

VETERANS JOURNAL



PUBLISHED BY
FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
280 East Broad St., Rm. 100, Columbus Ohio 43215
(614) 525-2500 FAX (614) 525-2505
E-mail: veteransservice@franklincountyohio.gov
Website: <http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/vets/>



Commissioners:

Tom Eshelman, AL
Jeffrey D. Noble, VFW
Merle Pratt, DAV
Michael Kehoe, VVA
John W. Maurer, AMVETS

Winter 2015 Issue

John C. Warrix, Interim Director

The information in this journal is being provided to make the veteran community aware of some current events, activities and veteran's issues that are of mutual concern. From time to time, we will include some relevant information important enough to be repeated to insure that veterans and their families are aware of the full range of benefits and entitlements available to them.



&

Happy New Year

2016

**A NEW YEAR IS LIKE
A BLANK BOOK.
THE PEN IS IN
YOUR HANDS.
IT IS YOUR CHANCE
TO WRITE A
BEAUTIFUL STORY
FOR YOURSELF.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



"New Franklin County Veterans Service Commissioner"

FCVSC (October 2015) –
Jefferey D. Noble - Serves
as a Member of the Franklin
County Veterans Service
Commission representing the
Veterans of Foreign Wars
(VFW). He served in the
United States Army on active
duty from 1966 to 1991.
Completed one tour in
Vietnam (1968-1969) as a
gun ship pilot, gun team
leader and Division Staff
Officer with the 9th Infantry
Division. Jeff holds lifetime
membership in the Veterans
of Foreign Wars, American
Legion, Vietnam Helicopter
Pilots Association, Vietnam
Veterans Association, Military
Officers of America
Association and the
Association of the United
States Army. Jeff is currently
and has been for the last 6

years the Commander of
L/CPL Wesley G. Davids Post
800 Dublin, American Legion.

After retiring from the Army,
Jeff joined Huntington Bank
for 14 years as a Vice
President in Commercial
Banking. Since his retirement
from Huntington he has been
deeply involved in Veterans
activities in Dublin, organizing
their Memorial Day and
Veterans Day events, working
with Dublin Schools to find
Delegates for Buckeye Boys
State and Buckeye Girls State
and developing two or three
annual fund raising events to
support Veterans causes. He
was appointed to complete a
term on the Commission in
2015 and his term will expire
in 2021.





“DoD Suspends University of Phoenix for Improper Recruiting, Marketing”

Dayton Daily News (October 9, 2015) – The Department of Defense (DoD) is not sending tuition assistance money to the University of Phoenix. The department also has barred the school from recruiting at military facilities and job fairs, The Wall Street Journal reported. The move comes after the DoD alleged improper recruiting and marketing practices at the university. In a written response from DoD, spokesman Maj. Ben Sakrisson told Reveal that the university has been placed on probationary status. Current students on tuition assistance will continue their programs. The University of Phoenix will not be permitted to recruit military members on bases and new or transfer students will not be granted DoD financial help.

“Wright State Starts Nursing Program for Veterans and Military Personnel”

Olsen, S. – Wright State Newsroom - (October 12, 2015) – Wright State University's College of Nursing and Health (CONH) has received a grant to create a new bachelor's degree program for veterans and

members of the Air Force, Army, and Navy.

The Health Resource Service Administration is funding the grant. Wright State is the only school in Ohio to receive a grant for such a program.

Students must have completed training as a military medic or corpsman, including active duty, retired, separated guard and reserve personnel.

The program is designed to recognize the health care training and experience of military health care personnel in achieving the Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing. For more on the article, go to the following website:

<https://webapp2.wright.edu/web1/newsroom/2015/10/12/wright-state-starts-nursing-program-for-veterans-and-military-personnel/>.

“VA Launches Hepatitis C, Advance Liver Disease Disparities Dashboard”

WASHINGTON (November 3, 2015) – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is stepping up its efforts to accelerate treatment for Veterans with hepatitis C and advanced liver disease (ALD) through the creation of a Hepatitis C-ALD dashboard. The dashboard works by using a set of criteria, including age, gender, geography, service era along with race and ethnicity, to distinguish Veteran groups at highest risk for ALD as a result of hepatitis C. For more information on the

dashboard, visit: <http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/news/video/heap.cfm>.



“\$6M Project Would Aid Local Veterans, Families”

Dayton VA campus proposed site for Fisher House

Barber, B. – Dayton Daily News (November 11, 2015) – A campaign to build a privately funded \$6 million Fisher House on the sprawling Dayton VA Medical Center campus would open a 16-bedroom guest home for patients and their families by September 2017, organizers say. Randy and Vicky Gunlock of Springboro donated \$1.075 million through the Greener Pastures Foundation in Dayton with a challenge to raise another \$500,000 for the project from more contributors, organizers said. The Fisher House Foundation would finance the rest of the cost.

The homes are a place for veterans who are patients and for the families of in-patients facing extended medical treatment to stay without charge. The project is still a proposal, awaiting and endorsement from VA Secretary Robert McDonald, organizers say.

For the full article and information on how to donate to this project go to: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/local-military/6-million-fisher-house-planned-for-dayton-va/npLMn/>.



“No Cost of Living Adjustment for 2016”

Horrell, K. - Military.com (October 15, 2015) – The 2016 cost of living adjustment (COLA) for federal benefits will be zero for 2016. This is because the index used to determine military retirement, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability payments, and social security shows that there has been inflation since last September. The dramatic decrease in the cost of gasoline has cancelled out all the other price increases, leaving a net negative Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This is the third time of no increase since increases were made automatic in 1975. Federal payments are received by about 80 million US residents each year, including retired and disabled workers and their families, disabled veterans, and federal retirees.

“Retiree, Family Must Register for Base Access”

Afterburner (Spring/Summer 2015) – The Defense Biometric Identification System, or DBIDS, uses scanning devices to manage access at most Air Force installations. DBIDS Verifies access privileges for

cardholders through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Guards scanning ID cards will see a red or green display at the bottom of their scanner screens. A red display will say “stop” to indicate why base entry is not authorized, giving up to 26 different messages. Besides showing if access is authorized or denied, the scanner allows a gate guard to see a detailed view that provides more information about the card holder. The photo of the card holder will be the image taken when the card was registered in the system.

The system also crosschecks information with the National Crime Information center every 24 hours to determine whether or not Department of Defense cardholders have any active wants or warrants. Finally, DBIDS also displays installation debarments and law enforcement alerts.

Updates have been made which allow the majority of people – active-duty and civilian personnel, retirees, dependents, etc. – to register in the lane of traffic without adding to wait times, according to the Air Force Security Forces officials.

The system has been used to successfully enroll more than 5 million people, provide installation security forces with over 4,000 wants/warrants, 9,000-plus suspended driving privileges and more than 500 debarments to date, said officials.

One issue with DBIDS specific to retirees is the expiration of the Department of Defense form 2 (Retired). Although the expiration date on the front of the retiree ID reads “INDEF”, there is an expiration date printed on the back of the card which coincides with the retiree’s 65th birthday. Retirees will be required to obtain a new ID card after their 65th birthday. (Courtesy of Air Force Security Forces).



Thank You

“Unknown”

For the sleepless nights.

For sacrificing time with your family.

For your giving nature to help those in need.

For the missed holidays at home.

For the sacrifice of everyday comfort.

For risking your wellbeing for me.

For rising to the challenge of recovering.

For honoring your fallen brothers and sisters.

**For having faith in a cause larger than
yourself.**

For knowing that every individual matters.

For being a role model worthy of admiration.

I thank you today and every day.



**“ALL OF THE REAL
HEROES ARE NOT
STORYBOOK COMBAT
FIGHTERS, EITHER. EVERY
SINGLE MAN IN THIS
ARMY PLAYS A VITAL
ROLE. DON’T EVER LET
UP. DON’T EVER THINK
YOUR JOB IS
UNIMPORTANT. EVERY
MAN HAS A JOB TO DO
AND HE MUST DO IT.
EVERY MAN IS A VITAL
LINK IN THE GREAT
CHAIN.”**

~ GENERAL GEORGE PATTON





**“TRICARE Young Adult
Premiums to Increase Jan. 1,
2016”**

Tricare.mil (October 28, 2015)
– Premiums for the Military Health System’s benefit plan for adult children between 21 – 26 years old have been announced. The premiums for TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) program will increase on Jan. 1, 2016 to \$306 per month for TYA Prime, and \$228 per month for TYA Standard. For more information visit: www.tricare.mil/TYA.

**“VA Makes Changes to
Veterans Choice Program”
*Changes Remove Barriers and
Expands Access to Care***

WASHINGTON (December 1, 2015) – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a number of changes to make participation in the Veterans Choice Program easier and more convenient for Veterans who need to use it. The move, which streamlines eligibility requirements, follows feedback from Veterans along with organizations working on their behalf.

Veterans seeking to use the Veterans Choice Program or wanting to know more about it can call 1-866-606-8198 to confirm their eligibility and to schedule an appointment.

For more details about the Veterans Choice Program and VA’s progress, visit: www.va.gov/opa/choiceact.

For the full article with the changes made go to: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/>.



Veterans Websites

**Vets.gov – New Web Portal, a One-Stop
Shop for VA Services – With
approximately 1,000 websites**
<https://www.vets.gov/>

VA Benefits
<http://eBenefits.gov>

**My HealthVet – Health care
information and appointments**
<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html>

**Labor Department’s
Job-Training Program for Vets**
<http://veterans.gov>



Diabetes – know the risk
Close to 25 percent of VA patients have diabetes

- Family history of diabetes (parents and siblings)
- Member of a high-risk racial/ethnic group (African American, Hispanic American, Native American, Asian American, and Pacific Islander)
- Pre-diabetes (high fasting blood glucose – ask your doctor)
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Low “good cholesterol” (HDL) and high triglycerides
- Presence of heart or other vascular disease
- Overweight or Obesity
- Abdominal obesity
- Women with polycystic ovarian syndrome
- History of gestational diabetes mellitus
- History of delivering babies weighing more than nine pounds
- Very low physical activity



**“The Ohio Veterans Hall
of Fame”**

~Congratulations~

Class of 2015:

William H. Adams (Deceased)
Jennifer L. Baun
Ernest H. Bowman
Todd A. Briggs
Michael L. DeHart
Dennis DeMolet
Thomas V. Francis (Deceased)
George E. Freeman Jr.
Waverly Glover
Philip R. Gregg
Johnnie D. Hatfield
Albert H. Horn
David L. Kolbe
Philip S. Meeks
Janice C. Messenheimer-Courtney
William J. Richards
Nathan D. Shaffer
Charles D. Van Voorhis
Peter R. Wilkinson
Lynn E. Wolaver

“Announcement”

Welcome...



Director Chip Tansill

Ohio Department of Veterans Services

&

Assistant Director Mark J. Cappone

Ohio Department of Veterans Services

**“Military will open all combat
jobs to women, Defense
Secretary announces”**

WASHINGTON (December 4, 2015) – All U.S. military combat jobs, including infantry units and special operations, will be open to women beginning next year.

The armed services had been given a Dec. 31 deadline to allow women into all of its units.



"Wreaths Across America Day"



REMEMBER those killed in action

HONOR all Veterans, Military and their Families

TEACH the next generation about the cost of freedom

Please join the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission and various Veterans organizations in a short Christmas wreath laying ceremony for over 1100 Franklin County fallen service members at any of the following locations on **Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 11:30 am.**

- Green Lawn Cemetery, 1000 Greenlawn Ave, Columbus, OH 43223
- Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens, 5600 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43213
- Sunset Cemetery, 6959 W Broad St, Galloway, OH 43119

The ceremony at each location is as part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America program (www.wreathscrossamerica.org).



"News & Events"

~ A new app to help veterans sleep "myBivy" short for "bivouac," a military term for a safe place to sleep. The app tracks sleeping patterns for soldiers and catches for symptoms of the onset of panic attacks. The app then will use sound or vibrations "to disrupt that or take them out of the deep sleep but keep them asleep." Made by college student and his friends for soldier dad should be released between March and May 2016 for all vets.



~ **TRICARE Pharmacy Update** - On October 1, 2015, a new law required all TRICARE beneficiaries, except active duty service members, to get select brand name maintenance drugs through either TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or from a military pharmacy. Beneficiaries who keep using a retail pharmacy for these drugs will have to pay the full cost.

~ **VA Adds 22 Ships to Vietnam Ships List** - For a list of ships go to the following website: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.aspx>.

~ **Kentucky State Parks Offer Discounts to Current Military, Retirees, and Veterans** - The Kentucky State Parks are offering lodging discounts to current and former members of our nation's armed services with the "USA Military Discount" program from Nov. 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

~ **OSU Ranked #4 in the Nation for Veterans** - Ohio State is ranked #4 in the Nation of the best Colleges in the Country for Veterans by USA Today and College Factual.

~ **Operation Personal Freedom extended through 2016!** - If you're a veteran, active service member, or first responder Harley-Davidson's Operation Personal Freedom: Learn to Ride is back and is open for registration throughout 2016. If you are near Columbus, OH area, contact 614-764-BIKE for questions.

~ **DFAS is preparing health care forms for upcoming tax season** - Beginning in January 2016, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will provide the appropriate IRS Form 1095 to all retirees, annuitants, former spouses, and all other individuals having TRICARE coverage during all or any portion of 2015. The IRS Form 1095 is proof people have the minimum essential coverage which you will report with 2015 federal tax returns. For more information about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on federal income tax is available at <http://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act>.

H.R.313 Signed Into Law
Wounded Warriors Federal
Leave Act of 2015

**"Starting an Online Business from a
Veteran's Perspective"**

Rick's top Veteran entrepreneur resources

Kuehn, R. - Vantage Point (October 29, 2014)

1. Post-9/11 GI Bill

I used the GI Bill to get traction in my programming skills while continued learning on my own and studying entrepreneurship through other resources. This was the only official resource I ever took money from that boosted my business.

2. Craigconnects.org, by Craig Newmark

The founder of Craigslist is a huge Veteran supporter. I received great advice from this network.

3. Entrepreneur.com Veteran section

There are articles on everything from starting storefront franchises, to getting financing, to which skills Veterans have translate best to entrepreneurship and how to capitalize on them. I used Entrepreneur.com for advice, experience and learning.

4. VA.gov in partnership with BusinessUSA

BusinessUSA is similar to Entrepreneur because they have a plethora of information readily available if you're willing to take the time to read and understand it.

5. SBA.gov (Small Business Administration)

This website contained all the legal information I needed to know. Not only do they have layman's explanations for specific scenarios, they provide valuable advice specific to Veterans.

Rick's business can be found at
www.gruntroll.com



**AS WE EXPRESS OUR
GRATITUDE, WE MUST
NEVER FORGET
THAT THE HIGHEST
APPRECIATION IS NOT
TO UTTER WORDS,
BUT TO LIVE
BY THEM.**

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY



“Fighting Holiday Stress”

By Navy Capt. Sal Aguilera, Department Chief, Department of Pastoral Care, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

1. *Set realistic expectation for yourself and others.*
2. *Plan a budget for holiday spending.*
3. *Delegate holiday responsibilities.*
4. *Set limits for yourself.*
5. *Give the gift of yourself.*
6. *Reward yourself.*
7. *Create a new holiday tradition.*



VA Compensation Benefit Description

~ **Disability Compensation** - A tax-free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.

~ **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** - A tax-free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of Service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, or survivors of Veterans

who died from their service-connected disabilities.

~ **Special Monthly Compensation (SMC)** – An additional tax-free monetary benefit that can be paid to Veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses and parents. For Veterans, Special Monthly Compensation is a higher rate of compensation paid due to special circumstances such as the need of aid and attendance by another person or a specific disability, such as loss of use of one hand or leg. For spouses and surviving spouses, this benefit is commonly referred to as aid and attendance and is paid based on the need of aid and attendance by another person.

~ **Individual Unemployability** - Allows VA to pay certain Veterans at the 100% disability rate even though their service-connected disabilities are not rated as 100% disability.

*Tax Information for
Members of the U.S.
Armed Forces, retirees,
and veterans:*
<https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Military>

Eight New Year's Resolutions for Veterans

*by Faith, S. – havokjournal
(January 1, 2015)*



1. I will tell my story.
2. I will not act as if the world owes me something.
3. I will help my fellow veterans when, where, and as much as I can.
4. I will ask for help when I need it.
5. I will check in with my buddy's Gold Star family.

6. I will remain engaged with my fellow citizens and set an example of responsible citizenship.
7. I will always be proud of who I am, what I've done, and those who stood beside me.
8. I will help write the next chapter of our nation's history.



“Volunteer to Beat Loneliness” *by Stockdale, L. – Senior Agenda (January 5, 2014)*

Volunteering your time to help others is like a hot bowl of homemade chicken soup on a blustery winter day; it warms, replenishes, satisfies, comforts, and soothes.

- ~ Increase your personal connectedness.
- ~ Make new friends with and socialize.
- ~ Reap the benefits of altruism.
- ~ Share your own talents and expertise.
- ~ Tap in on a greater sense of gratitude.
- ~ Stay busy



My New Year's Wish for You May You Have...

*12 Months of Happiness
52 Weeks of Fun and Laughter
365 Days of Success
8,760 Hours of Good Health
525,600 Minutes of Good Luck
and
3,153,600 Seconds of Joy
Have a Safe & Happy New
Year!*

**Franklin County Veterans
Service Commission Staff**



*The Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center
In Coordination with VAVS Invites You to*

Veterans Family Holiday Party

The Adventure Center

(ON Franklin Park Conservatory Grounds)

1755 E. Broad St, Columbus Ohio 43219

Saturday, December 19, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(Doors Close at 1:30 p.m.)

OVERFLOW PARKING AT COLUMBUS EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Scheduled Events

Picture With Santa

(One Photo Per Family)

Toys

Holiday Craft Workshops for the Kids

Juggling – Goodies & Much More!

****YOU MUST SHOW VALID VETERAN OR MILITARY ID TO ATTEND****

QUESTIONS CALL 614-388-7787



FRANKLIN COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
280 EAST BROAD STREET RM. 100
COLUMBUS OH 43215-2787

