



June 2016



Veteran Newsletter



gratitude.



find it here.

*Welcome to the
Ohio Department of Veterans
Services e-newsletter.*

To learn about the benefits
you've earned, visit your
County Veterans Service Office,
www.OhioVet.gov
or call 1-877-OHIO-VET

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Welcoming Transitioning Veterans Home

DVS recently sent personal letters to the nearly 8,000 veterans who have transitioned out of the military in the last 10 months. All of these veterans listed Ohio as their home of record when they left the military.

Our goal is to show our gratitude. We want to ensure service members leaving the military know everything Ohio has to offer veterans and military families.

It is imperative that returning service members enjoy a post-military life with proper health care and a head start on a new career, which is why Ohio has made many changes to create a fast track to jobs and education for veterans.

Ohio's 37 public colleges and universities are now trained to offer free college credit for military experience and each college has a single point of contact for student veterans.

The OhioMeansVeteranJobs.com web site provides a military skills translator to help veterans build a civilian resume, an MOS search to match veterans military skills with Ohio's in-demand jobs, a list of more than 1,400 military-friendly employers and information on how veterans and military spouses receive priority service when obtaining a state-issued professional license or certificate.

When veterans post their resume through OhioMeansVeteranJobs.com, employers will receive their resumes first and it will be marked with a patriotic "V" indicating the job applicant is a veteran.



Have questions about veterans benefits? Call 1-877-OHIOVET or visit www.ohiovet.gov



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What will you
find here?

Home.

A place where your
military experience is
appreciated more
than you know.

Transitioning service members were also encouraged to consider joining the [Ohio National Guard](#) to learn why more than 16,000 soldiers and airmen continue their military service in the Ohio National Guard.

The local county veterans service offices are a great stop for returning veterans and their families to get connected with their community. Ohio remains one of the few states in the nation to have 88 county veterans service offices standing ready to help veterans with applying for VA healthcare and filing claims; transportation to medical appointments, and financial assistance when needed.

Find your local office at www.OhioVet.gov or by calling 1-877-OhioVet.

If you know a veteran who will be transitioning out of the military, encourage them to share their email with us at www.OhioVet.gov so we can keep them updated on everything Ohio has to offer veterans and the people they care about the most.

Watch for more veteran outreach on social media coming soon.

DVS Creates a New Workforce Team



Jobs. Jobs. Jobs.

They're out there and the DVS is on a mission to link as many veterans as possible to them.

Over the past several years, employers have been seeking out veterans to fill their positions. However, many employers are still struggling to decipher military organizational structure and culture.

That's why DVS is now providing military culture training to assist employers with veteran hiring and retention.



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The Workforce team at DVS believes it can improve veteran employment outcomes by working with employers to expand their knowledge of veteran-specific programs and employment resources. The target audience for these training sessions are human resources professionals, hiring managers and recruiters.

To accomplish this task, DVS is establishing a section of Regional Veteran Workforce Consultants to engage employers on a variety of topics related to veteran employment. For example, the department assisted State Auto recently by reviewing role descriptions being used to attract veterans into their talent pipeline. Our consultants provided a number of suggestions on how they could craft a message that would resonate with potential veteran applicants. Additionally, DVS consultants pointed the employer toward resources to tap into transitioning military service members and student veterans.

The goal is to cultivate a mutually beneficial relationship with any Ohio employer looking for new techniques or resources to hire veterans. For more information, contact Jonathon.Field@dvs.ohio.gov.

Memorial Day Ceremonies

Governor's Wreath Laying

On Friday, May 27, the Ohio Statehouse served as the setting for the annual ceremony, which honors Ohio's fallen service members and their families.



More than 110 members of Gold Star families as well as dignitaries, legislators, veterans and member of many military-based organizations gathered at the Veterans Plaza on the east side of the Statehouse for the event. Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor was the keynote speaker and DVS Director Chip Tansill and Gold Star wife Jennifer Rozanski also offered remarks.

Mrs. Rozanski's husband, Capt. Nicholas Rozanski, died of combat injuries sustained in Afghanistan. In her address, she reminded us



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that Memorial Day is a time to remember our fallen service members or, in her 5-year-old's words, "to remember Daddy."

Maj. Gen. Mark Bartman, Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard, joined the Lieutenant Governor, Col. Tansill and Mrs. Rozanski in the wreath presentation. The Ohio Highway Patrol Honor Guard provided a three-volley rifle salute and the Ohio Air National Guard conducted a flyover with a KC 1-35 aircraft from the 121st Air Refueling Wing in Columbus.

Ohio Veterans Homes

As usual, our Homes struck the right chord in their recognition of the bravery and sacrifice of our departed service members.

At the Georgetown Home, residents and loved ones gathered for a Memorial Day service to pay tribute to all former military members, especially those who lost their lives for our country and those who were part of the OVH community.

Home administrator Linda Slone delivered the roll call of the residents who passed away in 2015 while resident James Zile and former resident Jean Reynolds alternated taking a rose from the vase and saluting. After the ceremony, the roses were placed by the family members on the three memorial stones along the memorial walking path.



The service also included remarks by U.S. Army veteran John B. Seelhorst and a reading by resident Richard Overbee, a U.S. Air Force veteran.

Meanwhile in Sandusky, where more than 700 living veterans populate the Ohio Veterans Home, Memorial Day proceedings included remarks from OVH superintendent Robin Carlin, the reading of the Gettysburg Address, a rifle volley salute, a wreath laying and the playing of "Taps." The ceremony was followed by the City of Sandusky Memorial Day parade which has started at the Ohio Veterans Homes since 1948. Among those in attendance were State Senator Randy Gardner and Representative Steve Arndt.



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Residents and their families enjoyed watching and participating in the parade.

For more information on the Ohio Veterans Homes, go to OhioVet.gov.

Remembering the Fallen

Director Tansill delivered speeches and participated in ceremonies at two of Ohio’s most historic places of rest: Woodlawn Cemetery & Arboretum in Toledo and Clover Cemetery in Prairie Township.



At Woodlawn, nearly 100 volunteers joined members of the American Red Cross of Northwest Ohio in placing flags on all 5,692 veteran gravesites. The Memorial Day program included a 21-gun salute, military music, the playing of “Taps” and the laying of a memorial wreath.

In his speech, Director Tansill said, “Throughout our lifetimes, the Ohio soldier has stood ready. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard simply wouldn’t be the same – and neither would our country – if it weren’t for the honorable and heroic contributions of our service members.”



Spacious Woodlawn has many historic features such as the Lucas County Civil War Memorial, making it a fitting backdrop for the event.

Clover Cemetery is much smaller but its history goes back even further as it features the burial site of brothers Joshua Clover and Peter Clover, who served as a private and corporal, respectively, for the Ohio Militia during the War of 1812. Also, there are five known gravesites of Civil War veterans in the central Ohio locale.

The Clover Cemetery Memorial Day event was dubbed the Operation Flag Rededication Ceremony. Director Tansill and Ohio State

Representative Stephanie Kunze were featured speakers. Ohio Tax Commissioner Joe Testa, who also is the Chairman of Operation Flag, served as emcee.



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Monthly Update





Monthly Update



Veterans Hall of Fame Nomination Deadline is June 30

Do you know a veteran who has dedicated much of his or her post-military life to making a positive impact on the community? If so, now is the time to nominate that former service member for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. In fact, the deadline to submit a nomination – June 30 – is fast approaching as the Hall of Fame readies to assemble its 2016 class.



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 include 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.

The induction ceremony is held in November, but we need help in identifying candidates for this honor. Again, the deadline for nomination is June 30.

Nomination guidelines and forms are available at: http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS_HALL_OF_FAME

The names of the members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame classes are permanently displayed on the second floor of the Riffe Center, located in downtown Columbus at 77 S. High St.



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\$2 Million Invested in Suicide Prevention

As part of the Kasich Administration’s continued effort to help Ohioans with mental illness, state officials unveiled a comprehensive suicide prevention initiative. Supported by a \$2 million investment included in the Governor’s SFY 2016-17 biennial budget, Ohio’s initiative focuses on a shared goal of reducing suicides through: workforce development; expanded resources for survivors of loss; a collaborative approach to crisis hotlines and text support; research; awareness and stigma reduction.

“Suicide remains a major public health issue across the nation. Each year, Ohio loses between 1,200 and 1,500 of our citizens due to death by suicide,” said Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). “The steps we are taking today strengthen and enhance Ohio’s efforts on all fronts to reduce the number of deaths by suicide.”

Start Talking! 
Building a Drug-Free Future

Know! The Warning Signs of Suicide

- Feeling like a burden to others
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Acting anxious or agitated and behaving recklessly
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Talking about feelings of hopelessness
- Searching for methods online
- Talking about wanting to die
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain

Visit starttalking.ohio.gov to get the conversation going.

Read more about this initiative at <http://mha.ohio.gov/Portals/0/assets/News/pressReleases/SuicidePrev4WEB.pdf>.

 <p>Veterans Crisis Line</p> <p>1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1</p>	<p>Veterans Crisis Line</p> <p>Remember the national Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-TALK (press 1) and website veteranscrisisline.net provide 24/7 access for those in need of immediate support.</p>
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Star Behavioral Health update

Star Behavioral Health Providers (SBHP) now offers a registry of 114 community-based behavioral health providers with military culture training. It is a great resource for Ohio veterans and military families. To find if a provider is available in your area, go to starproviders.org.



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Women Veterans License Plates

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles is offering a special license plate dedicated to honoring military women past, present and future.

The Ohio Women Veterans license plate was unveiled April 22 at the Ohio Statehouse.

The specialized plates say “Women Veterans, U.S. Armed Forces Veteran” and include a logo of the corresponding major branch of the military – Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard.



More than 67,000 women veterans currently reside in Ohio. Jennifer Baun, Vice Chair of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Women Veterans Advisory Committee, said the addition of the license plates is “not necessarily to be separated from our military brothers but to bring awareness that women are veterans, too.”

Those wishing to order a special plate can visit bmv.ohio.gov.

For more on the Ohio Women Veterans license plates, check out this [VIDEO](#).

Military Hall of Fame for Valor



The Ohio Military Hall of Fame (OMHOF) added a new group of honorees on April 29 as the 2016 Class Induction Ceremony was held at the Atrium of the Ohio Statehouse in downtown Columbus. Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Chip Tansill served as keynote speaker.

The Hall honors Ohio veterans who received medals for valor while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

DVS Director Chip Tansill stands with newly awarded Master Sergeant Kevin A. Colwell.



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The 26-member class included veterans with recognitions such as the Navy Cross, the Flying Cross and the Bronze Star. Their combat service spans World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The OMHOF inducted its charter class in July 2000, becoming the first known statewide military hall of fame of its kind in the United States. Each recipient receives the Ohio Medal of Valor featuring an outline of the state of Ohio, a pennant that resembles the state flag and a cross, which depicts military service in the four corners of the world.

Check out the Ohio Military Hall of Fame website at OhioHeroes.org.

Eakins Named Small Business Champion

The U.S. Small Business Administration named Daniel Eakins, Military & Veterans Policy Director at the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, as the Veteran Small Business Champion for 2016.

The event also singled out the Small Business Person of the Year, the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year and the Women in Business Champion of the Year, among other honors.

The awards recognize the leadership and dedication to the small business community and entrepreneurs in Ohio.



Here, Eakins is flanked by DVS Director Chip Tansill (left) and Assistant Director Mark Cappone (right).

Hundreds of Vets Helped at Fairfield County Stand Down

The Fairfield County Stand Down, held May 25 in Lancaster, was a big success.

Organizers and dozens of volunteers collected food, clothing, snacks, personal hygiene items and more as well as provided services to homeless veterans and local vets in need at the annual event. Some vets even opted for free haircuts.



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After addressing those in attendance, Director Tansill spoke with several veterans and thanked volunteers for their dedication to ending homelessness. We were especially inspired by local teenagers who passed out free groceries to homeless veterans. DVS partners including the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services also participated in the event.

Rock the Walk



A somewhat arduous but pleasant 71-mile, on-foot journey, impressive views along the southern edge of Lake Erie and the joy of bettering the lives of veterans – it's safe to say those who participated in "Rock The Walk" May 19-22 had a full and rewarding weekend.

Members of the American Legion Post 214, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 214, and Sons of the American Legion, Squad 214 in Willoughby, Ohio, put themselves through the rigors of the four-day trek to raise money for the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. When they arrived, organizers Susan and Bob Fratino presented a large check for \$7,000. The aim: to equip the facility with several new mounted television screens.

Relief for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury

Since 2007, medical treatment for TBI has been a rapidly evolving science. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs instituted a policy requiring one of four specialists – a psychiatrist, physiatrist, neurosurgeon, or neurologist – to complete initial TBI exams when VA does not already have a diagnosis.

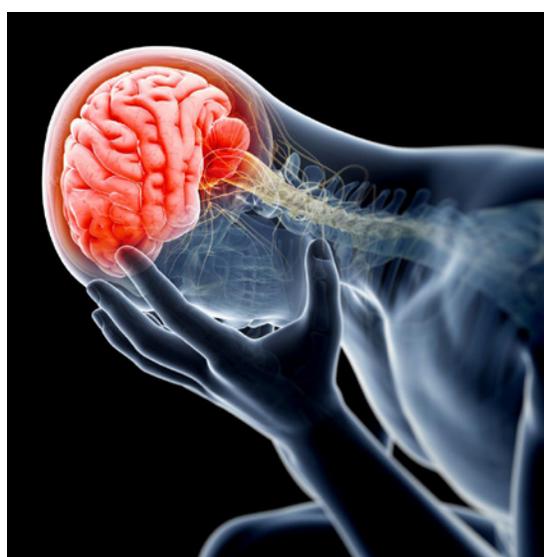
Recently, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald granted equitable relief to more than 24,000 veterans following a national review of TBI disability compensation examinations conducted between 2007 and 2015.



“We let these veterans down,” Secretary McDonald said. “That is why we are taking every step necessary to grant equitable relief to those affected to ensure they receive the full benefits to which they are entitled.”

Of the veterans identified, more than 13,000 were already service-connected for TBI at a 10-percent disability evaluation or higher.

Visit your County Veterans Services Office for more assistance with any VA claim. Find your office at OhioVet.gov or by calling 1-877-OHIOVET.



For more information on TBI and an update on the topic from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, go to VA.gov.



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



Please send digital samples of your work to Vetsvcs@dvs.ohio.gov by no later than August 31, 2016.

Please be aware that the Riffe Gallery has certain stipulations:

- 1) Works under consideration must be family friendly.
- 2) Works under consideration must be framed. Maximum size for the frame area of artwork is 16” x 20.”
- 3) Works under consideration may be in any medium that is two dimensional.
Certain exceptions can be made for hanging 3D art.
- 4) If selected, your work(s) will be on display for approximately 30 days.



New Veterans Join the DVS Team



James Mark

Records Management Officer
(AG2/AW, USN)



Mary Miller

Deputy Director,
Human Resources
(SGT/E-5, USA)



Kiowa Shuman

Clerk/
Reception
(MSgt/E-7, USAF)

> **NOT PICTURED** <

Valerie Bennett

Intermittent Clerk
(SSG/E-6, USA)

Robin Mahady

Deputy Director,
Education & Compliance
(LTC/O-5, USA)

Margaret Tate

Regional Workforce
Consultant
(Army Reserves)