



Montgomery County

# Veterans Service Commission

Newsletter

October 2021

## Director's Message

In the month of October not only celebrate the Navy's birthday, we also recognize Navy Day!! We have 2 retired Navy Veterans in our office serving as Veteran Service Officers.

Thank you Navy Veterans, Keith Carr and Donald North.

Keith Carr is a retired Navy Seabee who started his career with us in 2019. He is also a member of AMVETS, American Legion, VFW, and DAV.

Donald North is a retired First Class Petty Officer who has previously worked as a Veterans Liaison at a college in Indiana, as well as a current Veterans Service Officer since 2019.

Even though, I'm true Air Force Blue, I can say with great enthusiasm on October 27th "GO NAVY" in honor of Navy Day.

Kimberly Frisco  
Executive Director

## Final Salute Society



On October 1, 2021, members of our team were honored to join the Dayton Final Salute Society as they conducted a funeral service for a local Air Force Veteran, James Gregory Stewart who served honorably in Vietnam from 03/03/1969-03/05/1970.

Our friends at the Final Salute Society are dedicated to making sure no Veteran is buried at the Dayton National Cemetery without family or friends attending. On this day we were his family and friends and accepted the American Flag on his behalf and it is properly displayed in a flag case in our office.

You can learn more about the Final Salute Society on their FB page: [www.facebook.com/The-Final-Salute-Society-103779021049185](https://www.facebook.com/The-Final-Salute-Society-103779021049185)

We often get calls asking about American Flag disposal and where people can take their old flags to be properly disposed. Now we have an easy answer! We now have a collection cabinet made to receive old and worn flags. You can drop your old flags here anytime during office hours and we will take care of the disposal. You'll now find this custom flag receptacle in our lobby.



## Wills for Vets is Back!

The Dayton Bar Association is proud to announce our next Wills for Vets event, providing free wills and other estate planning documents to military veterans and their spouse or domestic partner.



Saturday, November 13, 2021  
Appointments will be 10am – 1pm  
Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission  
627 Edwin C. Moses Blvd  
4th Floor East Plaza  
Dayton, OH 45417



If you have questions regarding this event, please contact Chris Albrekton at 937.222.7621 or at [calbrekton@daybar.org](mailto:calbrekton@daybar.org). *This event is sponsored by the DBA and the Dayton Bar Foundation.*

### \*\*\*\*VA prepares to get ahead of surge in backlogged claims\*\*\*\*

Starting in October, the Department of Veterans Affairs will hire and train new staff to ensure Veterans' claims are adjudicated quickly and help reduce an expected increase in the backlog of claims pending more than 125 days.

VA is taking the following proactive steps to help in the reduction:

- Hire and train 2,000 new employees to assist in claims processing.
- Utilize funds provided via the American Rescue Plan for overtime to ensure timely claims processing.
- Deploy requested fiscal year 2022 budget resources to support Agent Orange presumptive processing, as well as for general Compensation and Pension claims processing.

As of October 11, there were more than **204,000** backlog claims in an inventory of **603,000 total claims**. VA identified more than 70,000 claims to review for additional entitlement stemming from the presumptive relationship between Agent Orange and Parkinsonism, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism. Many of these will enter the backlog in October which is projected to reach **260,000 pending claims**.

Several factors have contributed to the recent backlog. Beginning in March 2020, operational changes necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an untimely delay of the Federal Records Centers' retrieval of documents and suspended Compensation and Pension examinations. While these actions were necessary to protect the health and safety of employees and veterans, they slowed the processing time for claims. VA workload has also increased as a result of the aforementioned recent decisions and actions, including a court order mandating the review of previously denied Veterans on the basis of qualifying service in the 12 nautical miles surrounding Vietnam.

The backlog has decreased by more than 14,000 claims since the end of August 2021. With continued improvement of VA's ability to obtain C&P examinations and Federal Records, and with all requested resources received, VBA plans to address the impending increase and then further reduce the current claims backlog to 100,000 claims by **April 2024**.

## Dayton VA Medical Center

Dayton VA Medical Center is offering the 3rd additional dose of Moderna to Veterans who meet the criteria recommended by CDC including:

- Active treatment for cancer
- On immunosuppressive medications after organ transplant or stem cell transplant
- Having a stem cell transplant in the last 2 years
- Advanced or untreated HIV
- Active treatment with high-dose steroids (e.g. prednisone 20mg/day or higher), TNF blockers, biologic medications, and certain other immunosuppressive medications

If you meet one of these criteria or have questions about whether you qualify, please contact the provider treating you for that condition so that your provider can place an order in the system for you to receive the 3rd additional dose of the Moderna vaccine through the VA.

Please contact the Dayton VA Medical Center at 937-268-6511 ext. 2137 for additional information.

## This Month in History

**October** - Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**October 13** - U.S. Navy (USN) established in 1775 - Happy 246th Birthday!!

**October 20, 1978** - Women's Army Corps Disestablished

**October 31** - Happy Halloween, established as "the night before All Saints' Day"

## 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.

## SAVE THE DATE

### November 17 - Veteran Coat Giveaway from

**9:00am - 3:00pm** at 627 Edwin C. Moses Blvd, 4th Floor East Medical Plaza.

Call for eligibility information at 937-225-4801

November 18 - Veteran Holiday Turkey Giveaway from 3:00pm - 5:00pm at the Dayton VA Medical Center Campus. Enter the Gettysburg entrance and follow the signs.

### Transportation Available for all VA and Community Medical Appointments

Offering day bus passes, Uber assistance for those not on a bus line or unable to walk to a bus stop, and Paratransit for those utilizing mobility devices such as wheelchairs, Call 937-225-4801 for more information.

### Commission Meetings:

**November 10, 2021 at 10:00am**

**December 8, 2021 at 10:00am**

**January 12, 2022 at 10:00am**

**February 9, 2022 at 10:00am**

## Our Commissioners

Jerry Hays, President,  
Disabled American Veterans

William Fried, Vice-President,  
Vietnam Veterans of America

James Dare, Secretary  
American Legion

John Theobald,  
AMVETS

VACANT - Veterans of Foreign Wars