

# Ashtabula County Veteran's Services Commission

Quarterly Newsletter | ISSUE 3 | SEPT. 2024 | [www.ashtabulaveterans.com](http://www.ashtabulaveterans.com) | 

1212 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 | ((440)) 964-8324

## VSC Board of Commissioners



Mark Baker - Veterans of Foreign Wars - President



Roger Lynch - Disabled American Veterans - Vice President



Anna Allshouse - American Veterans - Secretary



Edward Somppi - Vietnam Veterans of America



Richard Arndt - American Legion

## VSC Staff

Benjamin Schwartzfigure - Director

Libby Jenkins - Senior County Veterans Service Officer

Thomas Lucas Jr. - Senior County Veterans Service Officer

Aimee Borcicky - County Veterans Service Officer

Carol Hoyt - Senior Office Manager

Shane Graham - Driver & Administrative Assistant

## The VSC from July 2024 - December 2024

Our office has seen 160 new veterans, processed 539 claims, applied for VA Healthcare Benefits for 77 veterans, provided \$45,391.71 in Emergency Financial Assistance, and we have conducted 449 trips to the Erie and Cleveland VA Medical Centers. Through the efforts of our service officers, so far in 2024 Ashtabula County veterans have seen 1,107 awards totaling \$1,982,591.71 in retroactive lump sum payments and new monthly compensation incomes totaling \$22,836,664.62. This does not include other benefits, such as medical and education cost savings. The members of this office are highly trained and extremely motivated to assist you in obtaining your earned benefits. It doesn't matter if you served in or out of a combat zone, or even during a war time period. Your benefits were earned throughout your service and you owe it to yourself, as well as your family to work to obtain them. Our team is committed to advocate for and assist our veteran community throughout the claims process and throughout their life here in this great county. We encourage all veterans of all ages to reach out to our office and allow us to provide a "Benefits Well-Check." Remember! You have everything to gain and nothing to lose! If we are successful in our advocacy, you could quite literally experience a significant change in your quality of life. Let us be YOUR advocate!

**VSC Transportation Program.** The VSC provides transportation to the Erie VA Medical Center and the Louis Stokes, Cleveland VA Medical Center on a daily basis. If you need a ride, please arrive to our office no later than 8 a.m. We will verify your eligibility for transportation, provide you with a VSC ID Card (if you don't already have one), manifest you and we leave by 8:15 a.m. daily. If we have veterans that need to go both directions, we activate our volunteer drivers and we go both directions. It's that simple! Eligibility for transportation through our office means that you have a DD214 on file with our office and you are in receipt of VA Healthcare benefits. Please make sure that your appoint-

ment times are between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to ensure that we are able to transport you. Our driver must leave either facility no later than 2 p.m. to get back and reset for the next day's travel.



**The PACT Act and your VA benefits.** The PACT Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans who may have been exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. This law helps provide generations of Veterans-and their survivors-with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. To be eligible to enroll in VA health care, Veterans must meet the minimum active-duty service requirements, have a qualifying discharge, and meet one or more eligibility requirements specific to VA health care. VA encourages all Veterans to apply to determine their enrollment eligibility.

**If you served in the following countries during specific time periods, you can enroll in VA health care:**

- Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975
- Thailand at any U.S. or Royal Thai base between January 9, 1962 and June 30, 1976
- Laos between December 1, 1965 and September 30, 1969
- Certain provinces in Cambodia between April 16, 1969 and April 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa (or their territorial waters) between January 9, 1962 and July 31, 1980
- Johnston Atoll (or a ship that called there) between January 1, 1972 and September 30, 1977

**You can enroll in VA health care if any of the following are true:**

- You performed active duty while assigned to a duty station (including air space above):



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# The VSC from July 2024 - December 2024 continued

On or after August 2, 1990, in the following countries:  
Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates

On or after September 11, 2001, in the following countries:  
Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, or any other country determined relevant by VA. (Note: VA has not determined any other country relevant at this time.)

## • You deployed in support of the following contingency operations:

Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, Resolute Support Mission

• You served on active duty in a theater of combat operations or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998 and you were discharged or released from active service within the last 10 years

## Veterans Who Were Exposed to Toxins and Other Hazards During Service

Regardless of when or where you served, if you were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving our country, you can enroll in VA health care. Even if you never deployed outside the U.S., you may be eligible. If you may have been exposed to toxins or hazards while on qualifying training or active duty in the United States, you can enroll. Exposure to toxins and other hazards includes air pollutants, chemicals, occupational hazards, radiation, warfare agents, and more.

Visit: [publichealth.va.gov/exposures/](https://publichealth.va.gov/exposures/) to learn more.

The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim. Make your appointment today with a service officer. If your veteran passed away due to illnesses that are presumed to be associated with Agent Orange exposure, you may be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. This is a monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF the Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness. Additional survivor benefits that are available, should you be awarded are burial and burial allowance, education and training, home loan guaranty, and health care.

**Care for Caregivers** - Did you know that the Veterans Administration has a Caregiver Support Program? This program provides caregivers with the help and resources they need to care for the veteran during a point in their life where they need assistance from another person to impact their quality of life in a positive way. To be eligible for this service, the Veteran must have a service-connected rating through the VA that is at least 70% or higher; **and** be enrolled in VA healthcare; **and** require assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs); **or** need supervision, protection, or instruction for their safety. The caregiver must be 18 years or older; **and** either be a family member, extended family member, or someone who lives (or will live) with the



## VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



### The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

### How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on [va.gov/family-member-benefits](https://va.gov/family-member-benefits).



#### Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



#### Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

### Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



#### Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



#### Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



#### Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



#### Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



#### Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)  
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](https://va.gov/PACT)  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA4111 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

eligible veteran. They must be designated as a caregiver, and have completed the caregiver training. As a caregiver, you can get peer support, skills training, respite care, and referrals to available resources. If the VA determines that a veteran is "**unable to self-sustain in the community**," the caregiver may qualify to receive a monthly stipend.

**NOTE: Unable to self-sustain in the community** means the veteran requires assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, feeding, clothing oneself, toileting...etc., or needs supervision or protection due to neurological impairment. For more information, please call Caregiver Support Line 855-260-3274.

**VA Grant Programs - Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Program** - The SAH grant is designed to help disabled Veterans by providing a barrier-free living environment, such as a wheelchair accessible home, that affords them a level of independent living they may not otherwise enjoy. Veterans and Service members with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant for the purpose of constructing or modifying a home to meet their adaptive needs, up to the current maximum of \$117,014. The SAH grant can be used up to six times and is available to certain Veterans and Service members who are entitled to VA disability compensation due to:

- Loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair, or



# The VSC from July 2024 - December 2024 continued

- Blindness in both eyes having only light perception, or
- Loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with (1) residuals of organic disease or injury, or (2) the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity, affecting balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair or,
- Loss or loss of use of both upper extremities at or above the elbows, or
- A severe burn injury.
- The loss, or loss of use, of one lower extremity (foot or leg) after September 11, 2001, which makes it so you can't balance or walk without the help of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair

**Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) Grant** - The SHA grant can be used up to six times to increase the mobility of eligible Veteran and Service members throughout their residences. Veterans and Service members with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to this type of grant, up to the current maximum of \$23,444. The SHA grant is available to certain Veterans and Service members who are entitled to disability compensation due to:

- The anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands or extremities below the elbow, or
- A severe burn injury.

**Temporary Residence Assistance (TRA) Grant** - A temporary grant may be available to SAH/SHA eligible Veterans and Service members for one-time use who are or will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member. The maximum amount available to adapt a family member's home for the SAH grant is \$47,130 and for the SHA grant is \$8,415.

**Home Improvements and Structural Alternations (HISA) Grant** - Veterans and Service members may receive assistance for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. A Veteran may receive a HISA grant in conjunction with either a SAH or SHA grant. The HISA program is available for both Veterans with service-connected disabilities and Veterans with non-service-connected disabilities.

- Home improvement benefits up to \$6,800 may be provided to Veterans with service-connected disabilities, and up to \$2,000 may be provided to Veterans with non-service-connected disabilities.
- Please visit [www.prosthetics.va.gov/HISA2.asp](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/HISA2.asp) to learn more about HISA grants.

**Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E); Independent Living (IL) Adaptations** - VR&E sponsored Independent Living services may be provided to individuals who are not currently able to work because of the effects of service-connected disabilities. Provided services are limited to those required to improve independence at home and in the community and may include home adaptations.

- Home adaptation benefits up to \$93,356 may be provided

to Veterans with service-connected disabilities as part of an approved Independent Living Plan.

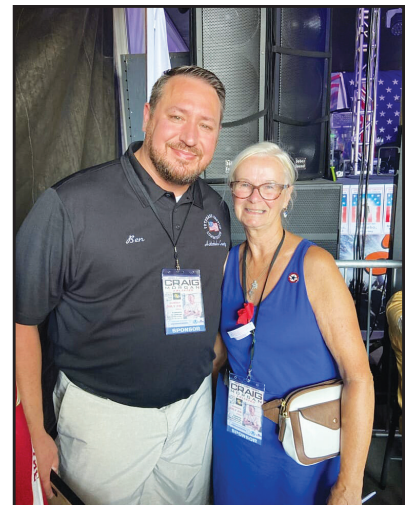
- Please visit [www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/independent\\_living.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/independent_living.asp) to learn more about VR&E IL grants.

For more questions or for assistance applying for one of these grants, make an appointment with one of our service officers!

**The Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF)** grants a tax-exempt payment to military service members injured in combat as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States serving after October 7, 2001, and to individuals diagnosed with post-traumatic stress while serving after October 7, 2001. The amount of a MIRF grant is \$500. This benefit used to be a one time payment, but has recently been updated to allow veterans to apply for the benefit one time each fiscal year in Ohio, for up to 3 years total. If you are a surviving spouse or dependent, you can still apply; you will still need to provide all required information with the initial application, including an executor or administrators of the estate of such "eligible individuals," since you'll be applying on behalf of the service member. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for processing. During June and July, delays in processing and delivery can be expected due to the end of the fiscal year. You can get the application and have a service officer assist you in filling it out – come to our office. The MIRF grant is not taxable income, nor is it based on income you currently receive.

A VA Pension Debt Notification has been issued identifying discrepancies in data matching resulting in overpayment's for VA Pension in some cases. These low-income waived debts are typically identified as significant hardship. The VA has recognized the hardship and distress that these pension debts may cause and has paused the collection of all established pension debts and the establishment of new pension debts while they determine the path forward. The VA has stated "reaching out directly to affected Veterans and survivors to let them know that pension debt collection has been paused while we pursue options for relief – and we will keep them updated throughout every step of this process." If there are any immediate concerns or questions the VA encourages those with debt questions to call 1-800-827-0648.

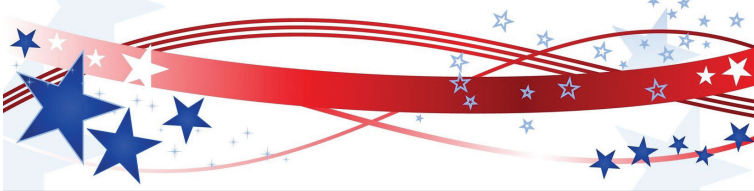
**VSC Outreach July through September.** On July 28, the VSC co-sponsored the Heroes & Legends Concert with Craig Morgan and the Army Outreach Band, "As You Were." We presented the Blue Star Mothers of American, Geneva Chapter with our sponsorship check of \$5,000.00 to assist them in their mission to support active-duty service members overseas and our veteran community at home.





# The VSC from July 2024 - December 2024 continued

We held our fourth annual, Veterans Promise Ceremony at the Ashtabula County Fair on August 8 where we once again swore an oath to continue to protect and serve our great community.



Since July, our new building has been actively under renovation and is on track to have us rehomed before the end of this year. Keep an eye on the building located at 1709 E. Prospect Road in Ashtabula as the vision of our new home comes to fruition!

The quarterly VA Death Benefits Seminar has been a great success. Since our first seminar in October 2023, our office has provided this presentation to approximately 400 members of our community. We are happy to know that we are able to provide such important information and encourage our brothers and sisters to seek clarity on a topic that many choose not to address until it is too late. We will continue to provide these presentations on a smaller scale, once we get relocated into our new building later this year.



## FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS OF 2024



From October 7 through October 11, the VSC will distribute a total of 1,250 holiday vouchers worth \$40 each. This will be a one-time distribution for the 2024 calendar year. Vouchers may be redeemed at the Saybrook or Geneva Giant Eagles, but they must be used by November 30, or they will expire.

The VSC will host the 2nd Annual Veterans Day, Veterans Appreciation Ceremony in collaboration with ARMC, Foundations Health Solutions, Carington Park, and Bella Care Hospice at the Norman-D Banquet Center in Ashtabula on November 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in honor of our veteran community! Secure

your seat today by calling in your RSVP at (440) 997-6555.

At this time, we are planning a ribbon cutting for our new building. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details, as this timeline may shift due to construction requirements. If you would like to be recognized on our Warrior Walk, then make an appointment today with our front office. For a low cost of \$35, your name, branch of service and years of service will be inscribed on a paver and then placed in our soil forever! Call today to make your mark in Ashtabula County history!



PAVER DESIGN  
**4" x 12" Sandstone Color**  
Not to Exceed **24** Characters Per Line

Don't miss your chance to be a part of our County's history!



# MONTHLY RAFFLES

REMEMBER, we are a free resource to the veteran community and we have all of the knowledge and resources at our disposal to provide you with the best possible outcomes!

The VSC continues to hold monthly raffles in an effort to entice our veteran community to stop by and allow a Service Officer to complete a benefits well-check.

If you, or your organization would be interested in donating gift cards or tangible gift items to this program, please reach out via phone or email. Thank you in advance for your considerations!



**JUNE WINNER:** William W. Roberts of Ashtabula is the winner of the June 2024 Raffle Giveaway. William served in the U.S. Air Force from 1967 to 1971 as a Reciprocating Engine Mechanic. He served in Vietnam at Bien Hoa Airbase working on C-123 aircrafts and left the service at the rank of Sergeant. Today, William is retired and greatly enjoys his hobby of trap-shooting, as well as traveling all over the great state of Ohio in his motor home with his good friend. William received a \$50 VISA card donated by the

In-Country Vietnam Veterans, a \$25 Circle K gas card, donated by Miquelina Cox; widow of veteran, Dennis Cox, two \$25 Giant Eagle/GetGo gift cards donated by the Geneva VFW Auxiliary Post #6846, two \$25 Gift certificates donated by Becker's Restaurant, and two tickets to the Heroes & Legends concert on July 28, 2024 with Craig Morgan and the United States Army Musical Outreach Band, "As You Were!"



**JULY WINNER:** Daniel L. Rightnour of Ashtabula is the winner of the July 2024 Raffle Giveaway. Daniel served in the U.S. Navy from 1981 to 2001, retiring as a First-Class Petty Officer in the Navy Seabees. After leaving the service, he and rekindled an old flame and married his high school sweetheart, Colleen. He and his wife spent 11 wonderful years together before her untimely passing in June of this year. Today, Daniel spends his time observing his favorite hobbies, including fishing, gardening, and collecting sports cards. He has one granddaughter whom he spends a lot of time with. This year, she will be showing her two rabbits at the Ashtabula County Fair. Daniel received a \$50 VISA card donated by the In-Country Vietnam Veterans, a \$25 Circle K gas card, donated by Miquelina Cox; widow of veteran, Dennis Cox, two \$25 Giant Eagle/GetGo gift cards donated by the Geneva VFW Auxiliary Post #6846, and two \$25 Gift certificates donated by Becker's Restaurant.



**AUGUST WINNER:** Terry Kern of Conneaut is the winner of the August 2024 Raffle Giveaway. Terry served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1969 to 1971 as an Optical Repairman for rifles, sniper guns and big scopes. He made the rank of Lance Corporal and served at Camp Lejeune and in Cuba. He is now retired and a lifetime member of the Conneaut Fishing & Game Club. Terry's favorite hobbies include hunting, fishing, and golf games. He also loves making people smile. Terry received a \$75.00 Giant Eagle gift card donated by the Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 of Ohio, a \$25 Circle K gas card, donated by Miquelina Cox; widow of veteran, Dennis Cox, two \$25 Giant Eagle/GetGo gift cards donated by the Geneva VFW Auxiliary Post #6846, and two \$25 Gift certificates donated by Becker's Restaurant.



**Thank You For  
Your Service**

# 2024 VA Compensation Rates Table

VA Compensation Rates will experience a cost-of-living increase with an effective date in December 2024 for the 2025 compensation year.

## VA Compensation Rates - Effective December 01, 2023

Percentage	Rate
10%	\$ 171.23
20%	\$ 338.49

	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	\$ 524.31	\$ 755.28	\$ 1,075.16	\$ 1,361.88	\$ 1,716.28	\$ 1,995.01	\$ 2,241.91	\$ 3,737.85
Veteran & Spouse	\$ 586.31	\$ 838.20	\$ 1,179.82	\$ 1,486.88	\$ 1,861.28	\$ 2,161.01	\$ 2,428.91	\$ 3,946.25
Veteran, Spouse & 1 Child	\$ 632.31	\$ 899.28	\$ 1,255.16	\$ 1,577.88	\$ 1,968.28	\$ 2,283.01	\$ 2,565.91	\$ 4,098.87
Veteran, NO Spouse & 1 Child	\$ 565.31	\$ 810.28	\$ 1,144.16	\$ 1,444.88	\$ 1,813.28	\$ 2,106.01	\$ 2,366.91	\$ 3,877.22
Additional Child Under 18	\$ 31.00	\$ 41.00	\$ 51.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 82.00	\$ 93.00	\$ 103.55
Additional School Child Over 18	\$ 100.00	\$ 133.00	\$ 167.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 234.00	\$ 267.00	\$ 301.00	\$ 334.49

Non-Service Pension	
Single	Married
\$ 1,379.25	\$ 1,806.17

Aid & Attendance	
Single	Married
\$ 2,300.75	\$ 2,727.42

A&A Housebound	
Single	Married
\$ 1,685.50	\$ 2,112.34

SMC-K	
\$ 132.74	

Widow's Pension	\$ 925.17
Housebound A&A	\$ 1,806.17
Aid & Attendance	\$ 1,478.58

DIC	\$ 1,612.75
w/A&A add	\$ 399.54
w/HB A&A add	\$ 187.17
8 Year Rule	\$ 342.46

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## Days to observe in the coming months

Oct. 13 – U.S. Navy Birthday



Nov. 10 – USMC Birthday



Oct. 26 – Day of the Deployed

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day & Armistice/ Remembrance Day



Oct. 27 – Navy Day



Nov. 11-15 – National Veterans Small Business Week



MONTH OF NOVEMBER:



National Veterans & Military Family Month

Dec. 1 – Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday



Warrior Care Month



Dec. 7 – National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



National Family Caregivers Month

Dec. 13 – U.S. National Guard Birthday



# Thank You For Your Service



Dec. 14 – National Wreaths Across America



# 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 POST #103

POC - Greg Mather

1804 W. 19th St., Ashtabula, OH • Email - [gregory6373@gmail.com](mailto:gregory6373@gmail.com)  
Facebook - Ashtabula American Legion Dewey Howlett Post 103  
The Legion meetings fall on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 7-8 pm.

### AMERICAN LEGION 103 RIDERS

POC - Matt Hommes

(440) 661-1442 • Email - [mlhommes1@gmail.com](mailto:mlhommes1@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. The Riders meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at the American Legion Post 103.

### ARMY NAVY UNION 411

POC - Paul Anderson

(440) 650-2562 • Email - [pwjander@roadrunner.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, Ohio 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 to 11 a.m.

### MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Email - [lukej68@gmail.com](mailto:lukej68@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

(440) 344-1822 • Email - [pvthenrykalinowskimcla@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### U.S. VETERANS MC ASHTABULA

POC - Josh Honaker  
(216) 408-2837

Email - [usvmc.ashtabula@gmail.com](mailto:usvmc.ashtabula@gmail.com)

U.S. Veterans MC Ashtabula is a motorcycle club comprised of 100% all veterans from all branches of service. We are a registered non-profit 501C (19). Our mission is to aid and assist veterans and active duty military. Truly "veterans helping veterans"

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #943

POC - Ernie Anderson (Quartermaster)

Email - [vfwpost943@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost943@gmail.com)

Facebook - @VFWPost#943

Website - [vfw943.org](http://vfw943.org)

The VFW Regulars meet the first Monday of the month, unless it's a holiday at 7 p.m. at our post. The VFW Auxiliary meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We currently have bingo every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Karaoke every Friday at 7 p.m. Both events are open to the public.

### YOUNG MARINES

POC - Amy Piotrowski

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

Facebook: Ashtabula County Young Marines

Website: [youngmarines.org/unit/ashtabulacounty/page](http://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, camp-outs and historic trips.

### 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 Slanina (US Navy veteran) is available by appointment. Please register in OhioMeansJobs.com by creating a job seeker profile, or call (440) 350-2490.

## CONNEAUT, OH

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #2836

POC - Catherine Glosser • [cagcatherine@aol.com](mailto: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

### THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #124

Physical Address - 115 Park St., Geneva, OH

Mailing Address - P.O. Box 150, Geneva, OH

Legion Phone Number - (440) 361-8076

POC - Don Branford - (440) 223-2247

Email - [legionpost124@outlook.com](mailto:legionpost124@outlook.com)



ORGANIZATIONS continued on next page

**THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS**

**POC - Jennifer Reshetar**

**(440) 339-8280 • Email - president.oh57@bluestarmothers.us**

**Address: PO Box 482, Geneva, OH 44041**

*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 - Ron Stettler (Commander)**

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

*The VFW meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at 76 Depot St. Geneva, OH.*

**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**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST #719**

**Address: 215 N. Maple St., Orwell, OH**

**POC - Roger Anderson**

**(440) 473-6280 • (440) 862-7866 • (330) 367-7628**

*Serving the Grand Valley and surrounding areas of Ashtabula, Trumbull and Geauga. Legion meetings 2nd Tuesday of the month; Auxiliary meeting 1st Tuesday of month. We are currently looking for Veterans, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion wanting to give back to the Grand Valley area. It is time for the next generation to take over and operate our Post. No experience necessary. Rewarding opportunity. Learn at your own speed. Mentors are available.*

**ROCK CREEK, OH**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #4953**

**Address: 3276 N. Main St., Rock Creek, OH**

**POC - John Dyrzc-(440) 563-9699**

*The VFW meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Every Wednesday, there will be a Queen of Hearts Drawing, and on Sundays, we congregate to watch NASCAR or the sport of the season and enjoy one another's company.*

**OUT OF COUNTY SUPPORT**

**AKRON, OH**

**THE ROLLING THUNDER® CHAPTER 2 OHIO**

**MAILING ADDRESS - PO BOX 485, LAKEMORE, OH 44250**

**EMAIL - EKMAURIC69@GMAIL.COM**

*Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. at VFW Post 3383, located at 690 W. Waterloo Rd, Akron, OH 44314. Rolling Thunder® Ohio Chapter 2 is an all-volunteer, POW/MIA awareness organization made up of citizens who are dedicated to helping disabled, hospitalized, and homeless veterans from all wars. Our members are professional, blue-collar workers, students, veterans, non-veterans, and motorcyclist, non-motorcyclist all coming together to work on common veteran issues.*

**Veteran Owned Businesses in Ashtabula County!**

This section was established to provide support and free advertising to our local, veteran owned businesses. If you are the veteran owner, please contact our office through phone or email at ACVSC@ashtabulacounty.us and give your permission. We will need your business name, contact details, website and/or Facebook presence, and a tagline quote to list with your business.

**All business owners must be verified veterans within our office.**

**Greg's Custom Wood Creations**

*Greg Peterson (Army Veteran)*

Hand-crafted custom wood designs. No CNC

Find us on Facebook

Email: kdp237@yahoo.com

Contact number: (216) 970-8217

**KL Diesel Equipment**

*Keith & Lisa Knoll (Army Veterans)*

A wrench for every problem

Address: 3245 US Highway 6 • Rome, OH 44085

Contact number: (440) 563-5569

Email: knl\_diesel@yahoo.com

**Shoreside Plumbing, LLC**

*Jim Prentice (Navy Veteran)*

Serviceing both residential and commercial needs in Ashtabula, Lake and Geauga Counties.

Address: 2217 Callendar Road • Rome, OH 44085

Contact number: (440) 563-9230

Website: https://www.shoresideplumbing.com

**TNT Archery & Outdoors**

*Tom Lucas, Jr. (Marine Corps Veteran)*

Archery - Guns - Ammo

If we won't use it - we won't sell it!!

Find us on Facebook

Email: lukejr68@gmail.com

Contact Number: (440) 813-3914

**Oglewood Woodworking**

*Jack Ogle (Navy Veteran)*

Email: oglewood@yahoo.com

Contact number: (440) 474-4503

Website: https://oglewood.com

**BMH Veteran Pressure Washing**

*Brandon Balascio (Air Force Veteran)*

"From Green to Clean" • Find us on Facebook!

Email: brandon23@bhm-improvements.com

Contact number: (440) 855-2480

Website: https://www.bmh-improvements.com/

**Turf Works Lawn Care**

*Craig Luce (Air Force Veteran)*

"We take pride in quality services and care"

Find us on Facebook!

Email: Turfworkslawns22@gmail.com

Contact number: (440) 381-3416

Website: https://turfworkslawncafe.com/

**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, 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 created a new content page with a direct link to the Ashtabula Veterans Task Force calendar where you can find veteran centric events happening across the county! There is also 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 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.**