Narrator: The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame recognizes Ohio’s distinguished men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation’s armed forces and then continued to contribute to their communities...

Narrator: ...state and nation through exceptional acts of volunteerism, advocacy, professional distinction, public service and philanthropy.

Holly Koester: My name’s Holly Koester. I’m from Cleveland Ohio, and I’m a U.S. Army veteran.

Holly Koester: I joined the running club, um...and I was the first wheelchair racer to do that.

Holly Koester: And the club was to complete a marathon in all fifty states. But now there’s a bunch of other wheelers that wanna do that, so...I can at least say that I was the first one, and you know, they saw that it could be accomplished, so...

Holly Koester: ...they wanted to try ‘n do it too. You can do a lot of things in a wheelchair, it’s just you do it a little bit differently. So I tried playing basketball and I did tennis and I just didn’t have a whole lot of fun in it. But then I was watching one of the girls racing around, and she was beating a lot of the guys on the track.

Holly Koester: Photo of Holly Koester kissing her dog at the conclusion of a race.
Holly Koester  I said, “I wanna do that someday.” So…I, I feel very, very blessed…

[overlay]  Photo of Holly Koester holding her Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame plaque.

Holly Koester  …to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. I…I need to thank…

[overlay]  Photo of Holly Koester with an Ohio State Rep, holding a Cheerios box she appears on.

Holly Koester  my family and all my friends for supporting me.

[overlay]  Photo of Holly Koester after a race, with two other runners standing at her side.

Holly Koester  They congratulated me and helped me train when I was winning and in my losses…

[overlay]  Photo of Holly Koester with a group of other Wheelchair Games participants.

Holly Koester  or when I had problems—juries—you know, they nurse me and comfort me through.  
[PAUSE]  For other veterans that are just getting out of the service I would probably, um, tell 
them to get involved…

[overlay]  Photo of Holly Koester holding a microphone, speaking to a crowd.

Holly Koester  …in the community. Um…so just get out and join—join different groups and, um, 
you’ll be accepted in, and I, I and you’re gonna end up, you know, lovin’ life and, and 
doing great things you never thought that you’d get involved in.

[outro music]

[overlay]  Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

[imagery]  Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame logo fades in and spins on screen, then pauses for a few 
moments. Logo then fades out as U.S. flag fades in, waving.

Narrator  Selection and induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is a great honor. 
Nominate a veteran today. Deadline June 1, 2018.

[overlay]  NOMINATE A VETERAN TODAY 
DEADLINE JUNE 1, 2018 
OHIOVETS.GOV