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Featured Veteran Ron Zaleski

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Home Adaptation Resources

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Ohio Western Reserve Ladies

Serving Area Military & Veterans
413 Lincolnway East
Massillon, Ohio 44646

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FALL 2022

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SERVING THOSE Who Served

SERVING AREA MILITARY

Thank You!!

Thank you to our community for making this paper such an incredible success. The feedback has been phenomenal. We have integrated your suggestions into this issue. We are thankful so many veterans utilized VERA and were able to file claims, update information and receive the status of their claims. We loved hearing from the veterans who learned about their VA healthcare eligibility and applied. It was great to see so many of you at the Military Family Center, Veterans Resource Fair. Finally, the SAM Center pantry was honored to serve many new veterans.

This paper is titled Serving Those Who Served . It is about bringing those that serve our veterans together. Veteran organizations can place articles in the paper for no cost. They may also advertise future events. As we are new, we are starting with many resource articles. In the future, we will provide news, veteran stories, and additional information on our veteran community. Serving Those that Served is about building a veteran community.

If you want to see something featured, email Lucia, lucia@servingareamilitary.org.

SAM Center's 5th Annual Veterans' Resource Fair
All your veterans' resources in one place

Have you ever wondered what benefits you qualify for as a veteran? Have you heard of a VA program but wasn't sure if you would qualify? The SAM Center is hosting their 5th Annual Veterans' Resource Fair. This year will be a 2-day event that hopes to answer all your benefits questions.

This year, we are kicking off the event with breakfast and conversation with Ron Zaleski. Ron walked across the U.S. and the Appalachian trail barefoot. He did this to raise awareness about veterans' suicide. Ever since, he has been a tireless advocate for our veteran community.

Throughout both days, community partners will provide briefings on VA healthcare enrollment, preneed burial and cemetery benefits, the PACT Act, PTSD Awareness, caregiver assistance, home adaptation programs, VA home loans, suicide postvention, and SAVE training.

Veterans' Healthcare
The VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System will be on hand to verify eligibility, process enrollment and answer your healthcare questions. Have you ever wondered if you qualified for the VA Healthcare benefit? The SAM Center Veterans' Resource Fair will have enrollment and eligibility personnel on hand to determine eligibility. Even if you did not qualify in the past, you may now qualify based on eligibility changes.

The VRF is your opportunity to speak with VA enrollment and eligibility professionals. Already enrolled in VA healthcare. Come out and speak to VHA personnel about the benefits you may be missing. Enrolling in the VA health benefit does not affect your private insurance coverage.

Veterans' Compensation
VA disability compensation offers a monthly tax-free payment to Veterans who got sick or injured while serving in the military and to Veterans whose service made an existing condition worse.

Did you injure yourself or experience trauma during military service? You may be eligible for service-connected compensation and treatment. Rules surrounding VA compensation are constantly changing. Individuals' conditions also change over time. It's important that if your condition has changed, speak with a VA compensation specialist to determine if it's right for you to file a claim or claim for increase.

With the PACT Act, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has expanded eligibility for numerous health conditions. The expansion of benefits is not automatic. A veteran or widow must apply for compensation or widowís benefits.

Military awards and dog tags
Are you missing a service medal or all your medals? Through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) veterans may request their military records and/or awards. Every veteran may receive one complimentary set of service medals and ribbons they have earned. Primary next of kin may also request a set of medals for their loved ones. This is at no cost to the veteran or next of kin. This program allows veterans to build a shadow box for their military service.

In addition to medals requests, the SAM Center will have a station setup for veterans or next of kin to obtain a complimentary dog tag. The veteran will need to have proof of military service. Every effort will be made to complete the dog tag request the same day.

Ohio Veterans' ID cards
On Saturday, September 17, Stark County Recorder Jamie Walters will be on hand recording military separation papers and providing Ohio Veterans' ID Cards. To receive an ID card, a veteran must record their military discharge with the Stark County Recorder's Office and show TWO forms of current identification, at least one of which bears a photograph. These can include a driver's license, Social Security Card, birth certificate, passport, conceal carry permit and Armed Forces Discharge Record.

In Ohio, the office of the county recorder is responsible for maintaining veterans' military service discharge records, known in military

Continued on page 5

F E A T U R E D V E T E R A N

Ron Zaleski: A Barefoot Journey Across America







When Ron Zaleski returned home from his service to the Marine Corps in 1972, he was plagued by feelings of anger and guilt. As an act of penance, in 2006 he walked barefoot across the Appalachian Trail, where he learned self-forgiveness, empathy, and found a purpose greater than himself. In 2010, he upped the stakes and walked barefoot from Concord, MA to Santa Monica, CA. He traversed over 3,400 miles without shoes, all the while carrying a sign that read "18 Vets a Day Commit Suicide!" and a petition for military personnel to receive mandatory counseling. In 2011 he brought that same petition, which had at that point accumulated over 20,000 signatures, to Washington D.C. There, he spoke to politicians and pleaded his case on behalf of veterans. While his calls for reform largely seemed to fall on deaf ears, Ron refused to bow out.

Ron Zaleski was born November 11th, 1950 in Southampton, NY, and attended Hampton Bays High School. At 19 years of age, he joined the United States Marine Corps, serving during the Vietnam era from 1970 to 1972. He then went on to own and operate both a scuba shop and a gym.

In 2006, he sold his businesses and founded the Long Walk Home. The same year, he set out to walk barefoot across the Appalachian Trail. He traversed 2,200 miles of woods and wildlife, learning self-forgiveness, empathy and finding a purpose greater than himself, all the while without shoes. He was met by many curious trailblazers who were eager to hear his story. Many of them were on their own journey of self-discovery. Others were Veterans, or had Veterans in their family, and related to Ron's experience. However, they all had one thing in common: they were in awe of Ron's bare feet. The Appalachian taught Ron that he wasn't the only veteran who felt lost, aimless, and isolated.

For over a decade, Ron has worked tirelessly to build The Long Walk Home from the ground up. He lives in Venice, FL developing programs, events, and services to extend to Veterans and their families on the local and national level. The Long Walk Home is ever-growing in its mission to bring awareness to and, more importantly, prevent veteran suicide. Without Ron, the organization would not be where it is today.

To learn more about Ron's journey and his efforts to support Veterans, visit The Long Walk Home at thelongwalkhome.org. You can also join Ron at the SAM Center: Veterans' Resource Fair on September 16-17 at MAPS Air Museum. Join us in the 112th Fighter Squadron Banquet Center (2nd Floor) at 9 a.m. on September 16 for breakfast and a conversation with Ron on his transformation from a disgruntled veteran to a trailblazing advocate.

Do you have a veteran you would like to see featured? Email support@servingareamilitary.com with the veterans name and a few details as to what makes them great.

10 Challenges to Service

Join a network of Veterans and military families who have embarked on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment.

At The Long Walk Home, we help veterans and their families have healthy and purposeful transition to civilian life. The 10 Challenges to Service and our Mentor Program guides you along a series of personal challenges designed to combat negative thinking, build healthier habits, develop goals for the future, and nurture personal relationships.

As a Mentee, expect to spend no more than 30 minutes on any of the ten challenges. Start your journey today!

Sample Challenge: Expressing Gratitude

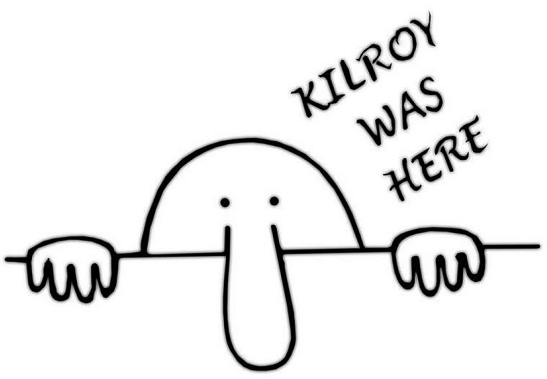
Morning: What are you grateful for when you wake up?
Night: Before you go to bed write one thing you are grateful that you accomplished or that happened to you during the day?
Why? To commence a shift in your perspective, starting the day with a positive thought and ending it on a positive note.
If you have questions or want information about Mentorship and 10 Challenges for Service, please contact The Long Walk Home at info@thelongwalkhome.org.

Sign up at: https://thelongwalkhome.org/mentorship-program/

BURN PIT EXPOSURE?

Are you a veteran who was affected by burn pits or other toxic exposure? The recently passed Honoring Our PACTAct may entitle you to benefits you were previously ineligible for! LEARN MORE: https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits





Suicide Intervention (ASIST) Workshop September 2022

ASIST-Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training-September 2022

The Long Walk Home Organization and Serving Area Military and Veterans have partnered to bring ASIST to Massillon, Ohio. We believe this workshop to be very effective in teaching the skills to assist our veterans. There is no charge to Veterans, their adult family members, & supporters. **The registration deposit of $100 will be refunded after the workshop is attended** (unless you prefer to pay-it-forward). If you don't show up or have to cancel, the fee is forfeited as a donation.

Learn how to mitigate suicide by recognizing signs, providing a skilled intervention, and developing a safety plan to keep someone alive.

Breakfast & Lunch is included Wednesday and Thursday.
Workshop will begin Wednesday, September 14 at 8:00 a.m. and finish at 4:00 p.m., then
Thursday, September 15, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This is a 2 day class. You will go home at night and come back in the morning. If you live more than 1 hour distance, we can help you with arrangements for accommodations.

Two knowledgeable, supportive trainers will guide you through the course, ensuring your comfort and safety. One of our trainers on The Long Walk Home staff, Ron Newhouse, is a 22-year veteran and he has led 21 ASIST Workshops.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED due to limited capacity. The registration deposit of $100 is to hold your place and will be refunded after the workshop is attended by you. The deposit will be forfeited if you don't show up or have to cancel.

This powerful workshop is an **$800.00 value** (per person) that is hosted by The Long Walk Home. Many thanks to Campaign 22 members for helping us fund this!

After the workshops we've hosted, 80% said they would intervene a suicide but prior to class, only 20% would intervene. This course raises our confidence levels to help someone at risk and explains how to go about it.

Don't wait until it's too late.

September 14-15, 2022

8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. EDT

American Legion Post 221
427 Lincolnway East
Massillon, OH 44646

REGISTER AT: https://bit.ly/ASIST221

SAM CENTER
Serving Area Military

LOCAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN LEGION POSTS

Post 44
1633 Cleveland Ave NW, Canton
330.455.9550

Post 221
427 Lincoln Way E, Massillon
330.833.4545

Post 204
11 Belden Ave NE, Canton
330.452.7217 B

Post 549
125 3rd Ave NE, Beach City
330.756.0549 B

Post 667
224 Wood St N, East Canton
330.488.6500

Post 548
925 Saint Louis Ct, Louisville
330.875.5036

Post 436
PO BOX 113, Greentown
330.494.4648

Post 357
103 E Line St, Minerva
330.868.4635 B

A.M.V.E.T.S. UNITS

Post #6
1318 20th SW, Massillon
330.524.0547

Post #555
216 4th ST NW, Canton
330.452.8202

Post #124
1822 Sherrick Rd SE, Canton
330.453.8883

Post #12
653 Earl RD NW, Massillon
330.833.1711

D.A.V (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS)

Chapter 6
1935 Avalon Ave NE, Canton
330.232.6609

Chapter 38
821 South Erie St, Massillon
330.880.5499

Chapter 50
36 N. Union Ave. Alliance
330.823.0868

VFW Veterans of Foreign Wars

Charles C Helserer Memorial Auxiliary 3124
322 Erie St N, Massillon
816.561.8655

Greentown Auxiliary 9904
8695 Cleveland Ave, N. Canton
816.561.8655

Constitution Auxiliary 7490
7459 Columbus Rd, Louisville
816.561.8655

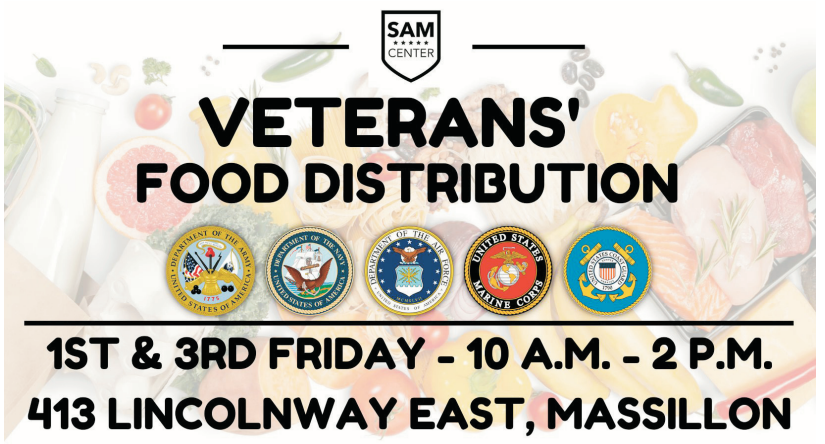
Donald G. Whetstone Auxiliary 4120
213 Roosevelt, Minerva
816.561.8655

Stark County Veterans Face Record Food Insecurity

By Lucia Cirese

Rising inflation that doesn't keep up with Social Security and disability payments along with eligibility changes thru other assistance providers have led to a record number of veterans, service members and their widows(ers) turning to food pantries. The SAM Center is honored to step up and assist.

At our first distribution in August, we served 219 families. This is a new record for our Friday food distribution. It was a tremendous blessing to have that many turn to us. This is a 1,000% increase from just a few years ago.



With the increased need, the SAM Center started surveying clients and looking at our data. We want to know why veterans are seeing such an increase in need.

We found that almost 40% of our families only visited one time and 70% of our 2021 families visited three times or less. It's not a long-term need that draws most of our clients. It is an unexpected expense, a vehicle breakdown, short-term illness, employment turmoil, healthcare expenses or other emergency. With the high cost of food and fuel, this has put even more disabled and older veterans one expense from needing a hand up. We are so honored to be the agency they turn to.

Now, we do have some regular clients. We found monthly usage was just 5.6%. This is significant as it shows very few of our clients are reliant monthly. For those clients, the majority are trying to make it on their disability and social security. Due to disability, they need us, and we are so blessed to be there for them.

From surveys, we found just under 30% of veterans were turned down or told they were not eligible for other services. The answers were due to lifetime maximums, already having an emergency that was covered, over income (still under 200% of poverty), having quit a job and unsure. We also found that more than 60% of our clients had never heard of the county veteran services.

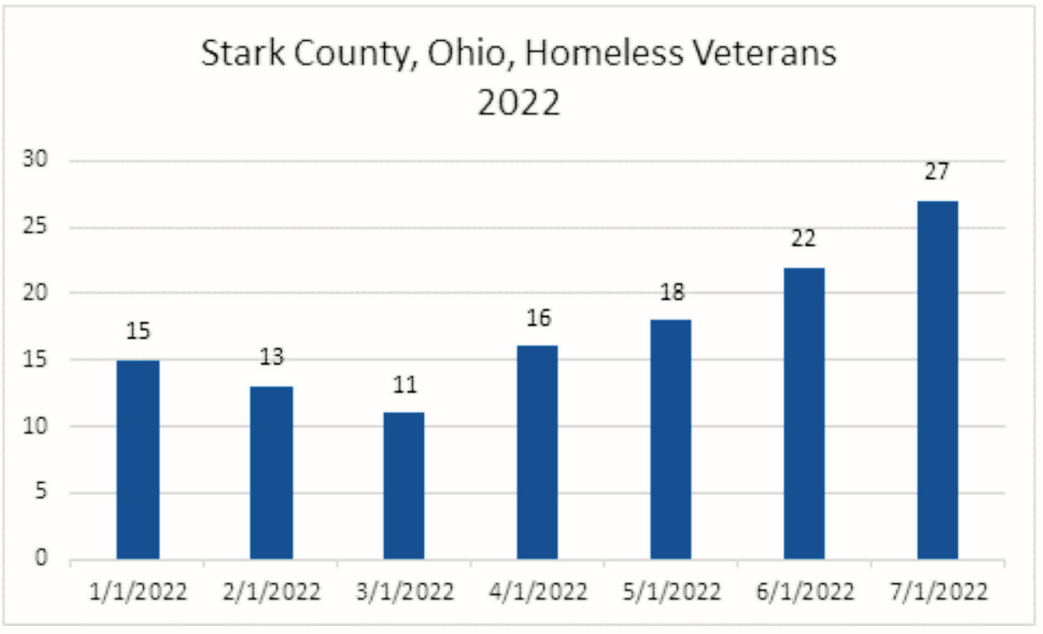
Of our annual client total, 70% have never previously been to a food pantry. Each distribution sees 15-30% of clients never attending a pantry prior to their visit. For almost 40% of the new clients, that one distribution will be enough. The typical client comes in unsure of being there. They present their VA card to register. They were referred by an agency or client we previously assisted.

Yes, Stark County veterans are facing record food insecurity, but there is a strong network of partners to help. For many veterans, inflation has pushed them to the point where an emergency could make them choose between food or a bill. We are so blessed to be able to prevent that by providing food and toiletries during this time. Although we may only see the veteran a couple times, we hope he/she knows how much our community loves and supports them.

The SAM Center is here to provide food and toiletries to any veteran in need. The community and our partners at the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank have ensured no Stark County veteran should ever go hungry.

Please help us in our mission to ensure all Stark County veterans know that food and love are available at the SAM Center, 413 Lincolnway East, Massillon.

No Veteran should be without a place to call home.



As you can see by the chart, the numbers just this year alone are high.

Here in Stark County we are fully committed to ending Veteran Homelessness. We wanted to share with you that currently in Stark County we have 27 Homeless Veterans waiting for housing.

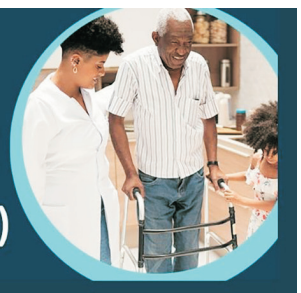
Stark County has the presence of VA funded residential beds for homeless veterans and families.

Over the next few months, we would like to share with you some of the programs that are available here in Stark County to assist our Veterans.

If you or someone you know are experiencing homelessness, please call the Homeless Hotline at 330-452-4363 or the Veteran Homeless Hotline at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838)

EDITOR'S NOTE: As of 15 August and by the federal standard of a veteran, there are 30 homeless veterans in Stark County There are an additional 14 homeless veterans that are reservists, National Guard or do not have an Honorable Discharge.

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)



The (PCAFC) is for eligible Veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975 or on or after September 11, 2001. This program provides resources, education, support, a financial stipend, and health insurance (if eligible), beneficiary travel (if eligible), to caregivers of eligible Veterans.

1. **Have a single or combined service-connected disability rating by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of 70% or more. This requirement is included in the definition of "serious injury;" and**
2. **Be in need of personal care services for a minimum of six continuous months based on any one of the following:**

- a need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury; or
- a need for regular or extensive instruction or supervision without which the ability of the veteran to function in daily life would be seriously impaired.
Find out more at the SAM VRF on Sept. 16-17 or visit https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support_benefits.asp

Financial Assistance

- **Supporting Services for Veteran Families: 1 (855) 234-7310**
- **Stark County Community Action Agency: (rent & utilities assistance), (330) 454-1676**
- **NEOPAT https://neopat.org/get-assistance/**
- **Stark County Homeless Hotline (330) 452-4363**
- **United Way of Greater Stark County: (330) 491-0445**
- **Stark County Veteran Service Commission: (330) 451-7457**
- **CommQuest: (330) 455-0374**
- **Catholic Charities of Stark County: (330) 491-0896**
- **WIC Supplemental Food: (330) 489-3326**
- **Stark County Job & Family Services: (330) 452-4661**

Veterans' Resource Fair story continued...

parlance as a DD214 form. These discharge records are utilized by veterans to prove their eligibility for certain benefits their military service has earned. This card contains their specific document number, so the discharge record can be rapidly located when needed.

Adaptive Housing

Both service connected and nonservice connected veterans may have housing adaptation funds available to them. This could also include vehicle adaptation. On page 6, these programs are discussed in-depth. We also invite veterans and caregivers to attend our Veterans' Resource Fair to learn more about home and/or vehicle adaptation.

Caregiver Assistance

The VA recognizes the important role of family caregivers in supporting the health and wellness of Veterans. Family members may be eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). This program provides a monthly stipend, access to healthcare, respite care, mental health counseling, caregiver training and more. These benefits are provided to a spouse, son, daughter, parent, stepfamily member, or extended family member of the Veteran who meets the eligibility criteria. The Veteran must have a VA disability rating (individual or combined) of 70% or higher. The Veteran's service-connected disabilities must have been caused or made worse by their active-duty service during one of these periods of time; on or after 11 September 2001 or prior to 7 May 1975.

In 2017, the SAM Center brought the Veterans' Resource Fair concept back to Stark County as the Veterans' Stand Down. Since that time, the event has helped hundred of veterans connect with VA compensation and/or healthcare. We are proud to provide our 5th Annual event to the greater Stark County Community. We look forward to seeing you on September 16 or 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. During the Resource Fair, you will have the opportunity to register for several seminars. You may preregister at bit.ly/SAMVRF5.

I WANT TO SHOW MY LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR STARK COUNTY VETERANS:

☐ I/we would like to donate $_____ towards the purchase of food for veterans

☐ I/we would like to donate $_____ towards helping one veteran transition from homelessness.

☐ I/we will be dropping off food donations.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

SAM CENTER

Please make checks payable to Serving Area Military
Items can be dropped off or mailed: SAM Center, 413 Lincoln Way E., Massillon, OH 44646
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

We welcome you to stop out and take a tour of our facility, speak to our volunteers, and see the difference you are making.

Home Adaptation

As we age, our housing needs change. The VA offers several programs to make a house more accessible.

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA)

The Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant does not require a veteran's condition to be incurred during military duty; however, veterans applying for this grant must have a condition rated at least 50 percent disabling by VA. A lifetime HISA benefit of up to $6,800 is granted to veterans with a service-connected condition. A lifetime benefit of $2,000 may be provided for veterans with a non-service-connected condition.

HISA grants can be used to improve several areas of a veteran's primary residence to meet their medical needs. These include entrances and exits, kitchen or bathroom sinks, driveways, ramps, plumbing and electrical improvements for medical equipment installation.

Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) and Special Home Adaptation

The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant is primarily intended for veterans with impaired mobility and injuries. To secure a SAH grant, veterans must own a home (or owned by a member of their family) and have a qualifying service-connected disability. A SAH grant offers up to $101,754 to eligible veterans.

Like SAH, veterans who qualify for SHA can use the funds to buy, build, or adapt their existing home to suit the needs of their disability. VA currently offers up to $20,387 for the SHA grant in the 2022 fiscal year.

Veterans can apply for both SAH and SHA if eligible. SHA benefits can also be used in future years if the full amount is not needed right away.

VA Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) Grant

Veterans who qualify for SAH or SHA but do not live or plan to live in a permanent home can apply for a Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) grant. This grant can be used to adapt a temporary or family member's home to meet the needs of one of the above specified disabilities.

Veterans who qualified for an SAH grant can receive up to $40,983 through TRA for the fiscal year 2022, and veterans who qualified for SHA can collect up to $7,318.

VA automobile allowance and adaptive equipment

Do you have a disability related to your military service that prevents you from driving? If you do, you may be able to get disability compensation or benefits. A one-time payment of not more than $21,488.29 may be available to help you buy a specially equipped vehicle

A veteran may also qualify for one or more adaptive equipment grants to change a vehicle, so it has features like power steering, brakes, seats, windows, or lift equipment to help you get into and out of the vehicle.

Applying for a grant

To apply for a SAH, SHA, or TRA housing allowance, you can download and fill out VA Form 26-4555. You can also check the status of your grant application through VA's eBenefits portal.

VA may also require a prescription for housing improvements from a qualified medical professional or VA physician. To apply for a HISA housing allowance, visit this website to learn more and fill out VA Form 10-0103–Veterans Application for Assistance in Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations.

For vehicle grants, youíll need to file a claim for disability compensation and get VA approval before buying a vehicle or adaptive equipment. You can apply for–and use–either grant before or after military discharge. A veteran will then need to fill out an Application for Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment (VA Form 21-4502). If you qualify for adaptive equipment only, you'll need to fill out an Application for Adaptive Equipment–Motor Vehicle (VA Form 10-1394).

It is highly recommended that you utilize a claims representative to assist in completing the applications. Representatives are available through your local county Veterans' Service Commission, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, or a Veterans' Service Organization.

- **American Legion, Room 923, 216-522-3504**
- **American Veterans, Room 1017E, 216-522-3500**
- **Disabled American Veterans, Room 1015, 216-522-3507**
- **Jewish War Veterans, Room 1023, 216-522-2446**
- **Marine Corps League, Room 1360, 216-522-3515**
- **Military Order of the Purple Heart, Room 1023, 216-522-7234**
- **Paralyzed Veterans of America, Room 1027, 216-522-7709**
- **Stark County Veterans' Service Commission, 330-451-7457**
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars, Room 1013A, 216-522-3510**
- **Vietnam Veterans of America, Room 1013B, 216-522-3119**
- **VA VERA Service: vets.force.com/VAVERA/s/**

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

Veterans' Resource Fair

Healthcare, VA claims, medals, dog tags, burial benefits, & more

SAM CENTER
Serving Area Military

Sept. 16 & 17
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Daily events to educate, empower & uplift
MAPS Air Museum
2260 International Pkwy, North Canton

Social Security Serves People Like You

Robert Fenn, *Social Security Administration*
Public Affairs Specialist



We have provided vital benefits and services to hard working Americans for nearly 90 years. America has an increasingly diverse population with a variety of needs. To meet those diverse needs, weíve created webpages that speak directly to groups of people who may need information about our programs and services.

Veterans (www.ssa.gov/veterans) - We proudly serve wounded warriors and veterans who sacrificed to preserve our treasured American freedoms. Many veterans do not know they might be eligible for disability benefits from Social Security.

Women (www.ssa.gov/women) - Social Security plays an important role in providing economic security for women. A woman who is 65 years old today can expect to live, on average, another two decades. Since women have longer life expectancies than men, they typically live more years in retirement and have a greater risk of exhausting their sources of income. Women also tend to have lower lifetime earnings than men, which usually means theyíll receive lower benefits. These are just a few reasons why women need to plan early and wisely for retirement. We're here to make sure women have the information they need to plan for those golden years.

LGBTQ+ (www.ssa.gov/people/lgbtq/) - Our agency touches the life of every American, both directly and indirectly. Our commitment extends to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people covered by Social Securityís many programs and services.

Check out even more of our People Like Me webpages at www.ssa.gov/people. Please share them on social media and with friends and family!

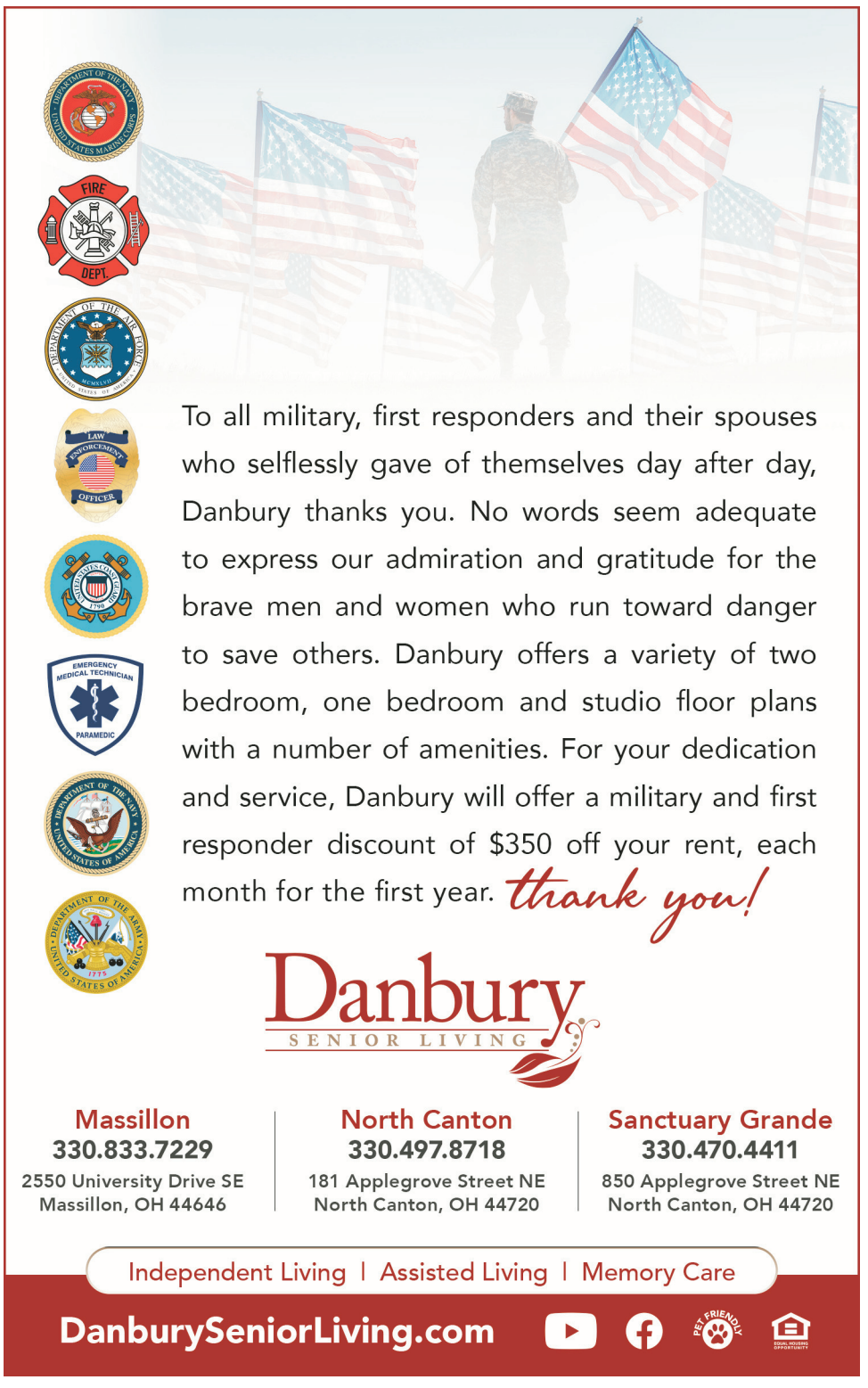
SAM CENTER
Serving Area Military

THANKSGIVING REGISTRATION

https//bitly/samthanksgivingregistration

This year we are committed to providing 500 Thanksgiving Feasts to our service members and veterans in need. Each family will be provided a turkey, pie, vegetables, mashed potatoes, noodles and more.

Register at:
bit.ly/samthanksgivingregistration



THE PATRIOT PROJECT
Military Chiropractic Care®



Medal of Honor Recipients L-R
Clinton Romesha, Leroy Petry
Melvin Morris, Donald Ballard
Founder, Dr. Timothy Novelli



4-Navy Seals L-R
MCPO Danny Nesbit, Ret. CPO Frank Hoagland, Senator
Ret. CMDMC Hershel Davis, Ret. CPO Floyd McLandon, Jr.

What is The Patriot Project?

The PATRIOT PROJECT is a grass roots movement to provide chiropractic care to **ALL ACTIVE MILITARY, MILITARY FAMILIES, WOUNDED VETERANS** and **GOLD STAR DEPENDENTS**. Chiropractic care is included in veteran's health benefits but not readily available for all veterans. Many of our veteran's ailments are currently being treated with pain medications and psychotropic drugs. Many of these ailments can be relieved more conservatively with **CHIROPRACTIC CARE.**

Sadly, over 22 veterans are committing suicide daily, and one-third of those suicides are directly related to the medications. An active-duty combat G.I. is more likely to die by suicide by overdose than be killed by Al-Qaeda. It is important to offer our active-duty soldiers non-drug, nonsurgical treatment for their pain. Doctors of Chiropractic offer such care with attention to optimal function and health of the **WHOLE PERSON.**

The Patriot Project is determined to have chiropractic physicians commissioned in the military and to have active chiropractic care available in every VA Hospital. These goals will ensure the choice of conservative chiropractic care and ready access for all active-duty to non-drug, non-surgical options.

In the 9 years since its inception, the Patriot Project now proudly has over 10,000 chiropractors participating in all 50 states. This achievement translates to over $100,000,000.00 in free chiropractic care to our most deserving Americans.

The Patriot Project is honored to have the unprecedented support of some of our military's most distinguished heroes along with remarkable corporate leaders. We ask you to please help the Patriot Project support those who serve by committing your **TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE. THEY SERVE…WE SUPPORT.**

The Patriot Project is providing funding to undergraduate and Chiropractic Universities for Veterans and their children wanting to become Chiropractors.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE PATRIOT PROJECT? You can help by donating or by attending the 2022 Patriot Ball. The ball is our ONLY fundraiser and honors our Military, Gold Star Families and First Responders. This year's ball will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at the Canton Civic Center. Check our website for details of the ball…. a black-tie event with 6 Medal of Honor Recipients attending, a delicious dinner, and many auction items. The Patriot Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



IAVA's Quick Reaction Force (QRF) is here for you if you have difficulty determining your eligibility or you need help navigating the claim process. For immediate crisis support or help accessing resources & benefits, reach out to QRF. Call 855-91RAPID 24/7 or visit online: https://bit.ly/3kbAXYw



Daughters of the American Revolution
Ohio State Society



Peggy Whitcomb, National Chair, DAR Project Patriot Committee

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a national lineage society founded in 1890. It is a non-profit, non-political, volunteer women's service organization which promotes patriotism, historic preservation, and education. Currently, there are approximately 190,000 members. Any woman 18 years of age or older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. Go to www.dar.org to learn more about membership.

The Ohio Society NSDAR was founded in December 1891 and follows the guidelines of the national society. There are over 6,300 women serving in the Ohio Society. Daughters in Ohio are passionate about community service, preserving history, supporting education, supporting our nation's military both past and present and honoring our Revolutionary War Patriots. In the past three years, Ohio Daughters have volunteered over 550,000 hours in their communities. There are chapters in Stark County and other Northeast Ohio counties.

There are three committees that support our military, past and present: **DAR Project Patriot Committee, DAR Service for Veterans and National Defense Committee.**

The DAR Project Patriot Committee is the official committee of the National Society that supports active-duty military, reservists, National Guard troops and their families in the US and abroad.

At the national level, we support The Chaplainís Closet at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany; Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland; Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas; Camp Atterbury Mobilization Center in Indiana; Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in California; Units Overseas; and Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In Ohio, we support national and state initiatives. In 2021, we were recognized for supporting the Ohio National Guard during Operation Joint Task Force Magnus where chapters throughout the state provided items to support soldiers who were deployed in-state at Covid clinics. We have also supported military and families at Wright Patterson Air Force Base; the Coast Guard stationed at Lake Erie bases; making and serving meals for national guard units during monthly drills and family day events; supporting military families at holidays and military children during the month of the military child. We have also been directly involved in supporting the crews of the USS George H.W. Bush CVN 69 and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower CVN 77 by sending hundreds of care packages to these ships while deployed. In 2021, Ohio Daughters donated $77,996.37 in money and items; sent 255 care packages to military serving abroad and sent over 8,000 cards of thanks to military in state and deployed across the world.

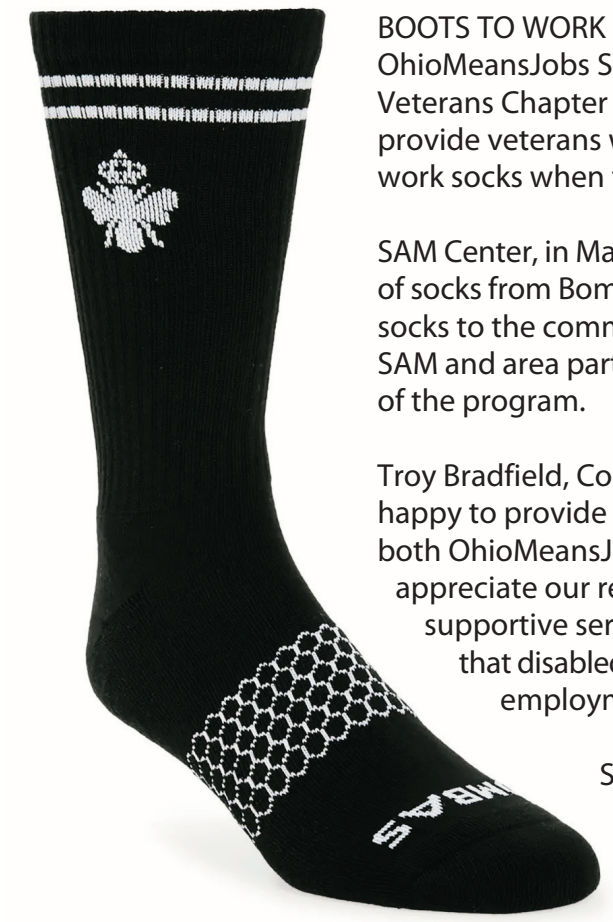
The Service for Veterans Committee serves America's veterans. Ohio chapters support veterans by volunteering at local Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, outpatient facilities or clinics, or nursing homes; providing support for veterans stand-downs and homeless shelters where veterans reside; and support other organizations that provide services for veterans. In 2021, Ohio Daughters supported Ohio's veterans by writing cards to veterans, providing handmade blankets and personal care items, participating in 84 Honor Flights and Welcome Home receptions, honored 6 World War II Veterans, participated in Wreaths Across America by sponsoring 6,543 wreaths for veterans interred a veterans and other cemeteries in Ohio and at Arlington National Cemetery, held a Medal of Honor plaque dedication at Ohio Veterans Memorial Park in Clinton, OH and donated $18,486 in items and $48,822 in funds to support veterans.

The National Defense Committee preserves our American heritage, protects the U.S. Constitution, and to ensure the survival of our national sovereignty and maintaining a military defense by supporting deployed military service members. The committee also supports ROTC, JROTC and non-ROTC military-affiliated programs. They recognize those exemplify honor, service, courage, leadership, and patriotism. It encourages Daughters to join the Wear RED Movement which asks Americans to show support for our deployed military members by wearing red every Friday to "Remember Everyone Deployed". In 2021, the Ohio committee gave 34 Youth citizenship awards, 5 Distinguished Citizens awards, honored the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by creating Never Forget Gardens, supported the Ohio National Guard during deployments, supported first responders, recognized over 1,000 veterans with the Viet Nam War Commemoration pin and certificate, and recognized ROTC and JROTC members. During the pandemic, Ohio daughters made facemasks to distribute to military, VA hospitals, first responders and school children.

Recently, three Northeast Ohio DAR chapters were represented at the "I Served" Veterans Resource Event at MAPS Museum in North Canton on July 16, 2022. The event was designed to connect veterans with services and organizations that support veterans in their communities. There were over 500 veterans served at this event. The **Catherine Green Chapter** (Green, OH) was represented by shifts of volunteers who recognized Viet Nam Veterans and gave away personal care items. The New **Connecticut Chapter** (Painesville, OH) was represented by Mindy Hayes, Veterans Committee Chair. The **Akron Chapter** was represented by Peggy Whitcomb, National and State Chair for the DAR Project Patriot Committee. Mindy and Peggy are volunteer representatives with Forever Amber Acres in Medina, OH. which is a non-profit organization, that provides equine therapy to veterans at no cost.

Please contact Peggy Whitcomb at **pwhitcombdar@gmail.com** if you are interested in more information about DAR membership, the Ohio Society's support of military, or if know of an individual, veteran, military unit or family that may need support.

Boots to Work



BOOTS TO WORK is an initiative between OhioMeansJobs Stark County, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 6, and SAM Center. The aim is to provide veterans with work shoes/boots and 6 pair of work socks when they start their new job.

SAM Center, in Massillon, receives an annual allotment of socks from Bombas. The SAM Center distributes the socks to the community. The collaboration between SAM and area partners is critical to the overall success of the program.

Troy Bradfield, Commander of DAV #6 said "We are happy to provide funding, as well as collaborate with both OhioMeansJobs and SAM Center. Our members appreciate our relationship with other local veteran supportive services and recognize the challenges that disabled veterans face when trying to obtain employment."

SAM Center founder Bryan Bowman stated, "Partnership and community is how we lift of our Stark County veterans. The SAM Center actively seeks ways to help veterans who are lifting themselves up. We are blessed to have partners like DAV Chapter 6 and Ohio Means Jobs helping veterans return to the workforce."

Thus far, 23 veterans have been provided with new work shoes/boots and a weeks' worth of socks. Many of these veterans have come by way of referral from the following agencies: Stark Veteran Service Commission, Honor Court, Stark County Re-Entry Program, Honor Home, Goodwill, Canton Vet Center, and the VA. The SAM Center offers the Bombas socks to any veteran organization. They have provided Bombas to the Stark County Veterans' Service Commission, Ohio Means Jobs, throughout the Northeast Ohio VA Medical System and to local posts.

Commander Bradfield also noted "You would be surprised how big of a difference the little things can make. Boots and socks don't sound like much, but to someone starting work, knowing that they can focus on their job, be in uniform, and know that someone has their back can make all the difference in the world."

You are not alone

We provide hope and recovery for persons and families impacted by mental illness, through virtual peer and family education programs, support groups and advocacy.

Call us at 330-455-6264

www.namistarkcounty.org

#namistarkcares

NAMI Stark County
National Alliance on Mental Illness



CONCERNED VETERANS FOR AMERICA

SIGN IN SUPPORT OF GHAPS ACT

(Guaranteeing Healthcare Access to Personnel who Served)

Let lawmakers know they must act and ensure Veterans are provided with the timely and accessible community care options they deserve.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO TAKE ACTION!

LEARN MORE: cv4a.org
CONTACT: NE OH Grassroots Engagement Coordinator
Michael J. Pichichero (330)-803-4582

AMERICAN LEGION POST 221

When writing an article for *Serving Those Who Serve*, I was unsure how to address subject matter for said article. Being The past Commander of Massillon Post 221, having worked with SAM Center and being a Veteran seemed like a good place to begin. You might ask how the American Legion and SAM Center are connected. The simple answer is we are both organizations helping Veterans of every Military Branch. We both provide assistance, we have been in the Military, we provide assistance for helping Veterans in need and support efforts to get you your benefits from the VA Systems along with The Veteran Service Office of Stark County.

The American Legion began in 1919 to garner support from Congress and the Senate in an effort to get the benefits promised to the Veterans of World War I. These veterans were not getting any help from the federal government for injuries suffered in battle. Through the efforts of the American Legion, The federal government started to provide care for the wounded, battle fatigued (PTSD) and other personnel in need of long-term care. Through the years, the American Legion has fought for all the benefits Veterans receive today. The GI Bill, VA Hospitals, Agent Orange care and treatment, PTSD treatment and several other ailments from all Wars and Conflicts. The American Legion is built on Four Pillars – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - National Security – Americanism and Children and Youth.

Have you ever considered joining with your brethren to serve again, but this time, serve your local community? The Legion offers camaraderie and opportunities for service. Sure, we are also one of the best and least expensive restaurants in the area, but we also offer game nights, family events, cornhole tournaments and the latest gaming. It's an opportunity to have fun with your fellow veterans.

As a Legion member, 1. You would be part of a team again with your brothers and sisters fighting for the rights and benefits promised. 2. Comradeship. 3. Knowing that you are making a difference in the life of your fellow Veterans. 4. Supporting National Security. 5. Promoting Americanism. 6. Supporting Youth programs like Boy Scouts, American Legion Baseball, youth sports programs and Ohioís American Legion Boys and Girls State programs. You are a respected leader in your community.

I am proud to be a member of The American Legion and the leadership team that is helping my community become the All-American City for all Americans. The American Legion has stood for God and Country since 1919. My Thanks to the SAM Center for supporting all Veterans along with The Stark County Veteran's Service Office.

Join us at Post 221 and help in the fight for veterans' benefits while serving our community.

Howard K. Marotto
Past Commander,
Massillon Post 221 of the
American Legion

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) (Date of Birth)

(Mailing Address) (Phone Number)

(City) (State) (Zip) (Post #)

(E-mail) ☐ Male ☐ Female (Gender) (Dues)

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

- ☐ Global War on Terror
- ☐ Gulf War
- ☐ Panama
- ☐ Lebanon/Grenada
- ☐ Vietnam
- ☐ Korea
- ☐ WWII
- ☐ Other Conflicts
- ☐ U.S. Army
- ☐ U.S. Navy
- ☐ U.S. Air Force
- ☐ U.S. Marines
- ☐ U.S. Space Force
- ☐ U.S. Coast Guard
- ☐ Merchant Marines (WWII only)

Signature of applicant Date Name of recruiter

30-009

Receipt of Dues *(Please Print)*

From _____ Post # _____

$ _____ for 20 ____

Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____

You served your country.



As a veteran, your life of service has just begun.

Help your community, your country and fellow veterans - all while having a good time making a difference with people who get you.

Be part of the legacy. Share the vision.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
www.legion.org

www.legion.org/renew

Visitor Engagement Reporting Application

The Visitor Engagement Reporting Application (VERA) is a self-service portal which allows visitors to schedule, reschedule, and cancel in-person or virtual appointments.

Change of Address : Change of Direct Deposit: Dependency Change : File a Claim : File an Appeal or Decision Review: General Benefit Questions: Form Request : Help Understanding a Letter: Homeless Assistance, and much more. Schedule an appointment, https://vets.force.com/VAVERA/s/



Freedom Farm at Whispering Grace Horses

People don't envision a life change from visiting a barn with horses that are housed in spotless barns. Barns actually smelling fresh! How about when those individuals' feet touch the ground. They don't expect to feel different and yet they do. But there are times when those things actually happen and quite unexpectedly. Our program concentrates on building a relationship with a horse and how that can carry over into everyday life. We then take it one more step to include a relationship with God. The time our participants spend at the farm helps them to build confidence, patience, and better communication skills. What can be more important than developing life changing skills for participants and their families?

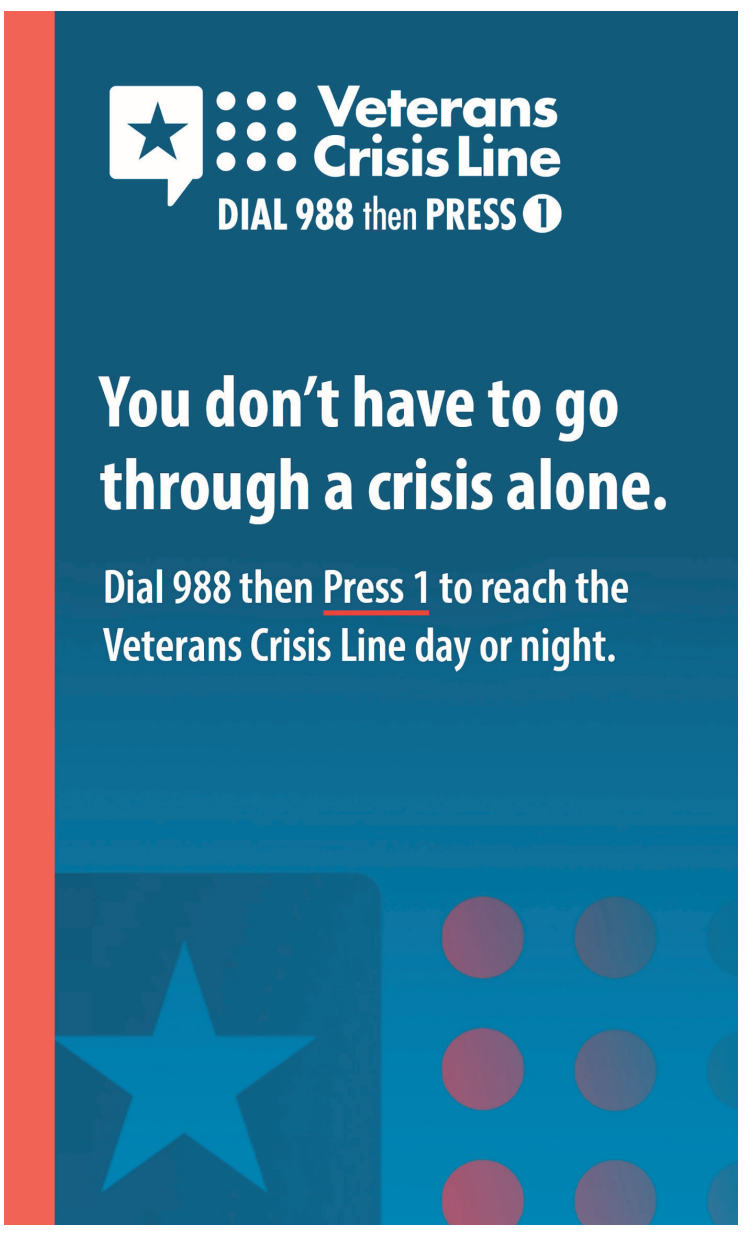
We never expected to actually see with our own eyes lives being changed. It does not happen every day, or every month, but it simply does keep happening. Witnessing the answer to prayer through horses and humans working together probably sounds irrational––until you see it happen. We thought we could help with our knowledge of horses and with our experiences within the educational field where we spent over 62 years, but never to this level.

On Saturday, September 24, 2022, Whispering Grace Horses will transform Freedom Farm at Whispering Grace Horses into the RETURN of the Wild, Wild West. In times like this, we are reminded how interconnected we all are. Please consider attending and/or being a donor or sponsor for this exciting event as we share our plan to continue healing hearts and providing HOPE within our community. Now, more than ever, our families and veterans we serve need Whispering Grace Horses and Freedom Farm... and we need YOU!

Freedom Farm at Whispering Grace Horses is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00-3:00. We also have some evening hours upon request. Please contact Katie Walkup (330-421-3626), Stan Nabors (913-705-0268), Bill Shearer (330-265-5032) or Marcia Shearer (330-265-5119) to set up a time for a visit or session at the farm. Our sessions are offered free of charge.







Ohio Western Reserve Ladies

By Rebecca Clark & Kat Frey

Ohio Western Reserve Ladies (OWRL) are a group of volunteers working to honor the fallen, and support the families of those interred at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery (OWRNC), located in Seville, Ohio.

The group was formed in early 2022 with the mission to ensure that no Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Coast Guardsman is buried alone. The group is modeled after the Arlington Ladies at Arlington National Cemetery. Established with this very mission, the Arlington Ladies continue to honor and support their community of military families and are still serving them 74 years later.



OWRL is building their volunteer group with the underpinnings of honor, respect, and community. They will work to assist in connecting families with resources and benefits that continue after their veteran is buried. Membership in the group is also an opportunity for families to get involved and continue to give back themselves. The group works community outreach to spread their mission and gather volunteers, in hopes to soon have no unattended burials at OWRNC.

Kat Frey and Becky Clark offered to help establish and grow the group as Chair and Co-Chair. Their interest stemmed not only from community support and volunteerism, but from personal experiences that keep OWRNC and veteran family support close to their hearts.

Becky is a recent retiree from the Ohio Army National Guard, as a Major in the Nurse Corps, with 20 years of service. Her time included an Iraq deployment and humanitarian missions, as well as time served as a Casualty Notification & Assistance Officer. “One thing the Army does really well is support the families of the fallen through their Casualty Assistance Program. I was honored to have been a part of that. I was able to act as a liaison between the military and the families to provide support and resources where necessary. The clear benefit that this provided to those families deserves to be shared with the families of the fallen at OWRNC.”

Kat is the proud daughter of a Navy Submariner Frank T. Price. She owns her own coaching business and seeks out any opportunity to serve those around her. “For my dad, I was lucky enough to meet some of his shipmates on the USS Triton. I knew my grandfather’s WWII co-pilot, Smokey. Those men went to war together.



My best friend’s military comrades meet once a year, from all over the country to see each other and tell their stories of being stationed in Guam together. There is a community that binds them. In death, we canít expect the families to just walk away from that. So, in my eyes, I think OWRL gives families an option to continue that community if they need it. We are here as a resource. We are here as a place to volunteer if they would like, both at the cemetery or in the community.”

Kat and Becky met through this group and have diverse backgrounds, however they are bonded through the military family community and similar goals to honor, respect, and recognize the service of not only the veterans, but their families. Kat said, “This program is more than just graveside services for Becky and me. This is a part of the grief process for those that are still living. This is about the families, and the community, that people need. Especially when your loved one has been in the military. They stood for our country when called, so we make it a priority to stand up at every Final Salute.”



The group is still looking for more volunteers to attend burials one day monthly, or assist in community outreach. For more information on joining OWRL or having them speak at your group’s meeting, please see the OWRL Facebook page @OhioWesternReserveLadies, or email Becky at Clark.1841@yahoo.com.

Quilts of Valor Foundation

QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION began in 2003 with a dream. Founder Catherine Robertís son was deployed in Iraq. Her dream was of a soldier sitting on the side of his bed hunched over, in utter despair. Then as if in a movie, she saw him in next scene wrapped in a quilt. The message of the dream QUILTS= Healing.

The first QOV was awarded in November 2003 at Walter Reed Medical Center to a soldier from Minnesota who had lost his leg in Iraq. In 2014 QOVF reached a milestone by awarding 100,000 QOV to Service Members and Veterans. In 2019 the number was over a quarter-million. Volunteers are working towards 500,000 comforting and healing QOV'S awarded for our 20th Anniversary in 2023. As of April 2022, we have awarded over 300,000 quilts.

QOVF is a volunteer organization. Quilters from across America work to make these QOV. A quilt is a quality handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted and awarded to Service Members and Veterans touched by war. The QOVF says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation." The QOV is awarded (it is not a gift) and must be recorded. We rely on donations to continue our mission.

How do you receive a QOV? Anyone can go onto the Quilts of Valor Foundation website and enter the nomination information at: www.qovf.org/nominations-awards/. We do not have quilts sitting on a shelf waiting to be awarded and it sometimes can take between six to eighteen months to be awarded and quilts to be made. Volunteers work and do their best to make the quilts.

I am a volunteer for Northeastern Ohio to present the QOV. At this time, I am hoping when I speak to a family or the person being awarded, I would be able to award the QOV either in Massillon at The SAM Center or Missions BBQ in Canton. I am able to make special exceptions, depending on the situation, to present elsewhere. We are volunteers and try to do the best we can.

It is my honor to be a member of Quilts Of Valor Foundation,
Sue S.
cmsimsue@gmail.com
www.qovf.org



VRRAP

Unemployed due to COVID?

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) offers education and training for high-demand jobs to Veterans who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. VRRAP covers education and training programs approved under the GI Bill and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) that lead to high-demand jobs. These include associate degrees, non-college degrees, and certificate programs. The Department of Labor determines whatís considered a high-demand job for VRRAP.

VRRAP provides up to 12 months of tuition and fees along with a monthly housing allowance based on Post 9-11 GI Bill Rates. The deadline to apply is December 11, 2022. For more information, contact the VA at 888-442-4551. Applications take less than ten minutes at bit.ly/VRRAP.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM?

To be eligible for this program, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- You’re at least 22 years old, but not older than 66, and
- You’re unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- You’re not rated as totally disabled because you can't work, and
- You’re not enrolled in a federal or state jobs program

Note: You can't receive VRRAP benefits at the same time as you're receiving unemployment benefits (including CARES Act benefits).

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System's Outreach Coordinators

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System's (VANEOHS) commitment to Veteran education takes place on the front lines with our Veteran Outreach Coordinators. The main mission of our coordinators is to educate Veterans about their benefits and help them navigate the enrollment process to health care services.

Veteran Outreach also works to gather and distribute educational materials and benefit information to Veterans and their family members. Coordinators actively partner with clinical and administrative staff to ensure Veterans are receiving accurate information.

Vietnam Veterans and Veterans exposed to Burn Pits are strongly encouraged to contact an Outreach Coordinator to seek help and assistance with VA enrollment.

One of the most important elements of Veterans Outreach is meeting Veterans and their families to discuss benefit and enrollment opportunities. This happens in the field at various events across our territory and within our facilities. If you are a Veteran, or family member, you can get support by contacting a Veteran Outreach Coordinator at: (216) 707-7914 or EnrollVANEO@va.gov.

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System

THE LONG WALK HOME
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Join us for a light breakfast and conversation with Ron Zaleski

September 16
9 a.m.
MAPS Air Museum

Disgruntled Veteran to Trailblazing Advocate

Presented by:
SAM CENTER
Serving Area Military

Serving Those Who Serve Subscription Form

Serving Those Who Serve has an initial run of 10,000 issues. To hit all Stark County Veterans, mailings may be rotated. you can ensure delivery by registering your subscription. To start your free subscription, please complete this form and mail it to **Serving Those Who Served**, 413 Lincoln Way East, Massillon, Ohio 44646 or register online, https://forms.office.com/r/aFLv4F0vSN.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: OH Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Announce your Veterans' Event

Complete and return this form or email support@servingareamilitary.com to showcase your veterans' event, veterans' fundraiser or organizational meeting. This publication is for ALL Stark County Veterans' organizations, and we hope to be your conduit to Stark County veterans.

Org. Name: _____

Event Title: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

We are currently a quarterly publication and will need articles by August 1 for the September 11 issue and October 1 for the November 11 issue. We hope to showcase all American Legion, VFW, AmVets, Army-Navy, DAV, AVA, Marine Corps League and any other veterans' nonprofit. This is about connecting the veterans' community.
Completed forms can be mailed to **Serving Those Who Served**, 413 Lincoln Way East, Massillon, Ohio 44646

Ohio Veterans ID available from Recorder's Office

Stark County Recorder Jamie Walters and staff will be at the SAM Center Veteran Resource Fair at the MAPS Air Museum on September 17 where Ohio Veterans IDs will be available free of charge.

Veterans need to bring their DD214 and another form of official identification for new or replacement cards.

The State of Ohio United States Veteran Identification Card can be useful to veterans trying to prove eligibility for certain benefits that their military service has earned them.

This card displays a photo of the veteran, along with information pertaining to their service to our country.

Veterans who have questions can contact the Recorder's Office at: (330) 451-7443 or
Email: recorder@starkcountyohio.gov





PACT Act expands VA benefits for toxic exposure

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act offers big changes: expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras, adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures, adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation, requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care, and helps the VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

Veterans and survivors can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits: https://www.va.gov/resources/thepact-act-and-your-va-benefits/



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Senior Living Community

• Assisted Living
• Short Term Rehab/Skilled Nursing
• Long Term Care

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2350 Cherry St. Alliance, OH

www.belaircare.com

"Our Family Taking Care of Your Family"

HONOR HOME

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Honor Home's transitional housing is open for homeless women veterans and their children as well as single male veterans. We provide temporary housing while veterans work towards their permanent housing goals. Connections with the VA, local Veteran Service Commission, and community partners aid in their goals of housing, employment, and improved health and well-being.



HOUSING FOR WOMEN VETERANS

Honor Home – Women Veterans Campus provides an opportunity for homeless Women Veterans with or without children to work towards their permanent housing goal. One of the four-bedroom homes will be for single Woman Veterans and the other is for Woman Veterans and their children. The program assists with case management, connections to the VA, Stark County Veterans Service Commission, and local community partners. The residents are offered therapies such as art and life skills on-site and virtually. During their stay, the whole family receives advocacy and encouragement from our support workers and community partners.



WHO WE ARE

Honor Home provides stability by meeting the veterans where they are on their journey to permanent housing. Our transitional housing offers support, clothing and food. We provide comprehensive, supportive case management and access to both veteran's programing and community resources.

We strive to create a safe environment that fosters healing, productivity, and growth so that our veterans and their families succeed in every aspect.

Honor Home programs offer veterans access to various housing solutions such as

- HUD-VASH voucher in conjunction with the VA
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) rapid rehousing funds
- SMHA vouchers
- Stark County Veterans Service Commission



CONTACT US

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

HONOR HOME
Canton, Ohio 44705
24/7 Office: 330.752.2134
24/7 Cell: 330.631.3075
Stark County Homeless Hotline: 330.452.4363

SARAH SHAHEEN, PROGRAM MANAGER
E: sshaheen@fcsserves.org
P: 330.676-3070

Family & Community Services, Inc.
Administrative Offices
705 Oakwood St. Suite 221 Ravenna, OH 44266
330.297.7027 | fcsserves.org

We are here for your family.

North Canton Cares Pantry

We exist to help and serve the families in the North Canton Area.

LOCATION: 1300 Pittsburg Ave. NW @ The Summit Church

TIMES: Every 2nd and 4th Monday from 6 to 7:30PM

REQUIREMENTS: Photo ID and a piece of mail showing residency.

ZIP CODES: 44720, 44721, 44685, 44718, 44709, 44630

We serve all veteran, military and military DD-214 families!

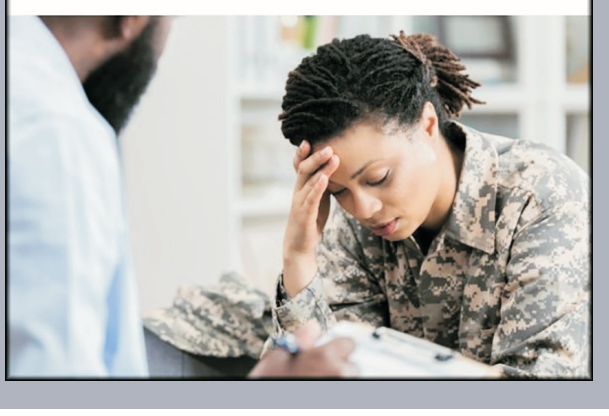
CONTACT US: 330-871-9282 or northcantoncarespantry@gmail.com

Providing the groceries and products that families want and need!

PTSD

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can develop after experiencing or witnessing life-threatening events such as combat, assault, or disaster.

Find out if you qualify for disability compensation or benefits if you have symptoms of PTSD: https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/ptsd/



AVOID FORECLOSURE

Can I get VA financial counseling to help avoid foreclosure?

If you're a Veteran or the surviving spouse of a Veteran, the VA will provide financial counseling, even if your loan isn't a VA direct or VA-backed loan.

If you have a VA direct or VA-backed loan, you can contact the VA at anytime to request that they assign a VA loan technician to your loan. VA technicians can offer you financial counseling and help you deal with your servicer (or work with you directly in the case of a VA direct loan).

If you have a VA direct or VA-backed loan and it's 61 days past due, the VA will automatically assign a VA loan technician to your loan.

If you're nervous about contacting your servicer, or if you'd like our help and advice, please contact a VA loan technician at 877-827-3702. You can also email us at: LGYLANational.VBACO@va.gov (please include the name and address on the loan).

STARK COUNTY HONOR COURT

STARK COUNTY HONOR COURT REPRESENTING VETERANS AT THE NADCP 2022 NATIONAL RISE CONFERENCE

HONOR COURT PRESIDING JUDGE, TARYN HEATH





Judge Heath's Mission is to Assist Justice Involved Veterans Reclaim their Honor, Dignity and Lives.

BY: MICHELE M. HAMMERS- HONOR COURT DIRECTOR

The members of Stark County Honor Court-(treatment court for justice involved veterans) were selected to present on the topic *Looking Inward*: The Need and Implementation of Equitable and Inclusive Practices within Veteran Treatment Courts at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Rise22 conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Honor Court team and volunteer veteran mentors take pride in the ability to aide participant veterans not only with their mental, social, and treatment needs, but provide a safe diversity-based atmosphere. Honor Court is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Honor Court follows the NADCP Best Practice Standards on Equity and Inclusion and requires all members and volunteers to participate in regular training focused on implicit bias in the justice system and our community.

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If you are interested in becoming part of our volunteer veteran mentor program, please contact Michele M. Hammers-Honor Court Director at mmhammer@starkcountyohio.gov or George Waseity- Honor Court Mentor Coordinator at waseity@neo.rr.com

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The success of the program is the personal involvement of the peer mentors. Honor Court is currently seeking Veterans to volunteer their time to support their military brothers and sisters involved in the justice system.

The role of a Veteran mentor is to assist the Veteran in identifying his or her needs and to act as a support for the veteran at a time when the veteran may feel alone in a way that only another Veteran can understand.

The mentoring program connects offenders to volunteer Veterans from the local community. The combination of services provided by the court, supervision, and mentoring is intended to foster successful completion of the Honor Court program and draw upon the codes of honor and service instilled in the participants during their military service to our nation.

For detailed program information and a copy of the full court schedule, visit:

https://wdddwn-pleas/honor-court-mentor-program

Requirements to be a Volunteer Veteran:

Desirable Qualities and Attributes in a Volunteer Mentor:

- Be a willing listener
- Be encouraging and supportive
- Be tolerant and respectful of individual differences .
- Be supportive and understanding of the difficulties their assigned Veterans are facing.
- Be supportive and helpful to other mentors within the program.
- The role of the volunteer mentor is to act as a coach, guide, role model, and advocate and provide support for the Veteran he or she is working with.

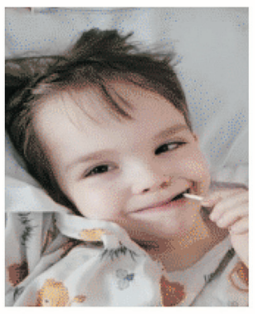
To be a Volunteer Veteran:

- Be an honorably discharged Veteran of one of the branches of the United States Military
- Have a genuine concern for Veterans involved with the legal system
- Be in good standing with the law and adhere to all Stark County Honor Court Program policies and procedures
- Commit to program participation for a minimum of 12 months



LEGACY OF HONOR

Each day we wake up we don't know what the day will hold. We hope, but we can never be sure. When someone's day doesn't go as planned or other needs arise, Legacy of Honor wants to be there to help you through the next steps. In 2021, Legacy of Honor helped 20 families through our Operation Bootstrap Program. As of August 2022, we have helped 60 families. Let me share how we help.



When a veteran and his family learn their 6-year-old Caleb must have a large brain tumor removed and weeks of living at Children's Hospital a few hours from their home, it brings challenges no one expected. LoH came alongside the family to provide gas cards, cards for food and some necessities to make the stay more bearable. After several surgeries and months, Caleb was able to go home with his family to recover.

This is just one of the situations our heroes can sometimes face. It's not always something big, but it is big to that person. At LoH, we strive to be a trusted place for support and help. Alongside our main program, Operation Bootstrap, we are also working on programs to give back to first responders, veterans, and their families. We have programming focused on resiliency and mental health. Our goal is to fill in the gaps and address the important issues facing our heroes.



We are funded largely through community support and donations. If you are interested in supporting Legacy of Honor's mission and our local veterans and first responders, there are a few ways to help. First, our second annual fundraising Gala will be at MAPS Air Museum on October 1. Visit our website, www.honorthelegacy.org, to purchase tickets and learn more. You can also donate directly through the website or reach out to Suzanne Snyder to learn about our Living Legacy Program. We are humbled by all the sacrifices of our military, veterans, first responders and their families and we appreciate the opportunity to stand beside them. We hope you will join us as we move forward for change!

Suzanne Snyder, LEGACY of HONOR 330-871-4692

The Veterans in Recovery Group Serves Vets in Need of Support

Veterans and active-duty military service members who served in combat, and/or were tasked with successfully completing challenging missions, know that support from our fellow service members is essential to getting the job done.

That's exactly why the Veterans In Recovery Group (VIR Group) was founded in 2013.

Veterans and active-duty personnel who are successfully recovering from mental health issues such as PTSD, depression & anxiety, as well as chemical dependency issues and other addictive behaviors, know how important it is to have support from other Veterans who are experiencing similar issues.

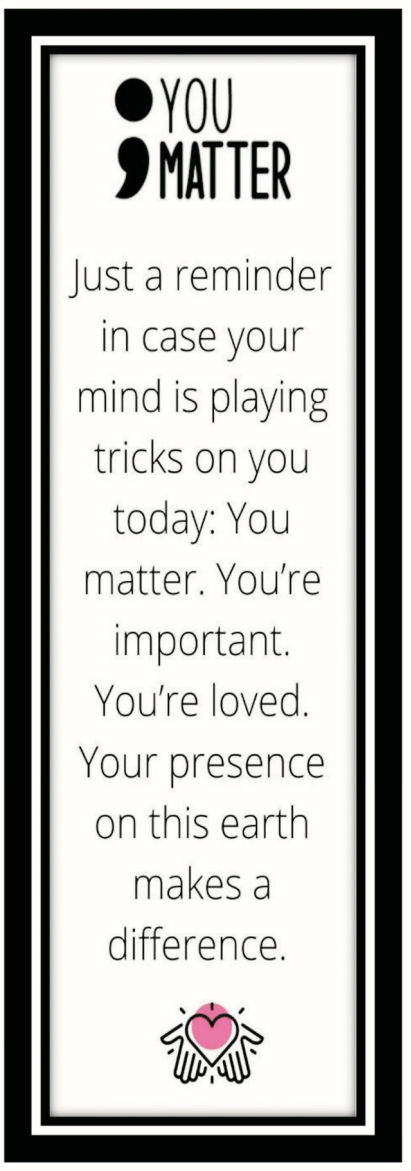
The Veterans In Recovery Group meets weekly on Wednesdays to share our experience, strength and hope with other male & female Veterans to help each other successfully recover from various addictions and behaviors, as well as to enjoy each other's company.

The group is open to all Veterans with any chemical dependency and/or mental health issues (or no issues at all), using the AA/NA/CA principles including the 12-Steps and Traditions, which would be slightly modified to suit the needs of Veterans, and incorporated into the ANONYMOUS meeting format.

The Group meetings start Wednesdays at 5:30 PM with a relaxing "camaraderie period" and then the main meeting, including an open discussion period, commences at 6:15 PM.

Veterans In Recovery
Goodwill Community Campus Building
408 9th St. SW. Canton OH 44707
(A Block South and West of the VA Canton Clinic)
All Veterans Are Invited!





Join Serving Area Military and Veterans for our fifth annual

Veterans' Resource Fair

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16-17 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
MAPS Air Museum

September 16th

9 a.m. Breakfast with Ron Zaleski
10 a.m. PTSD awareness
10 a.m. SAVE Training
10 a.m. VA Healthcare Enrollment
11 a.m. Light After Loss
11 a.m. Preneed Burial and VA cemetery benefits
1 p.m. Families of wounded, ill, and/ or injured veterans: Building personal wellness plans
2 p.m. VA presumptives
2 p.m. Caregiver assistance
2 p.m. VA Home Loans
2:30 p.m. Home adaptation
2:30 p.m. Pension benefits

September 17th

10 a.m. PTSD awareness
10 a.m. VA Healthcare Benefit
10 a.m. Introduction to Mind-Body skills
11 a.m. Using Mind-Body skills
1 p.m. The PACT Act

Register: bit.ly/SAMVRF5

Vendors available 10-3 p.m.

THINKING OF BUYING A HOME WITH A VA-GUARANTEED HOME LOAN?

Did you know that U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' provides a course on VA's Home Loan Guaranty Program? This Military Life Cycle (MLC) module helps Veterans, service members, and their families learn what to expect when buying a home with a VA-guaranteed home loan.

Find web links and resources related to the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program MLC module all in one place in the online reference guide: https://benefits.va.gov/TRANSITION/docs/mlc-LGY-program.pdf

Learn what to expect with help from the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program Military Life Cycle (MLC) module.

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Guitar Therapy

New Classes Begin
Fall 2022
Wednesdays
Guitar 1 - 6:00 p.m.
Guitar 2 - 6:45 p.m.
Advanced 7:30 p.m.
call 330.956.6162
lucia@servingareamilitary.org

REGISTER NOW ~ SPACE IS LIMITED
ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED

413 Lincoln Way East, Massillon, Ohio 44646

SAM CENTER
Serving Area Military

RESTORATIVE YOGA

8 WEEK PROGRAM
BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
FROM 7:30 - 8:15 P.M.
AMERICAN LEGION POST 221 MASSILLON
LED BY: MARGARET DELILLO-STOREY, PSY.D, PCC-S, CDTLF
500 HR YTT YOGA INSTRUCTOR.

TO REGISTER CALL THE SAM CENTER @ 330-956-6162



Restorative Yoga

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