



# Veterans Serving Veterans



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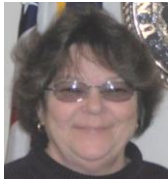
## GREENE COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

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### Veteran Service Commission Members

**From the Director:** The Greene County Veterans' Service Commission and the staff of the Veterans' Service Office are honored and humbled to serve those who have served our great country in the United States Military.

Our main focus is to ensure that the veterans of Greene County have access to all of the benefits they may be entitled to receive as well as their dependents and that they are treated with respect and dignity.

We hope this newsletter is a helpful tool in providing information concerning veterans' benefits, legislation concerning veterans' issues at the local, state and national level. We welcome your comments and feedback and if you have suggestions, please feel free to contact our office.

Once again, thank you for allowing us to serve you.

### This newsletter contains the following articles:

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Update on M.I.R.F.                    | 5. Gulf War Claims Deadline |
| 2. Education                             | 6. VA Home Loan Benefit     |
| 3. Ohio Women's Veterans Conference 2011 | 7. Operation Welcome Home   |
| 4. Ohio Women's Veterans Roster          |                             |

## **What is MIRF?**

The Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF), created by House Bill 66 in June 2005 and amended by House Bill 153 in July 2011, provides grants to soldiers injured while serving in country under Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation New Dawn.

The intent of the program is partly to help returning injured veterans and their families make ends meet upon a veteran's return home. MIRF grants have been utilized by veterans and their families in a variety of ways, including when veterans are awaiting VA disability determinations, which can often take time and leave families in financial limbo during that process. Injured veterans' families have also utilized MIRF grants to help pay for travel and lodging costs while traveling to see a loved one who has been admitted to a VA hospital far from his or her hometown.

Ohio has a rich and proud history of serving in the Armed Forces. Ohioans recognize and appreciate the sacrifices that our veterans have made in serving this country. We proudly salute our veterans, who have served our nation with honor, courage, commitment and sacrifice.

## **MIRF UPDATE**

The recent amendments to MIRF rules restrict the application and receipt of the grant to a one-time award.

It used to be that you could apply once a year. But due to funds running out they had to amend the MIRF rules.

## **Education Benefits**

### **Ohio War Orphans Scholarship**

The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship provides tuition assistance to children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict. The deadline for this scholarship is July 1st of each year. In order to be eligible the parent who is a veteran must be deceased or severely disabled (level of disability and financial situation is considered). The student must also be under 25 and enrolled full-time in an eligible Ohio university or college.

*Applications are available at County Veterans Service Offices, High School Guidance Offices, and College Financial Aid Offices.*

For more information visit: <http://regents.ohio.gov/>

## **Ohio GI Promise**

Ohio GI Promise authorizes the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents to deem qualified veterans as Ohio residents for the purpose of qualifying for in-state tuition rates. To qualify, veterans must meet the following requirements: be (1) eligible for federal GI Bill education benefits, (2) moving and remaining domiciled in Ohio, and (3) participating in an approved community service or co-op internship program.

*For more information visit:* <http://www.universitysystem.ohio.gov/veterans/index.htm> or call 877-VETS-OH-1

## **Montgomery GI Bill Information**

The Montgomery GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Generally benefits are payable for 10 years following your release from active duty.

*For more information visit:* <https://www.gibill2.va.gov/>  
*Or by Phone:* 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)

## **Post-9/11 GI Bill Information**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is for individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill became effective on or after August 1, 2009.

*For more information visit:* <https://www.gibill2.va.gov/>

## **Ohio Women Veterans Conference**

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and the VA Healthcare System of Ohio are teaming up to host the 4th Ohio Women Veterans' Conference on Saturday, October 8, 2011 Aladdin Shrine Center 3850 Stelzer Road Columbus, Ohio 43219.

Doors open at 8:00 a.m. and Conference begins at 10:00 a.m.

The conference is open to All Women Veterans.

For more information regarding the conference please call 614-752-8941 or visit [www.dvs.ohio.gov](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov)

## **Ohio Women's Veterans Roster:**

There are more than 60,000 women veterans living in Ohio. An initiative of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans is to identify by name and address as many women veterans as possible so information about benefits, conferences and resources are readily available and accessible.

The Ohio Women Veterans Roster is an informational bridge connecting women veterans with the committee and its resources. The roster is strictly confidential and used solely as a link of information among Ohio's women veterans. If you are a woman veteran, please take a moment contact Debra Crawford at the Greene County Veteran Service Office (937)562-6020 to get added to the roster.

## **Gulf War Claims Deadline**

For Gulf War Veterans with certain ailments like: Chronic fatigue syndrome; Fibromyalgia; Functional gastrointestinal disorders; and other undiagnosed illnesses the current deadline for when the condition must have "appeared" is on or before December 31, 2011. If you have any conditions that are "undiagnosed" and you did a tour in the Middle East, this could apply to you. The VA is working to extend the deadline to December 31, 2018. If this occurs, it will be great news for veterans and military members who develop symptoms after the 2011 cut-off. However, since there is no guarantee that the deadline will be extended, veterans suffering from undiagnosed conditions are encouraged to talk with their Veteran Service Officer about filing a disability claim for these conditions.

## **VA Loan Benefit Explained**

There are numerous advantages to having a VA mortgage. A VA mortgage loan can be guaranteed with no money down, in some cases up to \$417,000. There is also no private mortgage insurance requirement with a VA guaranteed loan, which could offer you substantial savings on your monthly payment. You can even use your VA Loan benefit to refinance an existing loan -- even if it is not a VA Loan.

Be sure to ask for information about the interest rate reduction loan. This program adjusts an adjustable-rate mortgage to a fixed-rate loan, which is part of the Streamline Refinancing Program, which allows you to refinance at little or no expense to them.

For more information call 888-768-2132.

## **OPERATION WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION EVENTS**

**Any questions contact: Greene County Convention Bureau (937)429-9100**

### **Thursday, November 10**

#### **Veteran's Tribute – 6:10 p.m. (FREE)**

##### **National Museum of the United States Air Force**

This patriotic celebration will pay special tribute to our Vietnam-era veterans as we remember the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Open to all veterans from all services, the evening will feature:

- A special veteran's recognition with keynote speakers
- Patriotic performance by the USAF Band of Flight Systems Go
- Sumptuous spread of appetizers and desserts
- Check out the newly revamped Vietnam War-era exhibit

#### **Liberty Film Festival – 3 p.m. – “Air Force” (FREE)**

Movie compliments of the Liberty Film Festival – Carney Auditorium at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

### **Friday, November 11**

#### **Veterans Day Service – 11 a.m. (FREE)**

##### **Dayton VA Medical Center Ohio Campus**

This traditional recognition of our veterans will feature special keynote speakers flavored by Operation Welcome Home and will pay tribute to the men and women who defended freedom in Vietnam and all other American conflicts.

#### **Veterans Day Service – 11 a.m. (FREE)**

##### **Memorial Hall, downtown Dayton**

Veterans will be warmly welcomed in the beautiful Veteran's Hall in the historic downtown Dayton Memorial Hall. This service, planned by Dayton District Three VFW, will include keynote speakers who will recognize and honor the service given by Vietnam-era veterans and ALL veterans. Following the ceremony free boxed lunches will be provided along with a cash bar.

#### **Camp Eagle Opens – noon – 4:00 p.m. (FREE)**

##### **American Legion Post 526, Fairborn Ohio**

A great place to find information and all products and services a veteran has interest in, such as benefits, VA Center hosted mobile medical center, the Veteran Services Officers will offer on-site benefit sign-ups, a reunion post to help search for lost buddies and Operation Welcome Home memorabilia.

**Community Covenant Signing – 1:30 p.m. (FREE)**

**Dayton VA Medical Center Ohio Campus**

Initiated by the U.S. Army, the Community Covenant signing is a program designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the military to improve the quality of life for GIs and their Families, both at their current duty stations and as they transfer to other states. It is a formal commitment of support by state and local communities to GIs and Families of our military – Active, Guard and Reserve.

**Northmont Jr. ROTC Drill Team Demonstrations – 2:30 p.m. (FREE)**

**Dayton VA Medical Center Ohio Campus**

A fun and entertaining treat for visitors who are touring and exploring the historic Dayton VA Campus during the Operation Welcome Home Festivities.

**American Veteran Heritage Center tours in the Putnam Library – 3:00 p.m. (FREE)**

**Dayton VA Medical Center Ohio Campus**

The AVHC facility is located in the historic Putnam Library on the VA campus. A non-profit corporation, the AVHC honors the accomplishments of veterans while preserving a priceless piece of national and local history-the Soldiers Home located at the VA Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio. Visitors can tour the AVHC facility and the assets of the Miami Valley Military History Museum. Visitors may also enjoy a self-guided tour of the entire campus grounds by downloading a tour guide from <http://www.americanveteransheritage.org>

**Liberty Film Festival – 3 p.m. – “The Great Dictator” (FREE)**

Movie compliments of the Liberty Film Festival – at The Neon Theater, downtown Dayton

**Liberty Film Festival – 7:30 p.m. – “We Were Soldiers” (FREE)**

Movie compliments of the Liberty Film Festival (location TBD)

**REO Speedwagon Concert – 8 p.m.**

**Hobart Arena, Troy Ohio**

Celebrating 30 years of Hi Infidelity, the number one album in 1981, this American rock band, formed in 1967, grew in popularity during the 1970’s and early 1980’s by churning out popular songs like “Keep on Loving You”, “Take It On The Run”, “Keep the Fire Burnin” and “Can’t Fight This Feeling”

**Saturday November 12**

**Operation Welcome Home Parade – 10 a.m. (FREE) – Fairborn, Ohio**

Home to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, the city of Fairborn knows how to throw a parade. This town is fiercely patriotic and extremely proud to be hosting the Operation Welcome Home Parade. For the first time ever, Vietnam-era veterans will have their very own parade. All parade participants will be invited back to the American Legion Post 526 for lunch.

**Camp Eagle Opens – noon – 4:00 p.m. (FREE)**

**American Legion Post 526, Fairborn Ohio**

A great place to find information and all products and services a veteran has interest in, such as benefits, VA Center hosted mobile medical center, the Veteran Services Officers will offer on-site benefit sign-ups, a reunion post to help search for lost buddies and Operation Welcome Home memorabilia.

**Liberty Film Festival – 3 p.m. – “As Far As My Feet Will Carry Me” (FREE)**

Movie compliments of the Liberty Film Festival – at The Neon Theater, downtown Dayton

**POW/MIA Ceremony – 5 p.m. (FREE) - Location TBA**

Powerful closing POW/MIA ceremony presented by the officials from the VFW, State of Ohio along with keynote speaker. Dinner will be provided following the ceremony.

**Liberty Film Festival – 7:30 p.m. – “Good Morning Vietnam” (FREE)**

Movie compliments of the Liberty Film Festival (location TBD)

**Sunday, November 13**

**Interdenominational Worship Service – 11 a.m. (FREE) – Location TBA**

Worship service at local congregation with a guest military chaplain speaker

**Liberty Film Festival – 3 p.m. – “Patton” (FREE)**

Movie compliments of the Liberty Film Festival – at The Neon Theater, downtown Dayton



## **BRONZE STAR MEDAL – WWII VETERANS**



After General Omar Bradley became Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, he let it be known that he felt combat infantrymen and combat medics of WWII deserved something more than a simple “job well done.” As a result, U.S. Army regulations were changed so that combat infantrymen and combat medics from WWII who had been awarded the Combat Infantryman’s Badge – (CIB) or the Combat Medic Badge (CMB) and served between December 7, 1941 and September 3, 1945 were also eligible for the Bronze Star Medal.

We are looking for WWII veterans that were awarded the Combat Infantryman’s Badge or the Combat Medic Badge as a result of service in World War II during the dates listed above or their next-of-kin and did not receive the Bronze Star Medal. If you qualify, **please contact the Greene County Veterans’ Service Commission at (937) 562-6020.**

Remember, this award only applies to U.S. Army infantrymen and medics from the World War II era, December 7, 1941 through September 3, 1945.

**Greene County Veteran Service Office  
571 Ledbetter Road  
Xenia, Ohio 45385**