

Memorial Day 2022

A Memorial Day service was held at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky in front of the I.F. Mack building on May 30.

Kimberly Lewallen, Volunteer Coordinator, served as mistress of ceremonies leading the guest speakers, bands, veteran organizations, honor guards and parade participants through the service. Remarks were given by Ross Matlack, OVH Superintendent, and State Representative DJ Swearingen. Fr. Doug Taylor and Rev. Rena Baker provided the invocation and benediction, respectively. Student speakers Ashlyn Beatty from Perkins High School, Kathleen May from Sandusky High School, and Lance Powell from Sandusky Central Catholic, spoke on the meaning of Memorial Day. Alison Risk, from Perkins, recited Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

A longtime OVH volunteer, Al Lonz served as the Grand Marshal. Lonz served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1967 to 1971 where he was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina, and Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan.

He served in Chu Lai Vietnam from 1969 to 1970 with VMFA-314 Black Knights F-4 Phantom Marine Fighter Attacks Squadron and was credited with the Navy Presidential Unit Citation.

Lonz graduated from Sandusky in 1965. He and his wife, Linda, are lifelong Sandusky residents.

After his military service, Lonz worked for more than 28 years in the home building and construction fields. He attended Holy Angels Catholic Church, where he served as president on the Holy Name Society for 30-plus years.

Lonz is currently involved with many local veterans service organizations, including AMVETS Post 17, American Legion Post 83, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2529, Commander of the Catholic War Veterans Post 1905, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 49, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 774, adjutant/paymaster of the Marine Corps League Detachment 1192, trustee with the Firelands Military Vehicle Group, Erie County Veterans Memorial Park committee board member, treasurer of the Sandusky Memorial Day Parade Committee, chairman/treasurer of the Ohio Veterans Home Volunteer advisory committee, medical transportation driver with the Erie County Veterans Service office,



Activity Calendars

[Georgetown Calendar](#)

[Sandusky Nursing Home Calendar](#)

[Sandusky Domiciliary Calendar](#)

Georgetown Taps

- 02/06 John Kestler
- 02/08 Kenneth Douglas
- 02/20 Jackie Scott
- 03/02 Larry Long
- 03/05 Roger Browning
- 03/22 Sammy Mock
- 03/31 Michael Tomlinson
- 05/01 Malcolm Abbott
- 05/07 Julius Prater
- 05/10 Joann Snell

and a devoted Ohio Veterans Home volunteer for more than 25 years.

The parade consisted of well over 200 vehicles and more than 700 marching participants. Thousands of spectators turned out to join us in remembering those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

A special ceremony in Georgetown also was held on May 30.

Director Deborah Ashenurst gave remarks to the veterans and families attending the ceremony honoring veteran residents that passed in 2021.

Each resident who passed was honored and remembered with a memorial stone on the Memorial Pathway. Each name is etched in stone to always remember their time spent at OVH and their service to our country.



Northwest Ohio MLB Veterans Raffle

On July 23, the Northwest Ohio MLB Memorabilia Veterans Raffle presented its fundraising check to the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky.

- 05/29 James Mitchell
- 07/04 David Damon
- 07/10 William Alexander
- 07/11 William Kirk

Sandusky Taps

- 02/05 Charles Pavelka
- 02/07 Lewis Young
- 02/07 Ollie Jackson
- 02/18 Andrew Foreman
- 02/18 Bernard Bowers
- 02/22 Salvador Prieto
- 03/01 Charles Gamier
- 03/06 Paul Tremaglio
- 03/13 Richard Comings
- 03/13 Thomas O'Neill
- 03/18 Andrew Holupka
- 03/20 John Oseka
- 03/27 Santo Nasonti
- 03/27 Vern Williams
- 04/23 Larry Showalter
- 04/26 Salvatore Langone
- 04/27 Gary Bean
- 05/02 Joy Hurd
- 05/02 John Theisen
- 05/06 Steven Rickard
- 05/16 Frank Cubbon
- 05/19 Thomas Dills
- 05/28 Noble Harold
- 05/30 Gary Prince
- 05/31 Augustus Smith

The fundraiser, which was started by the late Dave Rohrbaugh over two years ago, raised \$30,000 for Ohio veterans. The group raffled signed baseballs and memorabilia from the area's professional baseball players.

Pictured with the check are, front row, from left: Ohio Veterans Home residents Joseph Allen, Tim McElwain, Rudy Dalrymple and Paul Ferguson. Back row, from left: George Johnson, Alan Bostelman, Jason Bostelman, Denny Meyer, Larry Adams, Greg Inselmann, and OVH Volunteer Coordinator Kimberly Lewallen.



Ross Matlack perfectly summed up everyone's feelings when they run into Coleridge "Cole" O. Jones in the Ohio Veterans Home hallways.

"He is a consummate gentleman and a class act," said Matlack, the home's superintendent. "Current and future generations could learn much from him about how to get things done by staying focused and positive."

Jones turned 100 this year.

Staff members, fellow residents and friends celebrated Cole's life with a steak fry lunch and lively birthday bash, which included cake, in the Home's Veterans Hall Great Room.

06/09 William Lavine

06/13 Steven Ware

07/02 Jack Rutz

07/09 Charles Hervey

07/17 Harold Cooper

07/18 Thomas Phillips

07/21 Thomas Eddy

07/29 Andrew Balog

Did You Know?

The Ohio Veterans Home is home to approximately 20 beautiful peacocks.

In the 1920's, peacocks were donated to the grounds of the care facility and have been at the home ever since. Though they can fly out of the large courtyard where they stay, the male peacocks and female peahens continue to make themselves comfortable.

"It is a unique feature here," Matlack said about the birds. "This is their home, too. They're free to leave, but they never go anywhere."



He wore a party hat, birthday beads and a ribbon during the event while attendees sang "Happy Birthday."

Jeff Rapp, a home spokesman, provided some background on Jones, who resides at the Sandusky-area Ohio Veterans Home:

Cole was born July 27, 1922, in Athens, Ohio.

He and his family worked in the coal mines.

He served in the U.S. Army from April 2, 1943, to March 3, 1946, much of the service during World War II. He was honorably discharged as a Master Sergeant.

Cole graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in political science.

He was employed in the fundraising arena, taking on causes related to social change during the Civil Rights Movement.

He was employed in urban development in the 1960s, and his primary duty was to relocate families and businesses in developing cities.

He also worked for the United Negro College Fund, organizing and promoting events for fundraising to an audience including government officials and senators.

In his many roles, he lived mainly in Cleveland and Columbus.

Cole was admitted to the Ohio Veterans home on Feb. 14, 2019.

Still mentally sharp and fun-loving, Cole is very popular among the residents and has a ready smile for all he encounters.



Coleridge Jones and Ross Matlack celebrate Jones' Centennial Birthday.

Georgetown Travels

On June 15, 25 veterans traveled down to a little place called "Pearl's Harbor" located on the Ohio River close to the Brown and Clermont County Line.

Pearl's Harbor, owned by the Lee Family, was a wonderful place to host a fishing trip and picnic for our veterans. Veterans were served a nice home-cooked meal, given door prizes, taken on boat rides, and even got a chance to fish a little. Although the day was hot, the veterans had a wonderful time just spending time with the more than 30 volunteers who came out to make this event possible. Thank you so much to the Lee Family, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, and the Ohio Department of National Resources for helping make this event possible for our veterans!

On June 24, six of our veterans traveled to Dayton to visit the National Museum of the US Air Force.

Although the ride was long (about 90 minutes each way), these veterans were excited to explore eight different airplane hangars full of historical planes used from WWI Era through current day. They had the opportunity to see multiple versions of Air Force One, as well as see planes that they saw in action during their active duty.

Events & Activities

