

REGISTRY FOR VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry allows eligible Veterans and service members to document their exposures and report health concerns through an online questionnaire.

Eligible Veterans and service members include those who served in:

- Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn
- Djibouti, Africa on or after September 11, 2001
- Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm
- Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990

Total Participants

In total, 134,620 Veterans and service members completed and submitted the registry questionnaire between April 25, 2014 and March 5, 2018.

Check your eligibility and sign up at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>

It takes about 40 minutes to complete the questionnaire. You can do it in one sitting or save it and come back later.

You can print and use your completed questionnaire to discuss concerns with your provider. VA providers can also access an online copy of your questionnaire.

Important points about the Burn Pit Registry:

- **No cost** to participate
- **Not a disability compensation questionnaire** or required for other VA benefits
- Enrollment in VA's health care system **not necessary**
- Based on **Veterans'/service members' recollection** of service, not on their military records

Veterans'/service members' family members are **not eligible** to participate



Military Trivia



1. Which naval battle marked the only time during World War 1 that British and German battleships actually came to blows?
 - A) Battle of Dogger Banks
 - B) Battle of Gallipoli
 - C) Battle of Imbros
 - D) Battle of Jutland
2. What was the longest single battle of World War 1 resulting in nearly a million casualties?
 - A) Battle of Ardennes
 - B) Battle of Liege
 - C) Battle of Verdun
 - D) Battle of Somme
3. Which battle in World War 1 kicked off the Hundred Days Offensive in 1918, a four month period which saw the Allies counter-attack after withstanding German spring offensives?
 - A) Battle of Amiens
 - B) Battle of Epehy
 - C) Battle of Montfaucon
 - D) Battle of Saint Thierry

Last Month's Trivia Answers:

1. Spanish-American War
2. Walt Whitman
3. Peter Arnett

The Knox County Veterans Service Office would like your input!!

The office is considering conducting a few Computer classes. We would like to know if you (the Veteran), your spouse or children would like to participate in either of the following classes:

- Basic Computer Skills and Email
- Basic Word
- Basic Excel

These classes would be approximately 4-6 hours each, conducted at our office.

Please call and let us know if you would be interested. 740-393-6742

This Month in Military History

The month of April, like every month of the year has its notable events that occurred in our military history. On April 18, 1942, the first U.S. raid on Japan occurred. Lt. Col. James “Jimmy” Doolittle led the famous “Doolittle Raid” on Tokyo and the Japanese Islands, with orders not to bomb the Imperial Palace. Sixteen B-25 Mitchell bombers took off from the carrier Hornet about 800 miles from Japan. Many of the raiders died, some spent the war in Japanese prison camps. Doolittle was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Also in April of 1942, U.S. and Philippine forces on Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. Despite orders from MacArthur to mount a desperation counterattack, General King decided to surrender and save his men. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, King’s predecessor on the Luzon Force, commented that he was happy to see that “He (King) realized that he had either to surrender or see his people killed piecemeal”.

The surrender of Bataan was followed by the infamous Death March during which 75,000 Filipino and 2,500 Americans perished. The 65 mile, ten day trek, in sweltering heat, from Marireles to San Fernando saw many atrocities, including beatings, tortures and executions, committed against the prisoners. During the seemingly endless march, the prisoners were given neither food nor water by the Japanese. When asked why it is difficult to forgive and forget, consider this atrocity.

There was another death march in World War 2, a journey that stretched hundreds of miles and lasted nearly three months. Stalag Luft IV in eastern Prussia, now Poland held 10,000 POW’s. When the front approached, the mostly enlisted and non-commissioned officers were forced to march during one of Europe’s worst winters. The POW’s were broken up in groups of 250 to 300 men and traveled different routes. Food and water were lacking but the prisoners were herded west, then south towards Germany. The trip was fraught with sickness, death and atrocities. Although experienced by thousands of Americans, it has been forgotten by history.

We skip to April 1, 1945 and the invasion of Okinawa. The Tenth Army, under Major General Simon Bolivar Buckner, began the invasion of Okinawa, which became the biggest battle of the Pacific, involving 548,000 Americans. It was also the last island hopping operation of the war. The initial April Fools Day landing on the Hagushi beaches met with little opposition and became known as “Love Day” to the troops who easily established a beachhead eight miles wide and ten miles deep.

The big news on April 18th, 1945 was that the man who traveled to the frontlines to chronicle the hopes and dreams and fears of GI’s and shared their stories with the folks back home was no more. Off the coast of Okinawa, on a tiny island of Ie Shima, Ernie Pyle died.

In Europe on April 25, 1945 American and Russian troops met at Torgua on the Elbe River. This initial contact between the two armies set the groundwork for the separate occupations of Germany after the war.

Also in April of 1945, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died, and Harry Truman is sworn in as President of the United States. On the 28th of that same month, Mussolini was executed by Partisans, and Hitler committed suicide on the 30th of the month. And 33,000 inmates of Dachau were freed by American troops on the final day of April, 1945.

In 1951, the first United Nations cemetery was dedicated at Pusan, Korea. The ceremony took place as flags of 15 participating nations were raised over the cemetery.

On the 11th of April, 1951, President Truman removed General MacArthur from all his Far East Commands, replacing him with Gen. Matthew Ridgeway, Commander of the Eighth Army. This was done because MacArthur failed to clear all policy announcements with the Defense Department. MacArthur wanted to drive the Chinese back to Manchuria and he threatened Communist China with Naval and Air attacks.

On the 22nd of April, 1951, Chinese and North Korean troops, 700,000 strong, launched an attack on the United Nations Command force under the command of John Van Fleet. The attack lasted eight days.

Also in April 1951, Operation “Little Switch” began as the North Korean forces accepted Gen. Mark Clark’s proposal to exchange sick and wounded prisoners. The United Nations returned 6,670 enemy prisoners in exchange for 684 ailing United Nations troops, 149 who were American.

The Bay of Pigs invasion occurred on April 17, 1961. Brigade 2506, a covert counter-revolutionary force recruited by the CIA began an abortive U.S. planned night amphibious landing to liberate Cuba from Communist control. President Kennedy took the heat for not committing U.S. airpower to protect the beleaguered invasion force, but the fault for the failure lies squarely on the CIA for poor planning, poor intelligence information and poor communications with partisans in Cuba.

On April 11, 1970, NASA launched Apollo XIII from Cape Kennedy headed by Commander James Lovell Jr., USN, who to date held the record for time spent in space. Fred Haise Jr. and John L Swigert were also on board. An explosion in the service module destroyed most of the command module “Odyssey’s” oxygen and power supplies while still 205,000 miles from earth. The astronauts abandoned the moon landing and returned to earth in the “Aquarius” lunar landing module, in a truly miraculous recovery with the help of Houston Space Center. The astronauts re-entered the Odyssey prior to splashdown and dived into the Pacific only four miles from the recovery ship, Iwo Jima.

In April 1967 near Khe Sanh, the 12-day Battle of the Hills began. During the 12-day battle, two battalions of the 3rd Marine Regt, lost 160 KIA and 746 WIA. U.S. troop strength peaked in Vietnam on April 30, 1969, when 543,482 troops in country.

In the Southeast Asian War during April 1970, President Nixon announced the drive into Cambodia. More than 50,000 troops, half American, penetrated Cambodia to wipe out Vietcong and North Vietnamese bases, thus stepping up Vietnamization and U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam.

In April of 1973, the last POW was returned. Army Capt. Robert White, held by the Vietcong in the Mekong Delta and not known by U.S. authorities to be alive was returned.

On April 4, 1975, a C-5A Galaxy lifted off Tan Son Nhut runway with more than 250 Vietnamese orphans in the first flight of “Operation Babylift”. Twelve minutes after takeoff the plane crashed into a rice paddy. Ninety-eight children, 46 escorts and 11 crewmembers died in the crash. The more than 150 children and 26 adults who survived credit the flying skills of pilot Bud Traynor.

And finally on April 5, 1973, South Vietnam swore never to ask for the return of U.S. troops. Responding to a question after a speech at the National Press Club, President Nguyen Van Thieu said: “I am very confident our army and people are very capable of defending themselves. I can assure you of one thing. Never will I ask the American troops to come back to Vietnam.”

Nominations Sought for Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is accepting nominations to recognize those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and continue to contribute to our communities, state and nation through exceptional acts of volunteerism, advocacy, professional distinction, public service or philanthropy. The program sets the standard for recognizing Ohio’s veterans for accomplishments beyond their military service. In addition, it is a fitting way to say “thank you for your service to our nation and thank you for your continued service to our communities.” The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame includes captains of industry, professional educators, political champions and civic supporters. Our honorees include some of Ohio’s most recognized citizens including astronaut Neil Armstrong, actor Paul Newman, business entrepreneur and philanthropist R. David Thomas, and surgeon and inventor Dr. Henry Heimlich. Chances are you know a veteran who deserves to be inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. You are encouraged to nominate that deserving veteran today. To be considered, the veteran must meet the following criteria:

- must be a past or current Ohio resident
- have received an honorable discharge
- be of good moral character

Nomination deadline is June 1, 2018. Guidelines, a sample nomination and more information are available on the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame website.

