



The Knox County Joint Veterans Council Honor Guard is looking for **volunteers!!!**

The Knox County Joint Veterans Council is located at the Knox County Veterans Service Office located at 105 E Chestnut St. Mount Vernon, Ohio. The post conducts regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The meeting time is 7:00 P.M. **Contact Eddie Stage @**

740-504-1597 if you are interested in volunteering.



They stand guard silently, vigilantly through whatever Mother Nature dares throw at them. They do so with great pride to honor one of their own. For them, honoring a fallen brother-in-arms is compensation enough.

For the families of the deceased veteran, they are the ever-watchful sentinels, and their selfless act is a much-appreciated tribute.

Air Force Falcons unveil glorious AFSOC-themed football unis

The Air Force Falcons football team has unveiled new special edition threads for a game during its upcoming season — and they're primed to make uniform nerds weak in the knees.

The Nike Air Power Legacy Series uniform, featuring a red and black color palette, will be worn for the U.S. Air Force Academy's Oct. 5 game against rival Navy, according to an Aug. 13 release. The game will be played in Falcon Stadium and broadcast on CBS.

The uniform's red accents invoke the scarlet berets of Special Tactics Combat Controllers. The top of the helmet showcases the AFSOC's winged dagger insignia, which represents the "swift and silent mobilization of forces," according to the release. The front bumper of the helmet references the Special Tactics Combat Control motto, "First there," while the back of the helmet honors part of the AFSOC motto, "Any place, Any time, Anywhere." A sticker on the back of the helmet honors the AFSOC logo with a lightning bolt, green feet, and a dagger.

The left shoulder is adorned with one of three Air Force Special Tactics badges, and a dagger on the left leg of the uniform symbolizes the Special Operations Command. The players' names will be emblazoned across the right chest of the uniform, providing an adequate reference point for opponents to put some respect on one's name.

(The assembly's jockstrap is not visible in photos, but we assume it is also most definitely rad.)

Special Tactics Officers are tasked with leading special reconnaissance, strike, and recovery missions, according to the Air Force. Airmen who become combat controllers are highly specialized, FAA-certified air traffic controllers who are trained in scuba, parachuting, and snowmobiling. The Air Force Special Operations Command is based at Hurlburt Field, Florida.



Knox County Veterans Services presents 15th Annual

"Ride To Remember"



Gather at The Veterans Services Office, at 105 East Chestnut St (rear parking lot) for a time of fellowship and special address.

Gather - Saturday Sept 14th 2024 10:00-10:45am

Free T-Shirts and breakfast refreshments.

**Kickstands up at 11:00am, ride to The Ohio Fallen Hero's Memorial in Sunbury.
Possible secondary ride to Mohican Memorial Shrine.
(appx 50min ride from Sunbury)**



This ride is **open to ALL riders** (not just veterans) who enjoy the freedoms this country has to offer and will use this time as a "Ride to Remember"

Beware: Claims predators want to prey on your benefits

Have you noticed advertisements from companies offering to help with the VA claims and appeals process? Do their services seem too good to be true, leaving you wondering whether to trust them? If so, you are not alone.

More Veterans are getting VA health care and benefits than ever before, which also presents opportunities for scammers to commit fraud against Veterans and their families. These increased benefits have led to a rise in shady companies and individuals that are not accredited by VA, offering claims assistance services and charging hefty fees when they do. This expansion of benefits has also attracted individuals and companies who are misleading Veterans to think it is okay to exaggerate disability symptoms in order to get higher disability ratings.

VA refers to these companies and individuals as “claims predators”; these claims predators are not accredited by VA. They are known to aggressively prey on Veterans’ benefits through various channels such as mail, telephone or online platforms. They try to take advantage of Veterans and their beneficiaries by using high-pressure tactics, sharing misleading information and making false promises to convince Veterans to sign up for their services. Unfortunately, these services usually come at a high cost to Veterans, with little to no actual benefit.

To avoid falling victim to claims predators, Veterans and their loved ones must be cautious when seeking assistance with their VA claims and appeals. It’s crucial to always verify the legitimacy of the individual or company before providing any information. VA strongly advises against working with unaccredited companies and individuals. Instead, VA recommends seeking help from [VA accredited](#) claims agents, attorneys and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs). These individuals and organizations are recognized by VA, having established the good character and competence necessary to navigate the VA benefits system, ensuring Veterans and their beneficiaries receive the benefits they have rightfully earned.

It’s important that Veterans and their families know they should never pay a fee to file an initial claim for benefits. In fact, it’s unlawful for anyone to charge a fee for preparing an initial claim. Only [VA accredited attorneys, claims agents and VSO representatives](#) can lawfully assist Veterans with their initial benefits claims. Only accredited attorneys and claims agents may charge a fee to:

- Consult or advise VA claimants seeking review of or to appeal their claims.
- Collect evidence for a supplemental claim or an appeal.
- Prepare and file a supplemental claim.
- Submit requests for higher level review.

[Submit an appeal](#) to the Board of Veterans Appeals.

VA remains committed to educating Veterans about these fraudulent schemes by claims predators while providing the necessary [resources and tools](#) to help Veterans pursue their VA benefits claims safely. To learn more about fraud scams and how to safeguard your benefits, [visit the Protecting Veterans from fraud website](#).

If you suspect a representative acted unlawfully or unethically while assisting you in filing a VA benefits claim, file a report and learn more at [VSAFE.gov](#) or call 1-833-38V-SAFE (1-833-388-7233), a new government-wide website and call center designed to protect Veterans, service members, and their families from fraud and scams. These tools will inform Veterans and their families about common fraud schemes and help protect themselves, and provide an outlet for reporting and further assistance.

Remember, you earned your benefits, don’t let claims predators prey on you. Work with a VA recognized representative to receive the support you deserve.

Pictures of the Month



An Air National Guard A-10 Thunderbolt II flies over a location within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, July 22, 2024.



U.S., South Korean, German, Peruvian and Japanese sailors participate in helicopter cast training during Exercise Rim of the Pacific at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, July 16, 2024