



# VETERANS BENEFIT HANDBOOK

(2020a Edition)

**MEDINA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**  
**210 Northland Drive**  
**Medina, Ohio 44256**

### Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

(Closed: Noon – 1:00 PM Daily for Lunch)

*Appointments Recommended — Walk-ins Welcome*

**Phone:** (330) 722-9368 — **Toll Free:** (844) 722-3800

**FAX:** (330) 722-9378

**E-mail:** [veterans@medinacountyveterans.org](mailto:veterans@medinacountyveterans.org)

**Website:** <http://www.medinacountyveterans.org>

*Find us on*



**Dear Fellow Veteran,**

The first thing you should know is that the Medina County Veterans' Service Office is NOT a branch of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We do not approve or deny VA claims. However our office is accredited with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in order to represent you with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Know your Rights and Benefits**

The County Veterans Service Office knows the extent, the meaning and the application of laws that have been passed by the U.S. Congress in the interests of veterans and their dependents. They also know the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Veterans Affairs to clarify and implement those laws. The County Veterans Service Officer will apply specialized knowledge in the way best suited to the needs of every individual veteran or other beneficiary who comes to the office for assistance.

It is important to remember that laws concerning VA benefits are constantly changing and it is best to file for any and all VA benefits that you might have coming to you.

**Our Mission**

The Mission of the Medina County Veterans Service Office is to provide temporary aid and assistance to veterans, dependents and widows in time of need. The Medina County Veterans Service Office is a state mandated agency dedicated to aiding Medina County Veterans during times of need.

**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 forth 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. Certain Medical
- e. Transportation to and from VA Medical Centers in Cleveland, Parma and Akron.
- f. Grave markers and flags
- g. Notary Public & DD 214 Certification for Veterans & Families
- h. Free public transit on the MCPT with in Medina County
- i. County Veterans ID card

**Service Assistance:**

- a. Preparation 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

Our services are **FREE** of charge!

The Veterans Service Assistance program was started over one hundred years ago (1886) to assist the Union Soldiers and their families in times of need.

Each of the 88 counties in Ohio has a board of five appointed Veterans Service Commissioners who administer the program for their respective county.

The Medina County Veterans' Service Commission's monthly meeting is held the second Thursday of every month at 4:00pm at our office.

**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.

**Sincerely,  
Veterans Service Staff**



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## **ABOUT THE VA**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a wide range of benefits for our Nation's veterans, service members, and their families. They are broken up into three main departments.

1. Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
2. Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
3. National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

### ***Who Is Eligible:***

You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are:

1. a veteran
2. a veteran's dependent
3. a surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased veteran
4. an active duty military service member
5. a member of the Reserve or National Guard

### **Timetable for Benefits**

(from active duty separation)

<b><u>Benefit &amp; Service</u></b>	<b><u>Time Limit</u></b>
Disability Compensation	None
NSC/Survivors Pension	None
Medical	None
Combat Veterans (POST 911)	5 yrs
Dental	180 days
GI Bill/	10 yrs
Post 911 New GI Bill	15yrs
	(before 2013)
	None
	(after 2013)
Voc. Rehab	12yrs 10% SC
Home Loan	None
SGLI	120 days
TSGLI	Sep + 2 yrs
VGLI	120 days
FGLI	120 days
SDVI	Sep + 2 yrs
VMLI	Before age 70
Reemployment	180 days
Unemployment	Limited time

## **HEALTH CARE**

VA provides a number of health care services.

- Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic service
- Domiciliary, nursing home, and community based residential care
- Sexual trauma counseling
- Specialized health care for women veterans
- Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans

- Readjustment counseling
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service in the Gulf War, or exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental hazards

**Combat Veterans:** VA provides free health care for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, for any illness possibly related to their service in that theater.

**Time Limits:** You have five years from the date of your discharge.

The VA Hospital System is the largest in the free world, the money saved and the care provided is worth the wait.

## **Inpatient and Outpatient Care is Available at the Following Hospitals**

### **Wade Park Center**

10701 East Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
Phone: (216) 791-3800  
Fax: (216) 421-3217

### **For appointments or medication: (800) 379-8387**

### **Parma Community Based Clinic**

8787 Brookpark Rd.  
Parma, OH 44134  
Phone: (216) 739-7000

### **Akron Community Based Clinic**

55 W. Waterloo  
Akron, OH 44319-1116  
Phone: (330) 724-7715

## **EMERGENCY ROOM CARE IS AVAILABLE AT WADE PARK 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.**

***If you have an emergency you may want to consider going to the local hospital***

### **Parma Vet Center**

5700 Pearl Rd. Suite 102  
Parma, Ohio 44129  
(440) 845-5023 or (877) 927-8387

**The VA Healthcare System is based on three things:**

1. Your Veterans Status *and/or*
2. Your Disability *and/or*
3. Your Income

**Can I get VA Health Care benefits?**

You may be able to get VA health care benefits if you served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.

- **If you enlisted after September 7, 1980**, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, you must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty, unless any of the descriptions below are true for you.
- **This minimum duty requirement may not apply if any of these are true. You:** Were discharged for a disability that was caused—or made worse—by your active-duty service, or Were discharged for a hardship or “early out,” or Served prior to September 7, 1980
- **If you're a current or former member of the Reserves or National Guard**, you must have been called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty. If you had or have active-duty status for training purposes only, you don't qualify for VA health care.
- **Returning Service Members (OEF/OIF/OND)** Every VA medical center has a team ready to welcome OEF/OIF/OND Service-members and help coordinate their health care and other services. For more information about the various programs available for recently returned Service-members, log on to the Returning Service-members website at [www.oefoif.va.gov](http://www.oefoif.va.gov). Veterans who served in a theater of operations after November 11, 1998, are eligible for an extended period of eligibility for health care for five years after their discharge. In the case of multiple call-ups, the five-year enrollment period begins on the most recent discharge date. This special eligibility includes cost-free health care services and nursing home care for con-

ditions possibly related to military service and enrollment in PG 6 or higher for five years from their date of discharge or release from active duty, unless they are eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group. Combat Veterans who enroll with VA under this enhanced Combat Veteran authority will continue to be enrolled even after their enhanced eligibility period ends, although they may be shifted to a lower Priority Group, depending on their income level, and be required to make applicable copayments. Additionally, for care not related to combat service, copayments may be required, depending on their financial assessment and other special eligibility factors.

- What should I do if I received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge? If you've received one of these discharge statuses, you may not be eligible for VA benefits. There are 2 ways you can try to qualify:
  1. Apply for a discharge upgrade.
  2. Ask the VA about the Character of Discharge review process.



Online  
My Health, My Care: 24/7 Access to VA

**Easy Ways to Apply for Enrollment**

We prefer that you have our office complete and submit the application for you, however if you chose to do it yourself there are several options.

**By Phone**

To apply, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET.

**Online**

Veterans can fill out the application online at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>, and electronically submit it to VA for processing. For

help filling out the application, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET.

**By Mail**

The application form can be downloaded from <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-10ezr-fill.pdf>.

Mail the completed and signed form to:  
Health Eligibility Center  
Enrollment Eligibility Division  
2957 Clairmont Road Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30329-1647

**VA HEALTHCARE PRIORITY GROUPS**

**Priority Group 1**

- Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated by VA as 50% or more disabling.
- Veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions.
- Veterans who have been awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH).

**Priority Group 2**

- Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated by VA as 30% or 40% disabling.

**Priority Group 3**

- Veterans who are former Prisoners of War (POWs).
- Veterans who have been awarded a Purple Heart medal.
- Veterans whose discharge was for a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.
- Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated by VA as 10% or 20% disabling.
- Veterans who have been awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C., § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation."

**Priority Group 4**

- Veterans who receive aid and attendance or housebound benefits from VA.
- Veterans who have been determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled.

**Priority Group 5**

- Veterans with a nonservice-connected or non-compensable service-connected disability and Veter-

ans rated by VA as 0% disabled and who have an annual income below the VA's geographically-adjusted income limit (based on your resident ZIP code).

- Veterans receiving VA pension benefits.
- Veterans eligible for Medicaid programs.

**Priority Group 6**

- Veterans with a compensable 0% service-connected disability.
- Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Project 112/SHAD participants.
- Veterans of the Mexican border period or of World War I
- Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.
- Veterans of the Persian Gulf War who served between August 2, 1990, and November 11, 1998.
- Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.
- Currently enrolled Veterans and new enrollees who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and those who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible for the enhanced benefits for five years post discharge

*Note: At the end of this enhanced enrollment priority group placement time period, Veterans will be assigned to the highest PG for which their status at that time qualifies.*

**Priority Group 7**

- Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted VA income limit for their resident location and who agree to pay copayments.

**Priority Group 8**

- Veterans with gross household incomes above the VA income limits and the geographically-adjusted income limits for their resident location, and who agree to pay copay-

ments.

- Veterans eligible for enrollment: Veterans who are rated with a non-compensable 0% service-connected and are:
- **Sub-priority a:** enrolled as of January 16, 2003, and who have remained enrolled since that date and/or were placed in this sub-priority due to changed eligibility status.
- **Sub-priority b:** enrolled on or after June 15, 2009, and whose income exceeds the current VA income limits or the geographically-adjusted VA income limits by 10% or less.
- Veterans eligible for enrollment: Veterans who are nonservice-connected and:
- **Sub-priority c:** enrolled as of January 16, 2003, and who have remained enrolled since that date and/or were placed in this sub-priority due to changed eligibility status.
- **Sub-priority d:** enrolled on or after June 15, 2009, and whose income exceeds the current VA income limit and geographic income limit by 10% or less.
- Veterans not eligible for enrollment: Veterans not meeting the criteria above:
- **Sub-priority e:** non-compensable 0% service-connected (eligible for care of their service-connected condition only).
- **Sub-priority g:** nonservice connected.

#### **DISABILITY COMPENSATION**

Veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active service (in the line of duty for both war and peace time periods) qualify. It is important that you file the claim as soon as possible after release from active duty; but no matter how long ago it occurred you should file a claim, to protect your benefits and those of your family. You may also request reevaluation anytime that the condition worsens.

**What is a VA service-connected rating,**  
A service-connected rating is an official ruling by VA Regional Office that your illness or condition is directly related to your active military service.

VA can pay you monthly compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.

Claims for disabilities that manifest after active service should be filed immediately after diagnosis, so that the presumptive period for service is not exceeded.

Here are the five methods of establishing service connection for a current disability, disease, or illness.

1. Direct Service Connection
2. Presumed Service Connection
3. Pre-Existing Injury Aggravated by Military Service
4. Secondary Service Connection
5. Service Connection due to Injury Caused by Treatment in the VA Health Care System (38 USC 1151)

Three things you will need:

1. A current diagnosed disability
2. An in-service event or cause
3. A nexus or the central link or connection between the current diagnosed disability and the in-service event. This is usually medical evidence.

#### **Compensation Chart as of December 1, 2019**

10%	\$142.29
20%	\$281.27
30%	\$435.69
40%	\$627.61
50%	\$893.43
60%	\$1,131.68
70%	\$1,426.17
80%	\$1,657.80
90%	\$1,862.96
100%	\$3,106.04

Veterans rated at 30% or greater are entitled to an additional allowance for dependents. Also, if your spouse is in need of regular aid and attendance, an increase in allowance is available.

#### **CRSC & CRDP**

**CRSC** is a special compensation for combat-related disabilities. It is non-taxable, and retirees must apply to their Branch of Service to receive it.

**CRDP** is a restoration of retired pay for retirees with service-connected disabili-

ties, and it is taxable. No application is required. Eligible retirees receive CRDP automatically.

The purpose of these entitlements is to recover some or all of the retired pay that military retirees waive for VA disability compensation

### **Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)**

Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) is a program that was created for disability and non-disability military retirees with combat-related disabilities. It is a tax free entitlement that you will be paid each month along with any retired pay you may already be receiving.

#### **Eligibility:**

To qualify for CRSC you must:

- be entitled to and/or receiving military retired pay
- be rated at least 10 percent by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA)
- be a reservist that is at least 60 years old or retired under Temporary Early Retirement Authorization (TERA)
- waive your VA pay from your retired pay
- file a CRSC application with your Branch of Service

Disabilities that may be considered combat related include injuries incurred as a direct result of:

- Armed Conflict
- Hazardous Duty
- An Instrumentality of War
- Simulated War

### **Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP)**

Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) allows military retirees to receive both military retired pay and Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation. This was prohibited until the CRDP program began on January 1, 2004.

CRDP is a "phase in" of benefits that gradually restores a retiree's VA disability offset. This means that an eligible retiree's retired pay will gradually increase each year until the phase in is complete in 2014.

You do not need to apply for CRDP. If qualified, you will be enrolled automatically.

#### **Eligibility:**

You must be eligible for retired pay to qualify for CRDP. If you were placed on a disability retirement, but would be eligible for military retired pay in the absence of the disability, you may be entitled to receive CRDP.

Under these rules, you may be entitled to CRDP if...

- you are a regular retiree with a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.
- you are a reserve retiree with 20 qualifying years of service, who has a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater and who has reached retirement age. (In most cases the retirement age for reservists is 60, but certain reserve retirees may be eligible before they turn 60. If you are a member of the Ready Reserve, your retirement age can be reduced below age 60 by three months for each 90 days of active service you have performed during a fiscal year.)
- you are retired under Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA) and have a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.
- you are a disability retiree who earned entitlement to retired pay under any provision of law other than solely by disability, and you have a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater. You might become eligible for CRDP at the time you would have become eligible for retired pay.

### **Comparing CRSC and CRDP**

Retirees cannot receive both Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP). If you qualify for both, DFAS will automatically apply the entitlement that is most advantageous to you. Every year, during Open Season, you'll have the opportunity to change your election. Open season usually takes place in January.

If you need help, contact DFAS at **877-327-4457**. This phone number is exclu-



sively for CRDP and CRSC questions. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (ET).

**The CRSC Application Process:**

To receive Combat Related Special Compensation you must submit your application (DD form 2860), through your parent military service branch. Each service branch has the authority to determine your eligibility.

For more information on how to apply contact your parent military service branch:

**ARMY:**

Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency  
Combat-Related Special Compensation  
200 Stovall Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22332-0470  
Toll-free: 1-866-281-3254  
Hours: 8am - 8pm EST  
E-mail your questions to:  
[CRSC.info@us.army.mil](mailto:CRSC.info@us.army.mil)

Or visit: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/>

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS:**

Department of Navy Naval Council of  
Personnel Boards  
Combat-Related Special Compensation  
Branch  
720 Kennon Street S.E., Suite 309  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 0374-5023  
Toll free 1-877-366-2772  
Website: <http://www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crscb/crscmainpage.htm>

**AIR FORCE:**

United States Air Force Personnel Center  
Disability Division (CRSC)  
550 C Street West, Suite 6  
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4708  
(Toll Free 1-800-525-3775)  
Fax: 1-210-565-1101  
E-Mail:

[afpc.dppdc.afcrsc@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afpc.dppdc.afcrsc@randolph.af.mil)

website: <https://www.afpc.af.mil/Separation/Disability-Program/>

**COAST GUARD:**

Commander (adm-1-CRSC)  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Personnel Command  
4200 Wilson Blvd  
Arlington VA 22203

**NSC PENSION**

VA helps Veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veterans Pension benefit. Veterans Pension is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime Veterans

***Who is Eligible?***

Generally, a Veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period.

In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the Veteran must be:

- Age 65 or older, OR
- Totally and permanently disabled, OR
- A patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, OR
- Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, OR
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income

Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Veterans Pension benefit.

**Housebound** is an increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount when you are substantially confined to your immediate premises because of permanent disability.

**Aid and Attendance (A&A)** is an increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount if you meet one of the following conditions:

- You require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment
- You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment

- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity
- Your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

**How Much Does the VA Pay?**

Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Veterans Pension benefit. If eligible, your pension benefit is the difference between your “countable” income and the annual pension limit set by Congress. VA generally pays this difference in 12 equal monthly payments.

**Income and Net Worth Limitations**

**Countable income** includes income from most sources as well as from any eligible dependents. It generally includes earnings, disability and retirement payments, interest and dividend payments from annuities, and net income from farming or a business. Some expenses, such as unreimbursed medical expenses, may reduce your countable income.

**Net worth** is the sum of a claimant’s or beneficiary’s assets and annual income. You should report all of your net worth. VA will determine whether your assets are of a sufficiently large amount that you could live off of them for a reasonable period of time.

**A VETERAN WITHOUT A SPOUSE OR A CHILD IS BEING FURNISHED NURSING CARE THROUGH MEDICAID, THE VA ONLY ALLOWS \$90.00 PER MONTH FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES.**



**The Improved Pension Rate Tables have two divisions:**

- (1) the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) Category and
- (2) the Amount

**Date of Cost-of-Living Increase December 1, 2019—Increase 1.6%**

- Standard Medicare Deduction: Actual amount will be determined by SSA based on individual income.
- Net Worth Bright-Line Limit effective 12/01/2019 is \$129,094 (Penalty Period Rate is \$2,266)

Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) Category	Amount
If you are a veteran...	Your yearly income must be less than...
Without Spouse or Child	\$13,752
	To be deducted, medical expenses must exceed 5% of MAPR, or, \$687
With One Dependent	\$18,008
	To be deducted, medical expenses must exceed 5% of MAPR, or, \$900
Housebound Without Dependents	\$16,805
Housebound With One Dependent	\$21,063
A&A Without Dependents	\$22,939
A&A With One Dependent	\$27,195
Add for Each Additional Child to any category above	\$2,351

Is it permissible to offer a guarantee that a claimant will be awarded A&A or that the processing of a claim will be expedited?

**No!** Such promises are patently misleading because VA is ultimately the adjudicator of claims for VA benefits.

### **WARNING**

What do I need to know about the organizations that are offering assistance with claims for pension benefits?

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging (Committee) found that some organizations are misrepresenting themselves while helping Veterans and survivors apply for VA pension.

In a June 2012 hearing, the Committee addressed concerns that some organizations are marketing financial products and services to enable claimants whose assets exceed the VA pension program's financial eligibility thresholds to qualify for VA pension benefits.

The Committee also learned these organizations may charge substantial fees for products and services that may not always be in claimants' best long-term interests.

### **PERIODS OF WARTIME SERVICE**

Under current law, VA recognizes the following wartime periods to determine eligibility for VA Pension benefits:

- Mexican Border Period (May 9, 1916 – April 5, 1917 for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946)
- Korean conflict (June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955)
- Vietnam era (February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975 for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; otherwise August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990 – through a future date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation)

### **PRISONERS OF WAR (POW)**

Former prisoners of war (POW's) who were held captive for at least 30 days are entitled to a presumption of service connection for disabilities resulting from certain diseases if they manifest to a degree of 10% or greater, regardless how long after release from active duty the problems were discovered.

The laws pertaining to POW's are constantly changing, so please call the VA or the POW hotline to find out about new benefits for the POW or their spouse/dependents.

The national hotline is offered with 24-hour service to assist former POW'S. Their number is 800-821-8139

### **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

Since 1944, the GI Bill has helped millions of Veterans pay for college, graduate school, and training programs. Under this bill, qualifying Veterans and their family members can get money to cover all or some of the costs for school or training. Learn more about these benefits below—and how to apply for them.

#### **Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)**

If you need help paying for school or job training and you've served on active duty after September 10, 2001, you may qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Can I get education benefits? You can get education benefits if you meet both of the requirements listed below.

Both of these must be true:

- You qualify for any GI Bill program, and
- You've served on active duty for at least 90 days—with or without a break in service—after September 10, 2001.

If you qualify for more than one VA education benefit, you'll have to pick which one you want to use. This is an irrevocable decision, meaning you can't change your mind.

#### ***Who's covered?***

- Veterans
- Qualified dependents

#### **Does this benefit expire?**

Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits expire 15 years after your last separation date from active service. You must use all of your benefit by that time or you'll lose whatever's left.

\*\*\*If your service ended on or after Janu-

ary 1, 2013: There's no time limit (known as a "delimiting date") to use your education benefits. A recently enacted law gets rid of the expiration date for you.

### **Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD)**

If you served at least 2 years on active duty, you may qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD) program. Find out if you qualify.

#### **Can I get education benefits?**

You can get education benefits if you were honorably discharged and you meet the requirements of one of categories below.

One of the below categories must describe you

#### **CATEGORY I**

All of these are true:

- You have a high school diploma, GED, or 12 hours of college credit, and
- You entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985, and
- You had military pay reduced by \$100 a month for the first 12 months of service, and
- You served for 3 years continuously (no breaks in service), or for 2 years if that was your agreement when you enlisted. Or, if you entered the Selected Reserve within a year of leaving active duty, you served continuously for 4 years (the 2 by 4 program)

#### **CATEGORY II**

All of these are true:

- You have a high school diploma, GED, or 12 hours of college credit, and
- You entered active duty before January 1, 1977, or you entered active duty before January 2, 1978, under a delayed enlistment program contracted before January 1, 1977, and
- You served at least 1 day between October 19, 1984, and June 30, 1985, and you stayed on active duty through June 30, 1988 (or through June 30, 1987, if you entered the Selected Reserve within 1 year of leaving active duty and served 4 years), and
- You had at least 1 day remaining of

chapter 34 entitlement as of December 31, 1989

#### **CATEGORY III**

All of these are true:

- You have a high school diploma, GED, or 12 hours of college credit, and
- You don't qualify for MGIB under categories I or II, and
- Before separation, you had military pay reduced by \$1,200

And one of these is true:

- You were on active duty on September 30, 1990, and you separated involuntarily (not by your choice) after February 2, 1991, or
- You involuntarily separated on or after November 30, 1993, or
- You voluntarily separated under either the Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI) program or the Special Separation Benefit (SSB) program

#### **CATEGORY IV**

Both of these are true:

- You have a high school diploma, GED, or 12 hours of college credit, and
- You had military pay reduced by \$100 a month for 12 months or made a \$1,200 lump-sum contribution (meaning you paid it all at once)

And one of these is true:

- You were on active duty on October 9, 1996, had money left in a VEAP account on that date, and chose MGIB before October 9, 1997, or
- You entered full-time National Guard duty under title 32, USC, between July 1, 1985, and November 28, 1989, and you chose MGIB between October 9, 1996, and July 9, 1997

#### **Who's covered?**

- Veterans

#### **Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)**

If you're a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard, you may be able to get up to 36 months of education and training benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) program. Find out if you qualify.

Can I get education benefits under this

program?

You can get education benefits if you meet the requirements listed below.

One of these must be true:

- You have a 6-year service obligation (you agreed to serve 6 years) in the Selected Reserve, or
- You're an officer in the Selected Reserve and you agreed to serve 6 years in addition to your initial service obligation And

all of these must also be true. You:

- Finish your initial active duty for training (IADT), and
- Get a high school diploma or something of equal value, like a High School Equivalency Diploma or GED, before finishing IADT, and
- Stay in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E)**

The VR&E program is authorized under Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 31. It is referred to as the Chapter 31 program. It assists entitled Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap to prepare for, find, and maintain a job. It also helps entitled transitioning Service-members.

If you are a Veteran or Service-member with a service-connected disability and not currently able to work, VR&E also offers services to help you live as independently as possible.

### **Basic Period of Eligibility**

There is a 12-year basic period of eligibility for VR&E services. The period begins on the latter of the following dates:

- Date of separation from active duty
- Date you were first notified of a service-connected disability rating

### **Who Is Entitled to Receive VR&E?**

Active-duty Service-members who:

- Expect to receive an honorable discharge
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more
- Are participating in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) or have an injury or illness that prevents them from performing military duties
- Service-members participating in

IDES are presumed entitled.

- ♦ Are determined by VR&E to need vocational rehabilitation services

Veterans who:

- Have received an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- Have a VA service-connected disability rating of:
  - ♦ 10 percent with a serious employment handicap, or
  - ♦ 20 percent or more with an employment handicap
- Are determined by VR&E to need rehabilitation services

### **How Is Entitlement Established?**

You are entitled to services if:

- You have a 20 percent service-connected disability AND
- You have an employment handicap.
- If your service-connected disability is only 10 percent, you must have a serious employment handicap to be eligible.
- A Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will work with you to determine entitlement. The evaluation will:
  - Assess your interests, aptitudes and abilities
  - Assess your service-connected disability and your ability to hold a job
  - Include vocational exploration activities and goal development
    - ♦ Used to determine suitable employment and maximize independent living
  - Explore labor markets and wage information
- Select a VR&E program track
- Develop an individualized rehabilitation plan

### **What Is a Rehabilitation Plan?**

This plan provides a detailed outline of VR&E program services. It is individualized to meet the needs of the Veteran or Service-member. The plan is a signed agreement between the recipient and VA. The following service delivery options may be included in a rehabilitation plan:

- Re-employment

## **HOME LOANS**

**Purchase Loans:** help you purchase a home at a competitive interest rate often without requiring a down payment or private mortgage insurance. Cash Out Refinance loans allow you to take cash out of your home equity to take care of concerns like paying off debt, funding school, or making home improvements. **Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan (IRRRL):** also called the Streamline Refinance Loan can help you obtain a lower interest rate by refinancing your existing VA loan.

**Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program:** helps eligible Native American Veterans finance the purchase, construction, or improvement of homes on Federal Trust Land, or reduce the interest rate on a VA loan.

**Adapted Housing Grants:** help Veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability purchase or build an adapted home or to modify an existing home to account for their disability. **Other Resources:** many states offer resources to Veterans, including property tax reductions to certain Veterans.

**Eligibility** varies with the dates that the veteran served.

Generally it is:

- 90 DAYS during times of war.
- 181 DAYS between WWII and Korea, between Korea and Vietnam, and post Vietnam until 9-7-80 (*enlisted personal only*).
- 24 MONTHS or the full period, for which the person was called to duty, which ever is less. (*i.e. 787 days for hardship or less if discharged for a service connected disability*) for those who began service after 9-7-80. (*Officers after 10-76-87*).
- ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL who have served 181 continuous days in active duty, while their service continues without a break.
- SURVIVING SPOUSES of MIA/POWS and vets who died of service connected causes, also have entitlement to loans.
- RESERVISTS who have met the VA's requirements for service may also be eligible.

The VA issues a certificate of eligibility to the veteran. The veteran then must find a

mortgage company that will make the loan. The VA will guarantee the loan, but they will not make the loan. The maximum loan amount is constantly increasing, so I won't give a figure; but the loan may not exceed the reasonable value of the property, as set by the VA.

The VA home loan can help you have a lower fixed interest rate, a smaller down payment, and a longer repayment period than most conventional loans, Each mortgage company is different, so shop around and get yourself the best deal.

**Time Limits:** There is no time limit for a VA home loan.

## **LIFE INSURANCE**

**Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)** is low-cost term life insurance for service members and reservists. Coverage of up to \$400,000 begins when you enter the service. Generally, it expires 120 days after you leave the service.

**Traumatic SGLI** is automatically included in SGLI and provides for payment up to \$100,000 for service members who lose limbs or incur other serious injuries.

**Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI)** is renewable term life insurance for veterans who want to convert their SGLI up to an amount not to exceed the coverage you had when you separated from service. You must apply within one year and 120 days from separation.

**Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance,** also called "RH" Insurance, is for service-connected veterans. Coverage is \$10,000. You may be eligible for a \$20,000 supplemental policy if you are totally disabled. You must apply for RH within two years of being rated service connected by VA.

Not all Veterans elected to purchase life insurance, so benefits are not guaranteed to all .

The amount and method of payment is determined by the veteran, as is the beneficiary designation. Therefore, it is beneficial to you to be sure that the beneficiary and optional settlement designation on file with the VA is the one you desire.

Our office will assist you in finding out if a policy is in force and completing a designation form that distributes your insurance in the manner that you wish.

*DIVIDENDS* are payable to holders of the following types of insurance: "K, V, RS, W, J, JR, and JS": No application is necessary as they are paid automatically on the anniversary date of the participating policy. Dividends are not payable to holders of "H or RH" policies.

#### **INSURANCE HOAX**

**"NO ONE WILL PAY YOU AN INSURANCE DIVIDEND FOR THE TIME YOU WERE IN THE SERVICE.**

**VA INSURANCE DIVIDENDS GO TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACTIVE POLICIES IN FORCE AT THIS TIME"**

For forty years there has been a story making the rounds, that states in varying ways that, Congress has recently passed legislation that grants an insurance dividend to all veterans who served in time of war (WWII, KOREA, VIETNAM): The hoax says that you will receive the insurance money based upon the number of months that you were in the service and that it doesn't matter if you still make payments on your insurance . **WRONG!**

#### **DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS (VA)**

***SURVIVING SPOUSE:*** To qualify for most benefits; the veteran's spouse must have lived continuously with the veteran from the time of marriage until death (this excludes separations due to accident, illness, or other extenuating factors), for at least one year, or for any length of time if a child was born to them before or after marriage. Common-law cases may also be recognized by the VA (but not currently in Ohio).

***CHILD:*** To qualify, the child must be: under 18 years of age (or 23 years of age if attending an approved school) or of any age if permanently incapable of self support by reason of mental or physical defect prior to age 18.

The term "*Child*" includes an illegitimate, adopted, or stepchild of the veteran.

It is important to remember that a non-service connected VA pension for survivors is a wartime service benefit. Just serving in the military will not guarantee your spouse a pension. The VA also takes into account income from all sources, net worth, and unreimbursed medical expenses.

A widow may not qualify for benefits at the time of the veterans death; but with

changing conditions, could be eligible in the future. This often happens if the need for nursing or institutional care arises. Generally it takes about six months to process an original VA claim. Supplying the following information, when applicable, in a timely manner may speed up the process.

Copies of marriage or birth certificate (children), copies of all divorces, original or certified copies of military separation papers (DD-214), copy of death and accurate information on income for spouse and dependent children.

#### **SURVIVOR AND DEPENDENT EDUCATION**

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

#### ***Available Benefits and Eligibility***

You may receive up to 45 months of education benefits, if you began using the program before August 1, 2018. If you began your program on August 1, 2018 or after, you have 36 months to use your benefits. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, some DEA beneficiaries may be eligible for up to 81 months of GI Bill benefits if they use the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance program in conjunction with an entitlement from other VA education programs.

If you are a son or daughter and wish to receive benefits for attending school or job training, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26.

#### **SURVIVORS PENSION**

The Survivors Pension benefit, which may also be referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

#### ***Eligibility***

- The deceased Veteran must have met the following service requirements:
- For service on or before September

7, 1980, the Veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, with at least one day during a war time period.

- If he or she entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally he or she must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty with at least one day during a war time period.
- Was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.

Survivors Pension is also based on your yearly family income, which must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify.

While an un-remarried spouse is eligible at any age, a child of a deceased wartime Veteran must be:

- Under 18, OR
- Under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, OR
- Permanently incapable of self-support due to a disability before age 18

Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Survivors Pension benefit. Learn more about income and net worth limitation, and see an example of how VA calculates the Survivors Pension benefit.

**How Much Does the VA Pay?**

Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Survivors Pension benefit. If eligible, your pension benefit is the difference between your "countable" income and the annual pension limit set by Congress. VA generally pays this difference in 12 equal monthly payments.

**Income and Net Worth Limitations**

**Countable income** includes income from most sources as well as from any eligible dependents. It generally includes earnings, disability and retirement payments, interest and dividend payments from annuities, and net income from farming or a business. Some expenses, such as unreimbursed medical expenses, may reduce your countable income.

**Net worth** is the sum of a claimant's or beneficiary's assets and annual income. You should report all of your net worth. VA will determine whether your assets are of a sufficiently large amount that you

could live off of them for a reasonable period of time.

**WHEN A SURVIVING SPOUSE IS BEING FURNISHED NURSING CARE THROUGH MEDICAID, THE VA ONLY ALLOWS \$90.00 PER MONTH FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES.**

**Date of Cost-of-Living Increase  
December 1, 2019—Increase 1.6%**

- Standard Medicare Deduction: Actual amount will be determined by SSA based on individual income.
- Net Worth Bright-Line Limit effective 12/01/2019 is \$129,094(Penalty Period Rate is \$2,266)

Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) Category	Amount
MAPR Without Dependent Child	\$9,224
To be deducted, medical expenses must exceed 5% of MAPR or	\$ 461
MAPR With One Dependent Child	\$12,072
To be deducted, medical expenses must exceed 5% of MAPR or	\$603
Housebound Without Dependents	\$11,273
Housebound With One Dependent	\$14,116
A&A Without Dependents	\$14,742
A&A With One Dependent	\$17,586
SBP/MIW Annuity Limitation	\$9,224
Add for Each Additional Child	\$2,351



Is it permissible to offer a guarantee that a claimant will be awarded A&A or that the processing of a claim will be expedited?

**No!** Such promises are patently misleading because VA is ultimately the adjudicator of claims for VA benefits.

### WARNING

What do I need to know about the organizations that are offering assistance with claims for pension benefits?

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging (Committee) found that some organizations are misrepresenting themselves while helping Veterans and survivors apply for VA pension.

In a June 2012 hearing, the Committee addressed concerns that some organizations are marketing financial products and services to enable claimants whose assets exceed the VA pension program's financial eligibility thresholds to qualify for VA pension benefits.

The Committee also learned these organizations may charge substantial fees for products and services that may not always be in claimants' best long-term interests.

### DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

- DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a military service member: who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, **OR**
- veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, **OR**
- veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling for at least 10 years immediately before death, **OR**
- since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, **OR**
- for at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30,

1999.

### **Who is Eligible?**

The surviving spouse if he or she:

- validly married the veteran before January 1, 1957, **OR**
- was married to a service member who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, **OR** married the veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the veteran's death began or was aggravated, **OR**
- was married to the veteran for at least one year, **OR**
- had a child with the veteran, **AND**
- cohabited with the veteran continuously until the veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, **AND**
- is not currently remarried.\*

**Note:** A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive DIC.

The surviving child(ren), if he/she is:

- not included on the surviving spouse's DIC unmarried **AND**
- under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

**Note:** Certain helpless adult children are entitled to DIC. Call the toll-free number below for the eligibility requirements.

The surviving parent(s) may be eligible for an income-based benefit. See our fact sheet, Parents' DIC.

### **HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?**

**Veteran's Death Was On or After  
January 1, 1993; Effective 12/1/19**

Basic Monthly Rate = \$1,340.14

### **Additional Allowances:**

- Add \$284.57 if at the time of the veteran's death, the veteran was in receipt of or entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling



(including a rating based on individual unemployability) for a continuous period of at least 8 years immediately preceding death AND the surviving spouse was married to the veteran for those same 8 years.

- Add the following allowance for each dependent child under age 18: \*Effective 12/1/17 \$332.00 per child If the surviving spouse is entitled to A&A, add \$332.00.
- If the surviving spouse is entitled to Housebound, add \$155.53
- If the surviving spouse has one or more children under the age 18 on the award, add the 2-year transitional benefit of \$286.00
- \*\*DIC apportionment rates approved by the Under Secretary for Benefits under 38 CFR 3.461(b) will be the additional allowance received for each child.

#### **DEPENDENT HEALTHCARE**

**VA Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)** shares the cost of medical services for eligible dependents and survivors of certain veterans.

**TRICARE** is the health care program serving active duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, retirees, their families, survivors and certain former spouses worldwide.

#### **BURIAL**

VA offers certain benefits and services to honor our Nation's deceased veterans.

**Headstones and Markers:** VA can furnish a monument to mark the grave of an eligible veteran.

**Burial Flag:** VA can provide an American flag to drape an eligible veteran's casket. It is furnished by the Veterans Administration to drape the casket of any wartime veteran, or any veteran who served after 1-31-55, or who was discharged due to a service connected disability.

#### **Presidential Memorial Certificate:**

There is a Presidential Memorial we can help you order for the family. The VA can provide a many PMC for eligible recipients.

#### **Reimbursement of Burial Expenses:**

##### **HOW MUCH DOES VA PAY?**

##### **Service-Connected Death**

- VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward bur-

al expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001, or up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 11, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

- If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA may reimburse some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased Veteran's remains.

##### **Non-Service-Connected Death**

- VA will pay up to \$796 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after October 1, 2019 (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$796 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance. For deaths on or after April 1, 1988 but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (for Veterans hospitalized by VA at the time of death).
  - An annual increase in burial and plot allowances for deaths occurring after October 1, 2011 began in fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.
  - If the death occurred while the Veteran was properly hospitalized by VA, or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the Veteran's remains may be reimbursed.
  - Note: If the Veteran dies while traveling at VA expense for the purpose of examination, treatment or care, VA will pay burial, funeral, plot or interment allowances, and transportation expenses.
- ##### **Unclaimed Remains**
- If a Veteran dies and their remains are unclaimed, the entity responsible for the burial of the Veteran would be entitled to a \$300 burial allowance.
  - If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA may reimburse

the cost of transporting the deceased Veteran's remains. VA may also reimburse for the cost of a plot.

**Burial in a VA National Cemetery:** Is available to any deceased eligible veteran and to an eligible veterans spouse, minor child and under certain conditions, to unmarried adult children. Application can only be made after time of death to the Director of the National Cemetery desired. Ordinarily this is done by the attending funeral director.

**(No one can reserve space in a National Cemetery for you)**

The Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery is located at 10175 Rawiga Rd., Seville, Ohio 44273. 330-335-3069.

**Time Limits:** There is no time limit to claim reimbursement of burial expenses for a service related death. In other cases, claims must be filed within two years of the veteran's burial.

#### **HEADSTONES AND MARKERS**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbarium's used for inurnment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed.

When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or

marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

**Note:** There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

#### **Types of Headstones, Markers and Medallions Available**

##### **Headstones**

###### ***Upright Types:***

These headstones are 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 230 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color, and the marble may contain light to moderate veining.

###### **Markers**

###### ***Flat Types:***

The flat bronze grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The government does not furnish a base. The flat granite and flat marble grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining.

###### ***Bronze Niche:***

This niche marker is 8 1/2 inches long, 5 1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds; mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker.

###### ***Medallions:***

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides a medallion, by request, to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a Veteran.

If requested, the medallion is furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or marker for Veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

The medallion is currently available in three sizes, 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1-1/2 inches. Each medallion will be inscribed with the word "VETERAN" across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom. Appropriate affixing adhesive, instructions

and hardware are provided with the medallion.

**Important:** This benefit is only applicable if the grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. In these instances, eligible Veterans are entitled to either a traditional Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

**Setting VA Markers:** This is the responsibility of the deceased veterans family. Cost will vary with each cemetery.

**Inscription Information:** The following are mandatory: name, branch, year of birth and death. Optional items: war service, religious emblems, valor awards and Purple Heart. These inscriptions are free of charge.

**Additional items:** Such items as nicknames, terms of endearment, accomplishments, etc. are no longer available.

**Reserved Space:** No more than two lines of space may be reserved for future inscriptions, such as, spouse's name.

The VA no longer reimburses money for the purchasing of a private headstone or marker.

Please check with your cemetery officials before you order a headstone or marker. Rules vary from cemetery to cemetery and the VA will not replace a marker that you improperly ordered.

**Cemetery Flag Holders** are furnished to mark the graves of all honorably discharged veterans buried in Medina County. The Medina County Veterans Service Office supplies these bronze markers and the flags for them free of charge. They can be obtained from our office.

**Burial Flag Holders** are furnished to the family member who received the burial flag of an honorably discharged veteran of Medina County. The Medina County Veterans' Service Office supplies these once the funeral director has notified us.

#### **MILITARY AWARDS & DECORATIONS**

Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army personnel, the National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate

service department for issuance of the medals.



**The eVetRecs website at:**

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/>

is preferred for requesting medals and awards. Provide as much information as possible in the comments field. Should you prefer to submit your request using a **SF180** then provide as much information as possible and send the form to the appropriate address from the following tables: please include your military service number, your Social Security Number, a copy of your separation papers (DD-214 or WDAGO 53-55), your complete mailing address and daytime phone number.

Generally, there is no charge for medal or award replacements. The length of time to receive a response or your medals and awards varies depending upon the branch of service sending the medals.

#### **NOTE:**

We are always happy to assist veterans and eligible family members when requesting replacement medals. Please feel free to stop in our office at anytime for assistance in requesting your or your family members military medals and awards.

#### **Cold War Recognition Certificate:**

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, from Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991.

**Who is eligible?** All members of the

armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991.

For more information concerning the application process visit the Cold War Recognition Certificate webpage at :

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/coldwar/default.htm>

Or by contacting them at:

Phone Line: 1-888-276-9472

Fax: 1-800-723-9262

Email: [usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@mail.mil).

Address:

Commander, USAHRC  
Cold War Recognition Program  
ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480  
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue  
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

#### **MILITARY RECORDS**

A copy of your military records can be obtained by coming into our office and submitting the following:

Your request must contain certain basic information for us to locate your service records. This information includes:

1. The veteran's complete name used while in service
2. Service number
3. Social security number
4. Branch of service
5. Dates of service
6. Date and place of birth (especially if the service number is not known).

#### **Records involved in 1973 Fire at NPRC Overview:**

- On July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF). The rec-

Branch	Personnel and Period Affected	Estimated Loss
Army	Personnel discharged November 1, 1912 to January 1, 1960	80%
Air Force	Personnel discharged September 25, 1947 to January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.)	75%

ords affected:

**If you suspect your records may have been involved in the 1973 fire, also include:**

- Place of discharge
  - Last unit of assignment
  - Place of entry into the service, if known.
- All requests must be signed and dated by the veteran or next-of-kin.

**If you received a bonus for military service in time of war, we can usually recover your separation papers in a few days from the state that you entered the service from.**

#### ***Where to send my request:***

You can mail or fax your signed and dated request to the National Archives' National Personnel Record Center (NPRC). Most, but not all records, are stored at the NPRC. Be sure to use the address specified by eVetRecs or the instructions on the SF-180. The locations of military service records for active and retired personnel are listed at [Location of Military Service Records](#). Or go to the National Archive Website at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/get-service-records.html>

NPRC Fax Number : 314-801-9195

NPRC Mailing Address:

National Personnel Records Center Military Personnel Records  
1 Archives Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63138

Phone:314-801-0800

#### ***Response Time:***

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) normally responds to requests for Separation Documents (such as DD Form 214) in ten (10) working days or less. However, requests that involve reconstruction efforts due to the 1973 fire or older records which require extensive search efforts may take much longer (such as requests for your complete OMPF). You will receive a response in writing by U.S. Mail.

**See next page for mailing locations.**

<b>Army</b>	
Where to write for medals	National Personnel Records Center 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138
Where medals are mailed from	U.S. Army TACOM Clothing and Heraldry (PSID) P.O. Box 57997 Philadelphia, PA 19111-7997
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	U.S. Army Human Resources Command Soldier Program and Services Division—Awards and Decorations Branch Attn: AHRC-PDP-A 1600 Spearhead Division Ave, Dept 480 Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

<b>Marine Corps</b>	
Where to write for medals	National Personnel Record Center 1 Archives Dr St. Louis, MO 63138
Where medals are mailed from	Navy Personnel Command PERS 312 5751 Honor Dr Building 769 Room 158 Millington, TN 38055-3120
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Commandant of the Marine Corps Military Awards Branch (MMMA) 2008 Elliot Rd Quantico, VA 22134

<b>Navy</b>	
Where to write for medals	National Personnel Record Center 1 Archives Dr St. Louis, MO 63138
Where medals are mailed from	Navy Personnel Command PERS 312 5751 Honor Dr Building 769 Room 158 Millington, TN 38055-3120
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Department of the Navy Chief of Naval Operations (DNS-35) 2000 Navy Pentagon Washington, DC 20350-2000

<b>Air Force (including Army Air Corps &amp; Army Air Forces)</b>	
Where to write for medals	National Personnel Records Center 1 Archives Dr St. Louis, MO 63138
Where medals are mailed from, and where to write in case of a problem or an appeal—Active Duty Veterans	Headquarters Air Force Personnel Ctr HQ AFPC/DP1SP 550 C Street West, Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714
Where medals are mailed from, and where to write in case of a problem or an appeal—Reserve & Air Guard Veterans	Air Reserve Personnel Center HQ ARPC/DPTARA 18420 E Silver Creek Ave Bldg 390 MS 68 Buckley AFB, CO 80011

<b>Coast Guard</b>	
Where to write for medals	Coast Guard Personnel Service Center 4200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 900 (PSC-PSD-MA) Stop 7200 Arlington, VA 20598-7200
Where medals are mailed from	Coast Guard Personnel Service Center 4200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 900 (PSC-PSD-MA) Stop 7200 Arlington, VA 20598-7200
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Commandant U.S. Coast Guard Medals and Awards Branch (PMP-4) Washington, DC 20593-0001

**Our office is always available to help with ordering your records or medals.**



## **STATE OF OHIO BENEFITS**

### **Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS)**

77 South High Street, 7th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone # 614-644-0898  
Fax # 614-728-9498 877-OHIOVET  
(877-644-6838)  
Email: [ohiovet@dvs.ohio.gov](mailto:ohiovet@dvs.ohio.gov)  
or on the Web: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/>

1. Military retirement pay is non-taxable for retired military that are residents of Ohio.
2. Free license plates, watercraft, boat, trailer, and parking cards for POW's and seriously disabled vets.
3. Vocational Rehabilitation  
216-227-3250
5. War Orphan Scholarship (*apply at our office*)
6. Ohio Energy Credit Program  
800-248-4040
7. Home Energy Assistance Program  
800-282-0880
8. Free Hunting/Fishing License & Camping  
800-945-3543
9. Legislative Information Line  
800-282-0253
10. Governor's Office - (Cleveland Office)  
216-787-3240
11. Workers Compensation  
800-644-6292

**DISABILITY AND INCOME REQUIREMENTS EXIST FOR SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS.**

### **Ohio War Orphan Scholarship Program**

Ohio provides the Ohio War Orphan Scholarship Program, which provides financial grants to the eligible children of some Ohio veterans. Although this program does not provide total cost for education, many who receive its benefits are also eligible for educational assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The children of deceased, disabled (60% or more), and MIA Ohio veterans can qualify. Veterans must have served at least 90 days during time of war and meet certain residency requirements. Income is considered in the application process. You must file by July 1st. Contact our office for more information or call 888-833-1133.

### **Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF)**

The Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF) is a program that provides a one time payment to veterans of Iraq and/or Afghanistan who sustained injury or disease while serving in the combat area. The payment is tax free, and varies year to year. The program runs from July 1 through June 30 of each year. Applicants must complete an entire package.

### **Ohio Persian Gulf Bonus Program**

Eligibility is limited to those who were Ohio residents when they began their service, and are Ohio residents as of the date of application.

Eligible veterans are eligible for \$100 per month served on active duty in the following locations and/or theaters within the date frames shown. Served or currently serving in the US Armed Forces during compensable periods:

- Afghanistan Oct 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by President of the United States.

Eligible veterans who served on active duty, EXCEPT ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING, in any other location except those listed above, are eligible for a payment of \$50 per month for each month served on active duty.

Veterans may receive a combined bonus of up to \$1,500 for in theater and non-theater service combined.

In addition, any veteran who was medi-

cally discharged or medically retired due to combat incurred disability is entitled to the full \$1,000 payment, and may also receive \$50 per month for their non-theater service.

The family of a veteran who was killed in action in theater, or subsequently died of wounds, is eligible for a payment of \$5,000 plus the entire bonus for which the veteran would be eligible, up to a maximum of \$6,500. The family of a veteran whose death was not the result of injuries or illness incurred in Iraq, or Afghanistan may receive the bonus the veteran earned under the rules shown, up to a maximum of \$1,500.

Application is easy and can be done on line.

**WE RECOMMEND YOU CONTACT US FOR AN APPOINTMENT!!**

While the process is simple, it requires supporting documentation and the application must be notarized, which can be done in our office. You will need your DD 214 for each period of service, your Ohio driver's license or tax return to prove residency.

We need your help to identify every veteran or active duty member who is eligible for this bonus. The taxpayers of Ohio recognized last November that we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have served during these periods. Please help us make sure that no veteran who should receive this bonus goes unidentified. Remember—we don't have that magical list of all veterans and their service dates. We depend on those of you who read this to help us out.

Once again—PLEASE—help us get our veterans their bonus!

**Other Ohio Benefits**

The Ohio Promise is an educational program that allows any veteran to attend any state supported school in the State of Ohio and pay in-state resident rates.

The State of Ohio provides several benefits to totally disabled veterans, to include free license plates, hunting and fishing licenses, and others. Purple Heart veterans may obtain Purple Heart license plates for motorcycles, trucks, or cars.

**Ohio Veterans Home**

The Ohio Veterans Homes are a State of Ohio establishment comprised of three facilities:

1. a nursing home located in Georgetown, **and**
2. a nursing home and a domiciliary located in Sandusky.

Each one offers a quality of life which emphasizes privacy, encourages independence, provides comfort and security, and meets social needs.

**Who is Eligible?**

1. Have been an Ohio resident for one year.
2. Have served on active duty during a time of war or armed conflict or be the recipient of the Purple Heart, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, or Southwest Asia Service Medal.
3. Have received their most recent discharge under honorable conditions.
4. Be disabled by disease, wounds, or otherwise and, by reason of such disability, incapable of earning a living. Individuals who are current drug and alcohol abusers, psychotics, or have active tuberculosis are not eligible for immediate admission.

We strongly urge you to seek assistance with your County Veterans' Service Office. They can help you in obtaining the required documents, setting up appointments and transportation. Your County Veterans Service Office location and phone number can be found in the Government Pages of your phone book or by clicking on the link below.

<http://dvs.ohio.gov/main/county-veterans-service-offices.html> For more information, call toll free:

1-800-572-7934 or contact:

- *Ohio Veterans Home - Sandusky Admissions Office  
3416 Columbus Avenue  
Sandusky, OH 44870*
- *Ohio Veterans Home - Georgetown Admissions Office  
2003 Veterans Blvd.  
Georgetown, OH 45121*





### ADDITIONAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Various benefits are available to veterans or their families that are not administered by the VA. The following is a brief list:

**Reemployment rights:** If you left a full time job and you served less than six years in the service after 8-1-61, you had the right to return to your old job with seniority. If you have been denied this right, contact the U.S. Department of Labor (*DOL*).

Unemployment Comp (*after service*): The amount and requirements for these benefits varies. Apply at the local State Unemployment Bureau.

Employment Assistance: Provide intensive services to meet the employment needs of disabled veterans, with the maximum emphasis directed toward serving those who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, including homeless veterans with barriers to employment.

Federal Employment (*preference*): veterans and other eligible' s may receive helpful advantages in Federal employment, such as additional points being added to passing scores in job examinations, waivers of certain physical requirements, first consideration for certain jobs, and preference for retention in layoffs.



### MEDINA COUNTY BENEFITS

#### **Medina County Veterans Service Commission/Office**

#### Financial Assistance Program:

The Medina County Veterans Service Office provides almost immediate financial assistance to resident Medina County veterans and their families who qualify. That assistance provides the basic essentials to get them back on their feet in time of need. It is not intended to be a supplemental income nor a permanent subsidy.

Our program is based on the needs of each and every individual. It is also based on the entire family income and is subject to change at anytime based on economic factors that are out of our control. Our assistance includes but is not limited to:

- Rent and mortgage payments
- Utilities: Gas, Electric and Water
- Food and personal hygiene items
- Certain Medical Expenses

If denied financial assistance you have the right to appeal it to the Commissioners of the Medina County Veterans Service Office. Please feel free to ask one of our associates how to file an appeal.

Items you will need to file for assistance:

- Drivers license
- Proof of residency
- DD 214 (cannot be dishonorable)
- Marriage and Divorce papers
- Birth certificate and custody papers
- Signed lease agreement
- Income statements (incl. spouse)
- Social Security payment
- Pensions payments

# Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255  
**PRESS 1**

- W2 from previous year
- All financial statements (i.e. bank)
- Medical bills
- Utility bills
- Mortgage

In most cases in order to receive assistance we will require you to register with Job and Family Services (JFS) for food stamps. You may also be required to register with unemployment or attend financial counseling classes.

We are able to offer this assistance because the State of Ohio has a section in it's law that allows each county to spend a prescribed amount of county tax monies on needy veterans and their families. This law dates back to the post civil war period (1886)

***Appellate Procedures:***

A financial assistance applicant who has been denied assistance by a case manager may appeal the denial to the Director/Veterans Service Officer. If the denial is upheld, the applicant may appeal to the Veterans Service Commission. In each case, a signed appeal shall be written and submitted on the form provided (Policy Letter # 2). An appeal to the Service Officer shall be addressed promptly by appointment. An appeal to the Veterans Service Commission shall be handled at the next regularly scheduled board meeting (2nd Thursday of every month at 4:00 PM; unless it falls on a holiday).

**Additional County Benefits:**

- Request for military records
- Proper submission of claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through a service organization
- Preparation of forms and paperwork Documentation of claims and pertinent data
- Submission for awards decorations and medals
- Grave markers and flags
- Solid oak flag case to those eligible to receive the flag from the death of a family member that is a Medina

County resident. *(must be confirmed by funeral director)*

- Notary Service
- DD-214 Certification
- VA Accredited Service Officer
- Free Transit Service with Medina County Veterans ID Card
- Transportation to and from VA Medical Centers in Cleveland, Parma and Akron, Ohio. Our office can provide transportation for veterans to the following VA Healthcare facilities:
- **VAMC - Wade Park Hospital; Cleveland, Ohio -**  
Monday through Friday
- **VAMC - Parma, Ohio -**  
Monday through Friday
- **VAMC - Akron CBOC-**  
Monday through Thursday

Our regularly scheduled runs go to Wade Park and Parma Monday through Friday. We ask that you make your appointments between the hours of 9:00 am and 12 noon.

Our vans go to the Akron Clinic, Monday through Thursday and you should ask for an appointment between the hours of 9:00 am and 12 noon.

***(Tell them you are a van rider).***

The vans leave promptly from our office at 8:00 am. If you need transportation to our office call the Medina County Public Transit at: 330.723.9670 to schedule a ride to our office. We will pay your fare to and from our office.

In some cases, you will not be able to schedule your appointments to coincide with our regular schedule. In those cases, we will attempt to accommodate you, but we cannot guarantee that transportation will be available in every case.

There is no charge for this service. However, by using the van service, you are not eligible to receive travel pay from the VA.

***Call 330.722.9368 to schedule a ride.***

Please call us as soon as you know

you have an appointment scheduled. If you do not schedule your transportation and just show up you are going space available and may be turned away.

- Vet Center Counseling Available If you have served in any combat zone, There is a Vet Center now in Medina. Vet Centers are community based and part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. With the growing number of veterans returning home to Medina County from combat, we have coordinated with the Westside Vet Center to provide a counselor two days a week here in our community. Appointments will be available on Mondays & Wednesdays at the Professional Building at 120 W. Washington St, Room 3-C on the third floor. To schedule an appointment call (440) 845-5023

To learn more about the VA's Vet Centers visit us on the web at: <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

#### **Outreach Programs:**

- Due to the nature of our office we do not do house calls, except in extreme circumstances.
- We also provide seminars for veterans, if your organization would like someone to speak there on veterans benefits. Please call our office to make arrangements.
- Appointments for VA Compensation claims and pensions are highly encouraged, since these matters take some time to go over.

#### **Newsletter:**

We publish a quarterly newsletter. Go to our website at: [www.medinacountyveterans.org](http://www.medinacountyveterans.org) and sign up to receive it by e-mail.

#### **Veterans ID Card (Medina County):**

Medina County Veterans Identification Cards are available from the Medina County Recorder's Office. They are located at:  
144 N Broadway St #117  
Medina, OH 44256  
(330) 725-9782

- You will need an original or certified original copy of your discharge in order to be eligible for a ID Card. If you do not have one you can come into our office and we will assist you in requesting a certified copy.
- You will need a valid Drivers License or State ID card also with your application.

\*\*\*If you did not meet the service requirements or service criteria to receive one of the following you will not be issued a ID card. We are sorry but this is the law. The only agency that can issue you a discharge is the branch that you served in.

\*\*\*This ID card is not a valid form of identification and we are not responsible for those that accept it.

Discharge documentation includes:

- DD-214
- NGB-22
- NGB-55
- DD-256

DD-214: A DD214 is a separation from Active Duty.

Reservists and National Guardsmen/women will may have received a DD214 other than the initial training only if they have been activated into an active-duty status, usually under Title 10 orders.

NG(B)-22: National Guardsmen/women receive another form of final discharge. Many of them, have one or several DD214's however, it is not their final discharge – this takes the form of the NG/22.

NG(B)-55:

NGB Form 55 is issued to Soldiers concurrently discharged from the ARNG and as a Reserve of the Army with honor. This includes any request of the Family if a Soldier dies while in the ARNG.

DD256: Traditional Reservists - those that served their entire contract without an activation, will not have received a DD214 except for the one they received at the completion of their initial military training (boot camp, basic training, job school). In the absence of a federal activation, the only discharge paperwork these troops will receive is a DD256 – Honorable Discharge Certificate. Unlike a DD214 or an NGB22, the DD256 does not elaborate on any aspect of military service, it is merely a statement of honor-

able service. Another key difference between the DD256 & the DD214/NGB22, is that it is only issued after the completion of the entire service contract.

### **Our Goal**

We maintain the highest proficiency on the most current veterans benefits. Our services are entirely **FREE**. There is no reason anyone should be charged for a benefit they have earned. There are some companies and organizations which will try to sell these benefits or their service for their help in filling out VA paperwork. It is recommended that if you are ever charged for or someone attempts to charge you for these service's to immediately call the

**Ohio Department of Veterans Services**  
(614)-644-0898 and  
**Ohio Attorney Generals Office**  
(614) 466-4320

The only agency that is by law able to represent a veteran or their family with VA claims and Pensions is an Accredited Service Officer or attorney. You can find a listing of accredited attorneys and organizations at <http://www.va.gov/ogc/recognizeddvsos.asp> or <http://dvs.ohio.gov/>.

Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) or text to **838255**

**Support Matters.**

 **Veterans Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Confidential help for  
Veterans and their families

**SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

**COMMITMENT TO VETERANS**

**ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS****CHAMPVA**

800-733-8387

**DEERS ENROLLMENT**

800-538-9552

**MEDINA COUNTY TRANSIT**

330-723-9670

**MEDINA COUNTY OFFICE FOR OLDER ADULTS**

246 Northland Dr # 20,

Medina, OH 44256

330-723-9514

**MILITARY ONE SOURCE**

1-800-342-9647

**NATIONAL PERSONNEL RCDS. CTR.**

9700 Page Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63132

314-801-0800

**OHIO DEPT. VETERANS SERVICES**

614-644-0898

1-877-OHIO-VET

**OHIO VETERANS HOME**

1-800-572-7934

**TRICARE EAST**

800-444-5445

**VA GROUP INSURANCE CENTER**

800-419-1473

**VA EDUCATION BENEFITS**

888-442-4551

**VA REGIONAL OFFICE**

1240 East Ninth St.,

Cleveland, OH 44199

800-827-1000

**VA VET CENTER**

5700 Pearl Road Suite 102

Parma, OH 44129

440-845-5023

\*\*\*Medina Annex

120 W. Washington St

Room 3-C

(call Parma for an appointment)

**VA MEDICAL CENTER-WADE PARK**

10701 East Blvd

Cleveland, OH 44106

216-791-3800

**VA MEDICAL CENTER-AKRON (CBOC)****OUTPATIENT CLINIC**

55 W. Waterloo Road

Akron, OH 44319

330-724-7715

**ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS****VA MEDICAL CENTER-MANSFIELD****(CBOC)**

1025 South Trimbel Rd

Mansfield, OH 44906

419-529-4602

**VA MEDICAL CENTER-PARMA (CBOC)**

8787 Brookpark Rd

Parma, OH 44129

216-739-7000

**VA OHIO WESTERN RESERVE****NATIONAL CEMETERY**

10175 Rawiga Rd

Seville, Ohio 44273

330-335-3069

**VETERANS CRISIS HOTLINE**

800-273-TALK (8255)

**VETERANS HOMELESS HOTLINE**

877-4 AID-VET

877-424-3838

**WOMEN VETERANS HELPLINE**

855-VA-WOMEN

855-829-6636

**FINANCE CENTER FOR RETIREES**

ARMY 800-321-1080

AIR FORCE 800-321-1080

NAVY 216-522-5955

MARINE 800-336-4649

COAST GUARD 800-772-8724

**MILITARY I.D. CARD CENTERS****CLEVELAND (28 min)**

DFAS - Federal Building Cle.

1240 E. 9th St. Cleveland, Ohio

26 Floor, Rm. 2679

216-522-5135

**MANSFIELD (39 min)**

National Guard Armory

1947 Harrington Memorial Rd.

Mansfield, Ohio

419-520-6563 or 419-520-6205

**SURROUNDING COUNTY  
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICES**

**Ashland County**

110 Cottage Street  
Ashland, OH 44805  
419/282-4225 x4200  
Fax: 419/281-5747  
Website: [https://  
www.ashlandcountyveteransohio.org/](https://www.ashlandcountyveteransohio.org/)

**Cuyahoga County**

1849 Prospect Ave., Suite 150  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
216/698-2600 Fax: 216/698-2650  
Website: <http://cuyahogavets.org/>

**Lorain County**

1230 N. Abbe Rd  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440/284-4623/25  
Fax: 440/284-4696  
Website: [https://  
www.loraincountyveterans.com/](https://www.loraincountyveterans.com/)

**Medina County**

210 Northland Drive  
Medina, OH 44256  
330/722-9368  
Toll Free: (844) 722-3800  
Fax: 330/722-9378  
Email:  
[veterans@medinacountyveterans.org](mailto:veterans@medinacountyveterans.org)  
Website: [www.medinacountyveterans.org](http://www.medinacountyveterans.org)

**Summit County**

1060 E. Waterloo Rd.  
Akron, OH 44306-1990  
330/643-2830  
Fax: 330/643-8779  
Website: <http://www.vscsummitoh.us/>

**Wayne County**

356 W. North St. Lwr. Lvl.  
Wooster, Ohio 44691  
330-345-6638 or 800-335-6638  
Fax: 330-345-6945  
Website: [http://  
www.waynecountyveterans.org/](http://www.waynecountyveterans.org/)

You can contact any County Veterans Service Office in the State of Ohio by dialing **1-877-OHIO –VET (644-6838)**. A complete listing of all Ohio County Veterans Service Offices can be found on the web at: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/main/home.html>

**Government Representatives 2019**

**State**

**Stephen D. Hambley (R)**

Ohio House of  
Representatives  
Republican - District -069  
77 S. High St.  
14th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-6111  
Phone: 614-466-8140  
Fax: 614-719-3969  
Email: [district69@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district69@ohr.state.oh.us)

<http://www.ohiohouse.gov/stephen-d-hambley/contact>

**Darrell Kick (R)**

Ohio House of  
Representatives  
Republican - District -70  
77 S. High St.  
11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-6111  
Phone: 614-466-2994  
Fax: 614-719-6997  
Email: [district70@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district70@ohr.state.oh.us)

**Larry Obhof (R)**

Ohio Senate  
Republican - District -022  
Senate Building  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: 614-466-7505  
Email: [SD22@senate.state.oh.us](mailto:SD22@senate.state.oh.us)

**Federal**

**Congressman Anthony Gonzales (R)**

16 District  
**Strongsville Office**  
13477 Prospect Rd.  
Strongsville, OH 44149  
Phone: (440) 783-3696  
**\*\*\*Canton Office**  
4150 Beldon Village St. Suite 607  
Canton, OH 44718  
(330) 599-7037  
**Washington, DC Office**  
1023 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3876  
<https://anthonygonzalez.house.gov/>

**Government Representatives 2019**

**Congressman Bob Gibbs (R)**

District: 7  
**Ashland Office**  
110 Cottage Street  
Ashland, Ohio 44805  
Phone: (419) 207-0650  
Fax: (419) 207-0655  
**Washington, DC Office**  
329 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-6265  
Fax: (202) 225-3394  
<https://gibbs.house.gov/>

**Senator Sherrod Brown (D)**

**Cleveland, Office**  
1301 East Ninth St.,  
Suite 1710  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
Phone: (216) 522-7272  
FAX: (216) 522-2239  
Toll Free 1-888-896-6446  
**Washington, DC Office**  
713 Hart Senate  
Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2315  
FAX: (202) 228-6321  
[www.brown.senate.gov/contact/](http://www.brown.senate.gov/contact/)

**Senator Rob Portman (R)**

**Cleveland, Office**  
1240 East 9th Street  
Room 3061  
Cleveland, OH 44199  
Phone: 216-522-7095  
**Washington, DC Office**  
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-3353  
<http://www.portman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact?p=contact-form>

**NOTES**

**APPOINTMENTS**



**NOTES**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**My Information**

Veterans Name:

VA File #:

Service #:

Social Security #:

Date of Birth:

Branch of Service:

Dates of Service:

Entered:

Discharged:

***\*\*\* Safe guard your personal information from theft in order to protect your identity.***

**NOTES**



## Medina County Veterans Organizations Meeting Times and Places

Organization	Post #	Address	City	Phone	Meeting Times
American Legion	Post #234	FOP 716 West 130th St.	Brunswick	(330) 618-1701	11:00 AM - First Thursday of each month
American Legion	Post #523	120 Bank St	Lodi	(330) 948-1523	6:00 PM - Second Thursday of each month
American Legion	Post #202	620 N. Broadway St	Medina	(330) 416-0792	7:00 PM - Fourth Monday of each month
American Legion	Post #170	129 Main St	Wadsworth	(330) 334-1119	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
<a href="#">AMVETS</a>	Post #1990	620 N. Broadway St	Medina		7:00 PM - First Monday of each month
Blue Star Mothers of Medina County		1439 S. Carpenter Rd	Brunswick		6:30 PM - Third Tuesday of each month
<a href="#">Disabled American Veterans</a>	Chapter #72	620 N. Broadway St	Medina		7:00 PM - Second Tuesday of each month
MARINE Corps League	DET #569	3916 Pearl Rd	Medina		7:00 PM - Third Tuesday of each month
Medina County Veterans Coalition	County Wide	Various Posts			9:00 AM - Second Saturday every third month.
<a href="#">Medina County Women of the Military</a>		PO Box 1812,	Medina		<a href="mailto:mcwomilitary@yahoo.com">mcwomilitary@yahoo.com</a>
<a href="#">Rolling Thunder</a>	Chapter #8	3916 Pearl Rd.	Medina		2-4:00 PM - Second Sunday of each month
<a href="#">Veterans of Foreign Wars</a>	Post #9520	1439 S. Carpenter Rd	Brunswick	(330) 273-4892	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
<a href="#">Veterans of Foreign Wars</a>	Post #5137	3916 Pearl Rd	Medina	(330) 725-0884	7:00 PM - First Tuesday of each month
<a href="#">Veterans of Foreign Wars</a>	Post #8753	39 F Main St.	Seville		8:30 PM - Third Thursday of each month
<a href="#">Veterans of Foreign Wars</a>	Post #5563	6731 Center Rd.	Valley City	(330) 483-3792	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
<a href="#">Veterans of Foreign Wars</a>	Post #1089	121 Main St	Wadsworth	(330) 336-5008	8:00 PM - Third Tuesday of each month
<a href="#">Vietnam Veterans of America</a>	Chapter #3856	20 N. Broadway	Medina		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.  
 \*\*\* The addresses listed above are the physical address and not necessarily the mailing address.



STAND BY THEM



*In Medina County, our Veterans Service Office is deeply concerned with the assistance, care and support that our Veterans receive. We understand that alleviating the suffering that accompanies an accident, illness or death is important. In most cases we are able to offer veterans, their surviving spouse, and/or dependent children the assistance they need and deserve. It is our duty to ensure our Veterans have the very best service possible. This is at the heart of our mission here at the Medina County Veterans Service Office. Please feel free to contact us at anytime if you have a problem.*

*Medina County  
Veterans Service Office*

**DISCLAIMER:** Information in this handbook is only intended as general summary of information that is made available to the public. It is not intended to provide specific legal advice or to take the place of either the written law or regulations. Furthermore it is designed to help users better understand the Medina County Veterans Service Office and the Department of Veterans Affairs systems and is subject to change without notice. We have tried to make it as accurate as possible.

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