

Ashtabula County Veteran's Services Commission

Quarterly Newsletter | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2022 | www.ashtabulaveterans.com | 

The VSC from January – March 2022

Outreach is our watchword! Our commission works hard to reach our county veterans on a regular basis. We need all of our veterans and their families to know that we are here to advocate for them.

Our purpose is to create meaningful interactions that result in our veterans attaining all of the benefits that their service to this country has earned them. We achieve these interactions through the creation of outreach events within the community that inspire our constituents to come out and take part, which results in new appointments and new benefits being developed.

The VSC is now conducting monthly raffles, which are free to enter. The cost is your time. Every veteran that walks through our doors will be checked against our system to be certain that they have been to our office previously. We will perform a benefits well-check by taking a look at their service dates and existing benefits to be sure that they are in receipt of everything they have earned. We draw the winners of the raffle at the first Board Meeting held on the first Wednesday of each month. The winnings vary between monetary gifts and tangible ones, but they always carry a value of approximately \$200.00

The Veterans' Task Force currently has 41 members representing 21 organizations within the county. In the first four weeks since its inception on February 16, 2022, the Task Force has already worked together to positively impact four veteran families. We look forward to observing the growth of this organization and seeing all of the good that can be done within our veteran community.

If you are an Honorably Discharged Veteran and would like to be a volunteer veteran mentor, stop by the Veterans Service Commission and get an application from the Director!

MONTHLY RAFFLES

January Winner – John Todd of Jefferson, OH. John served in the Navy from September 1965 to September 1967 with a tour in Vietnam as a Gunner's Mate! John is now retired and was excited to take home this handcrafted Cooler Stand!

February Winner – Aaron Ashley of Ashtabula, OH. Aaron served in the USMC from 2002-2010. Aaron is a decorated Marine with three combat tours to Iraq. Aaron is now truck driver and lives in Ashtabula with his family. Aaron took home a \$350 voucher to have his vehicle detailed by Flawless Cleaning & Detailing out of Geneva, OH!

March Winner – The winner will be drawn on April 6, and will take home a \$100 Gift Card provided by the DAV Bob Swanson Chapter 39, a \$25 Gas Card provided by the VSC, and a \$350 voucher provided by Flawless Cleaning & Detailing!



Your gratitude will be greatly appreciated



Meet the Staff

Top left to right – Guy Korvig, Carol Hoyt, and Aimee Borcicky

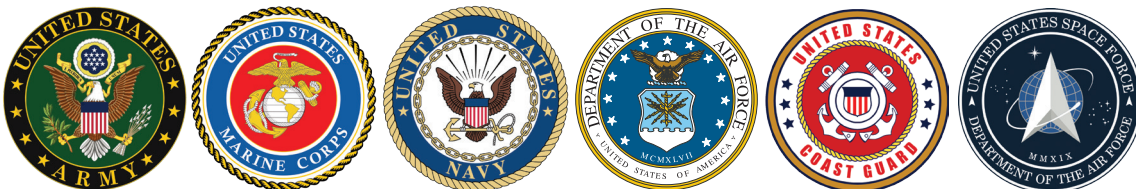
Bottom left to right – Tom Lucas Jr., Ben Schwartfigure, and Libby Jenkins

CREATION OF THE VETERANS' TASK FORCE OF ASHTABULA COUNTY

Ashtabula County is home to just over 7,000 veteran residents and their families. More than 21 organizations exist to support, resource, and care for this community. The Veterans Task Force brings these organizations together to do what they already do as individual entities, better. We will work together to make our individual outreach events more impactful with the ultimate goal of bringing our veteran community to the forefront of the county.

VETERAN MENTORSHIP

The VSC is part of the treatment team for the Ashtabula County Court-Eastern Division Veteran's Court, with the Honorable Judge Harold E. Specht Jr. presiding. The program requires a Mentorship Program to be established as a support mechanism to veterans inducted into the court. The program and associated resources are meant to rehabilitate and reintegrate the participants back into society.



EASTER VOUCHERS FROM THE VSC



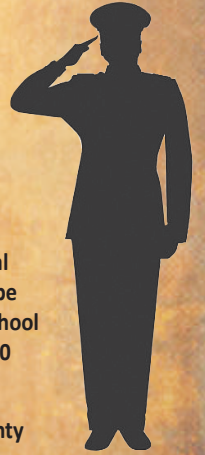
Veterans that stop by our Commission from April 1 through April 15 will receive a voucher for \$20 to be used at the Saybrook Giant Eagle for the Easter holiday. The voucher may be used to purchase any meats that you want cook for your holiday meal!

“The Rite of Passage Ceremony is our way of attaching ourselves to these future veterans from the beginning of their service throughout their careers and beyond.”

-Director, Veterans Service Commission

RITE OF PASSAGE CEREMONY

Honoring the commitment to service the youth in our community has chosen to make.



“Veterans helping veterans”

The Ashtabula County Inaugural Rites of Passage Ceremony will be May 11, 2022 at Conneaut High School 381 Mill St, Conneaut, OH 44030 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Presented by the Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission.



RITE OF PASSAGE CEREMONY

Conneaut High School will host the Inaugural event to recognize the graduating seniors currently under contract to join the service following graduation. This event will honor their decision to volunteer and answer their nation's call!

Local contributors to the ceremony are the staff and students of Conneaut High School, Blue Star Mothers, Young Marines, Charlie's Deli, Sports n Sports, and of course, your Veterans Service Commission.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Days to observe in the coming months

April is the Month of the Military Child

- April 5 Gold Star Spouses Day
- April 9 Former POW Recognition Day

May is Military Appreciation Month

- May 1-7 Silver Star Recognition Week
- May 6 Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 14-22 Armed Forces Week
- May 13 Children of Fallen Patriots Day
- May 21 Armed Forces Day
- May 30 Memorial Day

June is PTSD Awareness Month

- June 6 D-day
- June 12 Women Veterans Day
- June 14 Army Birthday / Flag Day
- June 12-18 National Flag Week
- June 27 PTSD Awareness Day



MEMORIAL DAY

The VSC has five available service officers to support your event for Memorial Day! We can speak or simply provide ourselves as a resource to the veterans in attendance. Submit a request to the Director and we will do our best to support!



MANDATORY TRAINING FOR SERVICE OFFICERS

Your County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) will be out of the office from May 3rd through May 6th 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!

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!

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.

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.

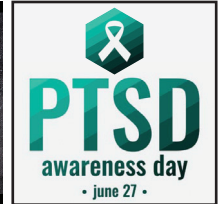
June Winner – The winner will be drawn on July 6 and the winner will take home a Metal Tattered Flag with the Pledge of Allegiance inscribed on it, provided by a local veteran small business owner and one of our service officers, Mr. Tom Lucas Jr. His business is TNT Archery & Outdoors! Also, the winner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



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 - pvthentrykalinowskimcla@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

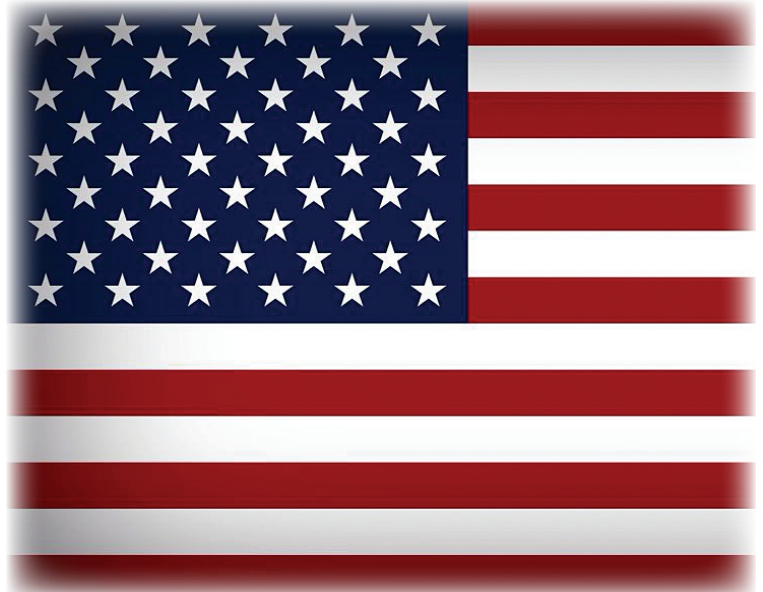
Neal Post is a small dynamic Legion Post of approximately 50 members with service from WW II (3 members) through the current War on Terror. Our reason for being is to serve our fellow Veterans and our community. We meet at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month with all sessions being open 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.

Ashtabula County Veteran's Services Commission

Quarterly Newsletter | ISSUE 3 | SEPTEMBER 2022 | www.ashtabulaveterans.com | 

The VSC from July – December 2022

Since January, our office has submitted 744 new claims with 100 previously submitted claims being awarded. The awarded claims account for \$1,254,383.90 in retroactive compensations being paid out to veterans in Ashtabula County! The Veterans Service Officers of this Commission 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 this task. For information and an application, please contact our office.



The Veteran's Appreciation Ceremony took place at the County Fair on August 11 and it was amazing! We were blessed with amazing speeches from the Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, Major General Retired, Ms. Deborah Ashenhurst, as well as retired Army First Sergeant and Conneaut native, Mr. Nicholas Church. The Young Marines provided Color Guard support as well as local veterans who represented their branch of service by wearing a branch specific jersey while standing in front of their branch colors. There were more than 120 veterans in attendance, which was twice as many in attendance as last

year. The VSC looks forward to growing this ceremony for next year and hopefully doubling the attendance once again.

PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the PACT Act key components?

- The Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.**
- VA will improve the decision-making process for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.**
- Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.**
- VA health care staff and claims processors will receive toxic exposure-related education and training.**
- The Act requires research studies on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.**
- The Act will help VA build a stronger, more skilled workforce to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.**
- The Act authorizes 31 new medical facilities across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.**

How can a Veteran file a claim?

- Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete VA Form 21-0602 to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.
- To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

- VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS LISTED IN THE PACT ACT MEMORANDUM:

For Gulf War and post-9/11 Veterans, that includes:

- Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Conductive hearing loss or obliterative bronchitis,
- Emphysema, Gastrointestinal disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),
- For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:**
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension)

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply online at VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction.
 Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-4387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.
 Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ with you to your nearest medical center or clinic or get help through your state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer.

Get help filing your claim by working with an accredited representative.




Learn more and sign up at VA.gov/PACT
 Download the VA Health and Benefits App
 Call us at 1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
 Find a VA at VA.gov/find-locations/

MONTHLY RAFFLES

July Winner – Kayleen Kennedy of Ashtabula. Kayleen served in the Ohio Army National Guard from 2018-2022. She was a Human Resource Specialist during her term. Kayleen worked in the Mid-Ohio Food Bank during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist the communities in need of food and supplies and also assisted with human resource work for recruiting and retention. Kayleen was honorably discharged from the National Guard and now spends her days raising her baby and taking in the joys of motherhood. Kayleen took home a metal tattered flag with the Pledge of Allegiance inscribed on the flag's stripes, provided by TNT Archery & Outdoors. She also took home a voucher for \$350 to be redeemed by Flawless Cleaning and De-tailing located in Geneva.

August Winner – Robert Kase of Geneva. Mr. Kase was drafted in the Army when he was 20 years old from Geneva, OH. He was a mechanic on helicopters working on glass and sheet metal repair. He went to basic training at Ft. Knox, KY and went to AIT at Ft. Eustis, VA. Then he received orders to transfer to Vietnam. He continued to do helicopter repairs and worked on 13's, 23's and Hueys. He was stationed in a combat zone and was always under fire in Vietnam. He was in Cam Ranh Bay, Natrang and Da Nang. He served almost two years in Vietnam. He came home in 1969 and was in the Inactive Ready Reserve through 1974. He worked 23 years at Reliance Electric and worked 57 years driving tow truck. He retired almost two years ago at age 74. He just celebrated his 50 years of marriage in February to Denise Kase. Robert won a hand-crafted rocking chair, provided by Greg's Custom Wood Creations and a voucher for \$350 to be re-deemed by Flawless Cleaning and Detailing located in Geneva

September Winner – The September winner will be drawn on October 4, 2022. The winner will receive a metal tattered flag with the Pledge of Allegiance inscribed on the flag's stripes, provided by TNT Archery & Outdoors. They will also receive a voucher for \$350 to be redeemed by Flawless Cleaning and Detailing located in Geneva.

The PACT Act was signed into law on August 8, 2022. The VSC will be working tirelessly to process claims for veterans that will be impacted by the noted changes within this Act. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates as the VA provides guidance. In the meantime, do not wait for guidance. **COME INTO OUR OFFICE NOW AND FILE YOUR CLAIM!**

Additionally, if you believe you have a condition that is listed as a presumptive condition for exposure to water contamination while stationed at Camp Lejeune, please do not wait to come into the VSC and let us process your claim. We **STRONGLY** encourage ALL veterans to steer away from lawyers, as our office is a free service and will not receive any percentage of your award once the VA has rated your condition.



VETERANS' TASK FORCE

On August 25, we held the fourth meeting of the Veterans' Task Force. We continue to work together for the betterment of our veteran community. If you would like to attend one of these meetings on behalf of your orga-

nization or company, please feel free to reach out to our commission for details. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for October 27 at 6 p.m. in the VFW Post 943, located at 4102 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004.

VETERAN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Veteran Mentorship Program still needs applicants. 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 October and November in recognition of the Navy and Marine Corps Birthdays. All verified Navy and USMC veterans that come into our office during their respective birthday months will receive an American Flag/Branch Flag lapel pin as a thank you for your service!



PLANNED EVENTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER

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

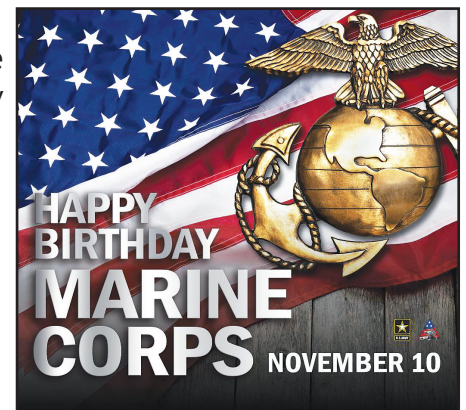


provide ourselves as resources to your events. Submit a request to the Director at BMSchwartzfigure@ashtabulacounty.us and we will do our best to support!

For the Navy Birthday, we will be providing all

Navy veterans that come into the office with a US Flag/Navy Flag lapel pin

For the Marine Corps Birthday, we will be providing all Marine Corps veterans that come into the office with a US Flag/USMC Flag lapel pin.



VETERANS SALUTE PROGRAM

The VSC will be implementing a new program to recognize our veterans that are either staff or residents in each of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout Ashtabula County.

The ceremonies will take place the week leading up to Veterans Day. All veterans taking part in the ceremony will receive a



certificate of appreciation, lapel pin, and other small tokens of appreciation for their service.

The ceremonies will not be open to the public, however if you have a family member in one of these facilities, we hope that they are able to attend and be recognized.

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

Days to observe in the coming months

Oct. 13 – U.S. Navy Birthday

Oct. 26 – Day of the Deployed

Oct. 27 – Navy Day

Nov. 1-5 – National Veterans Small Business Week

Nov. 10 – USMC Birthday

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day

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

Dec. 7 – National Pearl Harbor
Remembrance Day

Dec. 13 – U.S. National Guard
Birthday

Dec. 18 – National Wreaths
Across America



THANKSGIVING VOUCHERS

The VSC will provide a \$20.00 voucher for any type of meat to be redeemed at the Saybrook Giant Eagle to assist with your holiday meal. Veterans or widows of veterans may stop by the



VSC during our regular business hours between the dates of November 14-23 to secure their voucher. Each family is eligible to receive one voucher. The vouchers will expire on November 24, so you are encouraged to use them immediately upon receipt.

CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS



The VSC will provide a \$20.00 voucher for any type of meat to be redeemed at the Saybrook Giant Eagle to assist with your holiday meal. Veterans or widows of veterans may stop by the VSC during our regular business

hours between the dates of December 12-23 to secure their voucher. Each family is eligible to receive one voucher. The vouchers will expire on December 24, so you are encouraged to use them immediately upon receipt.

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 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 pro-grams 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, 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 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 and clothes.

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

See ORGANIZATIONS on page 4

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.

YOUNG MARINES

POC - Amy Piotrowski

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

Facebook: [Ashtabula County Young Marines](https://www.facebook.com/AshtabulaCountyYoungMarines)

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 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.

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 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](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionNealPost743) • 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.

Ashtabula County Veteran's Services Commission

Quarterly Newsletter | ISSUE 4 | DECEMBER 2022 | www.ashtabulaveterans.com | 

1212 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula, Ohio 44004



Edward Somppi



Daniel Whitmire



Mark Baker



Richard Arndt



Roger Lynch



Benjamin Schwartfigure



Libby Jenkins



Thomas Lucas Jr.



Aimee Borcicky



Guy Korvig



Carol Hoyt

VSC Board of Commissioners

Edward Somppi - Vietnam Veterans of America
 Daniel Whitmire - American Veterans
 Mark Baker - Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Richard Arndt - American Legion
 Roger Lynch - Disabled American Veterans

VSC Staff

Benjamin Schwartfigure - Director
 Libby Jenkins - Senior County Veterans Service Officer
 Thomas Lucas Jr. - Senior County Veterans Service Officer
 Aimee Borcicky - County Veterans Service Officer
 Guy Korvig - Transportation Supervisor/County Veterans Service Officer
 Carol Hoyt - Senior Office Manager

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.

MONTHLY RAFFLES

October Winner – Richard Palinkas of Geneva is the winner of the October 2022 raffle giveaway. Richard served in the U.S. Army from September 1959 to October 1967. Following Basic Combat Training, he trained as a Heavy Truck Driver at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Upon completion of his Advanced Individual Training, he was stationed in Germany, where he would serve with the 594th Transportation Company. He left Germany to be stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia with A Company, 575th Engineer Battalion with the 3rd Army. Richard served a tour in Vietnam during his time with the 575th Engineers and was ultimately, Honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant in October 1961. Today, Richard is a retired truck driver who enjoys spending time with his wife of 61 years, his 22 grandchildren, and his 28 great grandchildren. In his spare time, he likes to tinker around with lawn mowers. Richard took home a \$30.00 gift card, donated by The Crow's Nest, a \$50.00 gas card provided by the Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission, and a voucher worth \$350.00 toward a complete vehicle detailing by Flawless Cleaning and Detailing in Geneva. Thank you for your service and thank you for allowing our Commission to provide you with a Benefits Well-Check!

November Winner – Troy Mills of Ashtabula is the winner of the November 2022 raffle giveaway. Troy served in the U.S. Navy from August of 1968 to October of 1972. His first year was spent as an ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) stationed out of San Diego, CA. The next three years were served on board the USS Fox as a Sonar Technician. Troy made two West Pacific cruises and got to visit several foreign countries. Today he works as an Audiologist for American Hearing Center where he has been for over 40 years. Troy enjoys using his camper on the farm with his wife of 44 years, as well as hunting and fishing. He also enjoys spending time with family, especially the grandkids. Troy received a \$25 Gift Card from Guyreino's Deli & Catering, a \$50 Gas Gift Card from Raisian Funeral Home and a \$145 Voucher towards a preventative maintenance from Ziegler Heating & Air.

December Winner – The December winner will be identified at our January 4, 2023 Board Meeting. That veteran will take home a basket of high quality candies from Northwest Candy Company, a \$20 gift certificate to be redeemed at Martell Cleaners, and a \$50 off of a tire purchase from Bob Sumerell Tire Company.

The VSC from October 2022 – March 2023

Our office has processed 950 new claims with 121 previously submitted claims being awarded. The awarded claims account for \$2,142,367.35 in retro-active compensations being paid out to veterans in Ashtabula County! The Veterans Service Officers in this Commission continue to work hard to help you so that you may acquire any needed help from the VA Health Care system, among other VA benefits!

Volunteer Driver Program. The VSC continues to actively search for new Volunteer Drivers for our Transportation Program. There is no requirement to be a veteran to perform this task and there is a small monetary benefit associated with being a driver. For information and an application, please contact our office by phone or email.

Veterans Salute Program. This year we began a new program meant to honor the veterans residing in our county nursing homes. The Service Officers visited 19 homes and honored 170 veteran residents and staff leading up to Veterans Day. It is our intent to make sure that our elderly veterans know they are not forgotten and to pay homage to their sacrifice and service in the name of freedom! We hope that in the future, this program grows and will be opened up to their family and friends. It was truly an honor for our Service Officers to take part in this great event!

Korean War Veteran Dinner. On November 19, 2022, the VSC had the pleasure of taking part in a ceremony and dinner dedicated to honoring our Korean War Veterans and their families. The dinner was hosted by the Ashtabula Korean Church and the Peaceful Unification Advisory Council. Many of our public officials attended to show support for our veteran community. It was a wonderfully put together event with great food.

PACT Act Update. The PACT Act was signed into law on August 8, 2022. The VA is working quickly to determine what claims will take priority in the adjudication process. Their guidance to us is to simply PROCESS THE CLAIMS! If you or a loved one has suffered from any of the issues described within the guidelines provided by the VA (<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>), please reach out to our office so that a Service Officer can assist you in the claims process.



VETERANS' TASK FORCE

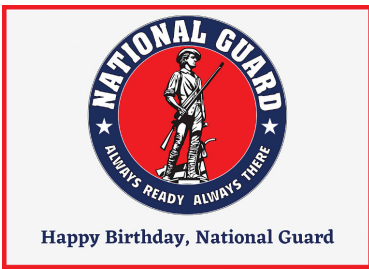
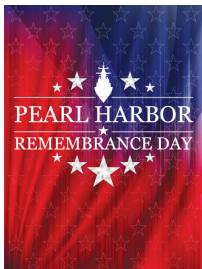
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company, please feel free to reach out to our commission for details. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for February 23 at 6 p.m. in the downstairs of the VFW Post #943, located at 4102 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004.

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The Veteran Mentorship Program still needs applicants. 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.

December 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
December 13 is the U.S. National Guards 386th Birthday.
December 18 is National Wreaths Across America Day.
December 20 is the Space Force Birthday.



PLANNED EVENTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2023

The first quarter of the year is a no out-reach period for the VSC. We spend this time playing catch up from the holidays and preparing for the spring and summer events. We do have 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 your request to the VSC Director at BM-Schwartzfigure@ashtabulacounty.us and we will do our best to support!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR Days to observe in the coming months

February 4 – USO Birthday

The Week of February 14 – National Salute to Veteran Patients

March – Women's History Month

March 25 – Medal of Honor Day

March 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day

HOLIDAY VOUCHER PROGRAM

In November, the VSC provided 795, \$20 vouchers to be redeemed at the Saybrook Giant Eagle. Of those, 760 vouchers were used by our veteran community to help support their holiday meal. The VSC plans provide this service again for Christmas 2022 and Easter 2023. This program is meant to bring new veterans into our office while assisting those who may not have had a benefits well-check in a long time. In order to be eligible for this program, you must provide a copy of your DD214 that shows your character of discharge. This is a requirement in accordance with the laws of the state, as we use our Relief funds for these out-reach events. If you have an ID Card from our office, then you have already met eligibility criteria and do not need to be vetted by a Service Officer. This program is also extended to the surviving spouses of veterans whom have passed away. Watch our Facebook page for details as the holidays approach!

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 RIDERS

POC – Ken Draper

(440) 228-3528 • Email – roadkingcop@gmail.com

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POC - Paul Anderson

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DAV BOB SWANSON CHAPTER #39 OF ASHTABULA COUNTY

Email - davch39@gmail.com

Mailing Address - PO Box 574, Andover, OH 44003

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Email - lukejr68@gmail.com

Mailing Address - c/o Tom Lucas, Jr.

Adjutant; 3105 Jefferson Rd., Ashtabula, OH 44004

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POC - Lisa Dibble

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

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #943

POC - Ernie Anderson (Quartermaster)

Email - vfwpost943@gmail.com

Facebook - @VFWPost#943

Website - vfwpost943.com

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.

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See ORGANIZATIONS on page 4



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 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

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. Upcoming Post Events: Reverse Raffle/Chinese Auction Saturday, February 11, 2023, 5 p.m. Tickets \$35 each, \$1,000 Main board, only 100 tickets sold. Spaghetti Dinners Thursday, January 19, 2023 and every third Thursday following, from 4-7 p.m. All you can eat for \$10, Kids under 5 eat for Free. 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.

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.

VETERANS SALUTE PROGRAM



The VSC implemented a new program to recognize our veterans that are either staff or residents in each of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout Ashtabula County.

The ceremonies took place the week leading up to Veterans Day. All veterans that took part in the ceremony received a certificate of appreciation, lapel pin, and other small tokens of appreciation for their service.

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.