



Base Cleveland Veteran News

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Prepared and distributed to Veterans and supporters of those who served

SPECIAL EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

- **Act of Valor Event on June 6, 2019 at League Park - 75th Anniversary of D-Day *NEW***
For more information visit: www.actofvaloraward.org. You may also email Rob DiBiasio at bdibiasio@indians.com or Peter Fertig at Peter.Fertig@adp.com
- **Armed Forces Week: May 12-18, 2019**
Mission Barbeque extends offers for Armed Forces Week. See flyer (attached and posted below). Note the specific days for each branch of the service.
https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/mission_bbq_flyer_a_rmedforcesweek2019_v1.jpg
- **Flag Day Event - Friday, June 14, 2019**
All are invited to this year's Flag Day Ceremony June 14, 2019. This year we added a five piece Army Band and a ceremonial recruit swearing-in ceremony, to be conducted by the Recruiting Command Brigade Commander, Col. Lopez.
For more information view the attached flier:
<https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/flag-day-2019.pdf>
- **2019 Cleveland National Air Show dates released, featuring U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds: August 31 through September 2, 2019**
<https://fox8.com/2019/01/04/2019-cleveland-national-air-show-dates-released-featuring-u-s-air-force-thunderbirds/>
- **National Veterans Memorial & Museum in Columbus, Ohio**
For more go to: <https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/nvmm-dedication-and-grand-opening.pdf>
- **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>
- **Lest We Forget**

<https://lestweforgetsculpture.org/>

NEWS: *NEW*

1. Gold Star families who saw huge tax bill hikes could get relief from Congress

A bipartisan group of House lawmakers is pushing for a quick fix to tax law changes that left some [families of fallen troops](#) owing thousands more to the government this year. At issue is how taxes of [survivor benefits](#) are handled. In previous years, money given by the military to the children of troops who died on duty were taxed at the same rate as their surviving parents.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/gold-star-families-who-saw-huge-tax-bill-hikes-could-get-relief-from-congress/>

2. Shanahan says military won't leave until US-Mexico border is secure

MCALLEN, Texas — Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan visited a border city in Texas on Saturday and said he intends to [accelerate planning to secure the border](#) and bolster the administration's ability to accomplish that without the Pentagon's continuous help.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/shanahan-says-military-wont-leave-until-border-is-secure>

3. Taliban fighters double as reporters to wage Afghan digital war

KABUL (Reuters) - Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's chief spokesman and editor-in-chief of the insurgent group's daily news bulletin, starts every day by collecting reports of overnight fighting with U.S. and Afghan forces.

<https://www.reuters.com/taliban-fighters-double-as-reporters-to-wage-afghan-digital-war/>

4. Carrier Lincoln Enters Red Sea After Speeding Up Transit to Middle East

A [Navy](#) carrier strike group has entered the waters around the Middle East, four days after U.S. officials announced they were dispatching a show of military strength to the region in response to threats from Iran.

The Abraham Lincoln Strike Group transited the Suez Canal on Thursday, passing from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through the 120-mile channel, Navy officials announced.

<https://www.military.com/carrier-lincoln-enters-red-sea-after-speeding-transit-middle-east.html/>

5. Afghan military looks to bigger bases while closing checkpoints in hostile Taliban territory

CAMP MAIWAND, Afghanistan — Taliban raids like the one on a small outpost in Wardak province that killed 11 of his soldiers earlier this month are a vexing problem for Brig. Gen. Abdul Raziq Safi.

<https://www.stripes.com/afghan-military-looks-to-bigger-bases-while-closing-checkpoints-in-hostile-taliban-territory/>

6. To counter China, Pentagon wants to create patriotic investors

WASHINGTON — Faced with Chinese [tactics](#) of creating private equity firms and [investing in American technologies](#), the Pentagon is preparing a new tool, one it hopes will lead domestic investors to increase spending in companies vital for the [defense-industrial base](#).

<https://www.defensenews.com/to-counter-china-pentagon-wants-to-create-patriotic-investors/>

7. Ted Williams: American Hero

Teddy Samuel Williams was born August 30, 1918, in San Diego, California. He grew up in a family which loved baseball and his uncle taught him how to play the game when he was only eight years old. Showing great promise in high school, the young Williams was actively recruited by Major League teams such as the New York Yankees and the St. Louis Cardinals. Williams decided to stay in San Diego, playing for his local minor league club, the Padres.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/60062/ted-williams-american-hero/>

8. VA building trust with Veterans through customer experience improvements

Lee Becker, Chief of Staff for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Experience Office, spoke with Federal News Network's Jason Miller about what VA is doing nationally to gain the trust of our Nation's heroes. During the radio interview, Becker explains VA is making bold moves in the way customer experience is being infused into VA organizational culture.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/60050/va-working-build-trust-veterans-customer-experience-improvements/>

9. F-35 Deja Vu: The U.S. Air Force Promised the F-4 Phantom Would Never Dogfight

With a little bit of warning, a MiG-17 could out-turn a missile — and then use that same maneuverability to get on the American jet's tail.

The aerial dogfight was not supposed to happen. On May 20, 1967, eight U.S. Air Force F-4C fighters were patrolling over North Vietnam when

they spotted as many as 15 enemy MiG-17 fighters a short distance away.

<https://nationalinterest.org/f-35-deja-vu-us-air-force-promised-f-4-phantom-would-never-dogfight/>

10. Prosecutors: SEAL war crimes suspect got death threat

A federal agent is probing a death threat mailed to Special Warfare Operator Chief Edward “Eddie” Gallagher, the SEAL accused of committing a string of war crimes in Iraq.

In a brief message sent by military prosecutors to defense attorney [Timothy Parlatore](#) late Wednesday, officials indicated that the threat came in the form of a postcard intercepted at [Naval Medical Center San Diego](#), where Gallagher is living until his court-martial trial concludes in June.

<https://www.navytimes.com/prosecutors-seal-war-crimes-suspect-got-death-threat/>

11. Army upgrades officer’s Silver Star for throwing a live grenade back at the enemy

Maj. Nicholas Eslinger was a second lieutenant in October 2008 when he earned a [Silver Star](#) in Iraq. On Friday, he saw that award bumped up to the [Distinguished Service Cross](#).

Eslinger’s award was pinned on by [Army Training and Doctrine Command](#) boss Gen. Stephen Townsend in a ceremony at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

<https://www.armytimes.com/army-upgrades-officers-silver-star-for-throwing-a-live-grenade-back-at-the-enemy/>

12. A dozen companies chosen to work on up to \$5B in construction projects for Trump’s border wall

President Donald Trump’s vision for a border wall along the southern U.S. border with Mexico took a big step forward Wednesday as a dozen companies from around the nation have been [selected to compete on up to \\$5 billion worth of horizontal construction projects](#) over a five-year period ending in 2024.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/a-dozen-companies-chosen-to-work-on-up-to-5-billion-in-construction-projects-for-trumps-border-wall/>

13. Big boost in VA funding could be halted by border wall funding fight

House appropriators advanced a \$228 billion budget plan to [fund the Department of Veterans Affairs](#) and various military construction projects next fiscal year, adding even more money to veterans programs than [the White House has requested](#).

<https://www.militarytimes.com/big-boost-in-va-funding-could-be-halted-by-border-wall-funding-fight/>

14. In First, Pentagon to Release Information on Military Dependent Suicides

The Pentagon will release a new annual report on active-duty military suicides this year -- one that will provide complete data for 2018 as well as a first-ever look at suicides among military family members.

<https://www.military.com/first-pentagon-release-information-military-dependent-suicides.html/>

15. Trump nominates Shanahan as next defense secretary

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has seen enough of Patrick Shanahan, and liked what he saw.

After months of expectations, Shanahan, an industry veteran who was thrust into the Pentagon's top spot after Jim Mattis resigned, is the president's official pick as the next secretary of defense.

<https://www.defensenews.com/trump-nominates-shanahan-as-next-sec-def/>

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

Polish Legion of American Veterans Winter 2019 News Letter:

<https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/plav-ohio-2019-winter-newsletter.pdf>

Vietnam Veterans for Greater Cleveland Chapter #15 – January 2019 News Letter

<https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/vva-greater-cleveland-chapter-15-newsletter-january-2019.pdf>

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

AL POST 703 NEWS LETTER FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2018: <https://clecityhall.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/al-post-703-sept-oct-2018-newsletter.pdf>

This Week at the VA:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/bulletins/20c2125>

DID YOU KNOW...*NEW*

Military Jokes and Humor

<http://laffgaff.com/funny-military-jokes-and-humor/>

Funny Military Jokes

https://www.vetfriends.com/ugc/military_jokes/military_jokes.cfm

Are you a 30-minute drive from your nearest VA facility?

This map will show you

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2019/05/07/are-you-a-30-minute-drive-from-your-nearest-va-medical-facility-this-map-will-show-you/>

May is Military Appreciation Month! Below are some of the places offering discounts during the month and some of them beyond May.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/pay-benefits/2019/05/06/check-out-these-military-veteran-discounts-and-deals-for-may-and-beyond/>

For those of you looking to go Cedar Point please look at the article below:

<https://www.news5cleveland.com/lifestyle/cedar-point-offering-free-admission-to-military-members-on-mondays-select-weekends>

One more site WKYC 3 in Cleveland:

<https://www.wkyc.com/article/money/consumer/dealboss/military-appreciation-month-2019-the-18-best-deals-to-honor-service-members/507-1ed4d1f3-da51-4f73-8c01-04a1945b94b5>

OTHER CONNECTIONS

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/

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 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

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 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

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

INFORMATION LINKS

VetBizCentral: MICHIGAN - OHIO – INDIANA

Veterans Helping Veterans - This is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the United States Small Business Administration.

http://vetbizcentral.org/events_oh.php

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

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/

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.

<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

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 Memorial (GCVM): 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

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/>

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/>