



Medina County Veterans' Newsletter



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Veterans Organizations	2
Disabled Veterans Plates	3
Service Officer Comments	3
Senior Section	4
Homestead Tax Exemption	5
VA Update	5
Calendar	6
Ohio Veterans Bonus	7
Our Mission	8



Ohio Voters Pass Veterans Bonus

Sparked by an inquiry from an Ohio soldier serving in Iraq, Richard Cordray proposed a constitutional amendment to provide compensation to Ohio veterans of the conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq. Ohioans previously approved similar bonuses after World Wars I, II, Korea and Vietnam.

The Ohio House and Senate voted to put the amendment on the Nov.

3, 2009, ballot, where it was approved by more than seven in 10 voters.

Veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq or the Persian Gulf will receive \$100 for each month of service up to a total of \$1,000. Veterans who served elsewhere during those conflicts will receive \$50 a month up to a total of \$500. Family members of those killed in action will receive \$5,000 in addition to any other allow-

able compensation.

The [Ohio Department of Veterans Services](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov) will be overseeing how the bonus is distributed. If you have questions, please contact DVS at (888) 387-6446.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About/FAQ/Veterans-Bonus-Amendment-FAQs>

Continued on Page 7

Happy Birthday!



Washington



Lincoln

Presidents Day 15 Feb 2010,
Veterans Service Office is Closed



VA Consolidates Cleveland Health Care Facilities; Secretary Shinseki Cites Improved Access for Veterans

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki has announced the signing of a lease that will permit the dramatic expansion of services by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for Cleveland's Veterans.

"Through community partnerships and innovative business practices, we will provide more Veteran-focused services, ensuring Ohio's Veterans have access to 21st century care," said Secretary Shinseki.

The agreement, which creates nearly 24,000 new construction and permanent jobs, calls for VA to lease its Brecksville campus to Veterans Development LLC. The facility will be used for medical research, offices and higher education.

In exchange for the lease, VA will receive the use of 115,000 square feet of office space, 2,000

parking spaces and 122 housing units for homeless Veterans – all adjacent to VA's Wade Park campus.

Savings from the transaction will be used to fund a new blind rehabilitation center, a comprehensive rehabilitation center, a spinal cord injury nursing home, expanded poly-trauma services and an outpatient clinic in Parma, Ohio.

The consolidation stems from a comprehensive VA plan, announced on May 7, 2004, to modernize and improve its health care system. That process was called CARES, for "Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services."

Last year, VA spent more than \$4.1 billion in Ohio on behalf of the state's 960,000 Veterans. In addition to the two facilities affected by today's announcement, VA operates major medical centers in Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton, plus about 30 outpatient clinics, five Vet Centers and two national cemeteries in Ohio.

Armed Forces Licenses in Ohio

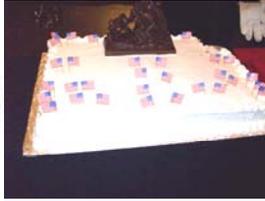
Veterans and service-members now have the option of displaying the U.S. Armed Forces symbol on their driver license (DL) or state identification card (ID) through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). There is no additional cost to have the symbol added, other than the normal fees associated with applying for or renewing a DL or ID. The Armed Forces symbol can be added to the DL or ID at any Deputy Registrar. The applicant must submit a copy of his/her DD-214 displaying their military service or honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces. For more information, visit the [Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles website](http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/).

<http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/>

Visit our Website at

<http://www.co.medina.oh.us/veterans/veteranshome.htm>





On November 10th the Marine Corps celebrated its 234th Birthday. The Medina

County Marine Corps League Detachment #569 had its formal Military Ball for its celebration. The event not only celebrated the birth of the Marine Corps but also kicked off its annual "Toys for Tots" drive. Below is the traditional cutting of the cake, where the oldest and Youngest Marine present cut the Birthday cake.



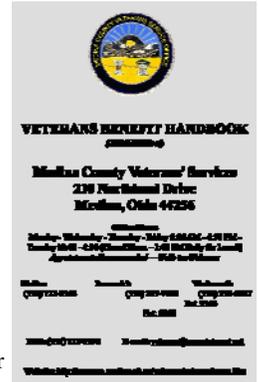
This year the youngest was Marine Chris Owen and the oldest was Marine Ken Gulling. Happy Birthday to the Corp and all our Leathernecks *Semper Fidelis, (always faithful).*

2010 Handbooks Now Available

The new Veterans Handbooks for 2010 are now available at our office. There are not a whole lot of changes in this year's handbook, unlike last year which saw many changes. The most significant differences aside from a new tan colored cover are some updated phone numbers and websites in the back section of the handbook. You can view it on our website at

<http://www.co.medina.oh>.

[us/veterans/veteranshome.htm](http://www.co.medina.oh/veterans/veteranshome.htm) or stop by our office to pick one up.



Brunswick Tax Service (BTS) and the Vietnam Veterans of Medina County

continue their tradition of offering free tax preparation to military personnel and the immediate family of military personnel that are residents of Medina County and who have served in a combat zone during the tax year in question or have orders to serve in a combat zone between Jan 1st and April 15th, 2010. This offer is only good at Brunswick Tax Service (BTS), 3698 Center Rd. Call them at 330-225-8200 for more details.



UAW Local #1250 Commemorates Veterans Day at the Western Reserve National Cemetery



On November 14th early in the morning a group of men and women from the UAW Local #1250 of the Ford plant in Brookpark, Ohio gathered to honor those that have served our nation. Along with the traditional wreath laying and honor guard provided by the Medina Detachment of the Marine Corps League which fired the salute, was also a young man named Sean McClain. Sean is an eighth grade honor student at Edwards Middle School in Brunswick. He is a two time national champion in the *Fraternal Order of Eagles International God, Flag and Country Oratorical Speech Competition*. He shared this year's award-winning speech, a tribute to Capt. Floyd "Jim" Thompson. Thompson was a Green Beret and pilot who was shot down over North Vietnam in 1964, and became America's longest serving prisoner of war upon his release in 1973. Thompson's captivity cost him his freedom, his health and his family. Sean's speech imagines Thompson waking up on Thanksgiving Day, 1969, and what he might say by way of prayer on that day, a day reserved for many to show gratitude for the bounty of life, the love of family and the gift of liberty. His speech is titled simply, "Thank you, God." "Thank you, God"



Sean moved hearts and minds from the cemetery ground where we stood to a far off distant location deep in the jungles of Vietnam. He made us remember how so few have given so much to ensure our freedoms are protected from tyranny. As his speech ended and we came back to the hallowed ground here in Medina County, you could see the tears in our eyes. It was truly a memorable moment and one which those that were present will not likely forget. I'd like to thank the UAW Local #1250 for taking the time and effort to hold this special Veterans Day tribute and inviting Sean to perform.



ABOVE: CPT Floyd J. Thompson

FAR LEFT: Bear Garnsey (MC) and John Harkness of the Marine Corps League Color Guard

LEFT: Sean McClain as CPT Thompson

RIGHT: Tim Rendell and Donald Wallace place a wreath at the flag pole at the Western Reserve National Cemetery



Medina County Veterans' Service Office, Out-Reach Program - Wadsworth, Ohio

The Medina County Veterans' Service Office provides an outreach center in Wadsworth

1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Center for Older Adults in Wadsworth

*****We regrettably report that we have discontinued our outreach center in Lodi, due to lack of clients.**

**Disabled Veterans’
License Plates**

Ohio Disabled Veterans license Plate 100% vets. Due to some veterans being pulled over by law enforcement due to the plate not requiring a registration sticker the BMV has updated the plate which is now available. Where the sticker would go it reads (No Exp.) this information was covered in the last chance training from the ODVS this past Wednesday at the Columbus Veterans Memorial. To confirm this you can contact Ms. Jessica M. Torres, chief Registration, Special Plates BMV (614) 752-7587.



FREE ADVERTISING

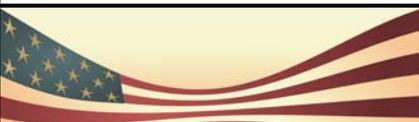
Submit Your Article or Event

We’re looking for articles about Medina County Veterans, Monuments or your Veteran Organization. All submissions must be submitted through our office by the dates listed below in order to be put in the Spring Edition.

Having a cookout or fish fry let us know we’ll put in on our calendar page.

Deadlines for all submissions are:

Issue	Submit by
Spring	1 Apr



"I am convinced that the best service a retired general can perform is to turn in his tongue along with his suit and to mothball his opinions."
- **General Omar N. Bradley**

The Four Chaplains, Memorial Service

The American Legion Post 234 in Brunswick will be hosting a service of remembrance commemorating the sacrifice of the four United States Chaplains who gave their lives so that others might live when their troop ship was torpedoed off Greenland during WWII. Four Chaplains Sunday will be observed on February 7th at the St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 929 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, Ohio beginning at 2:00 PM. All veterans are invited to attend. The service will include the story of the sinking of the Dorchester, the heroism of the four chaplains and the brief biographies of each of these brave men. There are countless stories of military heroism and sacrifice throughout our history. The story of the four chaplains stands at the top of that list. Please join us to honor their memory. Questions can be directed to Chaplain John Prior at (330) 220-4934 or email at johnp37@verizon.net

The Saga of the four chaplains: It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers. Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the Dorchester. The U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes, a fan of three were fired. The one that hit was decisive--and deadly--striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line. To read the rest of the story go to <http://www.fourchaplains.org/story.html>



Brunswick VFW
Thursday Night Dinner—\$5.00
4:30—Untill Sold-out



**A Message From
the
County Veterans’
Service Officer**

I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday Season. With not only a New Year upon us but also a new decade we all hope for an economic up turn and that the future looks brighter than the past year. As far as the Veterans Administration , with the passage of the Advanced funding bill the VA for the first time will receive its budget one year in advance. For veterans that use the VA medical system this is important because they will see no disruption in services as seen in the past when congress failed to pass the budget on time.

As far as our office goes we have positioned ourselves to be able to continue to help those Veterans and family members that need it most due to the currant economic situation. We have overhauled our financial assistance program so that we may service more clients in the near term, but for a shorter period of time. We will no longer provide assistance year after year , unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Another big change for our office is over the past year we have become accredited with several veterans organizations along with the Department of Veterans Affairs. What this means to our veterans is we will have better accessibility to the VA when filing your claim. We will be upgrading some software in our office at the beginning of this year which will help with this process.

The Medina County Veterans’ Service Commission and this office are committed to providing the best possible service to our county’s Veterans and their eligible family members, in accordance with Federal, State and county laws and policies.

I invite each of you to come in and ask about your benefits and our policies. After all this is your veterans Service Office and we are here for you.

Sincerely,
Veterans’ Service Officer
Medina County , Ohio



SENIOR SECTION

“PARADE REST”

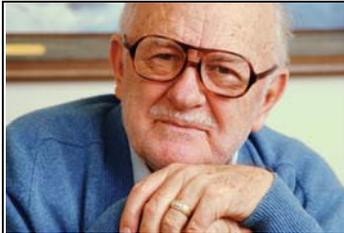
Veterans and Their Benefits

Edward Zackery

Copied from the Helping Hands Feb/Mar 10 Issue

Here we go with the start of another New Year and a new decade! I can remember as most of you the year the movie “2001 (A Space Odyssey)” was released. It was 1968. Then in 1984 the sequel “2010 (The Year We Make Contact)” was released and I thought we would never really get there. Well here, we are 2010 and although there are many differences in the real here and now and the movie, in some ways we have surpassed the expectations of the film. With the fall of the Soviet Empire in the late 1980’s we no longer have the tensions between two super powers as depicted in the movie. Some of our technology surpasses that of what was shown in the movie, and yet we still cannot send a manned spacecraft anywhere near Jupiter. Worse yet my kids tell me Pluto is not considered a planet anymore.

Time sure seems to change things and we have had many changes within the Medina County Veterans’ Service Office over the past year as well as some new changes to come in 2010. We have started many new services over the past year and have discontinued others. Some of our new services available include offering free Notary service to Veterans and eligible family members. We opened our new outreach office in Lodi last June, but unfortunately had to discontinue that service because we only saw six clients over a six-month period. We at the Medina County Veterans’ Service Office along with the Veterans’ Service Commission look forward to serving you in the upcoming year and through the next decade.



News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

Prompt Passage of Economic Recovery Act, Payment for 2010 Needed

Law Does Not Provide for a Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2010

With consumer prices down over the past year, monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for more than 57 million Americans will not automatically increase in 2010. This will be the first year without an automatic Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) since they went into effect in 1975.

“Social Security is doing its job helping Americans maintain their standard of living,” Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security said. “Last year when consumer prices spiked, largely as a result of higher gas prices, beneficiaries received a 5.8 percent COLA, the largest increase since 1982. This year, in light of the human need, we need to support President Obama’s call for us to make another \$250 recovery payment for 57 million Americans.”

The Social Security Act provides that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits increase automatically each year if there is an increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ *Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers* (CPI-W) from the third quarter of the last year to the third quarter of the current year. This year there was no increase in the CPI-W from the third quarter of 2008 to the third quarter of 2009. In addition, because there was no increase in the CPI-W this year, under the law the starting point for determinations regarding a possible 2011 COLA will remain the third quarter of 2008.

Some other changes that would normally take effect in January 2010 based on the increase in average wages also will not take effect, even though average wages did increase. Since there is no COLA, the statute prohibits an increase in the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax as well as the retirement earnings test exempt amounts. These amounts will remain unchanged in 2010. The attached [fact sheet](#) provides more information on 2010 Social Security changes.

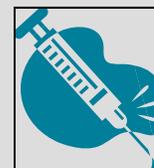
Information about Medicare changes for 2010, when available, will be found at www.Medicare.gov. The Department of Health and Human Services has not yet announced if there will be any Medicare premium changes for 2010. Should there be an increase in the Medicare Part B premium, the law contains a “hold harmless” provision that protects about 93 percent of Social Security beneficiaries from paying a higher Part B premium, in order to avoid reducing their net Social Security benefit. Those not protected include higher income beneficiaries subject to an income-adjusted Part B premium and beneficiaries newly entitled to Part B in 2010. On September 24th, the House passed legislation by 406-18 that would, on a fully paid-for basis, prevent abnormally large premium increases. The President is calling on the Senate to enact this legislation before it becomes too late for the Social Security Administration to update its computer systems to implement this needed change.

For additional information about the 2010 COLA, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

No Cost of Living increase for Social Security, VA, Veterans Compensation and Pensions nor Military Retirement!

VA compensation and pension benefits cost of living allowance (COLA) is paid based on the Social Security Administration (SSA) COLA. Compensation COLA by statute may not be more than the SSA COLA and pension COLA is equal to the SSA COLA. This year SSA did not increase COLA. VA will be providing letters to beneficiaries informing them that there will be no COLA for 2010.

Military retired pay meets a similar criteria so most retirees will not see an increase.



Don’t forget your Flu Shot; call your nearest VA clinic to find out about getting yours.

65? Sign Up for the Homestead Exemption Tax Reduction

Michael E. Kovack, Medina County Auditor, reminds the public that the



Homestead Exemption Program applications for the 2010 tax year will be available January 2nd. Changes in

the Homestead Exemption Act in July of 2007 now mean that all homeowners who are 65 years or older, or permanently and totally disabled, are eligible for the tax savings.

The new law allows eligible homeowners to shield \$25,000 worth of the market value of their home from local property taxes. For example, the owner of a \$100,000 home who is eligible for the Homestead Exemption would be billed

as if the home was worth \$75,000. Depending on the taxing district, this can bring savings of up to \$450 per year.

To be eligible one must be a homeowner at least 65 years old or reach 65 years of age this year, or be certified totally and permanently disabled as of January 1 of the current tax year, regardless of age. One may also be the surviving spouse of a person who was receiving Homestead Exemption and who was at least 59 years old on the date of their spouse's death. You must reside in the home for which application is made.

The application form is available in the Medina County Auditor's Office at the County Administration Building, 144 North Broadway, Medina, or at the Auditor's website at www.medinacountyauditor.org under "Forms." Applications must be returned to the office by June 1, 2010 .

Representatives of Auditor Kovack's office will be at various locations in the County during the next few months to accept applications outside Medina City. Call our office to find out when someone will be in your area.

You can contact the office at: www.medinacountyauditor.org for more information on the Homestead Exemption Program, or call us at 330.725.9754, 330.225.7100, ext. 9754 or 330.336.6657, ext. 9754.

Veterans who are 100% disabled or collecting Individual Unemployability may be eligible for this tax reduction. I encourage you to contact the auditors office to see if you qualify.



Department of Veterans Affairs

**Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations**

**Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov**

News Release

VA Extends "Agent Orange" Benefits to More Veterans

Parkinson's Disease, Two Other Illnesses Recognized

WASHINGTON –Relying on an independent study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki decided to establish a service-connection for Vietnam Veterans with three specific illnesses based on the latest evidence of an association with the herbicides referred to Agent Orange.

The illnesses affected by the recent decision are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease.

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present. Between January 1965 and April 1970, an estimated 2.6 million military personnel who served in Vietnam were potentially exposed to sprayed Agent Orange.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

The Secretary's decision brings to 15 the number of presumed illnesses recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will," Shinseki added. "Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence."

Other illnesses previously recognized under VA's "presumption" rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War are:

- Acute and Subacute Transient Periph-

eral Neuropathy

- AL Amyloidosis
- Chloracne
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers, and
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services and programs for Veterans exposed to the chemical are available at

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange.

Medina County Veterans Organizations Meeting Times and Places



Organization	Post #	Address	City, State	Meeting Times
American Legion	Post #234	Skyview Lodge Pearl Rd.	Brunswick	7:00 PM - First Thursday of each month
American Legion	Post #523	120 Bank Street, Lodi	Lodi, OH	7:00 PM - Second Thursdays of each month
American Legion	Post #202	620 N. Broadway St.	Medina, OH	7:15 PM - Fourth Monday of each month
American Legion	Post #608	North Main St	Spencer, OH	8:00 PM - First Monday of each month
American Legion	Post #170	125 Main Street	Wadsworth, Ohio	8:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
AMVETS	Post #1990	620 N. Broadway Street	Medina, OH	7:30 PM - Third Wednesday of each month
Disabled American Veterans		620 N. Broadway Street	Medina, OH	7:00 PM - Second Tuesday of each month
Forty et Eight	Voiture #601			
MARINE Corps League	DET #569	3916 Pearl Rd	Medina, OH	7:30 PM - Third Tuesday of each month
Medina County Women of the Military				
Military Order of Purple Heart	#557	620 N BROADWAY ST	MEDINA, OH	Meet quarterly - Call for times
Rolling Thunder	Chapter #8	3916 Pearl Rd.	Medina, OH	2-4 PM - Second Sunday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #9520	1439 S. Carpenter Road	Brunswick	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #6892	6299 Avon Lake Rd., Chatham Twp.	Spencer, OH,	8:00 PM - Second Tuesday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #5137	3916 Pearl Rd	Medina, OH	7:00 PM - First Tuesday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #8753	39 F Main St.	Seville, OH	8:30 PM - Third Thursday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #5563	6731 Center Rd.	Valley City	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #1089	121 Main Street	Wadsworth, Ohio	8:00 PM - First Tuesday of each month
Vietnam Veterans of America	Chapter #385	620 N. Broadway	Medina, Ohio	7:00 PM - First Wednesday of each month (no meeting in July)

*** If the information above is not correct please contact our office so that we may update it.

Dates to Remember		
FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb 2—Ground Hog Day • Feb 7—Four Chaplains Service, St. Ambrose, Brunswick 2:00 PM • Feb 7—Superbowl Sunday • Feb 11—Veterans Service Commission meeting 4: 00 PM • Feb 12-15—Medina Ice Fest • Feb 14 - Valentines Day • Feb 15—Presidents Day • Feb 23—Flag raised on Iwo Jima 1945 <p>Veterans Service Office Closed on: Feb 15 Presidents Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 11—Veterans Service Commission meeting 4: 00 PM • Mar 14—Daylight Savings Time Begins • Mar 14—Rolling Thunder Chili Cook-off; Brunswick VFW • Mar 17—St Patrick's Day • Mar 23—Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apr 4—Easter Sunday • Apr 8—Veterans Service Commission meeting 4: 00 PM • Apr 15—Tax Day • Apr 21—Administrative Professionals Day • Apr 22—Earth Day

Rolling Thunder Chapter 8 Medina, Ohio Annual Chili Cook-off

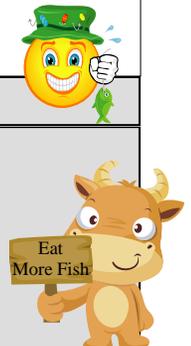
VFW Post #9520 1439 South Carpenter Road Brunswick, Ohio
12:00pm to 3:00pm—Presale tickets \$5.00—\$7.00 at the door
Children under 12 free

Enter your Chili for the chance to be this years #1 Chili
50/50 raffle and Chinese auction for more info call;
Diane Hagedorn 330-821-920 Becky Blackmore 330-723-0116



Local Fish Fry's

1. Lodi, American Legion—every Friday through Good Friday 5:00—7:30 PM
2. Brunswick, VFW—every Friday through Good Friday 5:00—7:00 PM



Veterans Bonus

Questions/Answers

Who is eligible for these benefits?

Ohio veterans who served on active duty during the Persian Gulf War or during current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are eligible if they were residents of Ohio when they went on active duty and are residents when they file for the bonus.

What will the service bonus pay?

Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan or the Persian Gulf will receive \$100 for each month of service up to a total of \$1,000. Veterans who served elsewhere during those conflicts will receive \$50 a month up to a total of \$500. Family members of those killed in action will receive \$5,000. These figures are in line with bonuses offered to veterans after World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam.

How much will the compensation cost?

The amendment authorizes \$200 million in bonds, and the estimated cost is \$106 million spread over 15 years.

Will service members who served in Somalia, Bosnia and Haiti be eligible for the bonus?

No, the amendment is specific to the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Will service members who served on ships, aircraft carriers, submarines etc. during the Afghanistan, Gulf or Iraq wars and in any of the countries listed above be eligible?

Any service member who has received the Southwest Asia Service Medal and any service member that the Department of Defense classifies as being deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan would be eligible. But, those deployed on ships or elsewhere during Somalia, Bosnia and Haiti still would be ineligible for the bonus.

Do other states have similar programs?

Eight states have programs that are substantially similar to this amendment to the Ohio Constitution; Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Illinois, South Dakota, Minnesota (only for veterans of the first Gulf War), and North Dakota (only for members of the National Guard and Reserves).

Will all of the \$200 million in bonds go to veterans for bonuses or does that figure include administrative costs?

Administrative costs, as it was with all other bonuses, will be paid for through the bond funds. Unlike previous bonuses, however, the bond program will utilize current Department of Veterans Services HR, Legal, and IT staff, rather than hire all new staff. This will result in cost savings from previous bonuses.



What dates constitute Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq conflict service?

The Persian Gulf time period is any time between Aug. 2, 1990 and March 3, 1991. The Afghanistan time period is any time between Oct. 7, 2001 and the date determined by the president as the end of U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan. The Iraq time period is any time between March 19, 2003 and the date determined by the president as the end of U.S. military involvement in Iraq.

What if a veteran already received a bonus from another state?

That person is not eligible for a bonus payment in Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services (DVS) has this to report:

<http://www.dvs.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=%2ft6jn68UVqk%3d&tabid=524>

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is diligently creating an application process so that

veterans can request the bonus that was approved for them by voters on election day, November 3.

The Department wants to ensure that the application is user friendly for Ohio veterans and that veterans get the service they deserve when they begin applying for this bonus. ODVS will use the general news media and this Web site to tell eligible veterans when it is ready to receive bonus applications. Nobody knows when the first checks will be mailed, but people who have experience with veteran bonuses in other states estimate that checks may not be issued for about one year.

Several government procedures have to be carried out before the bonus application process can begin. First, the Issue One resolution will not take effect until the Ohio Secretary of State certifies the election results. After the election is certified, DVS will adopt rules regarding the bonus and the Ohio Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review must certify these rules. Then, the Ohio Public Facilities Commission must create and sell the bonds. DVS also must hire and train a staff to efficiently process the bonus applications.

All applications will be screened in detail to determine that each veteran qualifies for the bonus. DVS is working hard to ensure the bonus application and approval process is simple and efficient.



VA Consolidates Cleveland Health Care Facilities, Secretary Shinseki Cites Improved Access for Veterans

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki has announced the signing of a lease that will permit the dramatic expansion of services by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for Cleveland’s Veterans. “Through community partnerships and innovative business practices, we will provide more Veteran-focused services, ensuring Ohio’s Veterans have access to 21st century care,” said Secretary Shinseki. The agreement, which creates nearly 24,000 new construction and permanent jobs, calls for VA to lease its Brecksville campus to Veterans Development LLC. The facility will be used for medical research, offices and higher education. In exchange for the lease, VA will receive the use of 115,000 square feet of office space, 2,000 parking spaces and 122 housing units for homeless Veterans – all adjacent to VA’s Wade Park campus. Savings from the transaction will be used to fund a new blind rehabilitation center, a comprehensive rehabilitation center, a spinal cord injury nursing home, expanded poly-trauma services and an outpatient clinic in Parma, Ohio. The consolidation stems from a comprehensive VA plan, announced on May 7, 2004, to modernize and improve its health care system. That process was called CARES, for “Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services.” Last year, VA spent more than \$4.1 billion in Ohio on behalf of the state’s 960,000 Veterans. In addition to the two facilities affected by today’s announcement, VA operates major medical centers in Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton, plus about 30 outpatient clinics, five Vet Centers and two national cemeteries in Ohio.

Medina County Veterans' Newsletter



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Medina County Veterans' Service Office Our Mission



Our Pledge

When you come into the County Veterans Service Office you will be assisted by one of our knowledgeable associates. The people that work in the Medina County Veterans Service Office have a compassionate understanding of the problems which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their families.

We provide two basic services:

1. Temporary emergency

financial aid and assistance to eligible veterans and family members who have demonstrated a need as set fourth by the commission.

2. Assist veterans, family members and survivors when applying to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for benefits.

Our assistance includes but is not limited to:

Financial Assistance:

- a. Rent and mortgage payments
- b. Utilities: Gas, Electric and Water
- c. Food and personal Hygiene items
- d. Medical
- e. Transportation to and from VA Hospitals in Brecksville and Cleveland, Ohio

- f. Grave markers and flags

Service Assistance:

- a. Preparations of forms and paperwork
- b. Documentation of claims and pertinent data
- c. Proper submission of claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs thru a service organization
- d. Submission for awards decorations and medals
- e. Notary Public & DD 214 Certification

Our services are **FREE** of charge!

Contact the Medina County Veterans Service Office at

210 Northland Dr.
Medina, Ohio 44256

Call: 330.722.9368
E-mail: veterans@zoominternet.net

Medina County Veterans;
Veterans' Service Office

210 Northland Dr.
Medina, Ohio 44256

Your Address could be here!

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