



## Memorial Day services brings community together

While businesses touted big savings, school children celebrate the unofficial beginning of summer and workers enjoyed a day off work, the nation, state and local community spent a couple hours remembering the true meaning of Memorial Day is really all about.

In Coshocton and surrounding communities, the tone was one not of celebration, but one of remembrance and solemn gratitude for those who served in the Armed Forces and either paid the ultimate price or have passed on after honorably serving our country.

That attitude was apparent on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> during the Coshocton Memorial Day Services as Warsaw-area residents Carla and John Cullison alternated between reading the names of local veterans who had passed away over the past 12 months and tolling the Memorial bell.

Featured speaker John Moon, former National and State VFW Commander highlighted the program.

A resident of Grover Hill, Ohio, Moon was impressed with the number of people who attended the services.

"I am proud to see that so many of you chose to spend the morning observing what Memorial Day truly means, which is to honor and remember those who died to give us freedom. We are free to gather because of the brave men



**Former National and State VFW Commander John Moon addresses the crowd during the 2017 Memorial Day Services.**

and women who fought for our freedom.

"All generations need to rededicate themselves to believing in a strong country because of those who came before us."

The annual parade kicked off the festivities with dozens of entries ranging from Boy and Girl Scout troops to vintage military vehicles and trucks spanned the length of Main Street between Eighth and Third Streets.

The services began Coshocton Trinity Episcopal Church Lay Minister Jim Shivers delivering the Invocation while the Coshocton High School band performed the National Anthem.

A special presentation was made to River View eighth grade student Jerimiah Mayle, who petitioned his school to instate the Pledge of Allegiance as part of the daily ritual. A gift was presented by Coshocton Board of Realtors member Joe Scott and proclamations from

two separate government entities were read and presented.

Mayle then led the audience in the Pledge.

Bryce Gibson, a seventh grade student at Ridgewood Middle School read his winning Patriot's Pen essay and Becky Bowden of the Blue Star Mothers Chapter OH 59

**(See MEMORIAL DAY, Pg. 4)**

## World War II MIA found, returned and honored at services

Army Pvt. Gene J. Appleby, missing from World War II, has now been accounted for, returned to Coshocton and laid to rest beside his mother and sister at South Lawn Cemetery.

Appleby was 29 years old when he enlisted in the Army.

On Sept. 17, 1944, Appleby was a member of Company A, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, as part of

Operation Market Garden. The regiment was tasked with landing at Drop Zone "T," north of Groesbeek, The Netherlands. Appleby successfully jumped and was seen on the ground by members of the unit.

However, as the soldiers rallied to move toward their objective, Appleby was seen struck by enemy fire. Following the attack, he was listed as missing in action, and declared him deceased as of Sept. 18, 1945.

The remains of Appleby arrived in Columbus on June 20th as officials from Miller Funeral Home of Coshocton were on hand to transport his

body. A procession ensued with numerous fire, law enforcement and emergency vehicles as well as members of the Ohio Patriot Guard paid tribute.

Services were held at the funeral home on June 22<sup>nd</sup> with 29 members of the Coshocton County Honor Guard and 15 from the Newcomerstown Honor Guard gave a final salute to Private Appleby.

He was then transported to South Lawn Cemetery aboard a horse-drawn caisson, were personnel from the Army Reserves performed full military

**(See APPLEBY, Pg. 4)**

**Veterans Service Commission**

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Assistant Service Officer

Russell Hammond

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*The Coshocton County Veterans Service Commission meetings are at 4 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month.*

**County Veterans Council Officers**

Commander

Jack Patterson

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First Vice Commander

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Second Vice Commander

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First Year Trustee

Jim Groves

Second Year Trustee

Jack Lipps

Third Year Trustee

Jennifer Holz

Chaplain

Gary Kilpatrick

*Meetings are at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at AMVETS Post #36. All county veterans are welcome to attend.*



**The Coshocton County Honor Guard members conducted Military Funerals during May and June, 2017. Veterans receiving honors included:**

May	June
 <p><b>Ronald W. Young</b> <i>Peacetime</i></p>	 <p><b>Robert R. "Bob" Corwin</b> <i>Peacetime</i></p>
 <p><b>Donald D. Wachtel</b> <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p><b>Thomas C. King</b> <i>Vietnam</i></p>
 <p><b>Thomas W. Knepper I</b> <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p><b>Richard R. Rhodes</b> <i>Korea</i></p>
 <p><b>Robert B. "Robby" Robinson</b> <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p><b>Daniel L. Tate</b> <i>Vietnam</i></p>
 <p><b>Charles W. Mobley Jr.</b> <i>Peacetime</i></p>	 <p><b>Duane D. Beck</b> <i>Korea</i></p>
 <p><b>Gregory L. St. John</b> <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p><b>Eugene J. Appleby</b> <i>World War II</i></p>
 <p><b>William R. Mercer Jr.</b> <i>Peacetime</i></p>	
 <p><b>Paul M. Mikesell</b> <i>World War II</i></p>	

## Zanesville VA holiday party

The Zanesville Daughters of the American Revolution, with the help of the Zanesville VA, Coshocton Blue Star Moms, and others, are hosting a summer party for all area Veterans.

No longer being held at the Clinic on Maple Avenue, the gathering will instead be at the YMCA Park at 1875 Adams Lane in Zanesville on July 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in helping with the event is encouraged to contact the Zanesville CBOC VA at 740-453-7725.

"We are so grateful to DAR for facilitating this event and can't wait to show our Veterans how much we appreciate them," said Liz Hogue of the Zanesville Clinic.

Transportation Coshocton County Veterans aged 60 is available. If interested, contact the Coshocton County Coordinated Transportation Agency at 740-622-7139. Deadline to register is 4 p.m. Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.



Veterans, family members, VA staff and volunteers gathered to enjoy the 2016 Holiday party at the Zanesville VA Clinic.

## Registration open for Ohio Women Veterans Conference

Registration is now open for the Ohio Women Veterans Conference, one of the largest gatherings of women veterans in the nation.

This year's conference is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Ohio State University Union in Columbus.

To register go to [OhioVets.gov](http://OhioVets.gov).

"The Ohio Women Veterans Conference is an awesome opportunity to meet and connect with our sisters in arms," said Angela Beltz, chairwoman of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Women Veterans Advisory Committee. "It's a rare time when women veterans of all eras from WWII to present day Iraq and Afghanistan come together to celebrate progress and learn about the benefits we have earned."

Ohio is home to 67,000 women veterans. Veterans and current military members attending the conference will find information about Ohio's new fast track to jobs and education for veterans, services available locally through Ohio's 88 County Veterans Service Offices and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans programs and benefits. Workshops will cover topics such as community service, employment, entrepreneurship, military retirement, money management, and health and wellness.

Previous conferences have drawn 700 attendants, so early registration is advised.

## Army-Navy #628 hosting Veterans benefit poker run

The Fourth Annual Veterans Benefit Poker Run is upcoming at the Army-Navy Garrison #628 in Coshocton with music, motorcycles and munchies highlighting the July 22<sup>nd</sup> event.

Starting with a buffet breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m., the poker run will begin with the last bike out at 1 p.m. The breakfast is free to all veterans and first responders. Non-veterans will be charged \$5.00.

Held rain or shine, cost to participate in the Poker Run is \$15.00 with the last bike returning by 6 p.m. Best poker hand wins 25 percent of the rider fund.

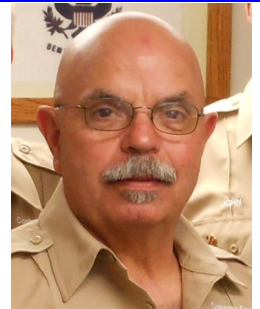
Following the poker run, there will be a Coshocton County Veteran of the Year presentation. The drawing for a Harley-Davidson 883 Sportster will be held at 6:45 p.m.

Live music begins at 7 p.m. with Lock 17 performing on the outside stage. At 11 p.m., Blackhand Hooch will perform on the inside stage.

Anyone wishing to obtain more information can contact Tom Unger at 740-502-3277 or Bernie White at 740-294-8615.

The event is sponsored by the Sons-Daughters-Friends and Family of the Army-Navy.

All proceeds will go to the Veterans Assistance Fund.



Johnny Dotson

## Veterans Service Office Closings

**Monday, July 3rd**

*(Independence Day)*

**Tuesday, July 4th**

*(Independence Day)*

## Meetings, Events & Observances

**Friday, July 14th**

*Zanesville CBOC Summer Bash, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.*

**Saturday, July 22nd**

*Army-Navy #628 Veterans Benefit Poker Run, 9 a.m.-2 a.m.*

## Changes continue at Columbus VA

Columbus With several multimillion-dollar construction projects underway at the Columbus Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center, policy changes are being implemented to improve services,

According to Wendy Hepker, who took over as executive director in March, says veterans should expect to see lots of positive differences in the coming months.

Among the projects: an expanded \$7.5 million audiology clinic that will open this month or next; the building of that \$3.9 million main entrance to make it safer and easier for veterans to navigate; and a \$9 million parking garage that will create an additional 140 spaces but, more important, free up surface lots for even more expansion of other services at the land-locked building.

In addition, mental-health services are moving into leased space offsite, and opening soon will be a new, centralized call center - a particular goal of Hepker's because, she said, calls that aren't returned and long phone wait times have been a critical issue for veterans.

There are nearly 2,000 appointments scheduled on a typical day at the clinic, and it averages about 12,300 phone calls a month.

Among the other changes that administrators are considering is expanding the facility's traditional daytime business hours to include nights and weekends. Hepker said she hopes to have an analysis done by October showing what makes sense.

Providing better care in the specialty clinics has been a goal, too. And Julie Brumbaugh, chief of audiology and speech at the VA clinic, said the space about to open for those services will be a dramatic change for veterans.

Two additional audiologists, a nurse and a speech-language therapist are coming onboard. The number of sound booths for testing will increase from three to five, and the number of fitting rooms for hearing aids will increase from two to five.

### APPLEBY (cont. from Pg. 1)

honors - 73 years after he first became missing.

On Sept. 8, 2011, the Royal Netherlands Army Recovery and Identification Unit (RIU) was notified by the Groesbeek Police of possible human remains found at the Groenendaal Farm by local residents. Officials conducted an excavation and recovered possible human remains and material evidence.



The remains were transferred to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, now DPAA, for identification.

Historians from DPAA working on cases of missing Americans from Operation Market Garden received valuable recovery information from the RIU and traveled to the original recovery site with the local researchers who originally found the remains.

With this information, the DPAA historians established a list of individuals

whose circumstances of loss and last known location matched the remains. Appleby was among the top candidates.

DNA analysis and circumstantial evidence were used in the identification of his remains.

### POW/MIA Recoveries

"Keeping the Promise", "Fulfill their Trust" and "No one left behind" are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation.

The number of Americans who remain missing from conflicts in this century are: World War II (73,515) Korean War (7,841), 13 Cold War (126), Vietnam War (1,627), 1991 Gulf War (5), and Libya (1).

Over 600 Defense Department men and women -- both military and civilian -- work in organizations around the world as part of DoD's personnel recovery and personnel accounting communities. They are all dedicated to the single mission of finding and bringing our missing personnel home.

### (MEMORIAL DAY, Cont. from Pg. 1)

provided a short presentation about her organization.

A rendition of the Armed Forces Medley was sung by the Coshocton High School Choir and following a tribute to fallen comrades, TAPS was performed by Coshocton band members Jacob Heading and Bladen Johnson.

Appreciation was extended to the Coshocton Canal Royalty for distributing the Memorial Day programs; Coshocton Trucking for use of their flatbed trailer; Linnet's Flowers On The Square for donating the bow for the Memorial Wreath; Girl Scout Troop #2527 for releasing the balloons and Boy Scout Troop #402 and Cub Scout Pack #402 for placing the flags during the tribute to fallen comrades.

Also thanked were the Millfork Valley 4-H Club for distributing hand-held flags; Baker's IGA for donating helium for the balloons; Jinni Bowman, Linda Jamison and Jill Sutton for helping with the balloons; Coshocton REACT for assisting with the Parade and traffic control; Patty Dilly of the Veterans Ser-

vice Office in being instrumental in organizing the Parade and Services; and thanks to the many 4-H Clubs, organizations and individuals that placed over 6,500 flags at all of the County cemeteries.



Jeremiah Mayle stands while being recognized for his patriotic deeds prior to the Pledge of Allegiance during Memorial Day services.

## VA budget proposals cause some concerns

Like other advocacy groups, Concerned Veterans for America have problems with the president's proposed Veterans Affairs budget. But unlike most of the veteran's community, they think it doesn't cut enough.

The conservative group, which has ties to prominent Republican donors and several members of President Donald Trump's administration, is releasing a policy memo this week calling for more belt tightening and increased scrutiny of the president's \$186.5 billion budget proposal, which has already drawn criticism from groups like the American Legion for too many trims.

"We recommend that Congress aggressively seek out more savings within the VA's budget, especially in its construction, medical facility operations, personnel, and medical compliance accounts," the document states. "Cutting waste and passing systemic reforms, not throwing money at the current system, are what will make the VA more efficient and effective in delivering our veterans the care they have earned."

The stance is in line with the group's message of fiscal restraint and bureaucratic reductions, but it puts them at odds with much of the rest of the veteran's community. Most have attacked Trump's proposal for cutting several benefits programs, including rounding down beneficiaries of cost-of-living increases to the nearest dollar and ending Individual Unemployability assistance for retirement-age veterans.

Dan Caldwell, policy director for CVA, said his group supports the IU move as reforming a benefit that was intended only for working-age veterans, but would support phasing in the change over several years to ease the impact on individual veterans.

More concerning to him are increases in VA construction and staffing funding. He said VA should be working towards a smaller footprint using more partnerships with private-sector resources than building up VA facilities.

CVA has been a strong proponent of expanding outside care offerings for veterans, a move that critics have derided as a step towards privatization of VA but one that Shulkin has said has to be considered for more routine medical care.

They're pushing lawmakers to further tighten the budget, trimming back some of the \$800 million in new construction funding and \$6.5 billion for medical facility leases in the budget proposal in favor of more private care flexibility. The VA budget has grown dramatically in recent years, nearly doubling since fiscal 2009 (\$93.7 billion) and almost four times the total when the war in Afghanistan began in fiscal 2001 (\$48.7 billion).

## VA Secretary discusses overhaul of Choice program

Just a little beyond his first 100 days in office, VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin presented more details on his plan to overhaul the current Veterans Choice Program and improve health care delivery in testimony held in June before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

While the VA has yet to officially submit its plan to modernize and consolidate community care programs, MOAA has been able to obtain some details in addition to what we learned during the hearing.

The new proposal would consolidate all purchased care programs into a single community care program called Veterans Coordinated Access and Rewarding Experiences (CARE).

The current Choice program has been cumbersome and difficult to navigate and understand since its inception. In some locations, the program has actually made it more difficult for veterans to access care because of administrative hurdles, contracting rules, and inconsistencies in implementing policies, with prime examples being the arbitrary eligibility standards of 30-day wait time and 40-mile distance criteria established under Choice in order to access care in the community.

According to the secretary, the Veterans CARE proposal would "clarify and simplify eligibility requirements, build high performing networks, streamline clinical and administrative processes, and implement new care coordination support for veterans."

The fix for community care is moving to a program based on clinical criteria where the provider or health care team and veteran mutually determine the best care options, whether within the VA or in the community.

The process is expected to empower veterans to work more closely and collaboratively with providers. A simple clinical appeals process would be available when a veteran does not agree with a provider's clinical referral recommendation.

The decision to use VA or community care will depend on who can provide the best clinical care based on availability of services, access to services, and the feasibility of the veteran getting those services.

For instance, if the VA does not offer a service or specialized care, or VA is unable to provide care within the clinically appropriate time, or the quality of care at the VA does not meet performance standards, then community care would be an option for a veteran.

Veterans also would have access to community walk-in clinics in the network to treat minor illnesses or injuries, with no referral required. Additionally, veterans would have a single contact for care coordination and new tools to easily schedule appointments with VA and community providers.



# Memorial Day 2017



Top left: Coshocton High School band member Bladen Johnson performs TAPS; Top middle: Carla Cullison, an Air Force Veteran and her husband John, a Navy veteran ring the Memorial bell in honor of fallen comrades; Middle right: Bob Jones of the Korean War Association salutes after being introduced; Ridgewood seventh grader Bryce Gibson reads his award-winning Patriot's Pen speech; Bottom right Officer of the Day Darryl Jensen salutes during the placement of the Memorial wreath; and bottom left: Don Kennedy holds the American Flag at attention.

## Veterans Hotline now in service

President Trump's long-promised hotline for veteran complaints officially launched on June 1st but questions remain about the long-term plans for the new resource.

The phone line — live now at **855-948-2311** — is designed to “collect, process and respond to the complaints of individual veterans in a responsive, timely and accountable manner,” according to Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

VA Secretary David Shulkin described the initial rollout of the line as a soft launch, with “live-answer agents” receiving and processing some of the calls. He promised that by

mid-August the hotline will have continuous coverage from a live operator 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

During the presidential campaign last year, Trump touted the hotline as a way for veterans to have a direct line to the commander in chief, and even suggested that he would answer it himself if the opportunity arose.

Department officials said they will use information from the hotline to “improve the delivery of care and benefit services to all veterans, including their families, caregivers and survivors,” but offered no further specifics. White House officials have deferred questions about the effort to the VA.

## New online tool available to vets with PTSD

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched a new online tool this week that will help Veterans compare various treatment options for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The PTSD Treatment Decision Aid is a free, interactive online tool that helps educate patients about effective treatment options for PTSD and encourages them to participate actively in decisions about their care.

The tool includes information about evidence-based PTSD treatments, such as talk therapy and prescription medication options.

It also includes useful information designed for people who have served in the military. Users can watch videos of providers explaining different treatment options and what to expect with those treatments, and hear from Veterans who have benefited from them.

Veterans can also build a chart to compare the treatments they prefer and print a personalized summary to share with their providers. All personal information is erased once the tool is closed to protect users' privacy.

According to VA findings, approximately eight of every 100 people will experience PTSD at some point in their lifetimes, and almost 620,000 of the Veterans treated by VA have a diagnosis of PTSD.

To learn more about PTSD visit the National Center for PTSD website at [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov). Health-care providers who have questions about the PTSD Treatment Decision Aid or other free resources can email the PTSD Consultation Program at [PTSDconsult@va.gov](mailto:PTSDconsult@va.gov) or call 866-948-7880.

## Studies of PTSD, medical marijuana continue at VA

Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin said medical marijuana could help veterans, a major split in tone from others in the Trump administration.

“There may be some evidence that this is beginning to be helpful and we're interested in looking at that and learning from that,”

## Verification process in place for veterans exchange shopping

Exchange officials have verified 18,011 honorably discharged veterans for online shopping privileges, including nearly 15,000 in the first four days of the new verification process, officials said in early June.

And no, the site that handles the verification, [www.VetVerify.org](http://www.VetVerify.org), isn't a scam.

A number of veterans have contacted Military Times and exchange officials with identity theft concerns, but “VetVerify.org is a shared service for all the four military exchanges with the sole pur-

Shulkin said about medical use of the drug for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in states with medical marijuana laws.”

Congress recently changed the rules so VA doctors can now discuss medical marijuana with patients in states where it's legal for the first time, but they still can't prescribe the drug.

Shulkin suggested that the VA will look into studying what effects medical marijuana is having on veterans in states where it's legal.

pose of supporting the newly approved veterans online shopping benefit.”

The verification process began June 5<sup>th</sup> allowing honorably discharged veterans to get their credentials in order before the online exchanges open to veteran shoppers in November.

The new benefit is for online shopping only, and doesn't extend to exchange stores on installations.

All 3,200 veterans who were verified prior to Monday's launch received early access to the online exchanges, part of a beta testing program that will give some veterans the chance to shop prior to November.



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

# Coshocton County Veterans Organizations

VFW Post #1330

Commander: Linus Kilchenman  
 133 S. Sixth St.  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
 740-622-6175

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m.

DAV Chapter #74

Commander: Ed Skerness  
 P.O. Box 116  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the AMVETS Career Center at 6:00 p.m.

AMVETS Post #36

Commander: Stan Schmitt  
 986 Otsego Ave.  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
 740-623-0538

Meetings are the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Army/Navy Garrison #628

Commander: Jim Groves  
 628 Walnut St.  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
 740-622-9110

Meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

American Legion Post #466

Commander: Jack Patterson  
 116 E. Main St.  
 West Lafayette, Ohio 43845  
 740-545-9773

Meetings are held on an as needed basis

Coshocton County Veterans Council

Commander: Jack Patterson  
 Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

AMVETS Post #36  
 986 Otsego Ave.,  
 Coshocton, OH 43812



American Legion Post #634

Commander: Gerald Fox  
 26811 SR 60  
 Warsaw, OH 43844

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at the Fire House in Warsaw at 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post #65

Commander: Delbert Meddings  
 652 Main St.  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
 740-622-6106

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Korean War

Veterans Association

President: Bob Jones  
 52650 TR 166

West Lafayette, OH 43845  
 Meetings are on an as-needed basis

Coshocton County Vietnam Veterans

Commander: Dale Foster  
 P.O. Box 341  
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month at Hardee's Restaurant, 325 S. Second St., Coshocton, at 9:00 a.m.

Blue Star Mothers OH59

President: Becky Bowden  
 P.O. Box 1655  
 Coshocton, OH 43812  
 740-327-2235

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the AMC Nazarene Church, 1030 Orange St., Coshocton, OH 43812