



# Base Cleveland Veteran News

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

*Prepared and distributed to Veterans and supporters of those who served*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Invitation to USS Cod Submarine Memorial: Veterans Family Fair**, on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is an event for veterans and their families to enjoy the Cod (free tours and entertainment) and provide an opportunity for them to explore other North Coast Harbor attractions. A brief program is planned at 12:30 p.m. to salute veterans and their families, complete with a deck gun salute.

The event planners are looking for service organizations that provide services to Veterans and families to set up information displays at this event on August 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a call to any organization that provides services to Veterans and their families.

Please contact Paul Farace at 216-408-6991 or by email: [pfarace@att.net](mailto:pfarace@att.net), if you have any questions or are interested in participating.

- **USS Cod Submarine Memorial: "Where Cleveland Honors Veterans!"**

The **USS Cod Submarine** opened for tours on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We're open every day until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Then Saturdays only through November 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Following are some 2018 rides and events supporting firefighters and law enforcement like the Firefighters Memorial Ride on May 27<sup>th</sup>, the Cops Ride on June 24<sup>th</sup> and Never Forget 9/11 Ride and Ceremony on September 19<sup>th</sup>.** Find more information: [www.firefightersmemorialride.com](http://www.firefightersmemorialride.com) or [www.copsride.com](http://www.copsride.com).

**2018 Veterans Day Ceremony and Parade:** the annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held in the Rotunda of City Hall at 11 a.m. Friday, November 9, 2018 followed by the annual Veterans Day Parade which will step off at 12:30 PM, immediately following the ceremony.

**Subscribe to the VA Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs** <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/subscribe/>

**Cleveland Veterans Administration: calendar of events**  
<https://www.cleveland.va.gov/calendar.asp>

**\*NEW\***: Lest We Forget

<https://lestweforgetsculpture.org/>

## NEWS

### **Military sex assault reports jump 10 percent**

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials say reports of sexual assaults across the military jumped by nearly 10 percent in 2017, a year that saw a massive online nude-photo sharing scandal rock the services, triggering greater awareness of sexual harassment and other similar complaints.

The overall increase was fueled by a nearly 15-percent surge in sexual assault reports in the Marine Corps, according to officials familiar with the data. The Marines were at the center of last year's online investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and launched a large public campaign to raise awareness of inappropriate behavior and beef up enforcement of social media rules and conduct.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2018/04/25/military-sex-assault-reports-jump-10-percent/>

### **Senator questions pay, benefits status for guardsmen serving on southern US border**

WASHINGTON — Sen. Tammy Duckworth doesn't want National Guard troops deploying to the U.S. southern border for an unclear security mission. But if they are, she wants to make sure they're getting paid properly for the work.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on Wednesday, the Illinois Democrat expressed concerns that federal officials haven't clarified the pay and benefits status of the roughly 4,000 guardsmen being deployed to southern states as part of President Donald Trump's order earlier this month.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/pay-benefits/2018/04/25/senator-questions-pay-benefits-status-for-guardsmen-serving-on-southern-us-border/>

### **House lawmakers back White House plans for 2.6 percent pay raise, end strength boost**

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers are backing White House plans for a 2.6 percent pay raise and another sizable boost to the military

end strength in their first draft annual budget legislation released Wednesday.

The proposal also includes plans to bring military service better in line with civilian careers, including making permanent the Defense Department's Career Intermission Program and overhauling the Transition Assistance Program to better prepare troops for post-service life.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/pay-benefits/2018/04/25/house-lawmakers-back-white-house-plans-for-26-percent-pay-raise-end-strength-boost/>

### **His nomination in peril, Jackson fights for VA post**

WASHINGTON — His nomination in peril, Veterans Affairs nominee Ronny Jackson fought Tuesday to convince lawmakers of his leadership abilities as more details emerged over his alleged misconduct, ranging from repeated drunkenness to a toxic work environment, as he served as a top White House doctor.

President Donald Trump sent mixed signals about his choice to lead the sprawling veterans' agency, suggesting during a White House news conference that Jackson may want to withdraw because of unfair scrutiny. But the president privately urged his nominee to keep fighting to win Senate confirmation, and Jackson showed few signs of backing down.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2018/04/24/watchdog-report-points-to-power-struggle-involving-va-secretary-pick/>

### **Veteran lawmaker wants Congress to honor Southwest pilot as a civilian and military hero**

WASHINGTON — One of Congress' military aviation veterans is pushing for her colleagues to honor a fellow female veteran for her actions to land a passenger plane whose engine exploded mid-flight this week.

Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., introduced a resolution Thursday commending Southwest pilot Tammie Jo Shults "not only for her commitment to the safety of the passengers on her plane, but for paving the way for women in military and commercial aviation."

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2018/04/19/veteran-lawmaker-wants-congress-to-honor-southwest-pilot-as-a-civilian-and-military-hero/>

### **Could changes to TAP curb veteran suicide?**

*Editor's Note: This story has been updated to correct information previously provided to Military Times about Ryan Loya's job.*

Transforming the way service members are prepared for life after the military could curb veteran unemployment, homelessness and suicide.

At least that's the hope behind a new bill being introduced in Congress that seeks to strengthen the Defense Department's mandatory Transition Assistance Program or TAP.

<https://rebootcamp.militarytimes.com/news/transition/2018/04/18/could-changes-to-tap-curb-veteran-suicide/>

## **Senator wants to cut down on veterans website confusion**

WASHINGTON — Sen. Claire McCaskill wants to know whether [vets.gov](http://vets.gov), a federal website designed to give information about their benefits, is being undermined by [veterans.gov](http://veterans.gov), a wholly separate federal website designed to give information about their benefits.

She's hoping President Donald Trump's administration, which has repeatedly pledged to cut back on government waste and redundancy, can step in and simplify the problem.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2018/04/18/senator-wants-to-cut-down-on-veterans-web-site-confusion/>

## **Florida workers in Blackhawk military helicopter program face potential layoffs**

FLORIDA — As many as 200 employees at the Lockheed Martin/Sikorsky facility in Jupiter, Florida could be affected by potential layoffs this summer.

The workers union representing the employees -- Teamsters Local 1150 -- said they are doing everything they can to find people new positions within the company.

<https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/national/florida-workers-in-blackhawk-military-helicopter-program-face-potential-layoffs>

**MORE VETERAN NEWS SOURCES:** <https://www.vnnusa.com/>

**POW/MIA Bulletin:** <http://www.veteransresources.org/powmia-bulletin/#.WoGZ4a6nGpo>

## **NAVY WEEK 2018**

From Springfield, Massachusetts to Sacramento, California, to Bossier City, Louisiana, America's Navy will sail into 14 cities across the country in 2018 as part of the Navy Week outreach program.

Navy Weeks, coordinated by the Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO), are designed to give Americans the opportunity to learn about the Navy, its people and its importance to national security and prosperity. Since 2005, the Navy Week program has served as the Navy's flagship outreach effort into areas of the country without a significant Navy presence, with 210 Navy Weeks held in 74 different U.S. markets.

Navy Weeks are scheduled for the following cities in 2018:

- San Antonio, Feb. 19-25
- Waco, Texas, April 2-8
- Birmingham, Alabama, April 9-15
- Tampa, Florida, May 7-13
- Chattanooga, Tennessee, June 11-17
- Reno/Carson City, Nevada, June 17-23
- Sacramento, California, July 16-22
- Fargo, North Dakota, July 23-29
- Milwaukee, Aug. 6-12
- Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 20-26
- **Cleveland, Aug. 27-Sep. 2**
- Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sep. 10-16
- Springfield, Massachusetts, Sep. 17-23
- Bossier City/Shreveport, Louisiana, Oct. 29-Nov. 4

[http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=103650](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=103650)

**Did you know.....**

### **Housing Partnership solves problem of at-risk Homeless Veterans**

<https://www.veteranstoday.com/2018/04/03/partnership-homeless-veterans/>

### **Veterans Crisis Line**

Veterans, Service members, and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, send a text message to **838255**, or chat online to receive free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

[https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/)

### **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)**

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp>

### **The House Committee on Veteran Affairs:**

<https://veterans.house.gov/news/>

## About Cleveland Honor Flights:

<https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/about-honor-flight-cleveland.docx>

## VOLUNTEERISM

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

- **National Park Service Volunteer Opportunities**

Make a vital contribution to Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and our community! You can help the park fulfill its mission to provide visitor enjoyment and preserve resources. The mission of CVNP's Volunteers-in-Parks Program is to engage people in the park, building a community of park stewards. The volunteer program is co-managed by the National Park Service and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Depending on the volunteer position, volunteers will work with staff from National Park Service, the Conservancy for CVNP, Countryside Conservancy, and Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

<https://www.nps.gov/cuva/getinvolved/volunteer.htm>

<https://www.conservancyforcvnp.org/experience/volunteer/>

- 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](mailto: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-9iTF8wYXhqE4yWm8/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1NiwCZ_V-9iTF8wYXhqE4yWm8/view?usp=sharing)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES / LINKS

**Department of Veterans Affairs** Link with the VA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairs/>

## 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](http://www.gunnyret.com) to schedule a "First Call".

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

## 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](http://www.gunnyret.com)

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

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

**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](http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/userra_fs.htm)

## INFORMATION LINKS

**Cuyahoga County Suicide Postvention Response Team:** 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](mailto:suicide_response@outlook.com)

**USS COD Submarine Memorial:** <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/](http://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](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](http://www.Tri-C.edu/vub)

**Amputee Recreational Support Group of Central Ohio:** <http://www.arsgcooh.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](mailto: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](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](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1NiwCZ_V-9ibUNOOG02S2gybWc/view?usp=sharing)

**Columbus Honor Flight:** [www.honorflightcolumbus.org](http://www.honorflightcolumbus.org)

**Honor Flight Cleveland:** [www.honorflightcleveland.com](http://www.honorflightcleveland.com)

**Veterans Crisis Line:** 1 800 273 8255

**Women of Hope, Inc:** [www.womenofhopeoh.org](http://www.womenofhopeoh.org)

**Chase Bank Support for Veterans:** [www.ChaseMilitary.com](http://www.ChaseMilitary.com)

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

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

**Military Memorabilia Donations:** [www.ohiohistory.org/militarycall](http://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.

<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/>

**This Week at VA:** <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/47109/va-now-offers-adoption-reimbursement/>

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

**Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County:** [www.jvcooc.org](http://www.jvcooc.org)

**Equal Honor for All:** [www.equalhonor.org](http://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 Memorial (GCVM):** [www.clevelandvetmemorial.org](http://www.clevelandvetmemorial.org)

**GCVM 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/GCVM-honor-roll-search.asp>

**My HealthVet:** [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://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](http://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/>

**Explore VA Benefits:** [www.explore.VA.gov](http://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/>