

Ashtabula County Veteran's Services Commission

Quarterly Newsletter | ISSUE 2 | JUNE 2024 | www.ashtabulaveterans.com | 

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

VSC Board of Commissioners



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Thomas Lucas Jr. - Senior County Veterans Service Officer

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Shane Graham - Driver & Administrative Assistant

The VSC from April 2024 - September 2024

So far this year, our office has seen 86 new veterans, processed 363 claims, applied for VA Healthcare Benefits for 38 veterans, assisted 11 veteran families with their emergency financial needs, transported 200 trips to either the Erie or Cleveland VA Medical Centers, and the efforts of our service officers have generated \$1,208,401 in retro-active dollars being awarded to local veterans. The staff here are truly second to none! Our team is committed to advocate and assist the veterans of this county in obtaining all of the benefits that their service to their country has earned them. We urge all veterans to reach out to our office and allow us to perform a **"Benefits Well-Check"** to see what benefits can be applied for based on their service. Veterans have everything to gain and nothing to lose! If we are successful in our efforts, the results could be life changing. We are a free service and a great resource to the veterans of this community, so please stop by or call in and schedule yourself some time with one of our service officers. 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 appointment 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



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The VSC from April 2024 - September 2024 continued

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):**

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/ to learn more.

Ohio Veterans Bonus is money based on the Department of Defense deployment figures and the number of applicants and payouts that already have been made to Ohio veterans. The program offers a bonus for those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces after October 7, 2001. Once a veteran has received \$500 for service anywhere in the world or \$1,000 for service in a designated country, or the maximum \$1,500 bonus, the veteran is not eligible for additional funds, even if they served in multiple conflicts. **Those service members who completed their deployments in Afghanistan and have not yet applied for the Ohio Veterans Bonus can do so until August 30, 2024.** Apply for your bonus today by visiting www.ohio-vets.gov/veteransbonus. Be advised that according to the Ohio Revised Code, Article VIII: Section 2r. (D) (7) (E): "On retirement of all of the obligations issued under this section and payment of all valid claims for cash compensation made within the time limitations under this section,

the department shall make a final report to the general assembly. Any balance remaining in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts compensation fund or the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts compensation bond retirement fund shall be transferred or disposed of as provided by law."

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 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 \$101,754. 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
- 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

The VSC from April 2024 - September 2024 continued

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 \$20,387. 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 \$40,983 and for the SHA grant is \$7,318.

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 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 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 through September. At the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Jefferson, on May 16, the VSC facilitated a Veteran Legal Clinic with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. This was a small-scale event that was conducted by appointment only. The VSC will continue to work with the Legal Aid Society to build upon this event with the intention of meeting legal requests within our community. Based on



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feedback received from the survey on our website, the VSC is actively looking for a local attorney that may be willing to discuss an arrangement to provide legal services at our commission.



The 3rd Annual Rite of Passage Ceremony took place on May 16 at the Geneva High School Auditorium. We had nine of the 10 county graduates committed to serve in a branch of service in attendance. The event was well attended by our veteran community. We would like to express

our gratitude to the Blue Star Mothers of America, Ohio Chapter 57 of Ashtabula County, the Ashtabula County Young Marines, the Geneva VFW and their Auxiliary, as well as all of the veteran service organizations that came out to support as we gave another great send off to our county graduates. Our guest speaker was Air Force veteran and Geneva native, Mr. Richard Phinney, and the event Chaplain was Mr. Gary Lehr who gave a powerful sermon through the invocation and benediction to all in attendance. Next year, we look forward to holding the ceremony at Lakeside High School, home of the Dragons!

Our second Quarter Death Benefits Seminar is scheduled to take place on June 17 at the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Jefferson. We already have a number of RSVPs for this event. The VSC is continuing to refine this presentation as we make it a staple within our community.



FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS OF 2024

July

The Heroes & Legends Concert, starring Craig Morgan, with the U.S. Army Outreach Band, "As You Were" will take place on Sunday, July 28th from 1-8 p.m. at the Yankies & Goblin Amphitheater, Geneva-on-the-Lake. Tickets can still be purchased online at <https://www.ticketweb.com>, then do a quick search for Salute to Americas Veterans to find the page for ticket purchase. We hope to see as many veterans as possible.



ticket (a \$50 value), your name or organization will be recognized from the stage and the flag poster is yours to keep as a Concert memento.

The VSC will be co-located with the Veterans Benefits Administration for D-Day Conneaut, which will take place from August 15 through 17 at Township Park in Conneaut.

We will host our third and final Death Benefits Seminar of the year on September 19, 2024 from 2 to 4 p.m. at a location that has yet to be determined.!

The VSC will host the 2nd Annual Veterans Day, Veterans Appreciation Ceremony in collaboration with ACMC, 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 1 p.m. in honor of our veteran community! Secure your seat today by calling in your RSVP at (440) 997-6555

Our Thanksgiving/Christmas Holiday Voucher Program will be decided soon. We will list how much the vouchers will be and through what period of time we will be conducting the program in the September 25 Newsletter!

Last year's event was a fantastic success!

Would you like to contribute \$100 and join the "100 That Care" initiative to assist with the participation expenses incurred by the U.S. Army Outreach Band, "As You Were"? For your contribution you receive a personalized "11X17" flag poster which will be hung in front of the Concert stage, one Craig Morgan Concert



The Veterans Promise Ceremony will take place at the Ashtabula County Fair on Thursday, August 8 from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Grandstand! Please come out, enjoy the fairgrounds and remind your family, friends and neighbors that your duty to support and defend them and this country did not stop when you took off your uniform.



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!



MARCH WINNER: Thomas Wright of Geneva is the winner of the March 2024 Raffle Giveaway. Thomas served in the US Marine Corps from June 1995 to January 2005 as a Supply and Logistics Sergeant. Post Service, he obtained a degree in accounting and put his skills to good use as a Financial Analyst. In his spare time, he enjoys being with family, reading, and doing yard work. Thomas also loves watching the local sports teams. Go Guardians and Go Browns!

Thomas received a \$75 Giant Eagle gift card, donated by Rolling Thunder Chapter 2, a \$25 Circle-K gas card, donated by Miquelina Cox, widow of veteran, Dennis Cox, a \$50 VISA gift card, donated by the Ashtabula County In-Country Vietnam Veterans, 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"!



APRIL WINNER: John "Jack" Chapman of Ashtabula is the winner of the April 2024 Raffle. Jack (as he likes to be called) served in the Marine Corps from August 1958 thru August 1961, serving at Camp Lejeune. After the service he returned to Ashtabula and worked at MFG. Jack has two children - a son and a daughter, as well as five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His hobbies include golfing, shooting pool, and bowling, as well as spending time with the grandchildren and great grandchildren. He also enjoys spending time working on re-doing his classic car with his son.

Jack received a custom-made deck cooler stand, provided by Greg's Custom Wood Creations 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"!



MAY WINNER: Ted Robishaw of Kingsville is the winner of the May 2024 Raffle Giveaway. Ted served in the U.S. Navy from 1960-1964. He was an electrician's mate during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was part of a Flotilla (fleet of ships) of 26 ships with 40,000 Marines on Board. He went through the Panama Canal and was stationed off the coast of Cuba until President Kennedy resolved the situation. He married the love of his life on 10-9-1966 (Marty), just two years after he got out of the Navy. Marty was a school teacher in Ashtabula. Ted and Marty had 50 wonderful years together. During that time, he worked at RMI for 28 years and then he went to work for the Kingsville Road Department. He is an active member of the American Legion Neal Post 743 in Kingsville, OH, and he recently received his 50-year certificate from the Orion 353 Masonic Lodge, where he was also a past Master.

Ted received a \$50 VISA gift card, donated by the In-Country Vietnam Veterans, a \$25 Circle K gas card, donated by Miquelina Cox, spouse of veteran, Dennis Cox, two \$25 Giant Eagle gift cards, donated by the Geneva VFW Post 6846 Auxiliary, 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"!



2024 VA Compensation Rates Table

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		Aid & Attendance		A&A Housebound					
Single		Married		Single		Married		Single	
\$ 1,379.25		\$ 1,806.17		\$ 2,300.75		\$ 2,727.42		\$ 1,685.50	
SMC-K		Widow's Pension		\$ 925.17		DIC		\$ 1,612.75	
\$ 132.74		Housebound A&A		\$ 1,806.17		w/A&A add		\$ 399.54	
		Aid & Attendance		\$ 1,478.58		w/HB A&A add		\$ 187.17	
						8 Year Rule		\$ 342.46	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Days to observe in the coming months



Independence Day - July 4

Air Force Day - Aug. 1

National Hire A Veteran Day - July 25



Coast Guard Day - Aug. 4



National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day - July 27

Purple Heart Day - Aug. 7

National Buffalo Soldiers Day - July 28



Agent Orange Awareness Day - Aug. 10



Navajo Code Talkers Day - Aug. 14



Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary - July 29



National Airborne Day - Aug. 16

Marine Corps Reserve Birthday - Aug. 29



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
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

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

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, 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

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.

U.S. VETERANS MC ASHTABULA

POC - Josh Honaker
(216) 408-2837

Email - 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

Facebook - @VFWPost#943

Website - 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

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, 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

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



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)

Servicing 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.