

**Knox County**



**Veterans Service Office**

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**Our Mission**

The mission of the Knox County Veterans Service Office is to provide eligible veterans and their families with those benefits to which they may be entitled under federal, state, and local law, in accordance with established policies and procedures.

The Knox County Veterans Service Office shall take those steps necessary to ensure a well trained and professional staff that is available to advise and assist veterans, their dependants, and the widows and orphans of those veterans who, by virtue of their service in the military of the United States of America. They may be entitled to benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or any other benefit available under federal, state, or local law.

The Knox County Veterans Service shall provide temporary financial assistance to those veterans or their dependants who have demonstrated a financial need due to illness, injury, lack of employment, or an unexpected hardship. Determination of financial need shall be made by the Veterans Service Commission in accordance with the guidelines it alone shall establish and oversee, in accordance with Title 59 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Knox County Veterans Service Commission shall promulgate programs as required by Title 59 of the Ohio revised Code for services not listed above, such as outreach and the transportation of veterans to and from VA medical facilities.



**2012**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Knox County Veterans Service Commission Meeting, 3 pm, Public Welcome	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8
9	10	11	12	13 Vet Center on location for counseling for Combat Vets, Call for appt.	14	15
16	17	18	19 Knox County Veterans Service Commission Meeting, 3 pm, Public Welcome	20 Avada on location for Hearing Exams, 9am -12pm, Call for appointment	21 Winter Begins	22
23 30	24 Office Closed 31	25 Office Closed Merry Christmas!! 	26	27 Vet Center on location for counseling for Combat Vets, Call for appt.	28	29

**KNOX COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**



**VETERANS MONTHLY**

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 12      DECEMBER 2012

**FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK - KEVIN L. HENTHORN**

Hello everyone, and welcome to December !!We hope you all had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving and Veterans Day.

The month of November once again found your Veterans Office extremely busy both out in the community and within the office.

The Veterans Day ceremony on the Mt Vernon Square was very well received as I was honored to be this years keynote speaker. The local VFW Post #4027 did a wonderful job hosting the event.

Thank You to all the schools and other organizations that participated in Veterans day celebrations.

I would like to share a annual E-Mail that I receive from a dear friend and colleague every year at Christmas time.....

In 1970 I spent Christmas on a mountain in the jungles of Vietnam. I have never felt so lonely in my life. I wished that I could be home, if only for that one day, to go through all of the things that I did every Christmas. I longed to be with my loved ones, to watch them open their presents and to be able to touch them and wish them a special day, even catch a kiss under the mistletoe. Instead, we constructed a Christmas tree out of ammo crates and C Ration cardboard. We decorated it with machine-gun ammo, smoke grenades and hand grenades, and someone cut a star out of cardboard for the top. At the last of the day's light, just before we took up our guard positions, we stood together and sang Silent Night. It's taken many years for me to be able to hear that song without getting choked up. As I said, I've never felt more lonely in my life. I have a special affinity for those who can't be home for the holidays.

I'm passing this along as I do every year. Please do one small thing to remember the many that are "Standing the Watch" and are "In harms way" to see that we can enjoy this season without worry. I do this every year and I encourage all of you to follow suit as well, and, pass this along to your fellow E-mail pals to request that they also do this small thing. Place an American flag, just a small one, on your Christmas tree. It's a reminder of those who are not home for the Holidays to be with their loved ones because they are tasked with a higher calling this season. They are protecting us. God Bless them and God Bless America.  
US Army Dick Carlisle.

Lets never forget the reason for the season, and that its not what's under the tree, rather, its who's around it. God Bless Kevin L. Henthorn

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- *Veterans Service Office Commissioners Meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 3:00 PM.*
- *Dec. 7th Pearl Harbor Day*
- *Dec. 13th and 27th, Vet Center Counseling on location for combat vets and spouses- Please call to schedule your appointment.*
- *Dec. 20th Avada, on location for Hearing Exams.*
- *Dec. 24th and Dec. 25th OFFICE IS CLOSED.*



**Financial Assistance is Available**

The Veterans Service Commissioners primary concern is to help the veteran and their dependents that are in need of immediate financial assistance. The financial assistance grants provided to the veterans and their families are not intended to be on a long term, on-going basis. They are designed to provide

a limited amount of immediate financial help to those who encounter situations, usually of emergent need that threatens their health, safety, or decent living conditions. These situations generally arise due to ill health or injury, loss of employment or other unforeseen circumstances. Each

financial assistance application is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. An applicant for assistance must utilize all available income and resources before being approved for financial assistance. The primary intent of our financial assistance grants is to meet those true emergent situations that occur

**Melissa Wheeler**

infrequently and unintentional. Applicants may submit requests for assistance with basic needs such as mortgage or rent, utilities and food. Any additional needs are evaluated on a case by case basis by the Veterans Commissioners. The office is open Monday thru Friday from 8 to 4.

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

MELISSA WHEELER

The Ohio Department of Development offers several programs to help low-income Ohioans pay their utility bills and improve the energy efficiency of their homes. HEAP, Home Energy Assistance Program, is a federally funded program designed to assist low-income Ohioans with their winter heating bills. Households may be eligible for assistance if the household income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Once your application has been processed, you will receive a notification letter telling you whether or not you are eligible for bill payment assistance. If you are eligible, the amount of your benefit will depend on federal funding levels, how many people live with you, total household income, and the primary fuel you use to heat your home. In most cases, benefits will be a credit applied to your energy bill by your utility company. This is a one-time benefit. Another program is HWAP, Home Weatherization Assistance Program, which is a federally funded low income residential energy efficiency program that reduces the energy use of qualified households throughout the state. HWAP services include attic, wall, and basement insulation; blower door guided air leakage reduction; heating system repairs or replacements; and health and safety inspections and testing. Services are based on the structure and energy of the home.



## VA Releases New PSA Targeting Women Veterans

*"The Right Place" Assures Female Vets of High-Quality VA Care*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a new public service announcement (PSA) to let women Veterans know they've come to "The Right Place" when seeking VA health care. "We want to send a very clear message to women Veterans that VA is here to meet your health care needs," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "It is important that women Veterans receive the high-quality health care and benefits they have earned through their service." The number of women using VA health care has doubled in the past decade and that number is expected to double again soon. The 30-second video PSA, produced by VA's Women's Health Services office, addresses key themes defined by Secretary Shinseki. Key messages in the PSA include: assuring women Veterans that VA is ready to serve them; encouraging viewers to rethink assumptions that all Veterans are male; and reminding Americans that women Veterans are coming home, separating from service, or returning to Guard or Reserve status. The PSA was developed for nationwide release along with a new employee awareness video created as part of VA's ongoing efforts to change its culture to be more understanding and accommodating of women Veterans. It also promotes the recognition of women Veterans around Veterans Day, honoring their service to our country. "Not all women who served their country identify as Veterans and many women Veterans are unaware that VA offers high quality women's health care," said Dr. Robert Petzel, Undersecretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration. "One of the most important aspects of our efforts to serve women Veterans is to make sure each one of them knows we're here." Women serve in every branch of the military, representing 15 percent of today's active duty military and nearly 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve forces. By 2020, VA estimates women Veterans will constitute 10 percent of the Veteran population.

VA is disseminating its culture-of-change message to employees and Veterans through a multi-faceted campaign, which includes a toolkit for outreach to women Veterans. To access additional campaign materials, visit [www.womenshealth.va.gov/culture\\_change.asp](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/culture_change.asp). To access the toolkit, visit



[www.womenshealth.va.gov/toolkits.asp](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/toolkits.asp). The PSA is available for viewing on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5FGIZ2uYiU> and [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov). Broadcast organizations interested in obtaining a broadcast-quality version of the PSA can download it by accessing the following link: [https://downloads.va.gov/files/VA\\_OPIA/VDPDVAPSA/](https://downloads.va.gov/files/VA_OPIA/VDPDVAPSA/), then right clicking on "VDPDVAPSA5H.mov" and selecting "save target as." Visit [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet) and [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov) to learn more about VA programs and services for women Veterans.



Are you or do you know of a WWII Veteran that would be interested in the Honor Flight Program? The Veteran is accompanied by a "guardian" that will escort them to memorials in Washington DC dedicated to their important service. All free of charge to the Veteran. If you are interested in this "trip of a lifetime" as a Veteran or guardian please contact our office or call 614-284-4987.

With the end of the year closing in fast, don't forget to come into our office and get your MEANS Test completed and submitted. The following is some information that will be needed to complete the MEANS Test when you visit us:

- Insurance Information
- Military Service Information (DD 214)
- Dependent Information (SS numbers)

**Previous Calendar Year: (For Veteran, Spouse and Dependant Children)**

- Gross Annual Income
- Deductible Medical Expenses
- Net Worth

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

## OHIO EASTERN STAR

### DISTRICT 12

## STAR SHINE SALUTE TO THE TROOPS

At The Gallagher Centre, OES Home, Mt, Vernon

Friday, December 7th @ 7:00 P.M.

Saturday, December 8th @ 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 9th @ 3:00 P.M.

Proceeds to Benefit out District 12 Charities

**\$8.00 per person, children under 12 free when accompanied by and adult.**

**ALL ACTIVE MILITARY ADMITTED FREE**

For ticket sales information, contact:

Pg Lavengood 419-908-3625

Email: [pgmL71@yahoo.com](mailto:pgmL71@yahoo.com)

Elaine Beardsley 740-485-1638

Email: [elainebeardsley@centurlink.com](mailto:elainebeardsley@centurlink.com)

**TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR!**

## Country Club Retirement Center & Sanctuary Home Health

1350 Yauger Rd. Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

740-397-2350

**Skilled Nursing Rooms, both Private and Semi-Private are available NOW!!**

**Proud to be the only facility approved for Medicaid assisted living waiver in Knox County!!**

### OFFERING:

Independent & Assisted Living Apartments

Rehabilitation

Skilled Nursing

Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy

Restorative Therapy

Long-term care

Respite Stays

Hospice Care

Wound Care

Bariatric Care

And more....