

Coshocton County Veterans Service Office Newsletter

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

George Washington highlights 2019 Memorial Day services

Memorial Day 2019 in Coshocton County was an opportunity to go back in time to the 18th Century as George Washington visited the community as keynote speaker during services May 27 on the court square.

Washington, portrayed by Dale Fellows of Willoughby Hills, Ohio, used his extensive reading, research and travel to help educate the public about the formation of our country and how and why the holiday is to be observed.

Fellows said he appreciated the experience of visiting small-town Coshocton.

"I really enjoyed the parade and event," Fellows said. "And the people were awesome, especially the veterans. (Coshocton) did a first class job."

Fellows is connected with *We Made History*, a group of living historical re-enactors who are more than impersonators of historical figures—they are serious portrayers of U.S. Presidents and First Ladies.

He was one of several individuals who took to the podium. Also speaking were Sharon Burns, president of the Blue Star Mothers Chapter OH 59; Ashley Sprouse, a River View High School freshman and third place winner of the Voice of Democracy writing contest; and Reverend Diana Caton of the Word Worship Center, provided the invocation and benediction.

Former Coshocton County resident Dean Caton – a Vietnam War Veteran - and his sons Mike and Jerry traveled from Yankton, SD to place the Memorial Wreath.

(See Memorial Day, cont. on pg. 7)

MEMORIAL DAY 2019



Dale Fellows, a portrayer of President George Washington delivers his speech during the 2019 Memorial Day Services in Coshocton.

Veterans Affairs Reports County expenditures Exceeding \$15.6 million

Benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs continue to make a positive impact on Coshocton County, and can be found within the Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) Report for 2018, which was recently released by the VA.

The VA reported a total expenditure of \$15,657,810.42, which is an increase of \$346,000 over 2017.

Since the reports began, the highest figure reported came in 2016 in the amount of \$16,067,578.00.

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

Included in the 2018 amount is \$8,186,969 in compensation and pen-

sion payments to veterans of the county.

Other expenditures include over \$532,000 in education, vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits; \$253,000 in insurance and indemnities; and nearly \$6,686,000 in medical care.

The VA estimates that Coshocton County has a veteran population of 2,602.

Statewide, the VA reported a total expenditure of over \$8.7 billion dollars for a veteran population of 753,809.

Since the year 2000 in Coshocton County, the VA has had total expenditures exceeding \$177 million.

Total expenditures for neighboring counties include Holmes (\$16,340,000); Guernsey (\$25,724,000); Tuscarawas (\$47,863,000); Knox (\$22,783,000); and Muskingum (\$42,944,000).

President signs Blue Water Navy Vietnam Vets Act

President Donald Trump has signed into law the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act," requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide disability benefits to veterans who served in the waters off the coast of Vietnam.


The bill is just one more provision in a decades-long fight to guarantee the same benefits to nearly 90,000 Navy veterans who served in the waters offshore of Vietnam that their land and brown-water comrades are entitled to after potentially being exposed to toxic Agent Orange.


SEE BLUE WATER, Cont. on Pg. 6



The Coshocton County Honor Guard members conducted 12 Military Funerals during May and June 2019. Veterans honored for their service are listed below.


May	June
------------	-------------

 **Forrest E. Darr**
World War II


 **Grady J. Martin II**
Vietnam


 **Louis K. Mulford**
Korea


 **James A. Sarchet**
Korea/Vietnam


 **Donald E. Wilson**
World War II

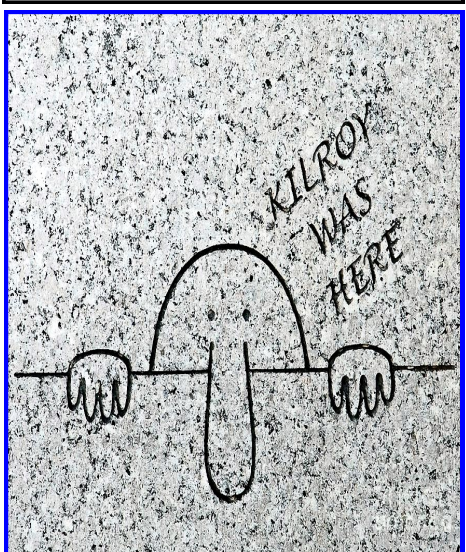
 **Steven E. Strickmaker**
Vietnam/Peacetime

 **James D. Norman**
World War II

 **Wilmer Dean Schuler**
Korea

 **Kenneth O. Schlarb**
World War II

 **Ronald L. Wise**
Peacetime



 **Steven L. Stowell**
Vietnam

 **Jerry D. Hampton**
Vietnam



Veterans Service Commission
President
John Wright—DAV
Vice-President
Jack Patterson—VFW
Secretary
Herb Tidrick-KWVA
Member
David Dilly—AMVETS
Member
Gary Kilpatrick—American Legion
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
Thursday, Friday
July 4-5
Independence Day
Friday, July 19
Staff Training

Important Numbers for Veterans
Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255
Zanesville CBOC 888-615-9448
Newark CBOC 740-788-8329
New Phila. CBOC 330-602-5339
Columbus VA 888-615-9448
Wade Park VA 216-791-3800
VA Regional Office 800-827-1000
Veterans Office 740-622-2313
Transportation 740-622-7139
Mission Act 844-698-2311
To request transfer from private hospital to a VA medical facility, call:
Columbus 614-388-7248
(If no answer, leave a message)
Cleveland 216-791-3800 (Ext. 5596)

Honor Flight flying more missions in '19

For Honor Flight Columbus, it is four down and several more to go as the mission to send our senior veterans to Washington D.C. for a day continues.

With the April 9, April 27, May 18 and June 8 flights completed, additional flights will take place September 7, September 28, October 19 and November 9.

October will be a special date as there will actually be two flights leaving Columbus and will mark the 100th such event organized by the Columbus hub.

Veterans are continued to be encouraged to complete applications for the flights.

For more information, contact the Veterans Service Office.



Mackenzie Jennings, a recent graduate from River View High School presents a poster to County Veterans Service Officer Jim Barstow. As her senior project, Jennings collected signatures from her fellow students thanking the Veterans of Coshoc-ton County for their service and sacrifices. The poster is now on display inside the Veterans Office.

DAV Chapter #74 seeking funds for new Veterans' passenger van

In an effort to procure a new passenger van that will continue to provide Coshoc-ton County veterans safe, comfortable transportation to and from their VA medical appointments, a fundraising campaign is now underway.

Donations are being sought to replace the 2014 Ford E350 XL Wag-on 12-passenger van that is quickly approaching the 140,000 mile mark.

A total of \$20,000 is necessary to cover Chapter #74's portion of the purchase and we are asking for your support in this endeavor. Any monetary amount will graciously be accepted. Funding needs to be complete by November 1, 2019 to ensure timely delivery of the new vehicle.

Checks may be payable to DAV Chapter #74.

The new vehicle will become part of the DAV Transportation Net-work with the Columbus VA Clinic.

DAV Chapter #74 is a 501(c)4 non-profit organization.

Donations may be sent to:

Coshoc-ton County Veterans Service Office

318 Main St., Courthouse

Coshoc-ton, OH 43812

Attn: DAV Chapter #74 van fund

Veterans' Summer Appreciation Event

Thank you to all who serve and have served

**Join us for a Cookout,
Entertainment & Summer Fun!**

WHAT: FREE Summer Party

WHO: Veterans & their Families

WHEN: July 19th—Gather @ 11am
Lunch @ 12pm

WHERE: Muskingum YMCA Park
(1861 Adams Lane, Zanesville)

*Hosted by the Zanesville Daughters of the American Revolution,
Blue/Gold Star Mothers of Coshoc-ton, Zanesville VA CBOC & Friends*

MEMORIAL DAY 2019



MEMORIAL DAY 2019



Ohio Women Veterans Conference scheduled, registration now open

Registration is now open for the biennial Ohio Women Veterans Conference to be held Saturday, August 10, 2019 at the Ohio Union at The Ohio State University. Optional pre-conference activities will kick off the conference on Friday, August 9, 2019.

The theme is #SheServedToo and the conference is expected to attract 1,000 women veterans from throughout Ohio and surrounding states.

This year's daylong conference will feature 25 speakers and 12 breakout sessions; exhibitors, vendors and participants; an area that focuses on mental, physical, spiritual and emotional care; a job and career readiness fair and a women veterans art exhibit.

During Friday's optional pre-conference activities, attendees will visit some of Columbus' hallmark visitor destinations.

There will be 12 breakout sessions – more than ever before. Some of the new topics include:

- The Veteran Entrepreneur
- Public Service as a Career Choice
- Sense of Purpose through Volunteerism
- Cultural Change in the Military and Civilian Sectors
- The Changing Landscape of Women's Healthcare at the VA

Ohio speakers include:

- *Deborah Ashenhurst*, Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director
- *Dr. Janet Porter*, the Columbus VA's Women's Health Services Deputy Director
- *Charlynda Scales*, CEO of Mutt's Sauce and recipient of Bob Evan's Farms 2017 Heroes to CEO Award
- *The Honorable Cheryl Brooks Sullivan*, the only African American elected county treasurer in Ohio

National speakers include:

- *Lyla Kohistany*, Director of Government Programs at



the Cultural Intelligence Center and Co-Founder of PROMOTE – a nonprofit organization providing mentorship and executive leadership development education to women and men in the U.S. Special Operations community. She is a George W. Bush Veteran Leader Scholar.

- *Meaghan Mobbs*, serves as a Presidential appointee to the United States Military Academy, West Point, Board of Visitors and is a George W. Bush Veteran Leader Scholar, Tillman Military Scholar, and a Noble Argus and National Military Family Association Scholarship recipient.

Registration is now open at OhioVets.gov. Cost for the conference is \$34.80 and includes all sessions, exhibits, continental breakfast, lunch and daylong beverage service.

BLUE WATER Cont. from pg. 1

Two weeks ago, the Senate passed the bill unanimously and the House passed it unanimously before Memorial Day.

Earlier this month, the final legal battle for Blue Water veterans to qualify for VA disability benefits for exposure to the cancer-causing toxin appeared to be over.

The Justice Department dropped its appeal of a federal court decision from earlier this year.

Procopio v. Wilkie reversed a 1997 VA decision to deny that so-called "Blue Water" veterans were exposed to Agent Orange while serving in the waters off Vietnam. The Procopio decision ruled that the VA should presume those sailors were exposed to the toxic chemical at some point during their service, and grant them the same benefits as other Vietnam veterans.

The Supreme Court granted the DoJ several extension to appeal the lower court ruling. The extension did not prevent the VA from beginning to accept Blue Water veterans' requests for benefits, however, and Congress took steps to extend disability benefits to some of those veterans, even if DoJ appealed, through this bill.

Therefore, when DoJ said it would not appeal or argue to overturn Procopio, Blue Water advocates celebrated.

But while Congressional leaders applauded the legal victory, they maintained that they still needed to pass their own legislation, which they said would unequivocally grant bene-

fits to Blue Water veterans who served in the waters off Vietnam in a specific geographic area.

That designation has drawn criticism from some Blue Water advocacy groups and veterans, saying it could exclude some Blue Water vets by setting geographic limits.

Mike Yates, national commander of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association, told Connecting Vets Wednesday "it doesn't take a legal expert to see that by defining the geographic points and calling them 'offshore' (the bill) will limit the Procopio ruling ... I hope (lawmakers and veteran service organizations) take the credit when early next year Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans find out that just because their ship was just outside by a couple of miles (of) the geographic points that they are no longer covered."



MISSION Act program launched to better serve veterans needs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched its new and improved Veterans Community Care Program on June 6, 2019, implementing portions of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (MISSION Act), which both ends the Veterans Choice Program and establishes a new Veterans Community Care Program.

The MISSION Act will strengthen the nationwide VA Health Care System by empowering Veterans with more health care options.

Under the new Veterans Community Care Program, Veterans can work with their VA health care provider or other VA staff to see if they are eligible to receive community care based on new criteria.

Eligibility for community care does not require a Veteran to receive that care in the community; Veterans can still choose to have VA provide their care. Veterans may elect to receive care in the community if they meet any of the following six eligibility criteria:

1. A Veteran needs a service not available at any VA medical facility.

2. A Veteran lives in a U.S. state or territory without a full-service VA medical facility. Specifically, this would apply to Veterans living in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire and the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

3. A Veteran qualifies under the "grandfather" provision related to distance eligibility under the Veterans Choice Program.

4. VA cannot furnish care within certain designated access standards. The specific access standards are described below:

Drive time to a specific VA medical facility

- Thirty-minute average drive time for primary care, mental health and noninstitutional extended care services.
- Sixty-minute average drive time for specialty care.
- Note: Drive times are calculated using geomapping software.

Appointment wait time at a specific VA medical facility

- Twenty days from the date of request for primary care, mental health care and noninstitutional extended care services, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his or her VA health care provider.
- Twenty-eight days for specialty care from the date of request, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his or her VA health care provider.

5. The Veteran and the referring clinician agree it is in the best medical interest of the Veteran to receive community care based on defined factors.

6. VA has determined that a VA medical service line is not providing care in a manner that complies with VA's standards for quality based on specific conditions.

In preparation for this landmark initiative, senior VA leaders will visit more than 30 VA hospitals across the country to provide in-person support for the rollout.



(Memorial Day, cont. from pg. 1)

Dean's story was compelling. He grew up in Coshocton during the 1950s and 60s and was close friends and high school classmates with Jerry Wayne Heskett and Michael "Mike" Shane Caley. Together, the trio joined the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Caley was killed in action on August 24, 1968 and Heskett was killed May 22, 1969.

In their honor and memory, Dean named his twin sons after Mike and Jerry. The family currently resides in Yankton, S.D.

"It was an honor to participate in the services," said Jerry. "Coshocton certainly knows how to remember their fallen."

Inspired by their role in the services, Dean Caton and his family are contemplating an annual return to his hometown of Coshocton each Memorial Day.

"In Yankton, our community does not have anything like this event. We have been very impressed by the parade and the services and the turnout was wonderful," Dean said.

Incidentally, Reverend Caton is a cousin of Dean's.

Across the county, other communities also observed the holiday with Warsaw and Keene conducting services and a parade, along with events in the villages of Blissfield, Plainfield, and at Waggoner Cemetery in Oxford Township.

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

Operation Veterans Helping Veterans

Executive Director: Chad Elliott

West Lafayette, OH 43845
 740-255-1716

Meetings are on an as needed basis