



Montgomery County

Veterans Service Commission

Newsletter

March 2021

Director's Message

March is Women's History Month. It's a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture, and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the U.S. since 1987. I am, of course, recognizing the women in military service. Today, women serve in every branch of the military. There are more than 2 million women Veterans in the U.S. today. Women Veterans are the nation's fastest growing Veteran population. Despite the unique challenges women face in today's military they continue to take brave steps forward and with each step they are becoming more and more empowered in the military. Despite not always being recognized for their sacrifices or service; they didn't give up. They continued to lead a courageous path for other women to follow. Thank you to the brave women who served before us who's impact motivated future generations of women to fulfill their dream and duty of serving their country.

**Kimberly Frisco,
Executive Director**

In Recognition

National Vietnam War Veterans Day ~ March 29 ~

Welcome Vietnam Veterans!!! We honor, remember and thank the men and women for their sacrifices. National Vietnam War Veterans Day came about as the result of the passage of the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act that was signed into law by President Trump in 2017. Hanoi also released the last prisoners of war that were being held in North Vietnam on March 29, 1973.

Along with establishing a specific day to acknowledge these Veterans, there has been a movement across the country to give Vietnam Veterans the Welcome Home they never received 48 years ago. Each of these Veterans sacrificed something in Southeast Asia many decades ago. Many sacrificed everything while over there or after they returned home. They fought the war. And they faced contempt when they arrived home, living it for decades since.

It is long overdue that those men and women are given the Welcome Home and the gratitude they deserve.

THANK YOU!! WELCOME HOME!!!

Notable Assistance

VA Continues Debt Relief

The VA reaffirms its commitment to extend debt relief for Veterans through September 20, 2021. They will continue suspension of collection on all Veteran benefit overpayments and medical copayment debts incurred after April 1, 2020. For health care copayment debts, Veterans should contact the Health Resource Center at 866-400-1238.

Memorial Day Appropriations

As a reminder, the Board of County Commissioners of Montgomery County will allot each Service Post with an amount up to \$500 to aid in meeting the expenses of Memorial Day according to Ohio Revised Code 307.66. Please contact Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget, Regina Sharpe at sharper@mcoho.org or 937-225-6265 for your application.

In Women's Military History

It took the Women's Armed Services Integration Act signed by President Truman in 1948 to officially enable women to serve as permanent, regular members of the armed forces. Prior to this act, women (except for nurses) could only serve in the military during times of war.



U.S. Army founded on June 14, 1775

- ❖ First sanctioned women served in the Army Nurse Corps in 1901.

U.S. Marine Corps founded on November 10, 1775

- ❖ Opha May Johnson was the first woman to join the Marine Corps on August 1, 1918.

U.S. Navy founded on October 13, 1775

- ❖ Loretta Walsh was the first woman enlisted as a Chief Yeoman on March 21, 1917.

U.S. Air Force founded on July 8, 1948

- ❖ Esther McGowin Blake was the first woman to enlist in the Air Force on July 8, 1948.

U.S. Coast Guard founded on October 4, 1870

- ❖ Myrtle Hazard was the first woman to enlist in the Coast Guard on January 21, 1918.

January 2016 - All military occupation specialties and positions opened up to women, including ground combat units, and without exception. For the first time in U.S. military history, women were able to contribute to the Department of Defense mission with no barriers in their way.

Currently, in Ohio alone, there are over 67,000 women Veterans.

Reference: "EMPOWERED WOMEN OHIO WOMEN IN THE MILITARY" authored by Kim Villalva; 2020 Copyright by Children's Historical Publishing



MCVSC NEW WEBSITE

Visit us at MCVSC.org

COVID-19 FINANCIAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Call for more information at 937-225-4801

Veterans Legal Assistance

Welcoming attorney Steven Strain, Marine Veteran. He will be assisting Veterans with eviction issues, wrongful disconnection of utilities, consumer issues, Last Wills and Testaments, Powers of Attorney and other legal documents. Call 937-225-4801 for more information.

Commission Meetings:

April 14, 2021 at 11:00am

May 12, 2021 at 10:00am

June 9, 2021 at 10:00am

Our Commissioners

Jerry Hays, President,
Disabled American Veterans

Federico Rojas, Jr.,
Vice President,
Veterans of Foreign
Wars

William Fried, Secretary,
Vietnam Veterans of
America

James Dare,
American Legion

Vacant, AMVETS

About Us

Montgomery County Veterans Services Commission

627 Edwin C. Moses Blvd.
4th Floor, East Medical Plaza
Dayton, OH 45417

Phone: (937) 225-4801

Office Hours: Monday - Friday,
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Appointment Hours: Monday -
Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.