

Knox County



Veterans Service Office

411 Pittsburgh Ave.
Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050
Phone: 740-393-6742
Fax: 740-393-6741
E-mail: vso@kcvso.com
www.kcvso.com
also...FACEBOOK.COM
Office Hours 8 am to 4 pm

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.

March

2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Commissioners Meeting - 3 PM - Public Welcome	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 Daylight Savings Time Begins 	13	14	15 Commissioners Meeting - 3 PM - Public Welcome	16 Joint Veteran Council Mtg. 7:30 pm	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18
19	20 Spring Begins 	21	22	23 Vet Center on Location 9am—4pm. Call for an appointment	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



KNOX COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

MARCH 2017

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK - KEVIN L. HENTHORN

Hello Knox County!

It's March and WOW what a mild winter we have had so far. Soon we will be experiencing the signs of spring and we will be enjoying the green grass and flowers that spring brings. Before long it will be Memorial Day and your Veterans Office will be hard at work out amongst you in the county at the many festivals and outreach opportunities. Stay tuned to the below recourses for details in the upcoming months.

Let's work together! Help us spread the word about all the ways Veterans can get involved with the office. Let folks know about;

- * Newsletter
- * Website
- * Facebook page
- * Radio Program
- * Community Events

It takes all of us working together.

IMPORTANT !!

Please continue to take advantage and spread the word to veterans in need of counseling services. Dr. Scott Johnson from the Columbus Vet Center is providing care to Knox County veterans here in the office. It is a fantastic opportunity to simply talk to someone that understands and can help. It is local, confidential, helpful and FREE. Call the office for an appointment to see Scott.

Remember...
It takes all of us working together...



Executive Director, Kevin L. Henthorn



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 8a-4p

Disability Compensation

Disability Compensation

Disability compensation is a monthly tax-free benefit paid to Veterans who are at least 10% disabled because of injuries or diseases that were incurred in or aggravated during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as a mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Benefit

The benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the Veteran's disability on a scale from 10 percent to 100 percent (in increments of 10 percent). Compensation may also be paid for disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

If you have dependents, an additional allowance may be added if your combined disability is rated 30% or greater. Your compensation may be offset if you receive military retirement pay, disability severance pay, or separation incentive payments.

Eligibility

Service in the Uniformed Services on active duty, **OR**

Active duty for training, **OR**

Inactive duty training, **AND**

You were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**

You are at least 10% disabled by an injury or disease that was incurred in or aggravated during active duty or active duty for training, or inactive duty training

Note: If you were on inactive duty for training, the disability must have resulted from injury, heart attack, or stroke.

Evidence Required

Medical evidence of a current physical or mental disability, **AND**

Evidence of a relationship between your disability and an injury, disease, or event in military service. Medical records or medical opinions are required to establish this relationship.

Note: Under certain circumstances, VA may conclude that certain current disabilities were caused by service, even if there is no specific evidence proving this in your particular claim. The cause of a disability is presumed for the following Veterans who have certain diseases.

Presumed Disability

Former prisoners of war

Veterans who have certain chronic or tropical diseases that become evident within a specific period of time after discharge from service

Veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation, mustard gas, or Lewisite while in service

Veterans who were exposed to certain herbicides, such as by serving in Vietnam

Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War

Example 1

During a weekend drill, an Army Reservist injures her knee while participating in a physical training class. She is eligible for compensation for residuals of the knee injury.

Example 2

An individual enlisted in the U.S. Navy on June 10, 1988, and served for a period of 3 years. He was honorably discharged on June 9, 1991. During his active duty, he fell from a bunk and injured his back. Based on his active service, he is entitled to service-connected benefits for the residuals of his back injury.



INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY

Individual Unemployability is a part of VA's disability compensation program that allows VA to pay certain Veterans disability compensation at the 100% rate, even though VA has not rated their service-connected disabilities at the total level.

Eligibility Requirements:

- You must be a Veteran
- You must have at least one service connected disability rated at least at 60%, **OR**
- Two or more service connected disabilities at least one disability ratable at 40 percent or more with a combined rating of 70 percent or more.

You must be unable to maintain substantially gainful employment as a result of service-connected disabilities (marginal employment, such as odd jobs, is not considered substantial gainful employment for VA purposes).

Evidence Requirements:

- Evidence of at least one service connected disability **AND**
- That the service-connected disability or disabilities are sufficient, without regard to other factors, to prevent performing the mental and/or physical tasks required to get or keep substantially gainful employment **AND**
- That one disability is ratable at 60 percent or more, **OR**

If more than one disability exists, one disability is ratable at 40 percent or more with a combined rating of 70 percent or more.

Under exceptional circumstances this benefit may be granted with a lower disability rating than noted above provided the evidence shows the service-connected disability or disabilities present such an exceptional or unusual disability picture, due to such factors as marked interference with employment or frequent periods of hospitalization, that applying the normal disability requirements is impractical.

Example 1

A Veteran has a service-connected heart condition evaluated as 60% disabling. She has been able to work without difficulty until last year, when she began to experience chest pain with any exertion.

Her physician recommended that she retire as soon as possible. She subsequently filed a claim for increased disability compensation. Evidence regarding the Veteran's work history and education were reviewed by the Rating Team. As it confirmed the Veteran was "individually unemployable" due to her service-connected disability, entitlement to compensation at the rate payable to a 100% disabled Veteran was granted.

Example 2

A Veteran served as a medic in Vietnam and stepped on a land mine severing his right leg below the knee. He wears a prosthesis that allows him good mobility.

He had a great deal of difficulty readjusting to civilian life and was recently diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Service connection was established for both disabilities. The ratings for these disabilities are 40% and 50%, respectively. The combined disability rating is 70%.

He applied for individual unemployability because he has not been able to maintain gainful employment for many years. His only income during the last two years has come from a neighbor who pays the Veteran to watch his dogs while he's out of town. The evidence established that his service-connected disabilities render him unemployable.

Based on this finding, the Rating Team granted entitlement to compensation at the rate payable to a Veteran rated 100% disable.

