

Coshocton County Veterans Service Office Newsletter

318 Main St., Coshocton, OH 43812

740-622-2313

318 Main St., Coshocton, OH 43812 740-622-2313 coshoctoncounty.net/veterans

Memorial Day services, parade well attended

Patriotism proved to be alive and well as Coshocton observed Memorial Day with its traditional parade and services on Monday, May 28.

Numerous individuals and groups participated in the parade, including veterans' groups, scouts, 4H groups, local and visiting royalty, and EMS and fire department vehicles.

Along Main Street, young and old alike waved small flags that were provided by the Coshocton County Veterans Service Commission and distributed by members of the Millfork Valley 4-H Club.

The ceremony on the court square started soon after the end of the parade with Assistant County Veterans Service Officer Zac Miller serving as emcee.

Special guests included featured speaker Steve Mercer, Coshocton City Mayor; Pastor Dave Fowls of Perry Chapel Baptist Church, who delivered the invocation and benediction; Eagle Scout Chase Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance; and the Coshocton High School marching band performed the National Anthem.

(See MEMORIAL DAY Cont. on Page 3)



Gerald Fox, Commander of the American Legion Post #634 in Warsaw salutes as he is recognized during the 2018 Memorial Day Services. Also pictured are Dale Foster (left) of the Vietnam Veterans Group and Ed Skerness (right), who represented both the AMVETS Post #36 and DAV Chapter #74.

VA reports expenditures of over \$15.3 million in Coshocton County

Evidence that benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs continue to flow into Coshocton County can be found within the Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) Report for 2017, which was recently released by the VA.

The VA reported a total expenditure of \$15,311,000. While that amount is down from the \$16,068,000 reported in 2016 it still represents a significant amount of assistance for local veterans and/or their dependents.

The report details VA expenditures at the state, county, and Congressional District levels.

Included in that amount is

\$8,114,000 in compensation and pension payments to veterans of the county.

Other expenditures include;

\$577,000 in education, vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits; \$115,000 in insurance and indemnities; and \$6,505,000 in medical care.. Data shows that 979 county veterans are enrolled in the VA Healthcare system.

The VA estimates that Coshocton County has a veteran population of 2,680.

Statewide, the VA reported a total expenditure of over \$8.6 billion dollars.

Since the year 2000 in Coshocton County, the VA has had total expenditures exceeding \$162 million.

Veterans wishing to learn more about what benefits may be available to them are encouraged to contact the Coshocton County Veterans Service Office at 740-622-2313 or stop by the office located in the basement of the Courthouse at 318 Main St.





The Coshocton County Honor Guard members conducted 14 Military Funerals during May and June 2018. Veterans honored for their service are listed below.

May	 Robert I. Kerr Jr. Vietnam
 John G. Butler World War II	June
 Paul R. Warren World War II	 William Jr. Norman Korea
 Clifford G. Harmon Vietnam	 Roger L. Bennett Vietnam
 John Horn Civil War	 Ronald R. Hess Vietnam
 William E. Guess Korea	 Lawrence W. Hall Korea
 Willie L. Dunn Peacetime	 John D. Darr Korea
 Harold E. Duncan Korea	 Clyde Jr. Young Korea



Veterans Service Commission

President

John Dotson—KWVA

Vice President

Jack Patterson—VFW

Secretary

John Wright—DAV

Member

Gary Kilpatrick—American Legion

Member

David Dilly—AMVETS

Service Officer

Jim Barstow

Executive Assistant

Patty Dilly

Assistant Service Officer

Russell Hammond

Assistant Service Officer

Zac Miller

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

Veterans Service Office Closings

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day

Friday, July 13

Zanesville VA Clinic

Veterans Appreciation Lunch
(Office closed 10 a.m.-3 p.m.)

Meetings, Events & Observances

Saturday, July 7

Columbus Zoo-VA Welcome Home
(10 a.m.-3 p.m.)

Tuesday, July 24

VA Mobile Health Unit,
(10 a.m.-2 p.m.)
(Walmart parking lot)

Saturday, August 4

American Legion Post #65
Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show
(9 a.m.-3 p.m.)

MEMORIAL DAY, Cont. from Page 1

Representatives from county veterans organizations were recognized. Among them were Jack Patterson representing American Legion Post #466; Gerald Fox (American Legion Post #634); Jamie Lowery (Army-Navy Garrison #628); Dale Foster (Coshocton County Vietnam Veterans); Ed Skerness (Disabled American Veterans Chapter #74 and AMVETS Post #36); Bob Jones (Korean War Veterans Association); Linus Kilchenman (VFW Post #1330); and Lynn Leach (Blue Star Mothers OH#59).

Tom Mitchell, Chapter Director of Honor and Remember Ohio, presented an Honor and Remember flag to Craig and Julie Border in remembrance of their son Raymond, a U.S. Navy Petty Officer who was Killed in Action while serving in Afghanistan in 2011.

Mitchell explained the colors of the flag: The red is for the blood and sacrifice, the white is the purity of the sacrifice, the blue star is from the blue star banners that were flown in WWI as a symbol of a family having a member fighting, the gold star shows the family suffered a loss and the flame represents the lost life, but the memory will live on.

Mitchell said he was "truly honored to present Ray's parents with his personalized Honor and Remember flag."

Representing the Blue Star Mothers Chapter #OH 59, Lynn Leach provided a short speech and River View High School graduate Skyler Stewart recited her Voice of Democracy essay in which she implored her generation to stand for the American Flag and for the National Anthem. Her essay stated when she hears the last line of the anthem it really speaks volumes to her.

"I stand for the anthem in honor of those who fought so I would have freedom," Stewart said. She also said that the flag and anthem do not support racism or hate crimes – that it should not divide people but unite them.

As the list of veterans for whom military funeral services were performed since last Memorial Day was read by retired Army veteran Tony Jaqua and a Memorial bell was rung by his wife Army veteran Lisa. Simultaneously, a balloon was released by Girl Scout Troop #669 and flags were placed by Boy Scout Troop #402 and Cub Scout Troop #402.

Fred Babcock, a brother of Korean War KIA George Babcock placed the Memorial Wreath assisted by Tom Unger.

The services were capped off with the Coshocton County Honor Guard presenting a rifle salute to fallen comrades and Coshocton High School band members Bladen Johnson and Tyler Huston performing "Taps."

Others who assisted with the day's events included Jerry Green, Mike Burkey, Jeremy Burkey Rick Cullison and Russell Hammond for the parade line-up; Coshocton Canal Royalty for distributing programs; Coshocton Trucking for use of their flat-bed trailer; and Linnet's Flowers On The Square for donating the bow for the Memorial Wreath.

Also deserving of recognition were Baker's IGA for donating helium for the balloons; Jinni Bowman and Jill Sutton for helping with the balloons; Coshocton REACT for assisting with the Parade and traffic control; and Patty Dilly of the Veterans Service Office, who for many years has been instrumental in organizing the Parade and Services.

Disabled veterans encouraged to apply for Veteran Tribute Hunt

Veterans with service-connected disabilities who have a passion for the outdoors are being sought to participate in an all-expenses paid event.

Located just west of Newcastle on Township Road 52 Elsaan Outfitting is hosting an all-day event for a limited number of veterans on Saturday, October 27, 2018.

The event is being offered at no cost to the veteran thanks to generous donations from local veterans groups and organizations.

This is an all-day event with veterans afforded the opportunity to take part in guided pheasant hunt, sporting clay shoot and other outdoor activities. Snacks and refreshments will be provided with a light lunch and sit-down catered dinner for Veterans and volunteers.

Designed to become an annual event, at least five Coshocton County veterans will be selected to participate. Those who apply and are not invited to the inaugural hunt will be deferred to the following year.

Also participating will be veterans from Holmes and Knox counties.

Elsaan Outfitting is becoming one of Ohio's premier upland gamebird hunting preserves offering sportsmen of all ages an ultimate experience in hunting upland game, as well as sporting clays. With 3-100 round sporting clay courses.

Anyone interested should contact the Coshocton County Veterans Service Office for an application. Deadline for the 2018 event is September 1.

VETERAN'S APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

It's your lucky day! Join us for lunch, fun, and entertainment!

**FRIDAY, JULY 13
11:00-2:00 (MEAL AT 12:00)**

**YMCA PARK
1861 ADAMS LN.
ZANESVILLE, OH 43701**



This free event for our Veterans is a collaboration of the Zanesville VA, the Zanesville Daughters of the American Revolution, the Coshocton Blue/Gold Star Mothers, and several generous donors

2018 Memorial Day Services



(Top left) During the Memorial Day Services Tom Mitchell (right), Chapter Director of Honor and Remember Ohio, presented an Honor and Remember flag to Craig and Julie Border in remembrance of their son Raymond. Holding the flag is Veterans Service Officer Jim Barstow. (Above) River View High School graduating senior Skyler Stewart recites her Voice of Democracy speech. (Left) Spectators stand while the Coshocton High School Marching Band members perform the National Anthem.

American Legion set to host annual car, truck & bike show

The American Legion Post #65 will be hosting its Fifth Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show on Saturday, August 4.

Located at 652 Main St., Coshocton, the Post is staging the event at the rear of the building and in the Hopewell Industries parking lot, near the corner of Seventh and Chestnut streets.

Judging will start at noon with awards presented at 3 p.m.

Registration will be from 9 a.m. to noon and the entry fee is \$12 or \$10 if pre-registered.

For an entry form, contact the Post at 740-622-6106 or stop by the Veterans Office at 318 Main St., Courthouse.

660TH
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
REUNION
JULY 27TH & 28TH, 2018

FREE - PRIMITIVE CAMPING
HOTELS AVAILABLE IN CADIZ
 More information to come!

HOPEDALE LEGION POST 682
 43976 Rabbit Road
 Hopedale, OH 43976

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY
 Social Hour 6 p.m.

SATURDAY
 Breakfast 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
 Ceremony 12 p.m.
 Chicken Dinner 3 p.m.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT TRICIA 740-491-3410 OR 740-942-8441

Millennium Project completed at Arlington National Cemetery

The 6,000 pre-dug graves, with their concrete crypts inches apart just under the surface, are ready. The 16,000 spaces in the new niche wall and columbaria are waiting. And the area has been decorated with new redbud, locust and magnolia trees.

In a few weeks, Arlington National Cemetery will host the first of an expected 27,000 funerals in its elegantly landscaped expansion, built into a hillside and designed to extend the cemetery's life for more than 30 years.

The \$81.7 million Millennium Project is the first geographic expansion of the cemetery in four decades. And it was badly needed. Facing dwindling space and heavy use, the 154-year-old cemetery is desperately working to extend its life before the day when there is no room left.

Without the expansion, "we'd be planning to close in the mid-2020s," said Renea Yates, deputy superintendent for cemetery administration. "So this takes us out to the 2040s." Still, under current rules and conditions, the cemetery's life span appears limited. "Most veterans from the recent wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terror will not have the option to be buried" at Arlington, the cemetery wrote in a report last year. Arlington is trying to address that.

A niche wall in a columbarium is part of a new expanded section of Arlington National Cemetery.

The new expansion involved the movement of huge amounts of earth, 1,200 feet of a historic sandstone wall, and the construction of extensive granite and concrete committal shelters and walkways. There are cedar ceilings in the shelters, stainless-steel step railings and decorative stone gardens.

The 27 new acres in the northwestern part of the cemetery were carved out of a recreation spot for an adjacent military base, a construction staging area for the cemetery and National Park Service woodland.

The crypts were then placed close together and covered with about two feet of gravel, fill and topsoil, said David H. Petrie, construction control representative for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the site. The process greatly eases grave opening and makes for greater efficiency. The new section also has room for traditional in-ground burials and in-ground burial of cremated remains.

The country's most famous cemetery was established by the War Department in 1864 on the Arlington plantation of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's deceased father-in-law. The site was vacated by Lee's family after he joined the rebel forces in the Civil War, and it was taken over by the Union army.

The first person buried there was William Christman, 20, a Union soldier from Pennsylvania who had died of disease in a Washington hospital. He was buried May 13, 1864. By the end of the war, 5,000 more had joined him. Since then, over 400,000 people have been buried there.

Former Navy Corpsman to head Ohio Vet Homes

The Ohio Department of Veteran Services has named Terry Prince, a retired U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman, the new Superintendent of the Veterans Homes in Sandusky and Georgetown.

Prince began his military career in 1986, serving in the Dental Technician and Hospital Corpsman ratings. Over the years, Force Master Chief Prince was assigned to 14 different duty stations including service as the Command Master Chief of Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, and later, the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

Additionally, he was the senior enlistee advisor to the Defense Health Agency and finally, the Director of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps and Force Master Chief of Navy Medicine.

The Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky is a 427-bed nursing home facility. Two levels of care are offered: standard care for those veterans in

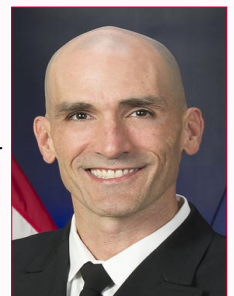
need of any intermediate level of care, and special care for veterans with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

The home opened in 1888 to care for veterans of the Civil War and has been in continuous operation since.

The Domiciliary offers 206-beds and necessary medical care to eligible veterans who need medical care but are capable of living independently.

The Ohio Veterans Home in Georgetown offers 168 beds for nursing home care. Two levels of care are offered: standard care for veterans in need of any intermediate level of care, and special care for veterans with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

The home opened in 2003, and is located in the scenic countryside of Brown County.



Prince

VA Mission Act legislation signed by President Trump

President Trump signed legislation in early June paving the way for a major overhaul of the Department of Veterans Affairs and expanded access for veterans to VA-funded care in the private sector.

The measure, which passed both chambers of Congress last month with overwhelming bipartisan support, delivers on a key campaign promise for Trump, who pledged to provide veterans with more non-VA health care choices.

Working out the details of exactly how and when that will happen is now up to agency officials tasked with drawing up regulations under the law.

If confirmed, Trump's pick to lead the VA, Robert Wilkie, would lead that effort. Criteria to be considered include wait times for VA appointments, quality of VA care and distance from a VA facility.

Known as the VA MISSION Act, the law directs the VA to combine a number of existing private-care programs, including the so-called Choice program, which was created in 2014 after veterans died waiting for appointments at the Phoenix VA.

The law also creates a commission to recommend which VA facilities are worth repairing, where new ones should be built, and which ones should be closed and care provided in the private sector instead.

The measure includes some incentives to help the VA hire more health care providers. It allows the agency to provide scholarships to medical students in exchange for their pledging to work at VA. Currently some 33,000 positions are unfilled at the agency.

In addition, the law provides pre-9/11 veterans with benefits to help cover the cost of in-home care-givers. Such benefits previously were provided only to post-9/11 veterans.

The VA also will be allowed to set up pilot programs under the law to test how to deliver better care more efficiently, including with public-private partnerships.

MIA's highlight US-North Korean summit

The most tangible outcome of the June summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appeared to be a commitment to recover the remains of U.S. military personnel missing in action and presumed dead



from the Korean War.

In a joint statement signed by the leaders, the countries committed to the recovery of the remains and the immediate repatriation of those already identified.

Nearly 7,800 U.S. troops remain unaccounted for from the 1950-53 war. About 5,300 were lost in North Korea.

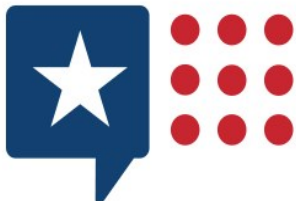
It's debatable whether North Korea's commitment to recovering U.S. war remains could count as a major win for Washington when Pyongyang would be simply returning to what

it had been doing for years.

Between 1996 and 2005, joint U.S.-North Korea military search teams conducted 33 joint recovery operations and recovered 229 sets of American remains. But efforts to recover and return the remains have been stalled for more than a decade because of the North's development of nuclear weapons and U.S. claims that the safety of recovery teams it sent during the administration of President George W. Bush was not sufficiently guaranteed.

According to the Pentagon's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, most of the missing Americans died in major battles or as prisoners of war. Others died along the wayside or in small villages. Many of the losses from aircraft crashes also occurred near battle zones or roads connecting them.

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

Veterans entitled to military funeral

Military funeral in the United States is a memorial or burial rite given by the U.S. military for a Soldier, Marine, Sailor, Coast Guardsman, or Airman who died.

The following is a list of criteria for deceased veterans being entitled to Military Funeral Honors conducted by the Coshocton County Veterans Council Honor Guard.

*Military members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve.

*Former military members who served on active duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.

*Former military members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.

*Former military members discharged from the Selected Reserve due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Those wishing services for their loved ones should inform the funeral home that is handling arrangements or call the Veterans Service Office.

Blue Water Navy legislation passes

The House unanimously passed legislation recently that would extend Department of Veterans Affairs benefits to approximately 90,000 sailors who served off the coast during the Vietnam War, some of whom have been fighting for years to prove their illnesses were caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

Lawmakers voted 382-0 in favor of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which must go to the Senate for final approval. It provides eligibility for disability compensation to “Blue Water” Navy veterans – those sailors aboard aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and other ships who contend they were exposed to Agent Orange through the ships’ water systems.

The dioxin-laden herbicide has been found to cause respiratory cancers, Parkinson’s dis-



ease and heart disease, as well as other conditions.

A VA policy decision in 2002 stripped Blue Water Navy veterans of their eligibility for compensation, unless they could prove they set foot in Vietnam. Bills were introduced in 2011, 2013 and 2015 to address the problem, but progress stalled because of cost concerns.

Extending the benefits for 10 years would cost \$1.1 billion, according to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office. To make up the cost, the legislation raises fees for service members and veterans who use the VA’s home loan program. The increase amounts to between \$2.14 and \$2.95 each month.

It’s uncertain when the Senate might take up the issue. Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, urged the Senate to pass it.

Plan for vets’ mental health care outlined

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that the White House has approved an interagency plan to implement President Trump’s executive order supporting Veterans with mental health care and suicide-prevention resources during their transition from uniformed service to civilian life.

Signed by the president in January 2018, the executive order directs VA, the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to collaborate to provide access to mental health care and suicide prevention resources for Veterans, with a focus on the first year after separation from military service.

Implementation of the Joint Ac-

tion Plan by the three departments includes 16 important services.

Below are three examples:

- Expanding peer community outreach and group sessions in the VA Whole Health initiative from 18 Whole Health Flagship facilities to all facilities. Whole Health includes wellness and establishing individual health goals.

- Extending DOD’s “Be There Peer Support Call and Outreach Center” services to provide peer support for Veterans in the year after separation from the uniformed services.

- Expanding DOD’s Military One Source, which offers resources to active-duty members, to include support to separating service members up to one year after separation.

The White House will closely monitor the outcomes of the Joint Action Plan.

Burn pit studies revisited

House lawmakers began revisiting the issue of burn pits in early June with a hearing focused on how much is known about troops health effects after toxic exposure to the waste fires overseas.

A series of lawmakers and veterans groups have pushed to revive the issue in recent weeks amid concerns that the problem — well-known to troops who served in Iraq and Afghanistan — has largely fallen out of the consciousness of the public and elected officials.

More than 141,000 veterans and

current servicemembers have enrolled in Veterans Affairs’ Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, which allows individuals to document their experiences and illnesses with the department.

But advocates say more attention needs to be put on the issue to ensure that veterans suffering from rare cancers and other illnesses don’t face a years-long wait for recognition of their injuries.

House Veterans’ Affairs Committee members will look into what other avenues might be available for that type of action.

VA speeding up Veterans’ appeals

Underscoring the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) pledge to reduce the wait time for those appealing disability benefits claims, the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, as of May 27, has signed more than 53,650 decisions to date in fiscal year (FY) 2018, which is approximately 86 percent more than the 28,839 decisions signed through the same period last year.



The Board is currently on track to meet and exceed its FY 2018 total goal of reviewing a historic 81,000 appeals by Sept. 30, 2018. This pace paves the way for implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act, which has a target implementation date of Feb. 14, 2019, and will offer Veterans more choice and control over their claims and appeals process.

Congress allocated the Board approximately \$42 million, which was used to hire additional staff, primarily more than 200 decision-writing attorneys and 24 Veterans law judges.

The increase in staff, along with streamlining several processes, contributed to the result. VA’s Board of Veterans’ Appeals’ mission is to conduct hearings and decide appeals in a timely manner.

VA’s disability appeals process is a complex, multi-step adjudication process that uses “open records,” which allows veterans to submit medical and lay evidence at any point from the beginning to the end of the process, including while the claim is pending on appeal; this may, in turn, require VA to develop further evidence on the Veteran’s behalf.

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: Kevin Freshwater
 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

405 E. Union
 West Lafayette, Ohio 43845
 c/o Jack Patterson
 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 the AMVETS Career Center at 7:00 p.m.



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 the American Legion Post #65 at 9 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