



VET NEWS



MERCER COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Volume 1
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Phone: 419-586-3542

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Columbus, Ohio National Veterans Memorial and Museum (Article from the NVMM)



NO ADMISSION FEES WILL BE CHARGED ON MEMORIAL DAY.

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) in Columbus, Ohio, will host a series of events over Memorial Day Weekend to honor and remember our fallen service members. Events will take place in person, online or virtually.

On Saturday, May 27, we'll run The Murph CrossFit Hero Workout, which is listed on the NVMM website for those who would like to take the challenge virtually.

Sunday, May 28 at 8 p.m. ET, our Gold Star Family Vigil will begin with a candlelight vigil, and bagpipe and drum procession from our rooftop into Memorial Grove. We are honored to welcome special guest speaker, Major General (Dr.) Sharon Bannister, U.S. Air Force and Gold Star daughter who previously served as director of Medical Operations at the Office of the

Surgeon General, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Falls Church, Virginia. Her father, Air Force Capt. Stephen Rusch, was shot down over Laos in

1972. Sharon was six years old when her father was declared missing. This event is free to all.

On Memorial Day, the NVMM Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony begins at 10 a.m. ET in person and via live-stream. We are privileged to welcome retired General Michael Garrett, a U.S. Army Ranger who spent 37 years commanding units in combat operations, as our keynote speaker. Garrett was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1984 and rose through the ranks to Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces Command. He served with NVMM president and CEO, retired Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter. NVMM admission is free to all on Memorial Day thanks to our sponsors.

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum is the only Museum in America that honors all Veterans from all service branches and all eras of our nation's proud history of military service, in peace and war. Opened in October 2018, the NVMM takes guests on a narrative journey telling individual stories and shared experiences of Veterans in their own words—during and after their service—through multimedia displays, letters, historic photos, traveling art exhibitions, programs and events.

In addition to the museum experience, the NVMM seeks to improve the lives of

Veterans and their families through a number of programs, including:

Resilience and Wellness:

Free Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Yoga classes

Veteran Concierge: Connecting Veterans with jobs and companies with their Veteran work force.

Education: In-person and virtual field trips and graduate-level leadership courses

Shop NVMM: Promoting Veteran-owned and operated businesses

Exhibitions: A Midshipman's Journey is on view through November 2023 (Painting workshops with Kristin Cronin coming soon!)

Event Rental at the NVMM: An inspiring location for weddings, reunions, retirements and more

Group Visits: Bring your group to the NVMM.

Thank you, Veterans and families, for protecting the United States and our freedoms. We will never forget those who lost their lives in service to our country.

Veterans, active-duty service members and Gold Star Families receive free admission every day at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

Gulf War Illness

The Department of Veterans Affairs and National Institutes of Health began a joint, five-year study that aims to explain the chronic symptoms of Gulf War Illness. The study may lead to more definitive diagnostic criteria for Gulf War Illness, development of new diagnostic testing, and potential treatments.

Gulf War Illness affects multiple systems in the body and includes chronic symptoms such as fatigue, headache, memory and cognitive difficulties, joint and muscle pain, poor sleep, and problems with

gastrointestinal and respiratory function. This disease affects about a third of the nearly 700,000 men and women who served in the Persian Gulf during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The first Veteran arrived at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, to participate in the study. Veterans who served in the Gulf War and meet the enrollment criteria can inquire about participating in the study by emailing vhawas.indepth@va.gov.

VA researchers will screen 1990-91 era Gulf War Veterans through the Miami VA Medical Center and the California and Washington, D.C., sites of VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Center. Veterans will then be referred to NIH to gain more insight into Gulf War Illness. NIH researchers will identify how the illness presents itself — in ways that can be measured or observed — in each participant. The research will focus on the immune and autonomic nervous systems, as well as the body's energy-production pathways.

Eligible Veterans will visit the NIH Clinical Center for up to two weeks, with most Veterans staying at the Clinical Center. Travel arrangements to and from the Clinical Center will be coordinated with the patient and the study team. Comprehensive testing will be done during the 14 days to look at multiple body systems affected by Gulf War Illness and how these systems operate functionally and structurally at rest as well as when the body is placed under stressors. Among other tests, researchers will administer a peak exercise challenge to trigger symptom flares. The procedure has been used to explore the mechanisms of other chronic illnesses, such as myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome.



Veterans in Suicidal Crisis

Starting Jan. 17, 2023, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

VA Healthcare Lima Community Based Outpatient Clinic

The Lima CBOC provides many services outside of primary care to Veterans who qualify for VA healthcare. Eligible Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare can work through their primary care manager to schedule specialty care.

Services provided at the Lima VA Clinic include:

- Primary Care
- Specialty Care Services
 - Mental Health Services
 - Audiology – Ear Care
 - Podiatry – Foot Care
 - Optometry – Vision Care
 - Laboratory Services
 - Social Work
 - Telehealth

750 West High Street, Suite 350
Lima, Ohio 45801
419-229-3300
Monday – Friday 7:30am – 4:00pm

Please call our office to schedule an appointment to verify your eligibility and get enrolled; not all Veterans will qualify for VA healthcare.

Financial Assistance

If you are, or know, a Veteran or Widow of a Veteran who is struggling with monthly expenses, call the office to set up an appointment for financial assistance. We can help with mortgage/rent, utilities, and food.

There are residency and other requirements you will be screened for to verify you are eligible to receive assistance through the Mercer County Veterans Service Commission. As well as documents that you will need to bring to the appointment with you.

All financial assistance candidates are interviewed, a debt to income ratio is completed, and if warranted, the case is presented to the Veterans Service Commission Board for decision at the regular monthly meeting on the 4th Tuesday each month.

All decisions regarding financial assistance are made by the Board.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



April – 3

May – 2

VA TRANSPORTATION

April – May

Veterans to Dayton VA – 43

Veterans to Lima Area – 22

Total Trips – 65

Transportation requests **must** be made through the Veterans Service Commission Office at (419)586-3542. After hours/weekend instructions are on the voicemail message.

VA SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS ONLY **(Includes Community Cares appointments.)**

Please call our office as soon as you know your next appointment time, so we can schedule your ride.

A Veteran's dependent may also ride the van, as long as there is room on the van.



Mercer County Veterans Service Commission Office

Located at:

220 W. Livingston St. B270

Celina, Ohio 45822

Monday – Friday 8:00 - 4:30

APPOINTMENTS ARE HELPFUL

BUT NOT REQUIRED

Phone (419) 586-3542

Fax (419) 586-7702

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

VSC Board meets every

**4th Tuesday of the month in the
Veterans Service Commission Office
@ 9:00a.m., unless otherwise posted.**

Commissioners

Tom Leininger, DAV

Charles Howell, VFW

Ed Davis, VVA

Terry Kremer, AL

Kevin Lange, At Large

Staff

Eric Pugh - Director/CVSO

Eric.Pugh@Veterans.mercercountyohio.gov

Barb Risch - Admin/Benefits Counselor

Vetoff@bright.net

Van Drivers

Mark Fleck

Steve Feltz

Mark Homan