

Ashtabula County Veteran's Services Commission

Quarterly Newsletter | ISSUE 2 | JUNE 2022 | www.ashtabulaveterans.com | 

The VSC from April – June 2022

2022 has been very busy here at the Commission. Since January, our office has submitted 388 new claims with 56 previously submitted claims being awarded. The awarded claims account for \$658,621.57 in retroactive compensations being paid out to veterans in Ashtabula County! The Veterans Service Officers in this office are second to none! They work hard to help you so that you can acquire help from the Department of Veteran's Affairs Health Care system, among other VA benefits!

We continue to hold our monthly raffles in an effort to entice our veteran community to stop by and see us to complete a benefits well-check.

The Commission is still actively looking for new Volunteer Drivers for our Transportation Program. There is no requirement to be a veteran to perform



The Rite of Passage Ceremony took place in Conneaut on May 11, 2022.

this duty. For information and an application, please contact our office.

The Rite of Passage Ceremony took place in Conneaut on May 11 and it was a FANTASTIC SUCCESS! The young recruits were honored for their commitment to serve with their first salute coming from the veterans in attendance. The VSC looks forward to next year as we expect the high schools of the county to all be very excited to host in 2023!

The VSC took part in the Armed Forces Day "Echo

Taps" Ceremony at Greenlawn Memory Gardens. CVSO, Mr. Guy Korvig represented the commission as the guest speaker for the event. Senior Service Officer, Mr. Tom Lucas Jr. drove one of the commission vehicles in the Saybrook Parade in honor of Memorial Day, and Director, Mr. Ben Schwartzfigure was the guest speaker at the Andover Public Square in honor of Memorial Day. Your Veterans Service Commission is involved in the community that it supports!

MONTHLY RAFFLES

March Winner – James Robideau of Ashtabula. James served in the Army National Guard from 1981-2012. Retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, James served two tours of duty in Afghanistan and was part of the mobilization in support of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. James is now keeping busy flying, writing, and spending time with his family. James took home a \$100 Gift Card provided by the DAV, Bob Swanson, Chapter #39, a \$25 Gas Card from the VSC, and a \$350 value vehicle detailing provided by Flawless Cleaning & Detailing out of Geneva, OH.

April Winner – Merlyn Bailey of Jefferson. Merlyn served in the Air Force from 1965 through 1969. He served with the Security Police enforcing, guarding, and protecting our assets and personnel while upholding our military laws. He was honorably released from duty and joined our community of veterans both here and abroad. Merlyn took home two, \$50 Gift Cards for Giant Eagle, provided by Rolling Thunder Inc. Ohio Chapter 2, One \$25 Gas Card from the VSC, an annual subscription to the Gazette Newspaper, and a \$350 value vehicle detailing provided by Flawless Cleaning & Detailing out of Geneva, OH.

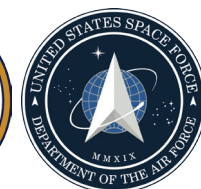
May Winner – Raymond Burns of Jefferson. Ray served in the Navy from 1966-1985, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. Ray was both, Surface Warfare and Submarine qualified. After retiring from the Navy, Ray worked for the Cleveland Regional VA Office as their Information Security Officer until retiring again in 2012. Today, he stays active with the Army-Navy Union, VFW, and American Legion and enjoys spending time with family as often as he can. Ray took home a tattered wooden flag in recognition of Memorial Day provided by Greg's Custom Wood Creations and a \$350 value vehicle detailing provided by Flawless Cleaning & Detailing out of Geneva, OH.

June Winner – The winner will be drawn on July 6 and the winner will take home a Metal Tattered Flag with the Pledge of Allegiance inscribed on it, provided by a local veteran small business owner and one of our service officers, Mr. Tom Lucas Jr. His business is TNT Archery & Outdoors! Also, the winner will take home a \$350 value vehicle detailing provided by Flawless Cleaning & Detailing out of Geneva, OH.

VETERAN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Ashtabula County Veteran's Court has a Veteran Mentorship Program as part of the treatment team. The VSC is the administrator of this program and will provide applications to any interested, Honorably discharged veterans in Ashtabula County. This is a great program that is meant to help veterans in lieu of jail time.

The VSC will post a banner in front of our Commission throughout June in recognition of the Army Birthday. All verified Army veterans that come into our office during the Month of June will receive an American Flag/Army Flag lapel pin as a thank you for your service! In honor of Women Veterans Day, all women veterans will receive a Veteran Lapel Pin.



VETERANS' TASK FORCE

On April 20, we held the second meeting of the Veterans' Task Force. There was a great showing of support from the many different veteran organizations in our county. We even had support from some organizations out of county! If you would like to

attend one of these meetings on behalf of your organization or company, please feel free to reach out to our commission for details. The third Task Force meeting is scheduled for June 24 at 4:30 p.m. in the Ashtabula County District Library!



PLANNED EVENTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER

July 2022 – The VSC has five available service officers to support your veteran centric event during any time of the year. We are available to speak or simply provide ourselves as resources to your events. Submit a request to the Director and we will do our best to support!

On Aug. 11, all veterans will get into the fair at no cost. The VSC will be performing the Veteran's Promise for all veterans in the stands. The promise was designed to remind our family, friends and neighbors that when we hung up our uniforms, we did not hang up our duty to defend all that we hold dear.

September is the Air Force Birthday. All Air Force veterans that come into the Commission during the month of September will receive an American Flag/Air Force Flag lapel pin.



The VSC will be present and available from Aug. 18 to Aug. 20 during the D-Day Conneaut Event. We will provide transportation to veterans via our Commission bus and discuss benefits with any inquiring veterans.



Last year's Veteran's Promise Ceremony at the Ashtabula County Fair.

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

Days to observe in the coming months

July 4 – Independence Day
July 27 – National Korean War
Veterans Armistice Day
July 28 – National Buffalo Soldiers Day
Aug. 1 – Air Force Day
Aug. 4 – Coast Guard
Aug. 7 – Purple Heart Day

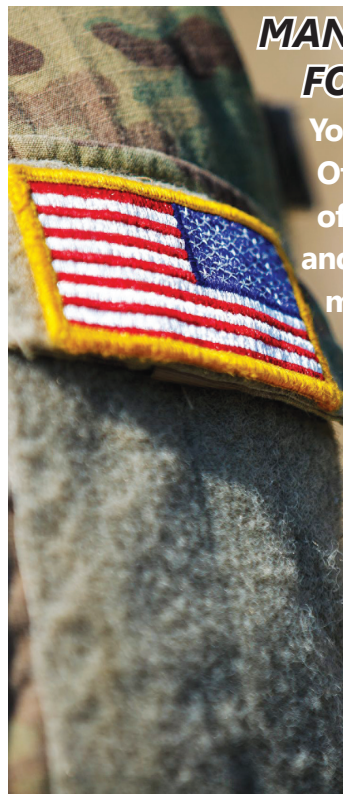


AUG. 11, 2022 ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR VETERANS' APPRECIATION CEREMONY

Aug. 14 – Navajo Code Talkers Day
Sept. is National Suicide Prevention Month
Sept. 2 – Victory over Japan Day
Sept. 11 – Patriot Day
Sept. 16 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Sept. 18 – Air Force Birthday

MANDATORY TRAINING FOR SERVICE OFFICERS

Your County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) will be out of the office from July 21–22 and from Sept. 13–16 to attend mandatory training provided by the State of Ohio's Department of Veterans Service. This training is critical to keeping our CVSOs sharp and up-to-date on the latest changes within the Department of Veterans Affairs. This training helps us help our veterans more effectively and efficiently!



VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS IN ASHTABULA COUNTY

There are many organizations throughout our county that support both, our local veterans and our community at large. Many of these organizations are looking to increase their numbers. If you are a veteran or the dependent of a veteran, you could potentially become a member and join their missions. Here are a few. This list will grow over time.

ASHTABULA, OH

AMERICAN LEGION DEWEY HOWLETT POST #103

POC - Carl DiDonato (Commander)
Email - candcl312@gmail.com

Address - 1804 West 19th Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

POC - Jim Hamilton

(440) 964-7485 • Email - hammycmo@gmail.com

The purpose of the American Legion Riders is to participate in community services and other ceremonies that is in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion. To promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest. To use our Association to promote and support programs of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, community services and Veteran's Organizations. The Legion Riders also provide assistance to Veterans in the local area who are in need of financial, services or any other type of assistance that the membership can provide.

ARMY NAVY UNION 411

POC - Paul Anderson

(440) 650-2562 • Email - pwjander@roadrunner.com

The Army Navy Union 411 is home to 103 regular members and nearly 75 Auxiliary members located within Ashtabula. Join us today!

DAV BOB SWANSON CHAPTER #39 OF ASHTABULA COUNTY

Email - davch39@gmail.com

Mailing Address - PO Box 574, Andover, Oh 44003

DAV Meetings are held the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 6:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 103, 1804 W 19th St., Ashtabula, OH 44004 and VA claims assistance is available. The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Veterans Service Organization for those who served our country's armed forces and were wounded or injured during that service and were Honorably Discharged or Under Honorable Conditions. The motto of Disabled American Veterans is: "Fulfilling Our Promises to the Men and Women Who Served." We are closed for Winter from December – February.

FEED OUR VETS

POC - Tracy Bidwell • (440) 813-5131

Feed Our Vets is a once-a-month food pantry for Veterans, spouses and family. We are open every third Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

GUARDIANS USA VETS BLUE CHAPTER

POC - Crystal Mathes

(440) 789-8129 • Email - crystalmathes2020@gmail.com

Guardians is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization that has helped Veterans for 25 years with emergency needs. We also help with Appliances, Furniture, mobility items, household needs, groceries, clothes.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Email - lukejr68@gmail.com

Mailing Address - C/o Tom Lucas, Jr.

Adjutant; 3105 Jefferson Rd., Ashtabula, OH 44004

Veteran's Service Organization for Honorably Discharged Marine's and FMF Corpsman and Chaplains. Other Armed Forces Veterans are welcome as Associate Members. Meetings for Pvt. Henry Kalinowski Marine Corps League Detachment #782 of Ashtabula County, Ohio are usually held the FIRST SATURDAY of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the American Legion Post #103 located at 1804 W. 19th St., Ashtabula, OH 44004.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

POC - Lisa Dibble

(440) 344-1822 • Email - pvthenrykalinowskimcla@gmail.com

The purpose of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary is to band together in comradeship the members of the Auxiliary, and to create a bond of comradeship between this Auxiliary and the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League. We are seeking the Mothers, Wives, Sisters, Daughters, Nieces, Granddaughters and Cousins of Active Duty, Reserve and Honorably Discharged U.S. Marines to serve and aid those Marines who are or have served us. We usually meet the SECOND Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Ashtabula Township Hall, located at the southeast corner of Route 20 and Route 11, 2718 NRE. Ashtabula, OH 44004.

See ORGANIZATIONS on page 4

OhioMeansJobs - ASHTABULA COUNTY

A group of public, private and non-profit agencies and partner organizations that have joined forces to create a coordinated system to provide workforce services to job seekers. A resource room is located in the center which offers free use of computers, phones, and printers for use by job seekers. Career counseling and employment assistance are offered. All veterans are given Priority of Service. Veterans' employment representative, Michele Stowe-Caya (US Navy veteran) is available by appointment. Please register in OhioMeansJobs.com by creating a job seeker profile, or call (440) 350-2490.

YOUNG MARINES

POC - Amy Piotrowski

(440) 812-0126 • Email: amymariepio@gmail.com

Facebook: Ashtabula County Young Marines

Website: youngmarines.org/unit/ashtabulacounty/page

The Young Marines is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) youth education and service program for boys and girls, age eight through the completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines organization began in 1959 with one unit, and has grown to over 270 units with over 9,000 youth and almost 3,000 adult volunteers in 41 states, and affiliates in other countries. The Young Marines focus on Leadership, Honoring Veterans, and Drug Demand Reduction. They participate in many events throughout the county annually including parades, Toys 4 Tots, volunteering with Blue Star Mothers and Feed the Vets, campouts and historic trips.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #943

POC - Ernie Anderson (Quartermaster)

(440) 992-3762 • Email - vfw943@gmail.com

Address - 4102 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

CONNEAUT, OH

AMERICAN LEGION COWLE POST #151

POC - Tom Udell (Adjutant) • (440) 593-2205

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 2836

POC - Catherine Glosser • cagcatherine@aol.com

The VFW meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Optimist Club, located at 514 Harbor Street in Conneaut. Join our team and help the veterans of Conneaut!

GENEVA, OH

AMERICAN LEGION GEORGE CALL POST #124

Richard Arndt (Commander) • POC - Donald Branford (Adjutant)

(440) 466-2247 • Address - 115 Park Street, Geneva, OH 44041

THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS

POC - Amy Hutchinson

(440) 812-1150 • Email - president.oh57@bluestarmother.us

The Blue Star Mothers of America are a non-profit, nationwide organization consisting of local chapters of mothers, and other family members of military men and women. The oath sworn to protect our nation taken by our sons and daughters has led us to serve as well. Our organization works to provide support for veterans at home and active military and families in any way we can. We also welcome mothers who have never had a child serve but are committed to supporting our Military and Veterans. We meet the 3rd Monday of the month in the Geneva VFW at 6:30 p.m.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #6846

POC - Bruce Deems (Quartermaster)

(440) 466-3127 • Email - vfw6846@outlook.com

"Veterans Helping Veterans"

KINGSVILLE, OH

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL POST 743

Address: 2606 East Center Street (Rt 20), North Kingsville, OH

POC - John Pildner Jr. (Commander) • (440) 813-4981

Dale Hayes (Vice Commander) • (440) 994-9641

Will Runyan (Adjutant) • (440) 228-6023

Email: nealpost743@gmail.com

Facebook: American Legion Neal Post 743 • Website: nealpost743.com

Neal Post is a small dynamic Legion Post of approximately 50 members with service from WW II (3 members) through the current War on Terror. Our reason for being is to serve our fellow Veterans and our community. We meet at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month with all sessions being open to all Veterans and Community members. Events on our yearly calendar include Three Chaplains Recognition, Armed Forces Day/Echo Taps Ceremony*, Flag placement on Veteran Graves at 8 cemetery and community locations, 3 Memorial Day Ceremonies, Flag Day Retirement Ceremony*, August Post Picnic, Veterans Day Ceremony*, Veterans Day Dinner, Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast, and Wreaths Across America placement and Ceremony*. (Events marked with * occur at and with the generous cooperation of Greenlawn Memory Gardens in North Kingsville.) Our Honor Guard has the privilege to lead Final Military Honors for all Veterans when asked.

ORWELL, OH

THE MUSTANG STABLE

POC - Deliarose Marroquin (Ms.M) • (440) 805-4545

The Mustang Stable is Grand Valley Local Schools' community learning center. The Mustang Stable's mission is to provide resources, opportunities, and hope to the Grand Valley Community. Resources at The Mustang Stable include clothing, shoes, hygiene products, and school supplies. The Mustang Stable is open to anyone living in the Grand Valley School District.



VSC WEBSITE!

Find our website at ashtabulaveterans.com for a lot of great information about the services we provide. From there, you can request a service officer, take a poll to tell us how we're doing, schedule FREE transportation to your VA medical appointments, or leave feedback about the Commission to the Director. There is a calendar on the homepage where you can see different events that the VSC is involved in over the next several months. We have a Tribute Page that is dedicated to the veterans of our county. All you have to do is provide a picture of yourself or your loved one in service uniform with the conflict you served during and the city in the county that you are affiliated with and we will update our site with it.

Please follow us on Facebook @AshtabulaVSC. From here, you will see all of our current events as well as any valuable information that we have to share that could benefit you as a veteran.