



April 2014



Veteran Newsletter



Nominations are due by June 30 for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Every year, the Hall selects deserving veterans for induction. These are veterans of all eras who, after their military service was done, continued to serve their communities in a variety of ways and thus inspired their fellow citizens. See story on page 1.

Welcome to the Ohio Department of Veterans Services e-newsletter! The newsletter is a key source of information about issues of interest to our community of veterans in Ohio.

We thank you for your service to our country. Because you're a veteran, you've earned a number of benefits that you may not be aware of. Most of these benefits originate at the federal level with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Based on the time you served, you may be eligible for compensation for injuries, health care, educational assistance, home loans or many other benefits. There are also a number of state benefits available to Ohio veterans, to include the Ohio Veterans Bonus as well as direct financial assistance from the county to veterans in need.

The place to find out what you've earned and to apply is your county veterans service office. You can locate yours in the interactive map on our department home page, www.ohiovet.gov, or by calling 1-877-OHIO-VET (1-877-644-6838).

We will continue to provide you this newsletter each month. We hope it's of value to you and your family.

Ohio Nominations for Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Due June 30...

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame exists to recognize the very special veterans in this state who continue to serve. But don't delay submitting a nomination – the deadline is Monday, June 30 to submit nominations for this year's class.

The purpose of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is to honor Ohio veterans who, after their military service is over, put their skills and abilities to work in their local communities – and by their continued service and positive accomplishments, inspired their fellow citizens.

Have questions about veterans benefits? Call 1-877-OHIOVET (1-877-644-6838)



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“Selection to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is one of the greatest honors a veteran can receive,” said Tim Gorrell, Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. “These veterans are our neighbors and our friends, the people who make a difference every day in their communities by doing all the things that need to be done. They’re the real difference-makers in our society, and I encourage all our citizens to take the time to nominate these very deserving veterans for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.”

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 1992 by former Gov. George Voinovich to recognize the post-military achievements of outstanding veterans. Charter members of the Hall’s Class of 1993 included the six Ohio military veterans who were elected President of the United States and all Medal of Honor recipients from Ohio. Honorees of the past 20 years include astronauts, government officials, police officers, community leaders, and veterans’ advocates.



The Hall of Fame Executive Committee, made up of veterans, serves as advisors for the Hall of Fame and selects not more than 20 inductees annually from nominations provided by all citizens of Ohio. Men and women chosen for induction into the Hall come from all eras, all branches of service and all walks of life. The members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame are honored in a permanent display on the second floor of the Riffe Center in downtown Columbus.

Honorees selected for this year’s class of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will be inducted in a ceremony in Columbus on November 6, 2014.

Additional information, nomination guidelines and forms, as well stories of past inductees, are available at:

http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame.aspx



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Jobs for Veterans Update...

As part of our regular monthly feature, we want to make sure everyone knows that veterans in Ohio have the latest information on job-seeking strategies in Ohio, as well as some of the major places to look. Veterans have the opportunity now to take advantage of many national and local companies who want to hire them. Please read and share this information.

Job Fair Info: Three major job fairs are scheduled in two different parts of Ohio during the next month:

- The Summit County Veterans Service Commission is hosting a Veteran Job & Career Fair on Wednesday, April 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. at its office, 1060 E. Waterloo Road in Akron. You will be able to speak with representatives from local employers and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; learn résumé tips, job search and interview skills, and hear about education options and free online career development courses. Come in business or business casual attire and bring a copy of your DD-214 and your resume.

Registration is strongly encouraged, see:

<http://www.vscsummitoh.us/JobFairsignup/tabid/146/Default.aspx>

- OhioMeansJobs – Montgomery County and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base are hosting the 2014 Spring Job Fair on Wednesday, May 7 from noon to 4 p.m. at the University of Dayton Arena, 1801 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd. in Dayton.

Local companies will be hiring for both full and part-time positions. Professional attire or military uniform is required. Prior registration is strongly encouraged. For more information, see:

<http://www.thejobcenter.org/>

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services State Veterans Program is hosting a Veterans Hiring Event on Thursday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hope Hotel and Conference Center on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, 10823 Childlaw Rd, Building #823, Area A. You will be able to meet and talk with a number of employers and human resource managers from local businesses. Bring your resume and identification, and be dressed professionally for an interview. Please RSVP in advance to michael.grome@jfs.ohio.gov, or call 937-264-5884.





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Companies Looking to Hire Veterans: Many well-known national companies with Ohio operations are in the market to hire veterans in many different areas of their businesses. These companies include AEP, AT&T, Chase Bank, GE, General Motors, Home Depot, Huntington Bank, Scotts Miracle Gro, Starbucks, Walmart, Verizon, and Xerox. Information on current jobs is available on the individual company web sites; go to www.google.com to search by company name and then click on their “employment” or “careers” links.

GE made a major announcement on April 10 that it has chosen the greater Cincinnati area as the site for its new U.S. Global Operations Center – a project that will bring a total of 1,400 new jobs to Ohio. Construction on the Center is expected to begin in the summer of 2014, with the Center being operational by 2017. The full range of available jobs, which veterans can expect to compete for, is not known yet. However, in GE’s announcement, the company said that the Center will primarily perform IT and finance functions.



The Ohio insurance industry has 26,000 new jobs to fill by 2020. These new jobs are in a number of different skill sets, and are available in insurance companies all around the state. For more information, see: <http://insurancecareers.org/veterans>

Several state agencies are also currently seeking veterans. Open state jobs can be viewed and applied for at: <http://careers.ohio.gov/>

Many large state employers, such as the Cleveland Clinic and local and regional hospitals, are also in the market for qualified veterans.

For the most current information on jobs in a local area:

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services offices in each county, as well as regional Job Centers, can help; see “Finding Jobs In-Person” in this section.
- ***The Ohio Department of Veterans Services’ Facebook and Twitter pages will also post frequent announcements of multiple job openings across the state, so be sure to check them out.***



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Schools and Companies Offering Job Training: Job training that could lead to employment in the emerging shale industry and in manufacturing is available throughout Ohio. For example, Stark State College and Eastern Gateway Community College offer training targeted to shale jobs. Cincinnati State College offers training aimed at industrial jobs. Siemens Corporation offers training geared to engineering manufacturing jobs. Find out more at the schools' and company's web sites; conduct your search using www.google.com. Veteran-specific information on higher education is available through the Ohio Board of Regents at: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/veterans>

Finding Jobs Online: Veterans can also look for jobs online. "Ohio Means Jobs" is the state's primary job web site, listing the vast majority of both private sector and public jobs which are open in Ohio. The site is at <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/>, or simply type in "Ohiomeansjobs.com." The available jobs are posted in the "Job Seekers" area.

Be sure to register and post your resume on the site – and don't forget to indicate that you *are* a veteran. The site automatically posts veterans' resumes first for any job that matches the qualifications they've stated in their resume – so employers who go to the site will see veterans' resumes before they see anyone else's. The resume should be reviewed every month and electronically "updated" – whether any additional information is added or not – to keep it refreshed and at the head of the line for jobs.

This web site also has an area with other resources for veterans, to include translation of military to civilian skills and frequently asked questions about the process. The link is below:
<http://www.ohiomeansveteranjobs.com/infocenter>

Finding Jobs In-Person: If you want to start a face-to-face job search, there's in-person assistance available throughout Ohio that knows where the local jobs are. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) is in an active partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor to operate Job Centers regionally around the state. Contact information can be found online at:
<http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/wiamap.stm>

While the Job Centers are open to all residents, but are also staffed with counselors who specifically assist veterans. Their primary clients are veterans with barriers to employment, of which long-term unemployment definitely qualifies. Counselors can also assist with skills translation and resume preparation – and they know where the jobs are locally. The Job Centers also have resources to assist disabled veterans with qualifying for, finding and keeping meaningful employment.



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For a Job Fair, or any Employment Event, Be Prepared for Interviews, and Know Your Skills:

Before you attend any job fair or visit any employer, remember these common tips:

- Have a current resume;
- Have a cover letter that's geared to the type of job being sought;
- Present a professional appearance, e.g., suit and tie, or dress/skirt or pantsuit.

To prepare an effective resume, you have to be able to translate military experience to civilian experience. The Army and the Navy have developed online “cool” web sites that help veterans translate their military skills into terms civilian employers can understand. The sites, which stand for “credentialing opportunities online,” allow a veteran to select their military skill code and then see the types of jobs their training and experience translates to, as well as any certifications that are needed. There is no Air Force, Marine, or Coast Guard “cool” site. However, the Air Force does offer similar resources in its Community College of the Air Force site, at the Credentialing and Education Research Tool (CERT) page; Marine skills are similar to those found in the Army and Air Force; and Coast Guard skills are similar to those found in the Navy.

The “cool” sites are below:

<https://www.cool.army.mil/index.htm>

<https://www.cool.navy.mil/overview.htm>

<https://augateway.maxwell.af.mil/ccaf/certifications/programs/>

Help for Employers to Hire Veterans:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is tackling the mission of helping veterans find employment by reaching out to employers. The agency has developed a

Veterans Hiring Guide that provides a central location for information about tools to hire veterans and the business incentives that are available for doing so. The VA's goal is to help employers find job-seeking veterans or to assist employers with their own ongoing efforts at veteran hiring programs.

The guide also includes resources for employers seeking to attract military spouses. Development of the guide was a joint effort between the VA, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Departments of Defense, Labor and Education. The Veterans Hiring Guide is available at:

<https://www.vetsuccess.va.gov/public/employers.html>



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Ohio Veterans Bonus Now in Final Year for Iraq War Veterans...

If you served in Iraq, take note and share with other veterans – **the application deadline for the Ohio Veterans Bonus for veterans of the Iraq War is December 31, 2014.**



The Ohio Veterans Bonus is available to veterans who served anywhere in the world during the time of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Service must have been for more than 90 days active duty, not for training. Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents currently.

As noted above, December 31, 2014 is the deadline to apply for those who served in the country of Iraq. The Bonus remains open for veterans who served in the country of Afghanistan or elsewhere in the world since Oct. 7, 2001.

The bonus pays \$100 a month to veterans who served in the countries of Afghanistan or Iraq, up to a maximum of \$1,000. For veterans who served anywhere else in the world during the eligible periods, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum. The maximum individual award for all eligible periods of service is \$1,500.

Veterans medically discharged due to injuries sustained in combat can receive \$1,000, plus up to \$500 for months of service elsewhere. Family members of those killed in action or who died from disease as a result of their in-theater service can receive a bonus of \$5,000 plus whatever the service member was eligible for, up to a total of \$6,500.

Specific eligibility periods and deadlines are below:

- Iraq: eligible period is from March 19, 2003 to December 31, 2011 (**deadline to apply is December 31, 2014**); and
- Afghanistan or elsewhere: eligible period is, from October 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President.



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Anyone needing more information or who want to apply can call toll-free to 1-877-OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838) option 2, or see: https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web/

Veterans can also apply for the Bonus at their local Veterans Service Office in their home county. To find the location of your county office, see the Ohio map and select the appropriate county at: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/>

Your County Veterans Service Office can also help you determine what other federal and state benefits you're eligible for and help you apply for them.

Persian Gulf War Veterans Can Receive Treatment and Compensation for Illnesses...

The VA periodically publishes updates of information concerning various illnesses affecting Persian Gulf War veterans who served in-theater. The latest update contains information on the current VA presumptions that certain diseases in the population of these Gulf War veterans are service-connected due to their time overseas. These diseases include chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, functional gastrointestinal disorders, and undiagnosed illnesses with a variety of symptoms, among others.

In-theater veterans of the Persian Gulf War who served under honorable conditions and are now suffering from the specified diseases are eligible for health care and may be eligible for disability compensation. For more information, read the update at: <http://goo.gl/KYA2rX>

If you think you may be eligible for VA health care or compensation for one of these diseases, apply at your county veterans service office; you can find yours on the map at: www.ohiovet.gov

