

Coshocton County Veterans Service Office Newsletter

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

Miller shares emotions of leaving for overseas deployment

Speaking during the 2018 Veterans Day Ceremony, Chief Warrant Office 3 Zac Miller admitted that it wasn't facing our enemies, nor the length of time away from home that was the most difficult aspect of spending time overseas during his recent deployment.

During his service, Miller had rockets, mortars and improvised explosive devices go off near him and been fired on by enemies.

"This may seem bad, but is not the roughest part," he said. "For me, the roughest part was leaving my loved ones back here in Coshocton, Ohio."

His last deployment, from which he returned in April, was the toughest by far. When he first went overseas in 2004, he was not married. The second time in 2008 he had a wife. This last time he had a wife and two children.

This experience is quite common among those who have served or are currently serving, but for those who have never been faced with the prospect of leaving family and friends behind it may be difficult to imagine.

"At my coming home ceremony afterward, I cried. Because, at this moment, all of the stress and relief finally hit me. It was a surreal moment," he said. "I was finally back to my family, my family I had so dearly missed over 12 months.



I think it was the first time in 18 years I had shed a tear."

Miller shared his story because he knows there are many out there who have been effected by the horrors of war more than he who suffer greatly with post-traumatic stress disorder and shared that an average 20 veterans die of suicide daily according to 2017 Veterans Affairs study.

He admitted that his awareness of the statistics comes from an extremely personal level.

See MILLER, page 3

Fred Lent recognized for attending 1,000 funerals

For the fourth time in the history of the organization, another member of the Coshocton County Honor Guard has reached an impressive milestone.

On Monday, December 17, members of the Coshocton County Board of Commissioners presented a Proclamation to Fred A. Lent to honor him on participating in 1,000 military funeral services as of October 25, 2018 as part of the Coshocton County Honor Guard.

Included in the Proclamation, Commissioners stated that "Fred A. Lent has shown continued support toward the Coshocton County Honor Guard by helping provide an honorable and dignified military funeral service for the veterans' family.

"This is definitely a milestone for the Coshocton County Honor Guard to have a member show such dedication and faithfulness to his community. We, the Coshocton County Board of Commissioners, do hereby congratulate Mr. Lent for such an honorable accomplishment."

A veteran of the United States Army Lent hit the mark and continues to serve.

Lent is the fourth Honor Guard member to reach the milestone, following in the footsteps of Jack Lipps, James Stone and George Leach. Now deceased, Leach attended over 1,400 funerals before his passing.

According to records kept at the County Veterans Service Office, Lent began serving with the Honor Guard on May 12, 1999 and attended 22 funerals that year. However, he remembers attending military funerals as far back as 1968.

He is also active with the Coshocton County Veterans Council, serving as Quartermaster.

See LENT, page 6

Homeless vets helped by Licking County Housing Coalition

Proving itself a tremendous resource for homeless veterans, the staff at Licking County's Coalition for Housing (LCCH) assisted 16 local veterans who found themselves homeless or those at risk in 2018.

Among those who received assistance included four veterans who were enrolled into the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. Four others were connected to local housing agencies and four veterans were able to resolve their issue with guidance from LCCH.

One veteran returned to previous housing, one moved to another county and another reentered the military. LCCH was unable to locate one other individual.

Licking County Coalition for Housing (LCCH) is a 501(C)(3) not for profit organization, based in Newark, Ohio, dedicated to addressing the need for quality, affordable housing in Licking County. To that end, LCCH has developed several programs to serve the housing needs of homeless, low and moderate-income residents in our community.

Veterans needing assistance with housing is encouraged to contact the Veterans Office.



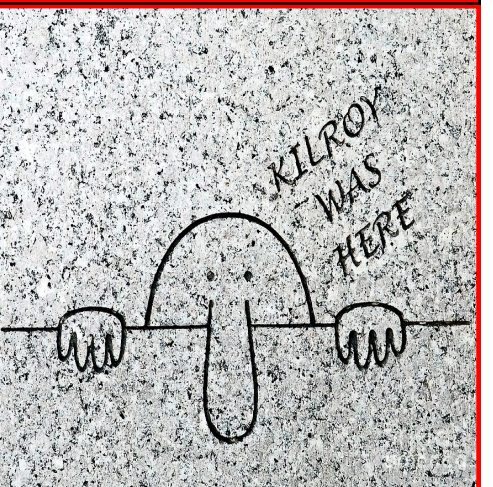
The Coshocton County Honor Guard members conducted 15 Military Funerals during November and December 2018. Veterans honored for their service are listed below.

November	December
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 Charles Kenneth Finton <i>Peacetime</i>	 Robert E. Mahon <i>Korea</i>
 Charles M. Bylaw <i>Peacetime</i>	 Glenn L. McCoy <i>Korea</i>
 Thomas L. "Dick" Bradford <i>Peacetime</i>	 John A. Saunders <i>Desert Storm</i>
 James C. Honnold <i>Korea</i>	 Lister R. Endsley <i>World War II</i>
 Dale E. Foster <i>Vietnam</i>	 John J. Krownapple Sr. <i>Vietnam</i>
 Francis W. Schuler <i>Peacetime</i>	 Joseph B. Kirker <i>Vietnam</i>
 Rickey V. Tidwell <i>Peacetime</i>	 Ben Aronhalt <i>Vietnam</i>
 Ada M. Holder <i>World War II</i>	

Veterans Service Commission
President
 Jack Patterson—VFW
Vice-President
 Gary Kilpatrick—American Legion
Secretary
 John Wright—DAV
Member
 David Dilly—AMVETS
Member
 Vacant—KWVA
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
January 1
 New Years Day
January 21
 Martin Luther King Day
February 18
 President's Day
Meetings, Events & Observances
February 14
 Coshocton County Career Center
 Open House, 4-7 p.m.



MILLER (Continued from Page 1)

"One of the biggest issues facing this generation, my generation of veterans is PTSD ... I've lost a total of nine comrades from these three deployments alone due to PTSD. I'd like to say this is an isolated event, but I can't. This is becoming very common," Miller said.

"If you see or know a veteran going through hard times with mental health issues, please take them seriously and don't ignore it. Sometimes that veteran might just need someone to talk to them; sometimes they might need actual medical care. Just remember if you are that veteran, there is help out there and you are not alone."

A West Lafayette native, Miller enlisted in the Ohio National Guard in 2000 at the age of 17. He has served three tours of duties overseas, the most recent in 2017 where he served with the 371st Sustainment Brigade in Iraq, Kuwait and Syria.

He holds the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3 and is with the 211th Support Maintenance Company stationed in Newark. He became an assistant veteran's service officer for Coshocton County in 2016.

Also during the Ceremony on the Coshocton County Court Square, Sharon Burns, president of the Blue Star Mothers Chapter #OH59 spoke on behalf of her organization and Pastor Mike Jansen of the Coshocton Christian Tabernacle delivered the Invocation and Benediction.

Patriotic music was performed by the legendary Walhonding Rube Band and by Samuel Scott of West



Members of the Coshocton County Honor Guard fire a rifle salute during the 2018 Veterans Day services.

Lafayette, a recent graduate of Kent State University who sang the Armed Forces Medley.

George Clark and Tim Vance performed TAPS, representatives of local service organizations were introduced and military rites were performed by the Coshocton County Honor Guard.

Another highlight of the morning event was the attendance of numerous school children from Coshocton and Sacred Heart elementary schools.

Rolling Thunder

Memorial Day 2019 to be final Washington event

Rolling Thunder's annual roaring parade through the streets of the nation's capital is coming to an end.

Group organizers said this year's planned motorcycle ride in May, expected to draw more than 1 million riders and spectators to the National Mall, will be the last time the large-scale demonstration is held, citing cost concerns.

The event has become a fixture of Memorial Day commemorations in Washington, D.C. for more than 30 years, drawing attention to military members still missing in action. But the noisy, attention-getting demonstration also has become a victim of its own success.

Pete Zaleski, vice president of Rolling Thunder Inc., said costs for security and clean-up of the event have swelled to more than \$200,000, an expense the group cannot continue to sustain. "It really has exploded to beyond what we can support," he told Military Times. "These costs didn't exist 10 years ago."

Zaleski said the size of the crowd both participating and watching have prompted additional security concerns at the Pentagon, where the annual ride typically starts. That has prompted several new costs and conflicts with local officials.

"We still have 90 chapters in 33 states, and we're going



to help them coordinate their own rides on a smaller scale," Zaleski said. "The group is not going under, and our message is not going away. We're just not going to be doing it in Washington anymore."

Still, the loss of one of the most public and recognizable national Memorial Day commemorations drew disappointment from members of the veterans community.

Zaleski said he hopes the announcement of the end of the tradition will bring even more attention to the event's message.

The final ride is scheduled for May 26, 2019.

Veterans Day 2018



During the 2018 Memorial Day Services in Coshocton, Honor Guard members (Top left) stand at parade rest as they await commands from their Officer of the Day; (Top right) Tim Vance, a United States Air Force Veteran, performs TAPS; (Middle right) Ed Skerness (DAV #74 Commander), Bob Jones (Korean War Veterans Association Commander), Linus Kilchenman (VFW #1330 Commander), Zac Miller (Assistant Veterans Service Officer) and Gary Kilpatrick (Warsaw American Legion Post #634 Commander) stand during the Pledge of Allegiance; (Bottom right) Pastor Mike Jansen of the Coshocton Christian Tabernacle performs the Invocation; and, (Above) Sharon Burns, President of the Blue Star Mothers Chapter #OH59 speaks on behalf of her organization.



Honor Flight luncheon held at Senior Center

Sometimes, it may take some strong encouragement to convince veterans into visiting the nation's military memorials in Washington, D.C.

However, there is a growing number of veterans who are more than willing to be an advocate for the Honor Flight program.

Interest was never more evidence than it was on November 30 when a huge crowd gathered at the Coshocton Senior Center for the annual Honor Flight presentation and luncheon.

The majority of those in attendance had already been on one of the flights and another significant portion were of those who have applied. In addition, there is a moment set aside to recognize and remember local Honor Flight alumni who have passed away.

"Even though some of the veterans have to be talked into going, I can't think of anyone who came home regretting they went," said Dave Dilly, who emceed the event. Many of the veterans never got that feeling of coming home and thanks for what they had done. That's what drives the whole program."

Dilly was also recognized for having participated in 11 flights as a guardian.

The flights are free for veterans and donations ensure that County veterans are able to eat supper and stay overnight in a Columbus hotel before catching an early morning flight to Baltimore, MD. They then board a bus to D.C. and return to Port Columbus late that night.

Thirty veterans and guardians from Coshocton County participated in one of the eight 2018 flights, including a special one on November 11, which marked the 100th anniversary of Veterans Day.



Dave Dilly (right) talks about a recent Honor Flight.

Fundraiser scheduled for Disabled Veterans group

Disabled Veterans Outdoors has partnered with Whitetails Unlimited to host a fundraiser banquet at the Perry County Fairgrounds in New Lexington, Ohio on Saturday April 27, 2019.

The banquet will include a meal, refreshments, live auction, silent auction, games, gun raffles and a 50/50 drawing.

Ticket prices will be \$25.00 and \$40.00 and both will include a meal of pulled pork or chicken, three sides, pop, bottled water and free keg beer. Reserved tables of eight that are purchased by one person will enter him/her into a drawing for a gun at no cost to them.

Also offered will be three levels of business/farm or individual sponsors with a table reserved in their name. This the organization's first banquet in hopes of it becoming an annual event.

Disabled Veterans Outdoors is a 501c3 non-profit public charity that holds outdoor recreation programs for any veteran who is now disabled for any reason and are 100 percent volunteer.

If interested in attending, contact Kenn McCord at (740) 621-3695 or check out the organization website at www.disabledveteransoutdoors.org.

Honor Flight Columbus sets 2019 schedule

The Board and Staff of Honor Flight Columbus, Inc. are excited to announce the 2019 Flight Schedule and as was the case in 2018 there will be four missions in the spring and four in the fall.

In addition, the organization has been successful in securing a bigger plane for the first two missions of the year – an American Airlines A321 with a seating capacity of 186 which provides a fantastic opportunity to transport up to 120 Veterans on a single trip.

Honor Flight Columbus accepts applications from America's Senior Veterans. Currently, these are the men and women who served during WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War years. In addition, they put terminal-ly ill veterans from any era at the head of the line.

Accordingly, WWII veterans will continue to have top priority, with Korean and Vietnam veterans now comprising the majority of each flight. We call the Korean and Vietnam veterans on the waiting list for their flight in the order that we receive their applications.

It is our goal to transition veterans of wars by the sequence of the conflicts as long as donations from the public continue.

It is the mission of Honor Flight Columbus to honor our nation's senior veterans with a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit their war memorials at no cost to them and to share their stories for the benefit of future generations.

Applications and additional details for both veterans and guardians are available at the Veterans Office.

2019

Flight Schedule

Tuesday, April 9
Saturday, April 27
Saturday, May 18
Saturday June 8
Saturday, Sept. 7
Saturday, Sept. 28
Saturday, Oct. 19
Saturday Nov. 9

LENT (continued from Page 1)

As Quartermaster, his responsibilities include keeping track of funds and ordering items needed by the Honor Guard, such as gun parts and uniforms.

A large contingent of Honor Guard members turned out to watch him be honored by the Commissioners, in-

cluding Ed Skerness, Joe Simmons, Jack Patterson, Zac Miller, Jack Lipps, Dean Leas, Gary Kilpatrick, Don Kennedy, Bob Jones, Darryl Jensen, Russell Hammond, David Dilly, Tom Dile, Brad Collmar and Jim Barstow.

After the Proclamation, Lent was the guest of honor at a reception in the Veterans Service Office.

Veterans are entitled to military funeral rites

Military funerals in the United States are 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.



Coshocton County Commissioner Dane Shryock (left) congratulates Fred Lent of the Coshocton County Veterans Honor Guard for reaching the 1,000 mark for funerals attended. Also pictured are Commissioners Curtis Lee and Gary Fischer.



Annually, AK Steel of Coshocton has reached out to its employees who have served in the United States Armed Forces around Veterans Day to recognize them for their service. Pictured are those who attended this year's event. They were also treated to a free breakfast, catered by Shumaker Farms.

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**



Commission grants nearly \$24,000 in financial assistance

The Veterans Service Commission of Coshocton County continued to provide financial assistance to local veterans and/or their families and widows this year – the majority of which helped provided food.

During the 2018 calendar year, more than \$12,000 was issued in the form of food vouchers, including \$6,650.00 during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons.

Under the Ohio Revised Code, the Veterans Service Commission is empowered to provide temporary assistance to veterans and their spouses, dependents, widows and orphans.

Additionally, 18 clients were granted a total of \$4,725.38 for assistance with electric bills; nine received \$1,718.94 for heat; eight received \$3,055.09 for housing; and, four received \$457.95 for water bills. Another \$1,474.80 was issued for other emergency needs.

The Commission may provide financial assistance in a time of dire need through a situation that arose unexpectedly and created an immediate need, or through a monthly general grant.

Persons with questions regarding financial assistance may call the Veterans Office.

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program aided 26 in 2018

A program designated to serve disabled and other eligible veterans with significant barriers to employment provided again to be a valuable resource for Coshocton Countians.

Over the past year, 26 veterans sought assistance enrolled into the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) with 18 successfully being placed into gainful employment.

Included in the employers in Coshocton County that hired veterans during 2018 were Headwaters, Fanatics, Coshocton Job & Family Services, Coshocton Industries, Schwan's Food Company and RHDD.

DVOP specialists are veterans themselves and are uniquely equipped to provide intensive services to veterans with special employment and training needs. Staff target services to "Special Disabled" veterans (veterans with a 30 percent rated disability by the Veterans Administration), disabled veterans, economically or educationally disadvantaged veterans, and veterans with other barriers to employment, especially homeless veterans.

Coshocton County's DVOP representative is Mark Pellegrino. He may be reached at 740-670-8866.

Donations help make African American Vet monument a reality

The African American Veterans Monument Committee is one giant step closer to their fundraising goal thanks to a \$200,000 joint grant from Delaware North and M&T Bank. Lou Jacobs, co-CEO of Delaware North; René Jones, chairman and CEO of M&T Bank, and several African American veterans, who now work at both companies, visited the monument site recently for the donation.

"Delaware North is honored to join our colleagues from M&T Bank to support the African American Veterans Monument, which pays long overdue tribute to those who fought for the very freedoms they were not always afforded at home," Jacobs said.

"By adding this monument to Buffalo's bustling waterfront, we ensure that it becomes a fixture in our city's treasure trove of cultural landmarks."

Added Jones, whose African-American father was a veteran of World War II, "America's minorities, or people of color, have fought in every American military campaign from the Revolutionary War to the current engagement in the Middle East, including more than a million who served during WWII.



Their bravery and sacrifice deserve to be memorialized, and M&T Bank is honored to partner with Delaware North to help make that happen."

Since January 2017, the African American Veterans Monument Committee has been working to secure funding for the new, first-of-its-kind monument estimated to cost \$1.5 million. Today's news brings the fundraising total to over \$1.27 million.

When completed, the new African American Veterans Monument will be the nation's first monument dedicated solely to African-American veterans

and service members. It will consist of 12, 10-foot tall black concrete pillars representing each of the country's military conflicts that have occurred.

Ground was broken on the monument, which will be located at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park in Buffalo's Canalside area, in November. With hopes for a mild winter, construction is expected to be completed by summer 2019.

The community can honor a veteran through the purchase of an engraved brick paver that will line the walkways of the monument for \$250.

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: Dick Guess
 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

c/o Commander Jack Patterson
 405 E. Union
 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 the AMVETS Career Center at 7:00 p.m.



American Legion Post #634

Commander: Gary Kilpatrick
 222 Cherry St.,
 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: Bob Dalzell
 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: Sharon Burns
 P.O. Box 1655
 Coshocton, OH 43812
 740-502-0169

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