http://www.ohiostatehouse.org/announcements>

## Congressional Gold Medal Presentations

On March 10, 2015 in the Ohio Statehouse Rotunda, fourteen Ohioans received one of our Nation’s highest awards for civilians– the Congressional Gold Medal. Presentations were made by Congressman Bill Johnson, (standing seventh from the left) and Former National Civil Air Patrol Commander Major General Charles Carr (not pictured). Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell (far right) provided remarks.



## Call for Artists

We are seeking Ohio-based artists who have created military-themed works for consideration in an upcoming Veterans Day 2016 gallery exhibit in the main lobby of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in Columbus.

This is a great opportunity for you to honor your fellow veterans and to show off your work.



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## Calling all O h i o veteran & currently serving artists



Please send digital samples of your work to [Vetsvcs@dvs.ohio.gov](mailto:Vetsvcs@dvs.ohio.gov) by no later than June 12, 2015.

*Please be aware that the Riffe Gallery has certain stipulations:*

- 1) Works under consideration cannot contain any political statements.
  - 2) Works under consideration cannot be lewd or graphic in nature. The gallery is family-friendly.
  - 3) Works under consideration must be framed.
  - 4) Maximum size for the frame area of artwork is 16" x 20" due to gallery wall space limitations.
  - 5) Works under consideration may be in any medium that is two dimensional.
- Certain exceptions can be made for hanging 3D art.



Cleveland	April 17th, Cuyahoga Community College - Eastern Campus
Toledo	April 28th, Owens Community College
Athens	May 20th, Athens Community Center
Columbus	May 27th, Columbus State Community College
Cincinnati	June 18th, Great Oaks Career Development Campuses
Dayton	June 26th, Sinclair Community College

Register for career fairs in your area. Visit <http://www.ohiocareerfair2015.com/JobSeeker>