MEDINA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Medina County Veterans Newsletter

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4
SPRING 2023

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Need Healthcare? You may now be eligible thanks to the "PACT Act"!

The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act changed many things when applying for your VA benefits. While everyone has been focused on the added presumptive conditions that the PACT Act made available to veterans of the Middle East conflicts and Vietnam Era veterans because of the monetary advantages. The PACT Act also makes healthcare available to thousands of veterans who previously may have been denied or not eligible outside the MEANS Test.

It does so by expanding and extending eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras.

Some of the new requirements do a "No Later Than Date" to apply.

Listed below are all the eligibility requirements currently available for veterans to receive VA healthcare with in the current VA Priority Groups 1 through 8.

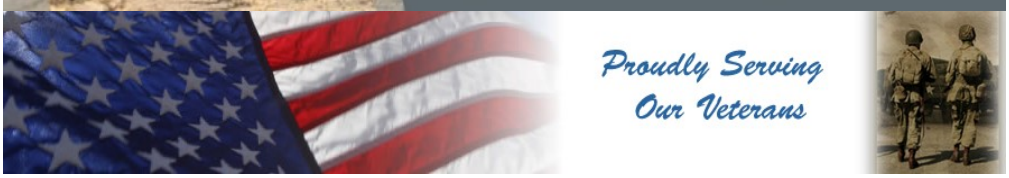
Am I eligible for VA health care benefits?

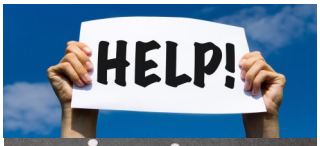
You may be eligible for VA health care benefits if you served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.

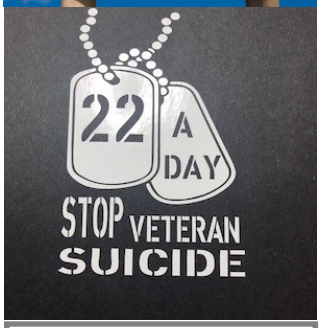
If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981

You must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty, unless any of the descriptions below are true for you.

Continued on Page 5







What is 988?

The Veterans Crisis Line's new number — **988 then Press 1** — helps make it easier to remember and share the number to access help in times of need.

SCAN the QR CODE!

VA Medical Centers

Inpatient and Outpatient Care is Available at the Following Hospitals

Louis Stokes VAMC
10701 East Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44106
Phone: (216) 791-3800
Fax: (216) 421-3217
For appointments or medication:
(800) 379-8387

Parma Community Based Clinic
8787 Brookpark Rd.
Parma, OH 44134
Phone: (216) 739-7000

Akron Community Based Clinic
55 W. Waterloo
Akron, OH 44319
Phone: (330) 724-7715

EMERGENCY ROOM CARE IS AVAILABLE AT WADE PARK 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

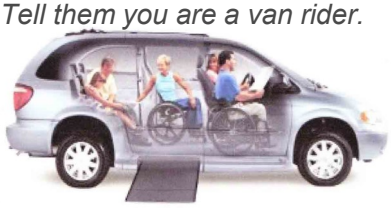
If you have an emergency, you may want to consider going to the local hospital.

Our office can provide transportation for veterans to the following VA Healthcare facilities

Wade Park Hospital
Monday through Friday
Parma CBOC
Monday through Friday
Akron CBOC
Monday through Friday

We ask that you make your appointments between the hours of 9:00 am and 12:00 pm.

Tell them you are a van rider.



2022 Medina County Veterans Service Office Report

This report is compiled form data from 2022, for a copy of the complete report click the link: 2022-MCVSO-End-of-Year-Report-final-blank-page.pdf (medinacountyveterans.org)

The Medina County Veterans Service Office provided relief for 212 current and 82 new Medina County Veterans and their families in CY2022.

The total amount of benefit written were $147,524.31 in vouchers for CY2022.

Our average dollar amount spent on financial assistance per Veteran/family for 2022 was $695.87 per visit.

Additionally, $24,998.28 was spent for dental services for Veterans through the Medina County Health Department for CY 2022.

In 2022, we transported 871 Veterans to the VA Medical centers in Cleveland (Louis Stokes VAMC), Parma CBOC and Akron CBOC.

The Parma Vet center COOP in Medina County saw 179 different veterans and family members in 2022. There are also group sessions for Vietnam & OIF/OEF Veterans.

The number of new claims filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs was 399.

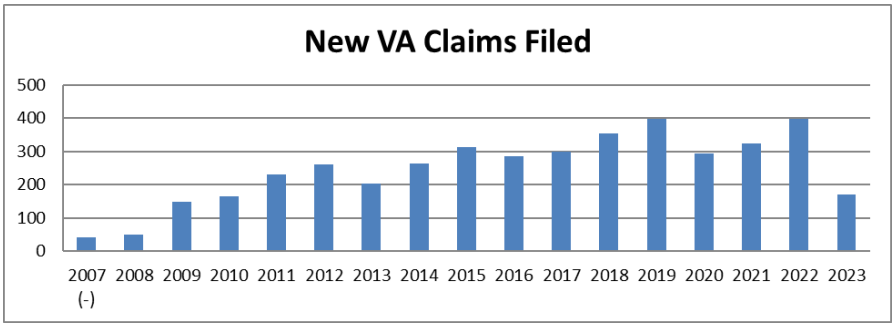
We filed 399/688 (rating/total) VA claims in 2022 along with 85 appeals or higher-level reviews and assisted 2,284 veterans and family members with paperwork for the VA.

All together with van riders, immediate assistance, VA claims and ancillary benefits we had 3,155 appointments in 2022.

These numbers do not include the telephone and virtual appointments we have conducted. The workload has increased 35 to 50%.

Phone and walk-in questions have increase more than 300% since August due to recent legislation passed by Congress.

Questions or comments can be directed to the director of the Medina County Veterans Service Office by calling (330) 722-9368.



IAVA ★★★ IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN VETERANS of AMERICA

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA

A Message From the County Veterans Service Officer

In editing this newsletter I realized it is the 4th issue of Volume 15. Which means the next edition will be our 16th year of publishing these newsletters. I can still remember starting in this position 15 years ago on July 1st and wanting to publish a newsletter for the Fair which was on August 1st. I wasn't sure what the heck I was doing at that point being on the job less that thirty days, it was a simple publication only 4 pages. Nonetheless it was well received and I decided to continue on with quarterly newsletters. So here we are fifteen years later and I'm still at it. I can only hope these publications continue to help veterans in understanding their benefits and how your office can help.

Well May starts what I call the busy time of the year for veterans. By kicking off on May 1st with Loyalty Day, Military Spouse Day on the 12th, Month of the military child and Armed forces Day on the 20th and of course we close out the month with Memorial Day. So it's a busy month for the organizations and their respectable color guards. If you're a veteran and would like to participate in a Memorial Day function please reach out to your local organization. They need your help. They need younger veterans to help carryon their mission.

Don't forget to get out this month especially on Memorial Day.

As you can see by the numbers on page 2 we've been really busy here at the MCVSO. As this goes to print we are currently two to three weeks out on appointments and it doesn't appear it will get slower anytime soon. We are doing everything we can to schedule you in a timely manner and keep up as well as implement several things to minimize wait times. We will be hiring another service officer this year as we added one this past year. Please be patient with us as we work through this busy period together. We are also going through personel changes and a building project, all in order to be able to increase services and serve you better.

I want to mention if you are a military retiree there is the first ever open season for SBP buy-in/buy-out. It runs through December 31, 2023. This is the first time DOD/DFAS has allowed this as part of the 2022 NDAA. Check out our Facebook page for more information.

I hope everyone has a great and happy spring and we hope to see you out at one of the many events this month. Otherwise stay safe and enjoy your summer.

We will see you at Veterans Day at the Medina County Fair on July 31st.

Sincerely,

Ed Zackery
Director/CVSO
Medina County

Medina County Veterans Service Commission

Jim Hoessle; Vice President

Phillip Grassa; Secretary

Jack Forster; Commissioner

Victoria Olson; Commissioner

Mark Roberts; Commissioner

Office Staff

Director / Service Officer
Edward Zackery
1SG, U.S. Army (retired)

Service Officer
Mark Phillipp
SSGT, USMC (retired)

Office Manager / Veterans Benefits Consultant
Jennafer Slonaker

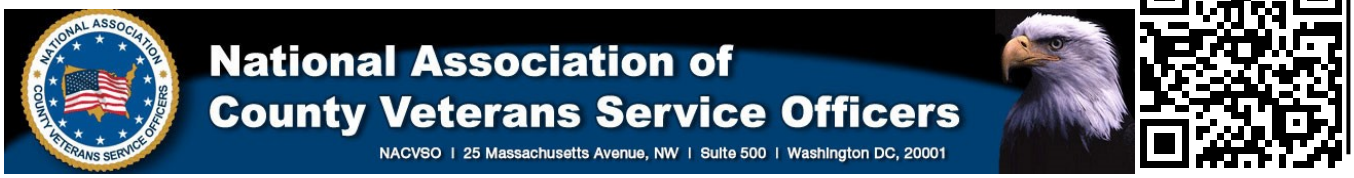
Out-Reach Specialist / Veterans Benefits Consultant
Sue Boggs

Administrative Assistant
Fran Amsden

Intake Specialist
Vacant

Contact Information

Phone: (330) 722-9368
Email:
veterans@medinacountyveterans.org
Website:
www.medinacountyveterans.org
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyVeteransServiceOffice/
Address:
210 Northland Dr
Medina, Ohio 44256
******Public Meeting: 2nd Thursday of every month at 4:00 pm.***



How to Contact Your Congressional Representatives 2023

Congressman Max Miller (R)
7 District
Medina Office
72 Public Square
Medina, OH 44256
Phone: (540) 621-6511: temporary
Washington, DC Office
143 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Sherrod Brown (D)
Cleveland Office
1301 East Ninth St.
Suite 1710
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Phone: (216) 522-7272
Fax: (216) 522-2239
Toll Free: 1-888-896-6446
Washington, DC Office
713 Hart Senate
Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2315
Fax: (202) 228-6321
www.brown.senate.gov/contact/

Senator J.D. (James) Vance (R)
Cleveland, Office
1240 East 9th Street, Room 3061
Cleveland, OH 44199
Phone:
Washington, DC Office
B40-C Dirksen Senate Office
Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone:

Need help with a VA claim?

Call our office today

(330) 722-9368

SouthernCare™
Hospice Services

Veteran Hospice Volunteers Needed

Do you like helping others? Do you enjoy giving back? If so, being a volunteer may be right for you.

In search of volunteers who are:
Dependable and Great Listeners
To provide companionship, share your talents, and time

For more information please contact:

John Grossman, M.S., CTRS
Volunteer Coordinator
SouthernCare Hospice
3575 Forest Lake Dr. Ste. 550
Uniontown, OH 44685
330.920.1909
john.grossman@southerncareinc.com

Serving
Summit, Stark, Portage & Medina Counties

Preserving Quality of life when Dignity matters most

VETCENTER EST. 1979
Connection. Camaraderie. Community.

Parma Vet Center - Medina Outreach Office, Located in the Medina County Human Services Building, Room #155, 246 Northland Drive, Medina, Ohio
For an appointment call (440)-845-5023 and tell them you would like to schedule and appointment in Medina

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans, active-duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families. Readjustment counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life or after a traumatic event experienced in the military. Individual, group, marriage and family counseling is offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma.

For questions pertaining to veterans' benefits contact the Medina County Veterans Service Office

Medina County, Ohio Veterans Service Office

210 Northland Dr.
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 722-9368
veterans@medinacountyveterans.org

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

1 CONVERSATION opens the door to support.

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

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

Continued from front page

This minimum duty requirement may not apply if any of these are true:

- You were discharged for a disability that was caused—or made worse—by your active-duty service, **or**
- You were discharged for a hardship or "early out," **or**
- You served prior to September 7, 1980

If you're a current or former member of the Reserves or National Guard

You must have been called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty. If you had or have active-duty status for training purposes only, you don't qualify for VA health care.

If you served in certain locations and time periods during the Vietnam War era

You're eligible for VA health care. Keep reading to learn more.

Is there anything that will make me more likely to get these benefits?

Yes. You may qualify for enhanced eligibility status if you meet at least one of these requirements. Enhanced eligibility means that we'll place you in a higher priority group. This makes you more likely to get benefits.

At least one of these must be true:

- You receive financial compensation (payments) from VA for a service-connected disability
- You were discharged for a disability resulting from something that happened to you in the line of duty
- You were discharged for a disability that got worse in the line of duty
- You're a combat Veteran discharged or released on or after September 11, 2001 Learn more about eligibility for transitioning active-duty service members and returning combat Veterans
- You get a VA pension
- You're a former prisoner of war (POW)
- You have received a Purple Heart
- You have received a Medal of Honor
- You get (or qualify for) Medicaid benefits
- You served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War between August 2, 1990, and November 11, 1998
- You served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987

Or, you must have served in any of these locations during the Vietnam War era:

- Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976
- Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969
- Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 31, 1980
- Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977
- Republic of Vietnam from January 9, 1962 through May 7, 1975

PACT ACT ELIGBILTY:

Am I eligible for free VA health care as a post-9/11 combat Veteran?

We're extending and expanding VA health care eligibility based on the PACT Act. **We encourage you to apply, no matter your separation date.** Your eligibility depends on your service history and other factors.

If you meet the requirements listed here, you can get free VA health care for any condition related to your service for up to 10 years from the date of your most recent discharge or separation. You can also enroll at any time during this period and get any care you need, but you may owe a copay for some care.

At least one of these must be true of your active-duty service:

- You served in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, **or**
- You served in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998

And this must be true for you:

- You were discharged or released on or after October 1, 2013

We encourage you to enroll now so we can provide any care you may need now or in the future. Enrollment is free.

Continued on page 10

How to Contact Your Ohio State Government Representatives 2023

Sharon A. Ray (R)
Ohio House of Representatives
District 069
Columbus Office
77 S. High St.
13th Floor #1384
Columbus, OH. 43215
Phone: (614) 466-8140
Email: rep69@ohiohouse.gov

Melanie Miller (R)
Ohio House of Representatives
District 67
Columbus Office
77 High St. 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 466-0961
Fax: (614) 719-3998
www.ohiohouse.gov/melanie-miller

Senator Mark Romanchuk (R)
Ohio Senate | District 022 Senate
Columbus Office
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 466-7505

Ohio Department of Veterans Services

614-644-0898 main number
877-644-6838 benefits info

Wheelchair accessible van now in service.

We have a new van we added to the fleet January 1st. If your wheelchair bound and need to go to your VA appointment let us know.

Transitioning out of the military?
Need help with your VA claim?
Or answers on veterans benefits?
Call the Medina County Veterans Service Office at (330) 722-9368.

Joint Veterans Coalition of Medina County

Here is the list for the Veteran Coalition Meetings to include date, time, place, sponsorship and workshops.

Save the Date!

Date	Time	Location	Sponsor	Workshop Topic / Presenter	Remarks
Saturday, July 8, 2023	9:00 am	Medina County Veterans Memorial Hall	DAV Chapter #72		
Saturday, October 14, 2023	9:00 am	Lodi American Legion	American Legion #523		

You can check out all the updates for the Joint Veterans Coalition of Medina County (JVCMC) at:

https://www.medinacountyveterans.org/about/our-services/joint-veterans-coalition-of-medina-county-ohio/

I invite all Veterans and others who support Veterans. Please help us with your input on the issues concerning all of our Veteran organizations in Medina County.

In order to be a viable unit, we need people from all of the organizations to participate by providing support and information.

Catherine Owen

President, Joint Veterans Coalition of Medina County

Veteran & Veterans Advocate of the Year 2023

Jim Hoessle Veteran of the Year 2023, served in the Vietnam War (Army) and was awarded the Bronze Star and Vietnamese Government's Cross of Gallantry w/Palm. His many years of service to Medina County veterans has ranged from doing manual labor to serving on boards of directors.

Isabella Heinbaugh-McCroskey Veterans Advocate 2023, as a young child in 2016, started placing wreathes each year at the Western Reserve National Cemetery. In 2019 she decided she wanted to make sure the deceased veterans in her hometown of Brunswick were not forgotten.

Forever Amber Acres 2023 benefactor of Veterans Banquet

Forever Amber Acres (FAA) was the organization selected this year by the Joint Veterans Coalition of Medina County to be the benefactor of the Media County Veterans Banquet. Each year since its beginning the Coalition has selected a person or organization to receive the funds raised from the banquet. In the past the banquet has supported an individual veteran in need as well as military and veterans needs throughout the county. FAA was selected for the Veterans Equine Therapy (VETS) Program which helps veterans suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues. An additional added donation was made by the DAV local chapter #73 as well as their State Department.

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

Veterans can now access their disability benefit decisions online

WASHINGTON — Veterans can now access their disability benefit claim decision notice letters electronically on VA.gov, empowering them to quickly and easily see their disability decisions. Before this option was available, Veterans had to wait for a paper copy of their decision notice to be mailed to them. While previous iterations of VA.gov allowed Veterans to access benefits summary letters, they could not access the full copy of these decision notification letters from their electronic claims folders. This service became available to Veterans on VA.gov on Jan. 17. Since launching, nearly 280,000 decision notice letters have been downloaded. "Veterans now have access to their benefits decisions anytime, anyplace – right at their fingertips," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "VA disability benefits can also open the door to other federal and state benefits, so quick and easy access to a decision means quicker access to the additional benefits Veterans deserve." The new electronic option is also expected to reduce calls to the National Call Centers, freeing up call center respondents to answer other questions and requests from Veterans and their families. To access their decision letters, Veterans can log in to VA.gov and check the status of their claim. For more details, visit VA News

New VA Life Insurance; service connection

In January 2023, the VA launched a new life insurance program called Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife), which provides guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage to Veterans age 80 and under, with any level of service-connected disability. Some Veterans age 81 and older may also be eligible.

What is Guaranteed Acceptance Whole Life Insurance?

Guaranteed acceptance is a whole life policy that does not require a medical exam or ask health questions. It also does not have a limited two year window to sign up. Whole life insurance provides coverage for the entire life of the individual policyholder, provided that premiums are always paid. Premium rates are locked in for the life of the policy, and unlike term policies will not increase as the policyholder ages.

What benefits does it offer?

Created by Public Law 116-315, the new program meets the needs of service-connected Veterans who may not have previously qualified for life insurance with VA. VALife offers guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage that lasts for an individual's entire life and provides the following benefits:

All service-connected Veterans age 80 and under with 0-100% VA disability ratings are eligible.

Fully automated online enrollment with instant approvals.

Coverage comes in increments of $10,000, up to a maximum of $40,000, and premiums are competitive – or better – than

what's available in the private sector. There is a two-year waiting period for full face value coverage to take effect.

No medical requirements for enrollment.

Cash value that builds over the life of the policy after the first two years of enrollment.

Rates are best the earlier you sign up. Once locked in, premiums will never increase.

Who is eligible?

All Veterans age 80 or younger with a VA disability rating of 0-100% are eligible for VALife, with no time limit to apply.

Veterans who are 81 or older may apply for VALife within two years of receiving a new service-connected disability rating if:

They applied for VA disability compensation before age 81, and;

They received a new service-connected disability rating after turning 81.

How does this impact other VA Life Insurance programs?

VALife opens life insurance coverage to more service-connected Veterans than ever before. In contrast to Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (S-DVI), VALife has no medical requirements and there is no two year time limit to apply if a Veteran is age 80 or under.

Veterans who currently hold an S-DVI policy can either keep their current coverage or apply for VALife when the application goes live. Veterans can keep their S-DVI policy until the full coverage of VALife begins two years after enrollment as long as the application is received between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2025

S-DVI will close to new enrollment after Dec. 31. Veterans interested in S-DVI should apply by this date, even if they are interested in applying for VALife in the new year. Applying for S-DVI now allows eligible Veterans to have life insurance coverage while waiting the two-year period for their VALife coverage to become available.

How can you apply for both?

The application for VALife went live on Jan. 1, 2023. the application is available online at

https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/VALife.asp.

If you are interested in applying for S-DVI before VALife opens, or would like to learn more about the coverage, please visit the S-DVI

Webpage here:

https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/s-dvi/.

Where can I learn more?

To learn more about VALife and whether it's the right choice for you and your family, please visit the webpage here:

https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp.

Challenge Coin Funds go towards the Medina County Veterans Memorial Fund 501c3
Helping Veterans and their families in Medina County

Medina County Veterans' Services
210 Northland Dr. Medina, OH 44256 (330) 722-9368

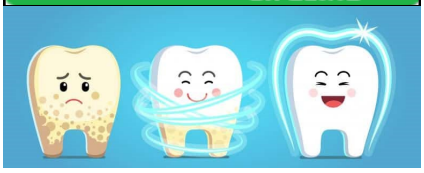
We Want to Help You Receive the Medals You Earned!

Medina's veterans made invaluable contributions to our fight for worldwide peace and democracy. "We want to encourage any veteran who thinks he or She may be entitled to overdue or replacement medals to contact our office.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
The Veteran's Voice on The Hill

NATIONAL CALL CENTER
for Homeless Veterans
1-877-4AID-VET
1-877-424-3838

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-8255



We have a dental program for Veterans with limited income, give us a call to see if you are eligible.

VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Continued from page 5

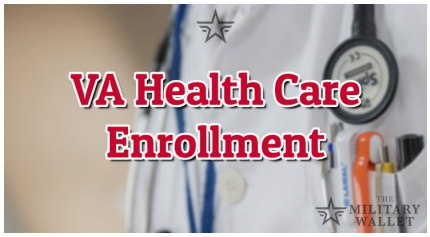
What if I was discharged or released before October 1, 2013?
If you meet the requirements listed here, you can receive care and enroll during a special enrollment period between **October 1, 2022**, and **October 1, 2023**.
At least one of these must be true of your active-duty service:

- You served in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, **or**
- You served in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998

And both of these must be true for you:

- You were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, **and**
- You haven't enrolled in VA health care before

We encourage you to apply during this 1-year period so we can provide you with any care you may need now or in the future. Enrollment is free. And your care may be free as well.
If none of these descriptions apply to you, you may still qualify for care based on your income. Learn more about how the amount of money your family makes can affect whether you qualify for VA benefits.
Learn more about income limits
What should I do if I received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge?
If you've received one of these discharge statuses, you may not be eligible for VA benefits.
There are 2 ways you can try to qualify:
Find out how to apply for a discharge upgrade
Learn about the VA Character of Discharge review process



What are priority groups and how do they affect me?
When you apply for VA health care, you'll be assigned 1 of 8 priority groups. This system helps to make sure that Veterans who need immediate care can get signed up quickly.
Your priority group may affect how soon we sign you up for health care benefits. It may also affect how much (if anything) you'll have to pay toward the cost of your care.
Learn more about priority groups
I have other health insurance (like Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance). Does that affect whether I can get VA health care benefits?
No. Whether or not you have other health insurance coverage doesn't affect the VA health care benefits you can get.
Learn more about how VA works with other insurance
When I leave active-duty service, how do I know if I'm eligible for TRICARE, VA health care, or both?

- **If you're retiring,** you're eligible for TRICARE. You may also qualify for certain VA health care benefits.
- **If you're separating from service due to a service-connected illness or injury,** you may be eligible for VA health care benefits and certain TRICARE benefits.
- **If you're an OEF/OIF/OND combat Veteran who has just returned from service,** you can receive free medical care for any condition related to your service in Iraq or Afghanistan for 10 years after discharge.

Learn more about health care benefits for transitioning service members
If I can't get VA health care benefits, how else can I get health insurance?
Visit healthcare.gov to find out if you qualify for health insurance.
Go to healthcare.gov

If I don't qualify for VA health care benefits, can I still get care for certain needs (like PTSD or military sexual trauma)?
Yes. **Find out how you may still be able to get care for:**
Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) Learn more about PTSD treatment services
Other mental health problems (like depression or substance abuse) Learn more about mental health treatment services
Mental and physical health problems linked to military sexual trauma (MST) Learn more about MST treatment services Or, call our general VA hotline at 800-827-1000, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET to find out what your care options may be.

I need vision care. Can I get it through VA?
We cover routine eye exams

and preventive tests under VA health care benefits. In some cases, you may get coverage for eyeglasses or services for blind or low vision rehabilitation.
Learn more about vision care through VA

I need dental care. Can I get it through VA?
In certain cases, you may receive dental care as part of your VA health benefits.
Find out if you can get dental care through VA

I think I may have a service-connected disability. Can I get disability compensation (monthly payments)?
If you have an illness or injury that was caused—or made worse—by your active-duty service, you may be able to get disability compensation.

For help or assistance with any Veterans benefits please feel free to call our office and schedule an appointment.
Medina County Veterans Service Office: 210 Northland Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256
Office: (330) 722-9368

What happened when the soldier went into an enemy bar? ***He got bombed!***

Did you know that the Joint Veterans Coalition of Medina County presents a Military Enlistment Medal to all graduating seniors that are going into the military service.

Recognition of sacrifice and service begins with raising your right hand!

NEVER AGAIN
Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

AMERICAN VETERANS

ROLLING THUNDER, INC.
FLAME OF FREEDOM

Memorial Day Events Around Medina County
(be sure to check dates and times with your local newspaper or township committees for accuracy)

Saturday, May 27

- Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, 9:00AM: FLAGS FOR MEMORIAL DAY will be taking place on Saturday, May 27 at 9:00 a.m. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Volunteers: please RSVP to Nicole Claar at nicole.claar@va.gov by May 14th to participate in flag laying.

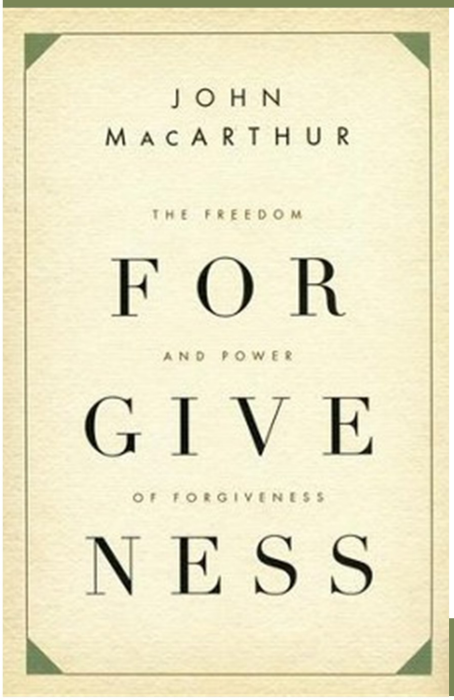
Sunday, May 28

- Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, 10:00AM: The ceremony will start at 10:00am. Parking will be limited this year, so please make arrangements to carpool or be transported to the cemetery.
- York Township, 3:00PM: The Parade will start at the York Methodist Church at 3pm. The route is from the Church to the York township cemetery at 6800 Norwalk Rd Medina. There will be a service at the cemetery.
- Litchfield Township, 1:30PM: Sunday, May 28, 2023. Remembrance walk starting at 1:30 at the Town Hall and will end at the cemetery.

Monday, May 29

- Brunswick, The city's Memorial Day program will be held at 10:00 AM. Call Brunswich City Hall or Brunswick Police for details as we are unaware of the current parade route at the time of print due to construction.
- Chatham Township, 10:00AM Memorial Hall 6299 Avon lake Rd. Walk to cemetery.
- Granger Township, 9:00AM Start at Highland Middle School, end at Granger Fairview Cemetery.
- Hinckley Township, 9:00AM: Monday, May 29, 2023. The parade will begin at 9:00 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church at 1088 Ridge Road and will proceed to the Veteran War Memorial Park for a wreath laying ceremony and a moment of silence. The parade will then continue to its final destination of the Administration Building at 1410 Ridge Road for the final ceremony.
- Lodi, American Legion Post 523 will host a parade lining up at 8:30 AM. and beginning at 9:00 AM from the American Legion Hall through the center of town to Woodlawn Cemetery.
- Medina, 10:00AM: The city's Memorial Day festivities begin at the Medina County Courthouse on Public Square. There will be a brief ceremony at 10 AM and a parade to Spring Grove Cemetery and guest speaker.
- Medina, 1:15PM: Vietnam Veterans Memorial; Medina 1:15 PM sponsored by the Medina County VVA Chapter #385.
- Seville, The parade begins at 1:00 PM in front of First Baptist Church.
- Sharon Township, 9:00AM: Monday, May 29, 2023. Kickoff is at 9 AM at Sharon Corporate Park.
- Spencer, 9:00AM: Starts at village offices, ends at cemetary
- Valley City / Liverpool Township, 10:30AM: Monday May 29, 2023. Line up is at 10:30 at the Twp. Offices and step-off at 11:00 ending at the VFW Hall on Center Rd. where there will be a brief ceremony. As always this will be a solemn/silent parade.
- Wadsworth, The city's Memorial Day parade will form at 10:15 AM in front of the American Legion and VFW Hall, and step off at 10:30 AM. *The Wadsworth American Legion will be serving a Memorial Day breakfast.*
- Westfield Center, 10:30AM: Monday, May 29, 2023. Line up at 10:30 in North Leroy Park.

A FREE BOOK FOR VETERANS



The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness

By John MacArthur

We want to thank you for your service to our country by offering you a free copy of this book.

Do we have to forgive others unconditionally? Is it possible to forgive yourself? The answers from modern psychology are confusing at best, but MacArthur offers biblical clarity. By distinguishing between the world's method of handling blame and mercy and God's way of atonement, MacArthur gives guidance that ultimately leads to inner peace and freedom from guilt.

If you or a veteran you know would like a free copy of this book, send an email request to truth@medinabible.org or send the form below to Medina Bible Church, 3593 Medina Rd. #186, Medina, OH 44256. Written requests may also be dropped off at the Vet Hall at 620 North Broadway.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City:_____ State: _____ Zip Code:_____

Branch of Service: _____ Years of Service: _____

Offer good through September 30, 2023

Medina BIBLE Church

Medina County Veterans Memorial Fund | Assists County Veterans, Donate Today!

The purpose of the Medina County Veterans Memorial Fund 501c 3, is to make a difference in the lives of Veterans and/or their families in times of financial need and to promote and support veteran's activities throughout Medina County. Your donation stays in Medina County to help the Veterans of your community!

You can make a tax deductible donation by mailing your check or money order to:

Medina County Veterans Memorial Fund 501(C)3
P.O Box #523; Brunswick, Ohio 44212

⇒ Helps Veterans and widows in times of need

⇒ Gave more than $5,000 out to disabled or severely ill Veterans in 2022

⇒ Provided more than 700 families with laundry detergent and sundry packs

⇒ Sponsored Holiday meals for more than 150 Veterans and their families in 2022

⇒ Help purchase a vehicle for a Veteran | Help a Veteran's family reduce the risk of being homeless | Repair a Veterans home to make it safe and accommodating

⇒ Pay medical bills for severely ill Veterans

⇒ Sponsored bus trip to the National Veterans Museum

The Medina County Veterans Memorial Fund 501(c)(3) is not a part of the Medina County Veterans Service Office. Any donations to our office go to the Medina County Veterans Memorial Fund

If You're a Veteran, Don't Sit on the Sidelines Get Back in the Game

Any veteran interested in marching in a Memorial Day Parade please feel free to contact our office at 330-722-9368 for assistance .

The organizers of the Counties parades would like to cordially invite any and all Honorably Discharged Veteran to march in this year's parade.

Dust off the old uniform, tighten-up the belt and polish those boots, because we want you out there. If you can't march some of the parades will be able to accommodate you on a vehicle.

DAV®

FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Your Benefits

County

County benefits throughout Ohio are benefits provided by the county in which you reside. They are provided by the County and are specific to those Veterans living within it.
They are not the same from county to county.

State

State benefits are provided by the State of Ohio and are available to ail Veterans that are state residents.

Federal

Federal benefits come from the Federal Government and apply equally to all Veterans across the country.

Our office is trained to assist you in applying for and pursuing any benefit from Medina County, the State of Ohio or the Federal Government.

The Medina County Veterans Service Office services:

The Medina County Veterans Service Office provides two basic services:

1. Temporary immediate financial aid and assistance to eligible veterans and family members who have demonstrated a need as set forth by the Commission.
2. Assist veterans, family members and survivors when applying to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for benefits.

Our assistance includes but is not limited to:

- Financial Assistance
- Rent and mortgage payments
- Utilities: Gas, Electric and Water
- Food and personal Hygiene items
- Certain Medical
- Transportation to and from VA Medical Centers in Cleveland (Wade Park), Parma and Akron, Ohio
- Grave markers and flags
- Free Notary for Veterans & Families
- Veterans Identification Cards (unofficial) through the Medina County Recorders Office
- Free transportation on the Medina County Public Transit (MCPT) with proper ID
- Dental Program in partnership with the Medina County Health Department

Service Assistance:

- Proper submission of claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Representation at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA)
- Preparations of forms and paperwork
- Documentation of claims and pertinent data
- Submission for records, awards decorations and medals
- DD 214 certification
- Employment resources (website)
-

Our services are FREE of charge!

Veterans Hall of Fame (HOF) Nomination Deadline is June 1

COLUMBUS – The deadline for submitting nominations for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is fast approaching and we want to hear from those who know former service members who are excelling and making a difference in society.

The Hall of Fame recognizes those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and continue to contribute to our communities, state, and nation through exceptional acts of volunteerism, advocacy, professional distinction, public service or philanthropy.

Each year, the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame inducts up to 20 veterans based on recommendations from an Executive Committee of veterans from throughout the state and approval from the Governor of Ohio.

The deadline to submit nomination forms for consideration for the 2023 class of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is June 1. Please don't delay.

Chances are you know a veteran who continues to serve selflessly in their post-military life — a former service member who is going above and beyond to impact others. (Note: The Hall of Fame also can accept nominations for those who would be inducted posthumously.)

To be considered, the veteran must meet the following criteria:

- Be a past or current Ohio resident
- Have received an honorable discharge
- Be of good moral character

This Hall of Fame sets the standard for recognizing Ohio's veterans for accomplishments beyond their military service. In addition, it is a fitting way to say "thank you for your service to our nation and thank you for your continued service to our communities."

Again, the nomination deadline is June 1, 2023. Guidelines, a sample nomination and more information are available at our Hall of Fame Nomination page.

How to get your medical records from your VA health facility?

You can get a complete copy of your VA medical records directly from your VA health facility. Keep reading on this page to learn how to request records from your health facility's medical records office.

How to submit a medical records request?

You'll need to fill out an Individuals' Request for a Copy of Their Own Health Information (VA Form 10-5345a).

Get VA Form 10-5345a to download

Submit your completed form to your VA health facility's medical records office. This office is also called a Release of Information Office. You can submit your form by mail, by fax, or in person.

If you go in person, bring your Veterans Health Identification Card or driver's license.

How to find your medical records office?

Follow these steps to find contact information for your VA health facility's medical records office:

Find your VA health facility

On your health facility's website, scroll to the **"In the spotlight"** box.

Select **"Access your health records."** This will bring you to a page with contact information for the medical records office.

Note: If you get care at a Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) or Outpatient Clinic (OPC), call the medical records office first. Ask if they have your records. You may need to request your records through a VA medical center instead of the clinic.

How long it takes to get your records?

The time it takes us to provide your records depends on how we're storing them:

If your records are in an online system, it may take up to 30 calendar days.

If your records are on paper, it may take up to 60 calendar days. This usually applies to records created before 1998.

Please allow time for us to process your request. If your request will take us longer than expected, we'll send you a letter in the mail. If you don't get a letter within 20 calendar days, you can contact us. Contacting us before then may cause a delay.

Medina County Veterans Organizations Meeting Times and Places

Organization	Post #	Address	City	Phone	Meeting Times
American Legion	Post #234	1439 S. Carpenter Rd	Brunswick		7:00 PM - First Wednesday of each month
American Legion	Post #523	120 Bank St	Lodi	(330) 948-1523	6:00 PM - Second Thursday of each month
American Legion	Post #202	620 N. Broadway St	Medina	(330) 416-0792	7:00 PM - Fourth Monday of each month
American Legion	Post #170	129 Main St	Wadsworth	(330) 334-1119	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
AMVETS	Post #1990	620 N. Broadway St	Medina		7:00 PM - First Monday of each month
Blue Star Mothers of Medina County		1439 S. Carpenter Rd	Brunswick		6:30 PM - Third Tuesday of each month
Disabled American Veterans	Chapter #72	620 N. Broadway St	Medina		7:00 PM - Second Tuesday of each month
MARINE Corps League	DET #569	3916 Pearl Rd	Medina		7:00 PM - Third Tuesday of each month
Medina County Veterans Coalition		Various Posts	Medina County		9:00 AM - Second Saturday every third month.
Medina County Women of the Military		Email only	Medina County		mcwomilitary@yahoo.com
Rolling Thunder	Chapter #8	3916 Pearl Rd.	Medina		12:00PM - Second Sunday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #9520	1439 S. Carpenter Rd	Brunswick	(330) 273-4892	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #5137	3916 Pearl Rd	Medina	(330) 725-0884	7:00 PM - First Tuesday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #5563	6731 Center Rd.	Valley City	(330) 483-3792	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #1089	121 Main St	Wadsworth	(330) 336-5008	8:00 PM - Third Tuesday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #8753	6 1/2 E Main St.	Seville		8:30 PM - Third Thursday of each month
Vietnam Veterans of America	Chapter #385	620 N. Broadway	Medina		7:00 PM - First Thursday of each month (no meeting in July)

***** If the information above is not correct please contact our office so that we may update it.**

***** The addresses listed above are the physical address and not necessarily the mailing address.**

Dates to Remember

MAY	JUNE	JULY
May 1—Loyalty Day	*June 6—D-Day*	*July 4—Independence Day*
May 8—VE Day	*June 8— Veterans Service Commission meeting 4: 00 PM*	*July 13—Veterans Service Commission meeting 4: 00 PM*
May 14—Mother's Day	*June 12—Women's Veterans Day*	*July 31 —Veterans Day at the Medina County Fair*
May 11—Veterans Service Commission meeting 4: 00 PM	*June 14—Flag Day*	*July 31—Aug 6—SEE YOU AT THE MEDINA COUNTY FAIR .*
May 20—Armed Forces Day,	*June 14—US Army 244th Birthday*	
May 28—Memorial Day Ceremony, Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery	*June 18—Father's Day*	
May 29—Memorial Day	*June 20—Blue Tip Parade, Wadsworth, Ohio*	
	June 25—Start of the Korean War	
Veterans Service Office Closed on:	*Veterans Service Office Closed on:*	*Veterans Service Office Closed on:*
May 26 = 29 Memorial Day Weekend	*June 19th Juneteenth*	*July 3 and 4 Independence Day*

Medina County Veterans Newsletter

This newsletter is provided as a courtesy only. The Medina County Veterans Commission does not endorse the content of these newsletters or of other organizations' policies or products. The information provided here is for your personal use only and is in some cases reprinted for the sole purpose of the Veterans of Medina County.

Medina County Veterans Service Office
Our Mission!

Our Pledge

When you come into the County Veterans Service Office, you will be assisted by one of our knowledgeable associates. The people that work in the Medina County Veterans Service Office have a compassionate understanding of the problems which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their families.

We provide two basic services:

1. Temporary immediate financial aid and assistance to eligible veterans and family members who have demonstrated a need as set forth by the Commission.
2. Assist veterans, family members and survivors when applying to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for benefits.

Our assistance includes but is not limited to:

a. Financial Assistance
b. Rent and mortgage payments
c. Utilities: gas, electric, and water
d. Food and personal hygiene items
e. Certain medical
f. Transportation to and from VA Medical Centers in Cleveland (Wade Park), Parma and Akron, Ohio
g. Grave markers and flags
h. Free Notary for Veterans & Families
i. Veterans Identification Cards (unofficial) through the Medina County Recorders Office
j. Free transportation on the Medina County Public Transit (MCPT) with proper ID
k. Dental Program in partnership with the Medina County Health Department

Service Assistance:

a. Proper submission of claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
b. Representation at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA)
c. Preparations of forms and paperwork
d. Documentation of claims and pertinent data
e. Submission for records, awards decorations and medals
f. DD214 certification
g. Employment resources (website)

Our services are FREE of charge!

Contact the Medina County Veterans Service Office
210 Northland Dr. - Medina, Ohio 44256

Call: 330.722.9368 Toll Free: 844.722.3800 x-9368 FAX: 330.722.9378
E-mail: veterans@medinacountyveterans.org
Office Hours: Monday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday 8:00a - 4:00p
Tuesday 10:00a - 4:00p (Closed daily Noon – 1:00 PM for Lunch)

Medina County
Veterans Service Office
210 Northland Dr.
Medina, Ohio 44256

Your Address Could Be Here!

Your Newest Edition of The
Medina County Veterans Newsletter

Would you rather receive this in your email in-box?
Go to our website at: www.medinacountyveterans.org and register today!