

Base Cleveland Veteran News

Tuesday, November 7, 2017



Prepared and distributed to Veterans and supporters of those who served

Special Events

- **Annual Veterans Day Ceremony and Parade**

The City of Cleveland will partner and host the annual **Veterans Day ceremony** and Parade at **11 AM Friday, November 10, 2017 in the Rotunda of Cleveland City Hall**. A limited number of display tables are available to Veteran support groups interesting in displaying or presenting information to the attendees. Please contact Marty Flask at telephone 216.420.7606 or MFlask@city.cleveland.oh.us to reserve a spot. First come, first served. Note: The Red Cross, VA Medical Center, USO, Homeless Veterans Outreach, Court of Common Pleas Mentor Program and VA Vet Center have already reserved a table.

The **Veterans Day Parade** will step off from the steps of City Hall at approximately 12:30 PM, immediately following the ceremony.

Parade Registration: The deadline for entering your organization, vehicle or float is 1 PM Wednesday, November 7, 2017. For more information, contact Paul Tuggey at telephone 216.952.2884.

- **EVAC: Experiencing Veterans & Artists Collaboration**

Friday, November 10, 2017 at 4 PM in the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Art Gallery at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, lower terminal level. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 8 at Scloud@clevelandairport.com or 216-898-5209. For more information about EVAC <http://www.evaproject.org/about.html>

- **Veterans Day Deals and Discounts for Veterans | Military.com**

<http://www.military.com/veterans-day/veterans-day-military-discounts.html#.Wf0GHXWwOAo.facebook>

- **USS COD** Submarine Memorial will be open for tours on Saturdays during the month of November, 11 AM – 5 PM. Regular admission applies: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/veterans, and \$7 for youth. Preschoolers are admitted free with parents and military in uniform are always our guest. Our last day, Nov. 25, should be a welcome alternative to the holiday shopping frenzy!

On **Nov. 11, 2017** Veterans Day, Cod will present a deck gun salute to the various branches of the armed forces at 1:00 p.m. We have invited a vet from each branch to represent and honor their services by firing a salute from Cod's 7-ton, 5-inch main deck gun!

- **Cleveland Military Ball**

The Cleveland Military Ball will be held **6-11 PM 18 November 2017** at the Crowne Plaza at 5300 Rockside Road, Independence, OH

For additional information and tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cleveland-vfw-military-ball-tickets-38531848797#add-to-calendar-modal>

Veterans and Military Family Appreciation Month 2017

Activities at the Northeast Ohio VA Healthcare System

- **Local Artist Creates Veterans portraits:** Wednesday, Nov. 8, 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Local artist Debbie Vail is donating her time Wednesday, at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, to paint portraits of veterans. She specializes in oil on canvas and is volunteering because she enjoys seeing the joy it brings to people's faces when she hands over their portraits. Many of the Veterans she has previously painted live here on the long-term care ward. The Veteran she will be making a portrait of on Wednesday has already been preselected but anyone interested in watching her work or learning more about her artistic services is welcome to come and observe.

- **Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony:** Thursday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.

Cuyahoga County Veterans Holly S. Koester, Richard L. DeChant Jr., and John A. Evans Sr. will be inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Thursday. The individuals being inducted honorably served their country through military service and are now being recognized for their continued service and inspiration to others through deeds and accomplishments in their communities. Holly Koester is a key leader in the Paralyzed Veterans of America Buckeye Chapter, Richard DeChant is heavily involved with connecting veterans to resources in the community and was instrumental in bringing a Fisher House to Cleveland, and John Evans is a dedicated volunteer who gives back to his fellow comrades every chance he gets.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame selects up to 20 honorees from applications received across the state and nation per year. Those selected are proven leaders and have made significant impacts on their communities. The public is invited and Ohio Veterans are encouraged to attend. The ceremony will take place at the Radiant Life Church, 7100 Post Road, Dublin, Ohio 43016 and is preceded with a continental breakfast at 9 a.m.

- **Wills for Veterans:** Thursday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

In support of Veterans and Military Families Appreciation Month, attorneys from the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association will be on hand Thursday to help veterans create legal wills. The attorneys will be set up in the Recreation Hall at the Northeast Ohio VA Healthcare System in Wade Park. This is free and open to all Veterans. To RSVP please call 216-791-3800, extension 820-4964.

- **McCafferty VA Outpatient Clinic Veterans Day Appreciation Celebration:** Thursday, Nov. 9, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The McCafferty VA Outpatient Clinic located at 4242 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 is hosting a Veterans appreciation event Thursday. They will be providing free food, music, giveaways, prizes, information, and is open to all eligible Veterans. Veterans currently not using VA for their medical care are encouraged to attend and find out more about services available. For more information on this event please call the clinic at 216-939-0699.

- **Student Ambassadors bring the Heroes and Halos to Wade Park:** Wednesday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Heroes and Halos, a non-profit organization committed to people with special needs, is bringing student ambassadors to visit with the Cleveland VA Medical Center this Veterans Day. The student ambassadors, from Youngstown, are between the ages of 14-18 years old. They fundraise throughout the year to be able to rent charter busses for their planned visit. While at the medical center, the ambassadors will visit in-patient veterans and provide them with certificates of appreciation thanking them for their service.

- **United States Marine Corps 242nd Birthday Ceremony:** Tuesday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.

Every year veterans and employees of the Cleveland VA Medical Center gather in the Recreation Hall to celebrate and honor all United States Marines for the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday. This event is open to the public and will bring people together in the spirit of comradery and good old fashion Marine Corps Oorah! Students from Akron Public Schools' East High School's Marine JROTC unit will present the Colors during the celebration and plan to visit with hospitalized Veteran in-patients following the event.

News

Marine survives being a POW in two different wars, returns home to live the American dream

Charles L. Harrison was born outside Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921. Barely out of High School, Harrison enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1939. By August 1941 he was on his way to Wake Island, a vital staging area for the coming war in the Pacific. Of the 449 Marines who manned Wake's defenses when Wake Island was bombarded by Japanese forces a few hours after the Dec. 7 attack on Pearl Harbor, 49 were killed, 32 were wounded, and the remainder, including 20 year old Charlie Harrison, became prisoners of war.

On Sept. 15, 1950, U.S. Marines under the direction of General Douglas MacArthur made a surprise amphibious landing at Inchon, on the west coast of Korea. Harrison was one of those Marines. On Nov. 29, at the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, after a battle in which Harrison was wounded and for which he later received a Purple Heart, he was captured by the Chinese communist forces and again found himself held as a prisoner of war – one of only two Marines in U.S. history to hold the dubious distinction of being held as a POW in two different wars. Read it here <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/42605/marine-survives-being-a-pow-in-two-different-wars-returns-home-to-live-the-american-dream/>

Oliver North: PBS and Ken Burns get Vietnam – and Richard Nixon – wrong, again

Mr. Nixon's prosecution of the war in Southeast Asia is poorly told by Ken Burns in his PBS documentary "The Vietnam War." That is but one of many reasons Mr. Burns' latest work is such a disappointment and a tragic lost opportunity. Read it here <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2017/10/27/oliver-north-pbs-and-ken-burns-get-vietnam-and-richard-nixon-wrong-again.html>

Bowe Bergdahl gets dishonorable discharge, avoids prison time

Fort Bragg, North Carolina: Bowe Bergdahl received a dishonorable discharge from the US Army but will avoid prison time for desertion and misbehavior before the enemy after abandoning his outpost in Afghanistan in 2009, a military judge ruled Friday.

The judge also ruled that Bergdahl's rank be reduced from sergeant to private. Additionally, he will be required to pay a \$1,000 fine from his salary for the next 10 months. Read it here <http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/03/politics/bowe-bergdahl-sentenced/index.html>

Navy finds deep-rooted failures led to fatal collisions

WASHINGTON – In one of the most remarkable U.S. Navy documents in recent memory, the service is admitting to widespread failures and training shortfalls at the core of its most basic function: safely operating ships at sea. A comprehensive review of the Surface Navy conducted by the Navy's Fleet Forces Command found that both the Japan-based 7th Fleet headquarters leadership and its ship commanders allowed training and proficiency to erode as they sought to keep ships underway to meet [Read the full story](#)

Statement from Secretary of Veterans Affairs on Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin announced that he is considering possible new presumptive conditions that may qualify for disability compensation related to Agent Orange exposure. http://www.veteransresources.org/2017/11/statement-secretary-veterans-affairs-agent-orange-presumptive-conditions/?utm_source=Feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Veterans+Resources+Feed#.Wf4pwTz3aEc

November is now Veterans and Military Families Month

VA Secretary David Shulkin joined President Donald Trump in the Oval Office for the President's signing of a proclamation establishing November as Veterans and Military Families Month. http://www.veteransresources.org/2017/11/november-now-veterans-military-families-month/?utm_source=Feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Veterans+Resources+Feed#.Wf4qEzz3aEc

Cuyahoga County Suicide Postvention Response Team: the team responds with the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office to those most immediately affected by suicide loss. Sadly, many of these cases include veterans as well. Our primary goal is to let families and loved ones know that they are not alone during this difficult time. The Team provides:

- Timely response to survivors of suicide loss
- A listening ear
- Information about local resources available to survivors

Additionally, the team also offers cutting-edge, practical training courses to the community. The list currently includes:

Introduction to Suicidology: Prevention, Intervention and Postvention

Every 12 minutes someone dies by suicide in our country; every 13 minutes someone is left behind to make sense of it. Improved education results in improved risk assessment and intervention. This course presents basic data and practical information that will help you better understand the enigma of suicide via exploration of its three sub-disciplines.

Talk Saves Lives: A Brief Introduction to Suicide Prevention

This is a community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide. Attendees learn the risk and warning signs of suicide, what suicide is, who it affects, what we know about it, and what can be done to prevent it.

The Power of Forgiveness: Helping People Heal

The ability to move on is critical in the recovery or spiritual growth process. Once you fully understand the benefits of, and challenges to, forgiveness, you will be equipped with proven, effective techniques that are vital in the process. You will familiarize yourself with recent research that challenges conventional views and points to new methodologies and creative techniques that transcend traditional approaches. This landmark course has been highly-rated by clinicians, caregivers and laypersons in over 30 cities nationwide.

Self-Forgiveness: Piecing the Puzzle Together

Why is self-forgiveness so hard? Why are there different views on this issue? Is it an event, or a process? Is self-forgiveness really possible in the long run? What about the shame and anger that still arises? How come I still don't feel like I've forgiven myself? Is it possible to be sure I've forgiven myself? We'll tackle all of these tough questions in this one-of-a-kind seminar.

All of these courses are proven, high-end, energizing presentations. The focus is always on innovative, empowering tools that can be used immediately. Each course is outcome-based and carefully designed for the specific audience. Trainees have included veterans, clinicians, crisis

workers, law enforcement, first responders, physicians, educators, university students, clergy, laity, numerous community service providers and virtually all ranks of caregivers.

For additional information, contact Coordinator Pete Bliss of the Cuyahoga County Suicide Postvention Response Team at [216-509-3594](tel:216-509-3594) or suicide_response@outlook.com

Cleveland VA Calendar

<https://www.cleveland.va.gov/monthview.asp?thismonth=10&thisyear=2017&go=Go>

Volunteerism

Here are some great opportunities to put your military experiences to work benefiting others in need.

- **Project GreenCare for Troops:** a national 10-year old program that provides free lawn, landscape and snow removal services for military families and veterans with a service-related disability needs your support. There are more than 225,000 military personnel deployed in 150 countries and 3.6 million veterans with a service-related disability needing day-to-day household and lifestyle assistance.

Project EverGreen's GreenCare for Troops and SnowCare for Troops provides complimentary basic year maintenance, and snow and ice removal services to military families and disable Veterans. For more information contact Ki Matsko at 888.611.2955 or kimatsko@projectevergreen.org

- The **American Red Cross'** unwavering commitment to members of the U.S. military, its veterans and their families continues to grow and develop more than a century after Clara Barton first recruited nurses to support the U.S. Army. Today, the Red Cross is meeting the needs of a changing military and expanding services to veterans. Red Cross support of military members and their families enhances morale and contributes to increased operational capability in several ways. New volunteers: visit <https:redcross.org/neo> Click on "volunteer" tab.
- **Cleveland Municipal Court's Veterans Treatment Docket** needs volunteers – preferably military veterans to help Veterans transition to a successful life. If you are interested in volunteering to help our veterans successfully re-enter civilian life, please contact Derek Moore at (216) 664-4712 or via email at moored@cmcoh.org for additional information.
- **Needed: 'A few good mentors': The Cuyahoga Common Pleas Veteran Treatment Court (VTC)** is a judge-monitored treatment program for military veterans. A key component of the program is volunteer Veteran Mentors who volunteer their time to help veterans re-adapt to civilian life. For more information visit: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1NiwCZ_V-9iTF8wYXhqcE4yWm8/view?usp=sharing

Employment Opportunities / Links

City of Cleveland <http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/Community/CareerCenter>

Veteran Job Search Assistance: If you know a Veteran or Military Spouse who could benefit from FREE, UNLIMITED job search coaching, please have them visit www.gunnyret.com to schedule a “First Call”.

Ohio National Guard Employment Enhancement

Support: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6KQApfHm1pGbnByRGITNEhyUIU/view?usp=sharing>

Free, Unlimited Military Veteran Job Search Coaching: provided by www.gunnyret.com

VA JOBS Home: <http://www.va.gov/jobs/>

Ohio.gov: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/ohio/default.cfm?clearSearch=1>

Cleveland: <http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/HumanResources/OpenPositions>

USAJobs: <https://www.usajobs.gov/Veterans>

MilitaryJobs.com: <http://www.military.com/veteran-jobs>

Ohio Federal Government Jobs: <http://federalgovernmentjobs.us/job-location/ohio-oh.html>

Stars and Stripes; Veteran Job Center: <http://veteranjobs.stripes.com/>

USERRA: The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protects service members' reemployment rights when returning from a period of service in the uniformed services, including those called up from the reserves or National Guard, and prohibits employer discrimination based on military service or obligation. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) administers USERRA

- Link to DOJ USERRA website: <http://www.justice.gov/crt/military/statute.htm>
- Link to the DOJ website: http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/userra_fs.htm

Information Links

USS COD Submarine Memorial: opened for daily public tours **May 1, 2017 10 AM – 5 PM**
<http://USSCOD.org>

Vietnam Wall <http://thewall-usa.com/names.asp>

Ohio Western Reserve Military Cemetery
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ohiowesternreserve.asp>

National Cemetery Administration Gravesite Locator <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>

Military Veteran Service Records <https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

Military Veterans' Travel Guide – Ideas, Discounts, & Resources

<https://upgradedpoints.com/military-veterans-travel-guide/>

Welcome to MyVA.COM. . . getting it right from the start

Enrolling for VA care is a life-changing decision for Veterans. Choosing your health care provider is a leap of faith that will impact your entire life. “Welcome to MyVA” (W2MyVA) starts that relationship right with a welcoming call from an informed, service-oriented VA representative.

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/30277/welcome-myva-getting-right-start/>

Dental Care Resources for Veterans: <https://www.emergencydentistsusa.com/dental-care-resources-for-veterans/>

Cleveland American Veterans Association: <http://www.cava4vets.org/>

Veteran Service Commission Meetings – are open to the public. The Commissioners encourage members of the Veteran Community to come and see how the Cuyahoga County Veteran Commission works and the benefits available to our Veterans. The meetings are held at the Commission offices at 1849 Prospect Avenue, Suite 150, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 at 9:30 AM the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Free Parking: The Veterans Service Commission reserved parking spaces in the lot just East of our building (on Prospect Avenue). The lot has signs posted noting they belong to the Veterans Service Commission. This will allow veterans to park for free.

Peer Advisors for Veteran Education: Representatives from more than 40 colleges and universities have come together to learn ways to support student Veterans who face two significant changes simultaneously: transitioning from the military to civilian life and the transition from the military to academia. Neither of these is easy. Read more at www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/29879/new-va-partnership-expands-power-of-peer-support-among-student-veterans/

Get connected with V.E.T.S Program: The Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland is sponsoring a series of job preparedness, career development, financial literacy and computer training workshops. The program is designed to help veterans overcome barriers in order to transition from military life, prepare to compete for jobs in the civilian labor force.

The VETS Program is in collaboration with the Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network (MAGNET), Cuyahoga Valley Careers Center, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Veterans Program

Read it here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1NiwCZ_V-9iQzJERUUwdThPaG8/view?usp=sharing

VAntage Point: the official blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/subscribe/>

311VET - new app answers general VA benefits questions
<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/23378/311vet-new-app-answers-general-va-benefits-questions/>

Cuyahoga Community College Veteran Upward Bound Program: Since 1973, VUB has provided comprehensive educational support services to eligible U.S. military veterans interested in pursuing a college degree or certificate. Services include academic enrichment classes, math and English tutors, assistance with applying for federal student aid, and transition into a college or university of their choice. All services are **no cost** to the veteran. For information call 216-987-4938 or visit www.Tri-C.edu/vub

Amputee Recreational Support Group of Central Ohio: <http://www.arsgcoh.org/> regularly schedules recreational activities for amputees – Veterans and non-Veterans, including Yoga for Amputees, shooting events, and recreational swimming. For more information, contact Robert Hass at (614) 288-5105 or Amputee@columbus.rr.com

Department of Defense Media Center: <http://www.dma.mil/>

Veterans Business Support Center: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1NiwCZ_V-9iS0NiUjQ3cnFLTE0/view?usp=sharing

Ohio National Guard Employer Advisory Council: The ONG Employer Advisory Council was developed to provide military-friendly employers with useful resources and guidance to help them success with military retention and recruitment initiatives. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1NiwCZ_V-9ibUNOOG02S2gybWc/view?usp=sharing

Columbus Honor Flight: www.honorflightcolumbus.org

Honor Flight Cleveland: www.honorflightcleveland.com

Veterans Crisis Line: 1 800 273 8255

Women of Hope, Inc: www.womenofhopeoh.org

Chase Bank Support for Veterans: www.ChaseMilitary.com

Justice for Veterans: <http://www.justiceforvets.org/>

Google for Veterans: <http://www.googleforveterans.com/>

Military Memorabilia Donations: www.ohiohistory.org/militarycall

Ohio Veterans Memorial Park: <http://www.ovmp.org/>

Cold War Recognition Certificate: the Cold War Recognition Certificate is a recognition certificate awarded by the [Secretary of Defense](#) to all [U.S. Armed Forces](#) personnel and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the [Cold War](#) era, which is defined as September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991. Anyone who served in the military or the Federal Government during this period is authorized to receive the certificate.

Congress established the Cold War certificate in Section 1084 of the fiscal 1998 National Defense Authorization Act. The Department of Defense designated the Department of the Army as the executive

agent for the Cold War Recognition Certificate program. <http://usmilitary.about.com/cs/genmedals/ht/coldwar.htm>

Veteran Resources: <http://www.veteransresources.org/>

Cleveland VA Regional Benefit Office: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/cleveland/>

VetBiz.gov Home: <http://www.vetbiz.gov/>

Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County: www.jvccoc.org

Equal Honor for All: www.equalhonor.org

Greater Cleveland Fisher House: The Goal of the Greater Cleveland Fisher House Organization is to raise \$7,000,000 for the construction of a Fisher House (there are currently 62 houses in operation across the US, Germany, and England) that will be located on the grounds of the Louis Stokes VA Hospital in Cleveland, the third largest VA hospital in the US. <http://greaterclevelandfisherhouse.org/>

Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical

Center: <http://www.cleveland.va.gov/?wvsessionid=fe802c6620da402484b74ac24a5f1650>

Greater Cleveland Veterans (GCV) Memorial: www.clevelandvetmemorial.org

GCV Honor Roll: The Citizens of Cuyahoga County have served the nation well, and paid a heavy price. When America needed defenders the men and women of Greater Cleveland have answered the call. From 1899 to 2014, a span of 115 years, 5,552 patriots of the county have fallen in military service during time of war. Search the honor roll: <http://www.clevelandvetmemorial.org/GCV-honor-roll-search.asp>

My HealthVet: www.myhealth.va.gov

Rewards for Justice Website: The Rewards for Justice program continues to be one of the most valuable U.S. Government assets in the fight against international terrorism. Established by the 1984 Act to Combat International Terrorism, Public Law 98-533, the Program is administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. <http://www.rewardsforjustice.net/english/most-wanted/all-regions.html>

Locating Veterans and Service Members: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/locate-service-members.html>

National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics: <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/>

Military News: www.military.com

The American Legion: <http://www.legion.org/>

Veterans of Foreign Wars USA: <http://www.vfw.org/>

Stars and Stripes Veterans Link: <http://www.stripes.com/news/veterans>

Air Force Times: <http://www.airforcetimes.com/>

Army Times: <http://www.armytimes.com/>

Marine Corps Times: <http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/>

Navy Times: <http://www.navytimes.com/>

Defense News: <http://www.defensenews.com/>

Veterans Benefits Administration: <http://www.vba.va.gov/>

GI Bill website: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

Veteran Resources: <http://www.veteransresources.org/>

Explore VA Benefits: www.explore.VA.gov

Ohio VFW: <http://www.ohiovfw.org/>

Ohio Legion News: <http://ohiolegionnews.com/>

National Marine Corp Business Network: <http://www.nmcbn.com/>