



Department of Ohio
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DAV Department of Ohio Newsletter

June 2023 Issue

Welcome to the Ohio Disabled American Veterans Newsletter!

We are pleased to bring you the latest news and updates on the Ohio Disabled American Veterans organization. Here are some of the highlights in this issue:

- Message from the Ohio DAV Commander
- Upcoming Events
- National Service Office Update
- DAV Transportation Network
- Spotlight on a Local DAV Chapter

Message from the Ohio DAV Commander

Greetings fellow veterans,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning members of the Ohio Disabled American Veterans organization. Our team remains committed to serving you and empowering disabled veterans and their families throughout the state.

On behalf of the Ohio Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your unwavering commitment to our organization's mission. Your dedication to serving and empowering disabled veterans and their families are truly inspiring.

As we continue to face new challenges and opportunities, we are reminded of the importance of working together to support our community. With your support, we have achieved great success in providing veterans with access to critical resources and services they earned through their military service.

We are proud of our accomplishments, but we also recognize that there is still more work to be done. As we move forward, we remain committed to advocating for the rights and

needs of disabled veterans and their families. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every veteran receives the care and support they deserve.

Thank you again for your support of the Ohio DAV. We are honored to serve alongside you in this important mission.

Sincerely,

Jacob T. Drost, Commander

Upcoming Events

We have several exciting events coming up this season, including:

- Forget-Me-Not Robert L. Cox Memorial #23 on June 3, 2023 from 9 am to 4 pm at Rural King, 230 Central Parkway, Heath, Ohio.
- Ohio State Convention from June 23 to June 25, 2023, at Embassy Suites, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, Ohio
- National Convention from August 5 to August 8, 2023
- Auxiliary DAV Fall Conference from September 28 to September 30, 2023, at Holiday Inn, 1717 Airport Exchange Blvd., Erlanger, Kentucky
- Ohio DAV Fall Conference from October 26 to October 27, 2023, at DAV National Headquarters, 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, Kentucky

We encourage you to attend these events and engage with your fellow DAV members.

Cleveland National Service Office Update

The Cleveland, Ohio DAV National Service Office (NSO) is a branch of the Disabled American Veterans organization that provides assistance to veterans and their families in accessing benefits and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The NSO employs accredited VA claims representatives who work closely with veterans to ensure that they receive the compensation and benefits they deserve for their service to our country. These claims representatives provide free assistance with filing claims for disability compensation, pension, education and training, employment and other VA benefits.

Disabled American Veterans Federal Building 1240 East Ninth Street, Room 1017b, Cleveland, OH 44199 Phone: (216) 522-3507 Email: dav.vbacl@va.gov

Hours of Operation: Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 8:00 am – 3:30 pm and Thursday 8:00 am – 11 am.

Accredited VA Claims Representatives:

- Jacob Drost, Supervisor
- Michael Shaw, Assistant Supervisor
- Richard Clay III, Senior National Service Officer
- Alexander Hem, National Service Officer
- Victor Perry, National Service Officer
- Juan Gonzalez, National Service Officer

If you are a veteran or family member in need of assistance with accessing VA benefits and services, you can reach out to the Cleveland, Ohio DAV NSO via phone or by visiting their office during their operating hours.

PACT Act

The recent passing of the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. This important legislation aims to provide justice and care for veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service.

The PACT Act recognizes the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women, and it demonstrates our commitment to supporting them long after their service has ended. It was named in honor of SFC Heath Robinson, a former U.S. Army Ranger and Green Beret who passed away in 2020 due to complications from toxic exposure while serving in Afghanistan.

The PACT Act allows for the expansion of medical care and benefits for veterans who have been exposed to toxic substances such as burn pits, contaminated water, and other environmental hazards. It also provides greater transparency and accountability for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding the health effects of toxic exposure.

The PACT Act will also establish an independent commission to investigate and identify toxic exposures, ensure that veterans receive proper medical care and benefits, and make recommendations for future prevention measures. This commission will be responsible for collecting data on toxic exposure and tracking its effects on veterans' health over time.

At a time when toxic exposures continue to affect the health and well-being of our veterans, the PACT Act is a significant step towards ensuring that our servicemen and

women receive the care and support they deserve. We owe it to our veterans to provide them with the resources they need to address any health issues that may have arisen from their service.

We encourage you to stay informed about the PACT Act and its implementation. The VA will be providing updates on its website, and we will do our part to keep you informed as well.

Engagement and Empowerment

The importance of engaging and empowering veterans through utilizing fly fishing, equine therapy, and the outdoors.

For many veterans, returning to civilian life can be a challenging transition. The experience of military service can leave lasting physical and emotional scars, and many struggle to find purpose and a sense of community once they leave the military. Fortunately, there are organizations that recognize the importance of engaging and empowering veterans in meaningful ways, such as through fly fishing, equine therapy, and the great outdoors.

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Fly fishing is a popular pastime for many people, but it can also be a therapeutic activity for veterans. Programs like Project Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery use fly fishing as a way to help veterans cope with physical and emotional wounds. These programs provide opportunities for veterans to learn new skills, connect with nature, and build relationships with other veterans. Fly fishing can also be a meditative practice that helps veterans reduce stress and anxiety.

Equine therapy is another powerful tool for engaging and empowering veterans. Horses are incredibly perceptive animals and can respond to human emotions in unique ways. Programs like the Soulstangs and Forever Ember Acres use equine therapy to help veterans build trust and communication skills, as well as to address mental health issues like depression and PTSD. The process of caring for and working with horses can also provide a sense of purpose and structure for veterans who may be struggling to find their footing in civilian life.

Finally, the great outdoors offers a wealth of opportunities for veterans to engage with their communities and connect with nature. Groups like Hunting with Hero's continue to organize hunting activities that allow veterans to build lasting relationships with peers.

This past year DAV Department of Ohio has teamed up with each of the organizations identified above, to engage and empower veterans through activities like fly fishing, equine therapy, and the outdoors as an important way to support veterans in their transition to civilian life. By providing opportunities for veterans to connect with nature, build relationships with other veterans, and develop new skills, these programs help veterans find purpose, healing, and community.

We look forward to expanding services this upcoming year.