

**WEEKLY MEETING AGENDA  
FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

Meeting of April 30, 2025

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1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPENING CEREMONIES
  - a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  - b. PRAYER
3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
4. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
  - a. Minutes for the week of April 23, 2025
5. GUESTS: None
6. LEADERSHIP UPDATES is being moved before Financial Assistance for today's meeting:
  - a. The Columbus Dispatch Article dated April 20, 2025 regarding Central Ohio uses Universal Basic Income Concepts
7. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
8. MATERIAL GIVEN TO COMMISSIONERS:
  - a. FCVSC VSO Newsletter
9. OLD BUSINESS: None.
10. NEW BUSINESS:
  - a. Indigent Burial Considerations
  - b. Personnel Matter
11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
  - a. State Veteran Homes Update
12. ANNOUNCEMENTS (FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER)
13. ADJOURNMENT



# Franklin County Veterans Service Commission

## 2024 In Review

2024 the Agency continued the pace of 2023 in providing financial assistance and working on VA claims.

### Financial Assistance

Food and rent were the top two support requests we received. The Agency processed over 6,900 requests for assistance. 98% of the requests were approved for all or some of the requested assistance.

### VA Claim Assistance

Our National and State accredited service officers continue to submit VA claims on behalf of our clients. In 2023 we received 1,319 requests for help and in 2024 we received 1,842 requests of which, 1,274 were new to the Agency. Monthly we average about 150 new requests.

April 2025



VA Claims Assistance	Total Requests	New Clients	Returning Clients
2024	1,842	1,274	568
2023	1,319	783	536

## Can We Come Visit Your Post?

Later this year in the Summer – Fall – early Winter, our Agency would like to visit your post for a mini Townhall to discuss Veteran issues and benefits. We will discuss our financial assistance programs and experience filing VA claims. No projectors or PowerPoint slides, just a handout and a conversation.

We want to hear from you and your members about Veteran needs and how things are going for Veterans in Franklin County. While we annually see almost 5,000 unique Veterans, this experience focuses on our programs and services.

We want to hear from your organizations as we develop new programs and possibly share information with County and other government leadership.

We hope the townhalls will be very informal. Please consider contacting our Agency at [vsc.intake@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:vsc.intake@franklincountyohio.gov) to schedule a Franklin County Veterans Service Commission Mini Townhall!





# Franklin County Veterans Service Commission



## 2025 Women Veterans Seminar

In March the Commission hosted its first Women Veterans Seminar at Memorial Hall. The seminar was designed to build community, discuss issues and provide access to resources.

The seminar included a panel discussion about leadership and an overview of available resources and a presentation on how the VA claim process work.

Our registration capacity for this event was 80 Veterans. We were full two weeks prior. Planning for 2026 is underway and we are excited to see how this annual event will build.



## Honor Flight Columbus



On March 27, 2025, Matt Zelnik, Assistant Director for Service, volunteered to participate as a Guardian with Honor Flight Columbus escorting two veterans in Washington DC.

This was an amazing day to recognize and celebrate the service of a Marine and Soldier.

Honor Flight Columbus accepts applications to honor America's Senior Veterans. Senior Veterans are those who are age 65 and over and served on FULL TIME active duty (outside of any basic training/boot camp and initial training) or over 20 years in the Guard/Reserves. WWII, Korea, and terminally ill veterans have scheduling priority.

To nominate a veteran, volunteer or find more information, please visit [www.honorglightcmh.org](http://www.honorglightcmh.org).

## The Franklin County Veterans Service Commission

An independent county agency staffed and led by Veterans and their families. We assist Veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses by providing:

- Financial Assistance to eligible Franklin County residents
- Medical Transportation
- Access to VA and other earned benefits

Financial assistance is intended as a bridge to self-sufficiency and quality of life. Short-term assistance addresses a specific crisis or episode of need.

VA claims work accomplished by state and nationally accredited service officers. We help with Service-Connected Disability claims, pensions, and survivor benefits.

### Agency Leadership

#### Commissioners

Jeff Noble, VFW – President  
Sandy Vorhies, AMVETS  
Bobbie Mershon, VVA  
Al Skinner, DAV  
Mike Brendus, AL

#### Executive Director

Buck Bramlish, COL (Ret) US Army

**How to reach us:** Web site: <https://vets.franklincountyohio.gov/>

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