

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 dependents, 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 dependents 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.



2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Commissioners Meeting - 3 PM - Public Welcome Am. Legion Mtg. 5pm	2	3	4
5	6	7 Radio Program 1300 WMVO 10 AM	8	9 Vet Center on Location 9am—4pm. Call for an appointment	10	11
12	13	14	15 Commissioners Meeting - 3 PM - Public Welcome	16 Joint Veteran Council Mtg. 7:30 pm	17	18
19	20 OFFICE CLOSED - Presidents' Day	21	22	23 Vet Center on Location 9am—4pm. Call for an appointment	24	25
26	27	28				


KNOX COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK - KEVIN L. HENTHORN

Hello Knox County !

I can't believe its February already. With this month being the host of Presidents Day, and Valentines day it's a great time to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for and those whom we love.

Your Veterans Office is hard at work this month in pursuing new and creative ways to educate our community on all that could be available to them in 2017. If you have a group, organization or company that you would like our office to visit or do a short presentation or simply answer questions about VA Benefits, please contact me as we would love the opportunity to come and address you.

I would like to thank all of our veteran population and other county residents for your overwhelming support of our office. It seems as though everywhere I go I am always confronted by someone stating how proud they are of what we're doing and if we ever need anything to let them know, and "Knox County veterans are lucky to have us in their corner". These comments are heart warming and very much appreciated.

But we as an office cannot do it alone, it takes a dedicated team effort by all our Veteran Service Commissioners, my wonderful staff and van drivers to make it all work. And even that isn't enough. There are countless volunteers by our local organizations like AMVETS , VFW, American Legion, and the Joint Veterans Counsel that help make the difference. We just simply want to be apart of this calling to serve veterans and their families.

As our part in this service, we will never be satisfied with the "status quo" when serving our Veterans. We will always strive to find new ways to serve and fulfill needs as never before and always be reevaluating what we're doing to improve and evolve for a better tomorrow.

Thank You for all YOU do and all you have done. It truly is a privilege to serve Knox County veterans and their families.



Executive Director, Kevin L. Henthorn

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb. 7th, Radio Program on WMVO at 10:00 AM.
- Veterans Service Office Commissioners first & third Wed. at 3 p.m. Public Welcome
- Vet Center Counseling on location Feb. 9th & Feb. 23rd call for an appointment.
- Feb. 20th—OFFICE CLOSED—Presidents' Day!



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

MELISSA LATHAM

The Veterans Service Commission and office staff are proud to help our area veterans with their financial hardships and to help get them back on their feet. Each application for financial assistance is evaluated on a case by case basis. 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 are not intended to be on a long term, on going basis. They are designed to provide assistance to those who encounter situations usually of emergent need that threatens their health or safety. An applicant for assistance must utilize all available income and resources. All applicants must provide proof on household income and proof of all bills paid and due for the past 30 days. There are no minimum or maximum levels established for financial assistance. All applicants who are physically capable of work must be actively seeking employment. The financial assistance is for temporary situations and not for month-to-month relief. If you are in need of financial assistance please call our office and set up an appointment. We are open Monday-Friday from 8-4

**Director Tansill Thanks Walmart for Hiring 4,575 Ohio Veterans
Highlights Ohio's New Veteran Fast Track to Jobs and Education**

COLUMBUS – Speaking to about 75 employees and veterans at the Walmart Distribution Center in Grove City yesterday, Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Chip Tansill showed his gratitude toward the multinational retail chain.

“Never have I been to an event where their leadership knew so much about the veteran community and the things going on inside it,” Director Tansill said at a lectern inside the massive facility. “Clearly, Walmart is a wonderful place to work, and this gathering here shows it’s also a great place for veterans.”

Prior to offering remarks, Col. Tansill visited with various members of Walmart management and listened to the stories of former service members Chris Curley, an Auto Care Center manager for Walmart in Columbus, and Matt Carter, who is a store manager in Powell.

Walmart’s Welcome Home Commitment, which started Memorial Day 2013, guarantees a job offer to any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the United States military. Since the initiative was announced, 153,000 U.S. veterans have been hired nationwide including 4,575 in Ohio.

“Walmart has welcomed veterans into every aspect of its 180 facilities in Ohio, from Supercenters to distribution centers and Sam’s Club locations,” said Market Manager Jeff Stone. “Our flexibility and scheduling opportunities make it possible for transitioning service members to make their own path, whether that is pursuing educational goals or finding a meaningful new career path.”

Tansill presented Stone, Distribution Center General Manager Mike Vahle, Market Manager Billy Link and General Transportation Manager Jonathan P. Gaupp with an OhioMeansJobs Veterans Challenge Coin for their dedication to hiring and retaining Ohio veterans.

The Director then shook hands and thanked each the veterans in attendance. He presented the Vietnam veterans with a special 50-year commemorative pin.

Learn more about Ohio’s fast track to jobs and education for veterans and military spouses at OhioMeansVeteransJobs.com.

Background: Ohio is proud to be called home to approximately 900,000 veterans and military service members. Veterans represent the valuable, talented and skilled employees that Ohio businesses need to succeed and grow. Recognizing this, the state continues to cut bureaucratic red tape to prioritize workforce services for veterans, military service members and their families. The Office of Workforce Transformation, together with state agency partners, developed four key strategies to assist military service members, veterans and their families to compete for Ohio’s in-demand jobs:

- Award Credit for Military Experience: State colleges, universities and licensing boards now award course credit for military education and experience.
- Link Veterans to Employers: The Veterans Business Support Center – accessible at OhioMeansJobs.com – connects employers to qualified veterans for free.
- Support Ohio’s Veterans: Veterans receive priority of service across the state’s workforce system and veteran resumes are prioritized on OhioMeansJobs.com, allowing employers to review these first when looking for perspective employees.
- Attract Veterans to Ohio: OhioMeansVeteranJobs.com provides a single point of entry for veterans seeking information about employment, education and financial benefits available in Ohio.

To learn more about benefits, bonuses, jobs and resources for Ohio veterans and military families visit www.ohiovets.gov or call 1-877-OhioVet.



**VA’s Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated
with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune
VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- Parkinson’s disease

“We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned.”

Environmental health experts in VA’s Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and Human Service’s Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program, and the National Academies of Science.

Veterans with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

The rule will be effective either 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, or following conclusion of the 60-day Congressional Review, whichever is later.

