



Department of
Veterans Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Chip Tansill, Director



For Immediate Release
October 11, 2018

Ohio Veterans Art Exhibition To Be Unveiled Oct. 15

COLUMBUS – Art enthusiasts, military supporters and the rest of the general public are invited to join the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) and distinguished guests at the opening of the Ohio Veterans Art Exhibition, scheduled Oct. 15 at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. and include remarks of gratitude from ODVS Assistant Director Mark Cappone. Mary Gray of the Ohio Arts Council, who serves as Riffe Gallery Director, will emcee the program.

The exhibition will showcase the artwork of former service members from all across Ohio and all five major branches of service spanning many different eras and forms of artistic expression. The family-friendly event includes 33 different artworks including sculptures, drawings, paintings and photographs.

The monthlong exhibit, which is free to all, will run through Nov. 15 and appear in the Art Gallery's extension in the lobby area of the first floor of the Riffe Center, located at 77 S. High St. in downtown Columbus.

The main lobby of the Riffe Center is immediately accessible from the High Street entrance and is mere feet away from the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame display that is a permanent fixture near the escalators.

Veteran artists whose works will be on display include:

Chesney Barnett of Summit County, Ohio Army National Guard
Shawn Beasley of Athens County, USMC
Shannon Bryant of Pickaway County, USAF



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Tamera Bryant of Franklin County, Navy
Kevin Casto of Huron County, Ohio Army National Guard
Thomas Chamness of Franklin County, Army & Army Reserves
Justin Dancing Hawk of Delaware County, USAF
Jerry Ellaback of Hamilton County, Navy
Alan Eltringham of Morgan County, Ohio Army National Guard
David Farrow of Tuscarawas County, Army
Sena Filsoofi of Delaware County, Army
Kenneth Frick of Franklin County, USAF
Dan Gerdeman of Fairfield County, Army
Patrick Gerdeman of Delaware County, USMC
Kristy Grachek of Franklin County, USMC
Dan Hancock of Cuyahoga County, USMC
Markanthony Hiser of Lucas County, USMC
Melvin Jackson of Miami County, USMC
William Knott and Nicole Carter of Franklin County, Army (Nicole)
Richard and Tracy Lauric of Logan County, USAF (Richard)
Terri Meyer of Ashland County, USAF
Carolyn Nagy of Lucas County, Army Nurse Corps
Gerry Newhouse of Franklin County, USMC
Mark Pennington of Lorain County, Army
David Ridenour of Wood County, Army
Valerie Simonelli of Summit County, USAF
McKinzey Thompson of Paulding County, Ohio Army National Guard
Gabriel Tolliver of Cuyahoga County, Army
Kelley Tomlinson of Montgomery County, Army Reserves
Gary Waits of Clermont County, Coast Guard
Graham Webb of Franklin County, Army
Jo Wildman of Greene County, Coast Guard and Navy
George Williams of Cuyahoga County, Navy

Some of the artists will be in attendance and available to speak with members of the media and guests.



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(Note: The Ohio Veterans Art Exhibition is a collaboration between the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery and the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.)