

Coshocton County Veterans Service Office

Newsletter

318 Main St., Coshocton, OH 43812
740-622-2313

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We're providing a link to some of the top apps for veterans put out by the VA. From couples counseling and insomnia coaching to overcoming PTSD, there is an app to help veterans through just about every challenge. Check a few out at : <https://mobile.va.gov/appstore>

The screenshot shows the VA App Store interface. At the top, it says "Welcome Veterans" and "These apps help you manage your care and stay in touch with your VA care team." Below this are navigation tabs for "All Apps", "Veterans", and "Health Care Professionals".

TOP VETERAN APPS

- Annie App for Veterans**: Meet Annie, she sends Veterans self-care messages. (Web)
- VA Launchpad for Veterans**: One app to launch them all! Launch VA apps from here. (iOS, Android)
- VA Online Scheduling**: Schedule, request and track VA appointments with ease! (Web)
- Pain Coach App for Veterans**: Pain Coach offers helpful tools to track and manage pain. (Web)

ALL VETERANS APPS

- ACT Coach**: In ACT with a therapist and want added support? Find it here. (iOS, Android)
- AIMS for Anger Management**: Track, address and manage anger better with AIMS. (iOS, Android)
- Airborne Hazards and Readiness (AH&R) System**: Deployment-related exposures information for Veterans. (Web)
- Annie App for Veterans**: Meet Annie, she sends Veterans self-care messages. (Web)
- Ask a Pharmacist**: All your VA pharmacies and trusted medication info here. (Web)
- CBT-i Coach**: Engaged in CBT-i and want extra support? The Coach is here. (iOS, Android)
- CHAMPVA Pay**: Look up the participation status of CHAMPVA medical codes. (Web, Android)
- Concussion Coach**: Customizable tool to help manage concussion symptoms. (iOS, Android)
- Couples Coach**: Improve your relationship and explore new ways to connect. (iOS, Android)
- COVID Coach**: Support self-care and overall mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. (iOS, Android)
- CPT Coach**: App to enhance CPT treatment with a mental health provider. (iOS)
- Insomnia Coach**: The Insomnia Coach app was created for everyone. (iOS, Android)



The Coshocton County Honor Guard members conducted 10 Military Funerals during October, November, and December. Veterans honored for their service are listed below.

October

Charles E. Worthington
Peace Time
U.S. Army

John E. Moore
Korea
U.S. Army

Max W. Cox, II
Vietnam
U.S. Army

John E. Bussard
Vietnam
U.S. Army

Steven G. Wright
Vietnam
U.S. Army

November

Charles M. Lewis
Peace Time
U.S. Army

December

Donald D. Fry
Korea
U.S. Navy

Murel D. Parks, Sr.
Vietnam
U.S. Army

David E. Brumm
Vietnam
U.S. Army

Edward A. Stoecker
Peacetime
U.S. Air Force



Veterans Service Commission

President

Jack Patterson-VFW

Vice-President

Zac Miller-American Legion

Secretary

Herb Tidrick-KWVA

Member

Dave Dilly-AMVETS

Member

Jared Lillo-DAV

Director/Service Officer

Doug Schaefer

Service Officer

Aaron M. Shearer

Administrative Assistant

Christina Corbett

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

Important Numbers for Veterans

<u>Crisis Hotline</u>	<u>Dial 988 then 1</u>
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
Community Care	877-881-7618

To request transfer from a private hospital to a VA medical facility call:

Columbus 614-388-7248

(If no answer, leave a message)

Cleveland 216-791-3800

(Ext. 5596)

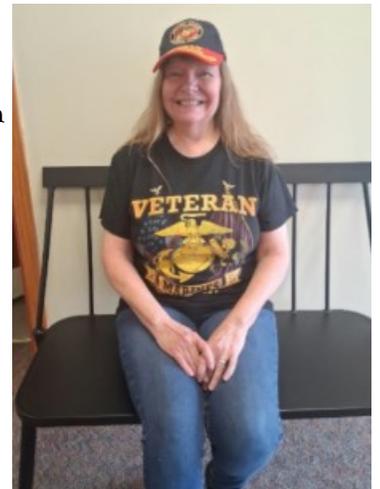
Coshocton Veterans Day Ceremony 2025

The Master of Ceremonies, retired USMC Sergeant Major, and Director of the Coshocton County Veterans Service Office, Doug Schaefer, hosted the Annual Coshocton Veterans Day ceremony held at the Court Square on November 11th, 2025. The event honored local veterans and celebrated those in our community who have worn a U.S. military uniform. This year's ceremony included recognition of service veterans and local veteran organizations in the county, rendering of honors by the Coshocton County Honor Guard, music by the Walhonding Rube Band, singing of the Armed Forces Medley by Mr. Sam Scott, and *Taps* performed by Tim Vance and Jim Brown.



Sharon Burns of the local chapter of the Blue Star Mothers was the guest speaker again this year. She took time to speak about their Blue Star Mothers Chapter, her family's military history, and her ongoing support of our veterans- "I am very proud to work with our great veterans", Burns said. "Please remember them and thank them for their service."

The featured speaker was USMC Veteran, and Coshocton County Honor Guard member, Ronda Hobbs. Inspired by her grandfather's World War II service, Hobbs followed a lifelong dream to join the Marines and now honors fellow veterans through the Coshocton County Honor Guard. "When I was a little girl, I was lucky to spend time with my granddad, who was a World War II Army veteran and was in the Battle of the Bulge," Hobbs said. "His brother was in the Navy in Japan then too, and they included me in so many things with them." There were always veterans stopping by her grandparents' house. "I was inspired by all of them," Hobbs said. "I liked anything to do with military – movies, television, books, you name it. I thought it was great." In addition to her grandpa and his brother, Hobbs had an uncle who was in Vietnam in the Air Force. She figured her family had the main military branches covered except for the Marines. "My mom's friend's son had been over in Vietnam and was a Marine," Hobbs said. "At 10 years old, I decided our family needed a Marine, and it was going to be me. I was really lucky that back then my grandparents and parents didn't discourage me from doing what I wanted to do. They were all very supportive." She is married to Fred Hobbs, a Vietnam veteran who served with the Green Berets. Together they are active in several veterans groups including the Coshocton County Honor Guard. Her husband joined the honor guard almost two years ago, and she has been a member a little over a year. "I'm the only female in right now, but we are trying to get more interested," Hobbs said. "This is a way veterans can honor their brothers and sisters that served and pay respect to them. You will also be such a comfort to the family as well. The camaraderie of being together with other veterans also is very helpful."



One message she hoped to share during the ceremony was to encourage people to help veterans in need. "So many of them, especially those who were in combat, gave up so much of their lives for us," Hobbs said. "I would like to encourage people to reach out and find ways they can volunteer to help veterans or make donations to groups. Even small donations can make a big difference."

2026 Veterans Disability Compensation Rates

For 2026 the US Government has approved a 2.8% COLA (Cost Of Living Adjustment) for All VA disability benefits. By statute, compensation COLA may not be more than the SSA COLA.

10-20%

10%	\$180.42
20%	\$356.66

30-60%

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran Alone	\$552.47	\$795.84	\$1,132.90	\$1,435.02
Veteran & Spouse	\$617.47	\$882.84	\$1,241.90	\$1,566.02
Veteran, Spouse & Child	\$666.47	\$947.84	\$1,322.90	\$1,663.02
Veteran & Child	\$596.47	\$853.84	\$1,205.90	\$1,523.02
Each Additional Child Under 18	\$32.00	\$43.00	\$54.00	\$65.00
Each Additional Child 18-23 In School	\$105.00	\$140.00	\$176.00	\$211.00
Additional for disabled spouse	\$61.00	\$81.00	\$101.00	\$121.00

70-100%

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	\$1,808.45	\$2,102.15	\$2,362.30	\$3,938.58
Veteran & Spouse	\$1,961.45	\$2,277.15	\$2,559.30	\$4,158.17
Veteran, Spouse & Child	\$2,074.45	\$2,406.15	\$2,704.30	\$4,318.99
Veteran & Child	\$1,910.45	\$2,219.15	\$2,494.30	\$4,085.83
Each Additional Child Under 18	\$76.00	\$87.00	\$98.00	\$109.11
Each Additional Child 18-23 In School	\$246.00	\$281.00	\$317.00	\$352.45
Additional for A&A Spouse	\$141.00	\$161.00	\$181.00	\$201.41

Common Reasons VA Disability Claims Get Denied and How to Avoid Them

Our office recommends that you always seek our assistance with any VA related claims

Filing a claim for VA disability compensation can be a long and complicated process. Unfortunately, not all claims are approved on the first attempt. Understanding the common reasons for claim denials can help veterans avoid these pitfalls and improve their chances of getting the benefits they deserve. Below are some of the most frequent reasons VA disability claims are denied and what you can do to avoid them.

- 1. Lack of Sufficient Medical Evidence-** One of the most common reasons claims are denied is a lack of sufficient medical evidence linking a veteran's current condition to their military service. To receive compensation, the VA requires clear documentation that proves your disability is connected to your time in service. **How to avoid this:** ensure that your claim includes thorough medical documentation. This should include any diagnoses, treatment records, and notes from healthcare providers that connect your condition to an in-service event or injury. If necessary, seek a medical nexus letter from a healthcare provider that clearly states the relationship between your disability and your service,
- 2. Failure to Prove a Service Connection-** The VA often denies claims because the applicant cannot establish a clear connection between their disability and military service. Without proving a direct or secondary service connection, claims are likely to be rejected. **How to avoid this:** Provide detailed records of your service, including any in-service incidents, injuries, or illnesses that could be linked to your current disability. This could include service treatment records, lay statements from fellow service members, and reports of exposure to hazardous conditions.
- 3. Missed Deadlines-** If you miss deadlines for submitting additional information or appealing a denied claim, the VA may close your case/ The VA has strict timelines for various steps in the claims process, including submitting new evidence or filing an appeal. **How to avoid this:** Stay organized and track all deadlines related to your claim. Keep a calendar of important dates and respond to any VA requests promptly. If you're unsure about a deadline, reach out to A Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for assistance.
- 4. Incorrect or Incomplete Paperwork-** Filling out forms incorrectly or submitting incomplete paperwork can result in a denied claim. Claims often get rejected when the VA receives inconsistent information or missing documents, making it hard for them to make a decision. **How to avoid this:** Double-check all of your paperwork before submitting your claim. Ensure you've filled out all required fields accurately and attached all necessary supporting documentation. A VSO can help review your claim for accuracy before you submit it.
- 5. Failure to Attend VA Medical Examinations-** The VA often schedules Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams to evaluate the severity of your condition. Missing this appointment without re-scheduling can result in an automatic denial of your claim. **How to avoid this:** Always attend your scheduled VA exams. If you can't make it, contact the VA as soon as possible to reschedule. This exam is a critical part of the process, as the results heavily influence your disability rating and claim outcome.
- 6. Lack of Continuous Treatment-** In some cases, claims are denied because the veteran does not have a history of continuous treatment for their condition. The VA may question the severity or existence of the disability if you haven't sought ongoing treatment. **How to avoid this:** If you have a service-connected condition, make sure to keep regular appointments and follow your treatment plan. Continuity of care shows the VA that your condition persists and requires ongoing medical attention.
- 7. Pre-Existing Conditions Without Evidence of Aggravation-** If the VA believes your condition existed before your time in the military and there is no evidence it was aggravated by your service, your claim may be denied. **How to avoid this:** If you are filing for a pre-existing condition, provide medical evidence that your service worsened the condition.

Contact your Coshocton County Veterans Service Office at 740-622-2313

Coshocton County Honor Flight Participation Luncheon

The Coshocton County Veterans Service Commission and Office Staff welcomed new participants of the Columbus Honor Flight program during the 13th Annual Coshocton Honor Flight Luncheon. Columbus Honor Flight flies World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam veterans for free to Washington, D.C. for a day to visit memorials dedicated to their service, and others as time allows. Local Veterans, 65 and older, who have taken the flight, and guardians who volunteer to take care of each Veteran both on the ground and in the air, had lunch together on November 18, 2025, at the Coshocton Senior Center, to share photographs and experiences from all the 2023 trips. At the luncheon, guest speakers included Honor Flight Columbus- Executive Director, Beth Johnson, and Coshocton Blue Star Mothers President, Sharon Burns. During the luncheon, Sharon Burns donated a Blue Star Mother’s check to Beth Johnson totaling \$1,000.00, and Rosa Davis, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, presented a check to Beth Johnson totaling \$200.00. Honor Flights are an opportunity to honor and thank the Americans who secured our freedom by bringing Veterans to the nation’s capital to see the memorials that commemorate their service. For more information on the Honor Flight, visit www.honorflightcolumbus.org/home.html. You also can stop by the Coshocton County Veterans Service Office located in the Coshocton County Courthouse for assistance in filling out an application for the flight.

2026 Flight Schedule

Mission 149

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Sponsor: Worthington Moose 1427 & Golf Cart Raffle

Mission 150

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Sponsor: OhioHealth & Ross Veteran Network

Mission 151

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Sponsor: Veteran Appreciation Foundation & HF Night in Cumberland (CVMA 12-6)

Mission 152

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Sponsor: All Life Foundation

Mission 153

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Sponsor: Washington Twp Fire & Nick Rozanski Foundation

Mission 154

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Sponsor: Vance Outdoors

Mission 155

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Sponsor: Denman & Boggs Memorial

Mission 156

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Sponsor: Ragan/McNamara Family

Mission 157

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Sponsor: Battelle

Mission 158

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Sponsor: Nationwide



O.V.H.V. Ruck March 2025

On Friday, November 7th, Operation Veterans Helping Veterans held their annual ruck march. They marched 8.8 miles from Ridge-wood High School to Newcomerstown High School. The school they start from rotates annually. This was the 9th annual ruck with the event raising about \$8,300; O.V.H.V. uses this money to help local Veterans in need. They fill in the gaps that government assistance can't help with. All money stays in the local communities from which the donations came. For several years now, they have delivered meals from Bob Evans to veterans in need. They have also taken families shopping at Walmart for Christmas. Their main focus is helping with day-to-day needs such as utility bills, appliances and repairs, and furniture. Scholarships are also provided to the area high school graduates to help get the families to their Basic Training Graduation.

OVHV 9TH ANNUAL RUCK

IN MEMORY OF

Cpl James W Rogers SMSgt David J. Rogers Sgt James O. Hawkins Sgt Milton A. Gist Jr. MSgt Richard Miller Sgt Don Canfield Cpl Paul J Johnson John Hoffman Oscar Larson Cpl Todd Godwin Cpl Harold "Dean" Hammersley	Sgt James G Clendenning E5 Fred Hobbs Richard E Clendenning PFC Tim Kinser PFC Josh Hildebrand HTI Earl H Dorr CPO Kevin Lewis Keirns SP4 Lewis Wayne Keirns CW3 David Gibbs Sgt Daniel J Patron PFC Kenneth D Scheetz	SSgt O. Thomas Hawkins LCpl William Richard Hawkins William E Unger Senior Airman Donald G Legg William L Cox MM3 Michael Holder Ernie Miles USMC AK3 Jeannette Waldron Don Woodie SP4 Jerry Gore PV1 William A. Elliott Sr
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IN HONOR OF

1stSgt Brian Hawkins Sgt Phil Valdez CW3 Zac Miller MGySgt Jim Priest SPC Devin Lusk CPL Morgan Eckelberry TSgt Aaron Shearer Sgt Jimmie McMillan SRA Todd Stoffer Tom Kistler Cpl Jason Mladek SPC Edmund Hall	CPO David Asbury MGySgt Scott M Stubbs GySgt Travis Brill P01 Charles Myers Cpt Edward D Osborn PFC John Hayes, Korea Sgt Aronn Palmer, USMC CSN Carl Jett George Leach SPC Charles Gibbs PO3 William P Yarbrough III CSN Buck Hawkins	SSgt Travis Fitzpatrick Lcpl Andrew Troyer SP4 Gary Foster Cpl Jason Jonard SPC Andrew B Mackenzie E3 Douglas H Mackenzie E4 Harry J Patterson II AMH1 Jack Browning YN1 Kelsey Hayes Sgt Marvin "Butch" Foster AT2 (AW) Brianna Brady Am3 Tom Kistler SSgt Craig Green
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Thank You to our 2025 Sponsors!

- Blue Star Moms of Coshocton County
- Coshocton Foundation
- Bratton Law
- Best Heating & Air Solutions

GOLD

- BPOE Newcomerstown Veterans Committee
- Kraft Heinz
- Forest Hill Septic
- Genesis Coshocton Medical Center

- Domino's
- American Legion Post 65
- Newcomerstown American Legion

SILVER

- J's Portable Toilets
- McWane Ductile

- Dogwood Title LLC
- Given Dawson Paisley Funeral Home
- Newcomerstown Historical Society

Bronze

- CRMH
- Warehouse Restaurant
- Frontier Propane
- AmVets Post 36
- Home Loan Savings Bank
- PSI Industrial Solutions

- JB's Smokin' Barbeque
- Bubbles and Barks Dog Grooming
- Legacy Lanes
- Coshocton Brake & Supply Co.

Bronze

- NMS Class of 2031
- A1 Vet Care
- Shogun's Cambridge
- Scott Rader & Family
- Sweet Escape Skin Studio
- Kistler Brothers Home Inspections



VA Insurance and the Accelerated Benefit Option

December 10, 2025

VBA Office of Communication

VA has announced an amendment to the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Family SGLI (FSGLI), and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) Accelerated Benefit Option (ABO) regulation.

This update allows an alternate applicant to apply for an ABO on a member's behalf, such as when a member is medically incapacitated. With accelerated benefits, you can get up to 50% of the face value of your coverage in increments of \$5,000—paid to you before death.

This change will:

Allow an alternate applicant to apply for the ABO on behalf of a terminally ill member, who is medically incapacitated.

Authorize a member to apply for the ABO when their insured spouse is terminally ill.

Ensure that stepchildren and children, who are 18-22 and in school, are included in FSGLI dependent child coverage.

This change comes as an update to the ABO that's been in effect since 1998 when only the member could apply. Visit

www.va.gov/life-insurance/totally-disabled-or-terminally-ill/ for more information, or to apply.



COSHOCOTON COUNTY FAIR 2025

The Coshocton County Fair was held Friday, September 26th to Thursday, October 2nd 2025. We had our outreach booth setup under the Grandstand again to interact with all of the Veterans and their families.

We hope to see you again this year!



Memorial Day will be held on Monday, May 25th 2026. The Coshocton County Veterans Council, Veterans Service Commission members and staff are beginning the preparations for the Parade and Services.

The Coshocton Annual Parade will begin at 10:00am with the Services immediately following on the Court Square. Parade applications will be mailed on Thursday, March 12th.

Please contact our office at 740-622-2313 if you do not receive one after that date.

We hope you help us to make this a special and memorable event for all of our fallen comrades!



B.L.U.F.

We are not the VA. We are YOUR County Veterans Service Officers assisting veterans to navigate the VA. We are affiliated with the VA through our accreditations with National Service Organizations: VFW, DAV, American Legion, & Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

Who we are and what we do: The Veterans Service Commission, formerly called the Soldier’s & Sailors Relief Commission, was established by the Ohio General Assembly in 1886. Title 59, Chapter 5901 of the Ohio Revised Code, establishes and regulates the operation of the Commission, and accordingly, the Coshocton County Veterans Service Commission is empowered to provide temporary assistance to veterans, their spouses, their dependents, and their widows and orphans.

It is the goal of the Coshocton County Veterans Service Office to inform our veterans of their benefits, transport them to VA medical care facilities, provide short-term financial assistance, and act as an agent in obtaining assistance from federal, state, or local agencies.

VA EMERGENCY CARE

FOR VETERANS USING THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AS THEIR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER. IF YOU NEED TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY CARE WHILE TRAVELING OR AWAY FROM A VA CLINIC **YOU SHOULD NOW CALL THE CENTRALIZED SYSTEM AT 1-844-724-7842 WITHIN 72 HOURS OF GOING TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.** THIS POLICY IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS 72 HOUR NOTICE POLICY IN THAT THIS IS A CENTRALIZED SYSTEM REGARDLESS OF WHERE THE VETERAN IS AT OR THE CLINIC THEY NORMALLY SEE. THE CALL CAN BE MADE BY THE VETERAN, EMERGENCY ROOM PROVIDER, THE VETERAN’S REPRESENTATIVE, OR THEIR FAMILY MEMBER.

Office Closures

Monday, February 16th – Presidents Day

Coshocton County Veterans Organizations

VFW Post #1330

Commander: Wayne Hilliard
 Meetings are the second Saturday
 of each month at
 the AMVETS Career Center at 10:00 a.m.



American Legion Post #634

Commander: Gary Kilpatrick
 298 Plum St.
 Warsaw, OH 43844
 Meetings are the third Wednesday
 of each month at the Fire House
 in Warsaw at 7:00 p.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.



American Legion Post #65

Commander: Jason Babcock
 652 Main St.
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812
 740-622-6106
 Meetings are the
third Wednesday
 of each month at 7:00 p.m.

AMVETS Post #36

Commander: Rick Cullison
 986 Otsego Ave.
 Coshocton, Ohio 43812
 740-623-0538
 Meetings are the third Monday of each
 month at 6:00 p.m.



Korean War

Veterans Association
 President: Bob Jones
 Meetings are on an as-needed basis



Army/Navy Garrison #628

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



Coshocton County
 Vietnam Veterans

Commander: David Hindel
 Meetings are the
second Saturday of each month
 at the AMVETS Career Center at 9 a.m.

American Legion Post #466

Commander: Jack Patterson
 405 E. Union Ave.
 West Lafayette, Ohio 43845
 740-545-9773
 Meetings are held on an as-needed basis



Blue Star Mothers OH59

President: Sharon Burns
 P.O. Box 1655
 Coshocton, OH 43812
 740-502-0169
 Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the
second Monday of each month at the
 AMC Nazarene Church, 1030 Orange St.,
 Coshocton, OH 43812



Coshocton County
 Veterans Council

Commander: Jack Patterson
 Meetings are the second Thursday
 of each month at the AMVETS Career
 Center at 3:00 p.m.



Operation Veterans Helping Veterans

Executive Director: Brian Hawkins
 West Lafayette, OH 43845
 740-610-8109
 Meetings are held on an as-needed basis