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STAND AT EASE *By Don Stark, Publisher / Sales Manager*

Good Day! As we grow our newspaper we have begun a search for veterans interested in being a part of that growth! With a recommendation from Mssrs. Dick Clough and Rick DeChant, we are looking for readers that have served our country, and would like to comment on the content, and production values of the publication. Ideas for feature stories, special sections, guest columns and business and marketing advice will certainly be welcomed! This non-voting Advisory Board will be invited to join in at a breakfast get-together twice annually and a zoom meeting after each of the other four bi-monthly pubs are delivered.

We have already enlisted a core group of advisors with these five volunteers. Mr. Dick Clough U.S. Army, Mr. Rick DeChant U.S. Coast Guard, Mr. Bill

Royer U.S. Army, Mrs. Mary Reynolds Powell U.S. Army, and Mr. Joseph Wilgus U.S. Marine Corps.



Our intention is to convene our first meeting in mid-August with another six Veterans included that are ready, willing and able to share their thoughts and ideas with us. Hence, this solicitation; should you have a bit of extra time and would enjoy working with us to fine tune our publication!

The honor of serving our Veterans Community, will be posted in our masthead and on our website with your name and company. Should you be interested, please respond by e-mail to

donaldstark408@gmail.com.
Thanks in advance,
Donald C. Stark, publisher

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The Fourth

By Rev. Richard J. Watts, Chaplain, DD214 Chronicle

In 1976, Ray Charles offered his version of *America the Beautiful*. His interpretation is more than impressive; it is a prayer and a hope: "and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

His interpretation inspired the Koch family to sing it instead of saying grace. The Kochs lived four houses from us. Until they moved, its annual concert was a part of the celebration.

What a great way to begin the Fourth of July. We stop, look around and take inventory, and each expresses his gratitude. And then, let the good times roll!

Best foods for the party are charred hot dogs, overcooked hamburgers, chips and dip. Those dishes are the foundation. Upper floors will be

coleslaw, potato and macaroni salad, pretzels, cherry pie, deviled eggs, and beer enough to keep afloat all day.

Served on paper plates and in plastic cups.

Which is better: the food or the fireworks? Each on its own is a delight. Together, they make the greatest day-long party and it includes the youngest to the oldest.

Maybe best of all, the Fourth is shared by all: union and management, Christians and Jews and Rosicrucians, Democrats and Republicans, players and coaches.

The only worthwhile argument is: which mustard is better, Stadium or Ball Park?

By day's end, we are Fourth-of-July-tired. And grateful.



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and All Who Love Them.*

PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Terence J. Uhl
John H. Tidyman

PUBLISHER / SALES MANAGER

Donald C. Stark
(216) 323-4699
donaldstark408@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Ann Marie Stasko
(216) 704-5227

ART DIRECTOR

Matt Kuhns

SENIOR WRITERS

Jerri Donohue
Brian Albrecht

BOOK EDITOR

Nancy Peacock

SPORTS EDITOR

Barry Goodrich

HISTORY EDITOR

J.C. Sullivan

For subscription information
call (216) 789-3502

Editorial Statement

DD214 Chronicle is committed to its readers: Veterans of every generation and all who love them. The printed newspaper is delivered across northern Ohio without charge to more than 500 locations: libraries, colleges and universities that welcome veteran students, VFW and American Legion posts, city halls, Veteran Administration offices and health care facilities, organizations in support of veterans, advertisers, political offices, and Veteran Service Commissions. DD214 Chronicle also maintains dd214chronicle.com and DD214 Chronicle/Facebook.

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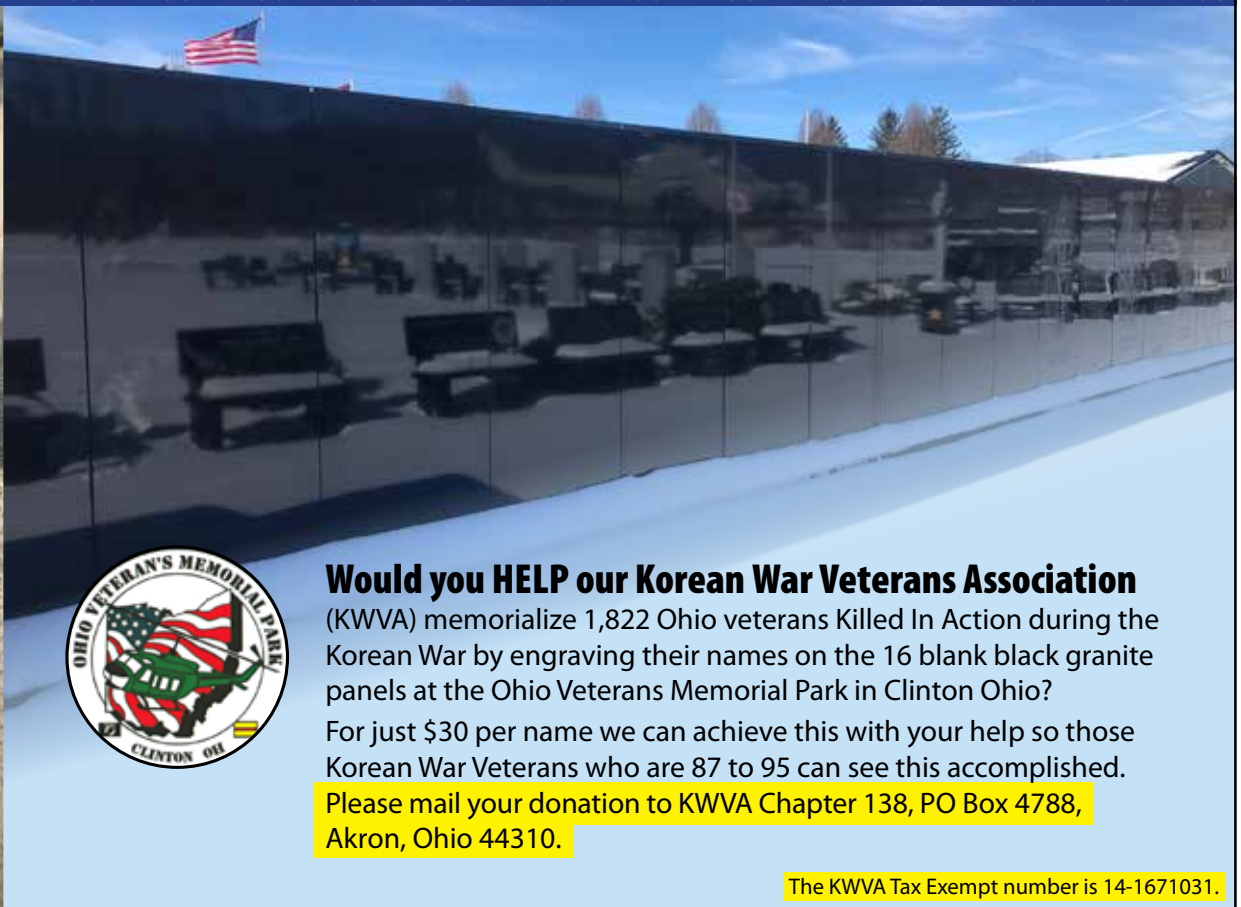
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Chelsea Pires found the support she needed at Lorain County Community College to turn her military training into a satisfying career

When Chelsea Pires returned home after serving in the U.S. Air Force, she knew exactly what she wanted to do and where she needed to go. Pires had spent six years stationed in Italy as a military dental assistant and enjoyed every moment of it. She wanted to stay in the dental field, but with a different job title.

“I didn’t want to just assist, I wanted to do more,” she says. “And I knew becoming a registered dental hygienist would be a better fit to provide for my children.”

LCCC was an easy choice for Pires, who wanted an affordable education close to home. And because of the college’s Veteran and Military Service Member Center and her advisors, Pires’ transition to student life was easy too.

“From the first day I walked into Espy Correa’s office, lost without a clue where to begin with this civilian life, she has had all the answers or has been able to lead me to someone who does,” Pire says.

But the stumbling blocks Correa guided Pires through were nothing compared to the challenges brought on by the pandemic. When Pires’ classes moved online in March 2020, so did her children’s. And



their daycare closed.

“It wasn’t easy taking my online classes with the kids home all of the time,” she says. “I am not a teacher; it was a challenge to say the least.”

Pires says there wouldn’t have been enough time in the day for her to do everything if it wasn’t for parents.

“I am a single mother and owe all of my success and achievements to my amazing parents who have helped out with the kids and

supported me in ways I cannot even describe,” she says.

When Pires’ children went back to their school and daycare this fall, her schedule became more structured, but the struggle lingered.

“It’s hard as a mother trying to give your best in all aspects of life,” Pires says.

But the root of that struggle—her children—gave Pires the extra push she needed. “I wanted to make them proud.”

Pires crammed two semesters

of time in the LCCC Dental Clinic, which COVID halted, into her last year of school. She says her instructors seemed to work magic to make it work.

“They have gone above and beyond to enable us to graduate on time despite all the set-backs from the pandemic,” Pires says.

Pires wrapped up her time in the clinic and is preparing to take the state and national clinical and written boards. After graduation, Pires hopes to return, in a way, to where it all started.

“I’d like to get into the Veteran’s Association one day to be a full-time hygienist,” Pires says.

Despite the trials—or perhaps because of them—Pires has great admiration for her time in the dental hygienist program. And she learned some things about herself, too.

“I realized that I can do hard things,” she says. “I can push through the stress, the tears, the unknown and come out successful.”

For more information on LCCC’s Veterans Service Center, call 440-366-7378 or visit www.lorainccc.edu/veterans.

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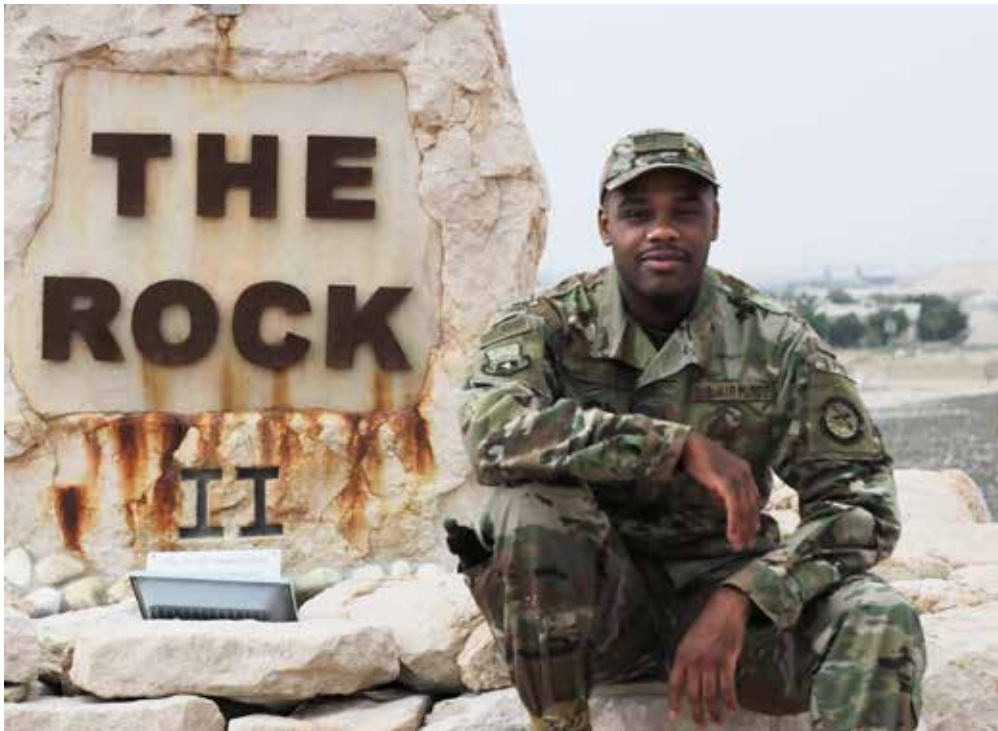


Photo courtesy of Jonathan Henry

Air Force Reservist and Kent State University student Jonathan Henry said the university's Center for Adult and Veteran Services has been "an enormous help with everything" in his studies.



Photo courtesy of the Center for Adult and Veteran Services

Painting the rock in front of the KSU main campus has become a Veterans Club tradition.

Kent State University welcomes and supports student veterans

By Brian Albrecht

Fifty-one years ago Kent State University was perhaps one of the most military-unfriendly campuses in the nation.

Tragically so, with days of anti-war demonstrations leading to the burning of the school's ROTC building and four students killed by Ohio National Guardsmen.

Today, Kent State's designation as a Military Friendly school by the national marketing firm VIQORY Media is a small reflection of the college's changes in the past five decades to serve a flourishing veteran student body.

The passage of time helped heal the wounds of 1970, as did changing attitudes nationally regarding veterans, and creation of a program at KSU to attract and support student vets, according to Joshua Rider, executive director of the Center for Adult and Veteran Services.

The center was established in 2010 to provide veterans with pre-admission counseling, academic advising, career guidance, assistance in obtaining government educational benefits such as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, and social activities including a Vets Club.

One of the newest efforts is the

Veteran Career Initiative (VCI), launched in 2019 as a six-session, two-credit-hour study program linking veterans with mentors (sometimes vets) in their field of interest, providing lessons on networking, writing resumes and job searches.

Rider said the VCI has involved students in such fields as health services, entrepreneurship, secondary education and computer science/technology. He noted that the program can lead to an internship, and provides direction for older students like vets "who really want to get rolling in their career and don't have time to waste."

William Gearhart, 25, of Kent, a crew chief working on C-130s with the Ohio Air National Guard, is a big fan of the VCI. "I think it's wonderful," said Gearhart, a senior studying communications at KSU. "They put you in touch with a mentor and help you with anything in your career. They give you a bunch of tools to help with your success in either the military or regular life. It helps because they (the mentors) understand."

Air Force veteran Keith Castillo, 52, of Akron, started at KSU in 2019, majoring in English and

aiming for a teaching career in political discourse. He described VCI as "a great resource for vets. Through the mentorship they're able to hone down to what you want to do."

Mentors with a military background also can provide guidance in navigating the contrasting military and civilian worlds, according to Castillo. "We have different ways of looking at the world," he said. "Sometimes something can look complicated to us, where in their (civilian) world it's plain and simple."

Rider said one overall goal of the university's veteran support services is to similarly ease the transition from a military to civilian setting, providing "a sense of belonging and mattering. If you don't feel like you belong in a place, you're not going to stay."

Jonathan Henry, 23, of Euclid, is an Air Force Reservist who has been studying air traffic control at KSU since 2019.

He credited the assistance he's gotten from the university's Center for Adult and Veteran Services. "They've been an enormous help with everything, especially communication-wise, letting us know

about the benefits available, always willing to work with you on any type of issues you have," he said.

Last year the center served 750 student veterans, about 2 percent of total student enrollment, on its main and branch campuses. Enrollment peaked in 2009-2011 at around 1,000 vets and has since leveled off, but the number of veteran dependents using transferable government education benefits to attend college has been increasing, Rider said.

Student veterans commonly bring a military skill set to campus that includes timeliness, being orderly and having good time-management capabilities, according to Rider. They also tend to enter more "career-driven" fields such as justice studies, nursing, aeronautics and business, he added.

There are adjustments to be made. To vets at school it can seem that "people don't move as fast, there's some ambiguity here in the civilian world that you don't see in the military," he said.

Henry said some jokes he'd tell in the military will fall flat on campus. And Castillo noted, "It's been an extreme learning experience.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

There's a certain etiquette you should not cross . . . a language acceptable among the military but not among kids, also known as 'sailor mouth.'

"But the response (from students and faculty) has been very good," he added. "They like the fact that you can bring a different way of looking at the world, from a military standpoint."

There's also a more pragmatic attitude about education among student veterans, according to Castillo. "We have the discipline. It's a job. It's a profession. We understand what we've got to do," he said.

Rider, who is not a veteran but is a KSU graduate, noted that one of the biggest lessons he's learned as director of the center since its inception is "not to assume anything about veterans." Each vet is different, with varied interests and goals. As Rider said, "If you meet one veteran, you've met one veteran."

According to Rider, student response to vets is positive – much more so than 51 years ago.

"Students are 100 percent more

accepting, and the faculty is very accepting," he said. "These days everybody knows somebody who served. And students don't have the same attitudes. If they have a problem with the government, they have a problem with the *government*, not the armed forces."

He noted that when the center opened in 2010 and held a veterans conference, there were no protests or problems. "It's about healing," he said. "There doesn't have to be this schism (between nonmilitary students and vets)."

In the future he'd like to see the VCI program expanded, and perhaps a large physical space created to offer social and recreational activities.

Until then, Rider said the center will continue its work, mindful of the lessons of history when it comes to student veterans.

"We've learned from the past. We've learned how to treat people," he said.

Rider added that the center is, and will always be, "an outward symbol of our dedication to these folks who have earned it."



Photo by Brian Albrecht

Joshua Rider, executive director of the Kent State University Center for Adult and Veteran Services, said then center provides a "sense of belonging and mattering" for vets attending the university.



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Photo courtesy of the Center for Adult and Veteran Services

Navy veteran Mark Gainer speaks during a past Veterans Day program at Kent State University.

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Kopec says the number one question that Veterans ask upon meeting with them is, "Why should I look at enrolling into a Medicare plan, such as a Medicare Advantage Plan, when I have Veteran Administration healthcare benefits?" Kopec says, "This is a good question and the answer is simple. Many insurance carriers have a wide range of Medicare Advantage plans that are designed to complement the health insurance benefits that a veteran receives through the VA."

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Kopec says veterans also ask, "Is there is a cost or obligation to meet to review plans?" Her answer is no. There is no cost or obligation to meet. She can meet a person at her office in Broadview Hts, a person's home or sometimes at a local coffee house, wherever they feel most comfortable.

Kopec has lived in the Cleveland area her entire life and is a proud daughter and granddaughter of veterans! Kopec says "I work hard to understand a veteran's needs and provide assistance and education to help a person understand their plan choices." Veterans can review these different plans during the Medicare Open Enrollment period, which is October 15th through December 7th of every year.

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New Volunteers of America Project Offers Safe, Supportive Housing to Homeless Women Veterans

by Jerri Donohue

Perhaps she's been blindsided by long-buried PTSD from deployment. Or maybe she's suffering from psychological wounds resulting from rape by fellow servicemen. Or she might be plagued by unemployment, struggling to find her place in the civilian work force.

Whatever problems caused her homelessness, this hypothetical female veteran soon will find housing at the Judge Sara J. Harper Village, Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana's latest initiative.

Kathleen Atkins, Senior Vice President of Veteran Program Operations and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, for the faith-based, nondenominational nonprofit, explained its decision to build a new facility in Cleveland.

"As the population of female veterans continues to grow, we're committed to creating housing opportunities that provide an environment where our female veterans can thrive and live to their fullest potential," Atkins said. "We do this in a way that acknowledges their unique experiences and honors their service to our country."

A groundbreaking and

blessing-ceremony for the 2-building, 12-apartment complex took place on June 23, with completion expected in early 2022.

Meeting a Need

Volunteers of America (VOA) already offers transitional housing for male veterans at its Collinwood location. But the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports an increase in homelessness among female veterans, a change Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana witnessed locally.

Director of Development Becky Carlino said Volunteers of America responded over the years by adding 15 beds for women at the Homeless and Mental Health Residential Treatment Center (formerly the Domiciliary) it operates in conjunction with the Cleveland VA. Other issues complicate the situation, however.

"There are minimal treatment programs for women," Carlino said. "They are lumped in with men. And working with these women through the years, we realized that a lot of them have military sexual trauma."

In aiming to provide safe,

supportive and affordable housing for female veterans, Volunteers of America is modeling Sara J. Harper Village on Annabelle's Place, its veteran-centric facility in Cincinnati. Annabelle's Place has been fully occupied by women vets since it opened in the fall of 2017.

As in Cincinnati, each freestanding building will contain six cheery efficiency apartments, including one with a small bedroom for mothers raising little children. Every unit will be furnished, unless a woman chooses to bring her own furniture. The single-floor buildings are outfitted with a communal laundry room and a visitor's parlor. One building also features an office where residents can meet with caseworkers.

The buildings will be locked at all times. A main entrance leads to interior corridors with access to the apartments, but the units also have individual patios with exterior doors. Off street parking is available to residents with cars.

Any female veteran in the Cleveland VA's service area will be eligible to apply for an apartment. (The village's opening date remains too far off for application

now.) Women can use HUD-VASH vouchers to pay for their housing. In Cincinnati, some residents found employment and now independently pay their rent. There is no limit on the length of stay. The apartments also comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, enabling women to age in place if they choose.

"All the veterans we work with are honorably discharged," Carlino said. "We catch them with the services that go beyond what the VA provides. The VA provides medical services and we're providing case management services." She cited cognitive behavioral therapy as an example. Through Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF), vets focus on personal goals such as landing better jobs or completing their education.

A Perfect Location

Carlino credited Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Cleveland City Councilman Kevin Conwell with helping Volunteers of America to identify and then acquire a perfect setting for the new facility in the

Continued on page 14



Ashley's War Chronicles the Triumph and Sacrifice of Modern Warfare

By Nancy Peacock, Book Editor

It has been almost 10 years since First Lieutenant Ashley White died in Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device took her life during a nightly mission. The circumstances that put the 24-year-old Kent State University graduate in harm's way provide an insightful view of how women earned their right to be combat soldiers.

Author Gayle Tzemach Lemmon's best-selling *Ashley's War* (HarperCollins, 2015) chronicles Ashley's role as a member of the ground-breaking Cultural Support Team (CST). It is a story that is still too little known and needs a wider audience.

After the attacks of 9/11, the use of special operations forces became a central part of the war against terror. Navy SEALs and Army Rangers were deployed throughout the Middle East on specialized tactical missions. The modern technical capabilities they used in these intelligence operations became even more important than brute force.

But military strategists saw there was still a large deficit in knowledge-based warfare. In the Afghan culture, the ancient practice of "purdah" continues to sequester women, making them unavailable to speak to men. Yet Afghan women are the center of their households and they maintain a steady flow of information with other women.

During the Iraq War, the Marine



Corps utilized female soldiers—mostly drivers or mechanics trained to fire machine guns—to help their male counterparts at security checkpoints, on patrols and raids. In addition to searching Iraqi women for weapons, they were able to identify male terrorists disguised as women.

An intelligence report published in 2010 explained that while Afghan men were offended by any foreign man making any contact with Afghan women, foreign women were seen as a "third gender" who could interact in a respectful and forthright manner. This allowed female soldiers to speak with Afghan women without offending Afghan culture. Women who had always wanted to serve in combat positions saw their opportunity in a new

program called Cultural Support Team. One woman explained: "All my life, all I ever wanted was to belong to a group of ass-kickers battling on the front lines."

Ashley White was one of several dozen women who answered the call. During her days as a student at KSU, she joined ROTC, meeting her future husband at an ROTC pizza party. After graduation, they were living in North Carolina when she heard about the CST program. Four weeks later, she was attending the Assessment and Selection process. After a grueling two weeks, Ashley was ecstatic to learn she had made the cut.

In August 2011, the CSTs completed training and Ashley was deployed to Kandahar Air Field. The CSTs were immediately included in

the nightly missions to search and speak with women and children. Ashley soon earned her Combat Action Badge on a mission in which she shielded a group of women and children when gunfire erupted.

Ashley celebrated her 24th birthday in September. On October 22, on a routine nighttime mission to find a Taliban weapons maker, Ashley and two Army Rangers were killed when an improvised explosive device detonated. She was the first casualty of the CST program.

Since then a long list of honors and memorials have recognized Ashley's sacrifice. In addition to the book a transitional housing facility for female veterans has been named in her honor. She has a tree on the memorial Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia. This year, The Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism (NEOPAT) named Ashley the 2021 Charles Kirby Wilcox Honoree.

With the recent decision to withdraw U.S. forces from Afghanistan, the sacrifices made by the women and men who served there seem even more poignant. *Ashley's War* is a tribute to a bright, young woman who experienced the reality of combat service. For the rest of us, it is a sober look at how women have fought for meaningful roles in 21st Century warfare.

FEMALE VETERANS REPORT Partially Sponsored by
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Continued from page 12
 Glenville neighborhood. After listening to community concerns, the nonprofit selected siding and trees to blend in with the surrounding area.

Residents of Judge Sara J. Harper Village can walk or bike to services at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, just a few blocks away.

In addition to the Cleveland Police Department, VA police will circulate around Sara J. Harper Village and its next-door neighbor, Fisher House. A management company will handle day-to-day maintenance, while staff from the Homeless and Mental Health Residential Treatment Center will oversee administration.

Confronting Obstacles

Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana set the project's fundraising goal back

in 2019, but the COVID 19 pandemic halted most efforts to raise money in 2020. Meanwhile, lumber prices ballooned, spiking the cost of wood frame buildings like Judge Sara J. Harper Village. Appliances, too, became more expensive.

While grateful for support from foundations and corporations, Carlino said VOA hopes civic groups and local posts of veterans organizations will follow the Judge Sara J. Harper Village at www.voahioin.org and become involved.

"We're looking for community partners," Carlino said. "Our big goal is to fully fund this project. Fundraising is the number one way to help."

VOA celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. In addition to programs for veterans, affiliates around the country provide services for people of all backgrounds.



Interior views of apartments at Annabelle's Place in Cincinnati offer a sneak-peak of how units will appear in Judge Sara J. Harper Village.

Saluting a Woman Veteran

In choosing her name for the complex, Volunteers of America honored retired Judge Sara J. Harper, an Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame inductee. Harper, who celebrates her 95th birthday in August, graduated from Case Western Reserve University's Law School in 1952. In ensuing decades, she held significant positions—both by appointment and election—in city and state government. In addition, she was elected to the Cleveland Municipal Court and to the 8th District Ohio Court of Appeals. President Richard Nixon commissioned her to the United States Marine Corps in 1972, and she became the Marine Corps Reserve's first female military judge two years later. Married for 64 years to the late Judge George W. Trumbo, a Navy veteran of World War II,

Judge Harper retired from military service in 1986 with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Her involvement in numerous community service projects includes Sister to Sister, a support group for women.



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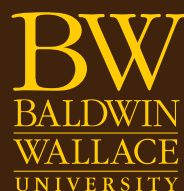


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You can help a veteran by donating to Community Service Alliance. Your gift is 100% tax deductible and directly benefits Veterans living at Fulton House and Bill's House.

No veteran should be homeless.

Community Service Alliance

3387 Fulton Road
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216.351.0655

For more information or to donate online, you can visit comservealliance.org



2nd Annual **Golf Outing & Clambake**

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021

Presenting Sponsor:



Golfers

12:30 Registration / Lunch / Putting Contest

1:30 4-Person Scramble
18 Holes & Cart / Skins

6:30 Clambake / Awards

Dinner-only Guests

6:00 Event Center Opens / Beverages

6:30 Clambake / Music / Raffles

Contact Chad Gibson with questions: text 216-469-9241 or chad@bunkerhillgc.com

Register online:

birdease.com/csa2021

or make checks payable to: *Bunker Hill Golf Course* and memo Community Service Alliance. Mail to 3060 Pearl Rd., Medina OH 44256.



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Pipeline and Natural Gas Safety

If You See Something, Say Something: Dominion Energy Ohio reminds customers and members of the public to call **(800) 684-8486** immediately if they observe any suspicious person or activity around company pipeline or facilities.

Call before You Dig: Thinking about digging in your yard? Ohio law requires individuals or contractors to contact the **FREE** service of the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) at 8-1-1, at least two business days before digging. OUPS will notify all member utilities with underground facilities in that particular area. The utilities will have their lines marked so that excavation work can be completed safely. Dig-ins from third parties—either individuals or contractors—is the leading cause of major damage to underground natural gas lines.

Your Senses Can Help Detect a Natural Gas Leak: Did you know that the company adds a chemical odorant commonly known as mercaptan, which smells like sulfur, that the company adds to the gas to help customers and the public detect potential leaks? In addition to the telltale odor, leaks can be detected by:

- A hissing sound;
- A steady stream of bubbles on the surface of puddles or ponds, or water or dirt being blown into the air;
- Dead grass or plants in an area where there is a gas line;
- A fire coming from the ground or burning above it.

If you do smell an odor of natural gas or suspect a gas leak, leave the area



immediately—and take others with you. From a safe distance, call Dominion Energy Ohio's 24-hour emergency service at (877) 542-2630. If fire is present, Dominion Energy Ohio advises customers not to attempt to put out fires or operate pipeline valves. Call your fire department.

According to Dominion Energy Ohio, when you smell a natural gas odor:

- **Leave the building immediately. DO NOT remain in the house or building when there is a strong odor.** Dominion Energy Ohio considers it an emergency if there is an odor of gas or if none of the natural gas appliances are working.
- DO NOT attempt to locate the natural gas leak.
- DO NOT turn any electrical switches, appliances or lights on or off, or unplug electrical appliances when there is a strong gas odor.
- DO NOT use telephones or cell phones in the area of a strong gas odor.

- DO NOT operate vehicles or power equipment where leaking gas may be present.
- DO NOT smoke or use lighters, matches or other open flames.

Appliance Safety: As with any mechanical equipment, natural gas appliances need regular inspection and maintenance by a qualified professional.

- To ensure maximum safety, efficiency and economy, Dominion Energy Ohio recommends an annual inspection by a qualified contractor. As a secondary line of defense, customers should consider installing a carbon monoxide detector.
- Dominion Energy Ohio recommends that customers avoid pinching or crimping flexible gas connectors because they may damage these connectors.
- Any uncoated brass connectors should be replaced immediately with either a new plastic-coated brass or stainless steel connector approved by the American Gas Association. Any connector can wear out from too much moving,

bending or corrosion.

Home Gas Line Safety:

Dominion Energy Ohio is responsible for the service line, which connects the natural gas mainline to the meter, and the meter itself. Customers must maintain natural gas house lines, which run from the outlet of the gas meter to the various appliances. Any costs for inspection, maintenance, repair or replacement of your house lines, including buried house lines, are the customer's responsibility.

Other Home Safety Tips:

Keep combustible materials away from furnaces, water heaters, ranges or other appliances.

- Clean dirt and dust from underneath and around appliances, for maximum safety and efficiency.

- Don't tamper with or obstruct the gas meter, whether it's located inside or outside the home.

Also, never use a gas meter as a hanger, a bike post or for any other purpose.

- Customers should be sure to have a working smoke detector on each floor of their home to alert families of danger. Check the detectors monthly and change the batteries yearly.

- House numbers should be posted clearly on the home or mailbox. Obscured or missing house numbers can cause a delay in locating a home during an emergency.

With proper use and maintenance, customers will continue to enjoy safe and efficient use of their natural gas appliances. For more pipeline and natural gas safety information, go to www.dominionenergy.com/safety/natural-gas-safety.

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We Love Our Veterans

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email: mary@mcgorray-hanna.com

Here are benefits you may not be aware of

Employment/Jobs

USERRA – Uniformed Services Employment & Re-employment Rights Act

This act is intended to ensure that persons who serve or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, National Guard or other “uniformed services” are: not disadvantaged in their civilian careers because of their service; promptly re-employed upon their return from duty, and are not discriminated against in employment based on past, present or future military service.

Contact:

www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra

Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR)

ESGR promotes a culture where all employers support and value the military service of their employees. ESGR recognizes outstanding support, increasing awareness of the USERRA law and resolving conflict through mediation.

Contact:

800-336-4590 / www.esgr.mil

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (aka VR&E, VET90 or Ch. 31 Program)

This program assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find and keep suitable jobs. For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, the program offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

Location in the United States Code:
Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations
Chapter 31

Contact:

216-522-3535

website: www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab

Feds Hire Vets

Feds Hire Vets is an initiative designed to help military Veterans transition to federal employment.

website: www.fedshirevets.gov

Apprenticeships/On the Job Training

Veterans may receive tax-free living expenses during an apprenticeship or On the Job Training if the company’s training program is certified for GI Bill® funding. Apprenticeship programs teach high-level skills for today’s workplace. Ohio has more than 600 registered apprenticeship programs in fields as diverse as construction, energy, healthcare, manufacturing and utilities. Search the list of state apprenticeships available at the link below and contact the company you are interested in to see if they are certified to receive GI Bill® funding. If they are not, contact the ODVS State Approving Agency.

Contact:

Ohio State Apprenticeship Council

website: omj.ohio.gov/program/index.stm

ODVS State Approving Agency

614-466-9287

website: www.dvs.ohio.gov/main/state-approving-agency.html

OhioMeansJobs Centers

Veterans and military spouses can access free, one-on-one personal coaching for their job search at any of the 88 county OhioMeans-Jobs Centers. Additional intensive services are provided to eligible Veterans by Veterans under the Jobs for Vets State Grant Program. Priority is given to serving those who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, including homeless Veterans and Veterans with barriers to employment.

Contact:

888-296-7541, option 5;

www.jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wioa/map.stm

Department of Labor, Veterans’ Employment & Training Service

866-487-2365;

website: www.veterans.gov

Job postings, job fair and training workshop listings, practice interviews and much more are available online at:

www.ohiomeansjobs.com

OhioMeansVeteranJobs

OhioMeansVeteranJobs.com gives Ohio Veterans, service members and their families one easy entry point to find information about jobs, building civilian resumes, professional licenses, benefits and how to obtain college credit awarded for military training, education and service. Veterans who register on the site will have their resumes seen first by employers who have jobs matching their skills.

Military Skills Translator

<http://mst.military.com/mst/ohiomeansjobs/mos-translator>

Continued on next page



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Continued from previous page

Military Occupation Search

<https://jobseeker.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/ExploreIt/OccupationSearch.aspx?veteran=1>

Licensing and Certification

<http://omj.ohio.gov/Veterans/index.stm>

Free College Credit for Military Experience

www.ohiohighered.org/veterans

Military Friendly Employers

<http://omj.ohio.gov/OMJResources/Military-Friendly-Employer-Registry.stm>

Veteran-Owned Businesses

<https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/grow-your-business/veteran-owned-businesses>

Financial Assistance

Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP)

The Department of Defense Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) assists eligible homeowners who face financial loss when selling their primary residence homes in areas where real estate values have declined because of a

base closure or realignment announcement. HAP is based upon the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, and was expanded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. HAP consists of BRAC impacted personnel or wounded, injured, or ill and surviving spouse applicants.

Contact:

For details on HAP eligibility requirements, how to apply, contacts and other information, visit:

www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Military-Missions/Real-Estate/HAP

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

HEAP is an Ohio Development Services Agency program that exists to help low-income Ohioans pay their utility bills.

Eligibility:

HEAP is a federally funded program designed to assist eligible low-income Ohioans with their winter heating bills. Households may be eligible for assistance from HEAP if the household's income is at or less than 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. If you are eligible, the amount of your benefit

will depend on federal funding levels, how many people live with you, your total household income and the primary fuel you use to heat your home. In most cases, benefits will be a credit applied to your energy bill by your utility company. Emergency HEAP also may be available.

Contact:

Ohio Development Services Agency
800-282-0880 or 614-644-6600
website: www.energyhelp.ohio.gov

Smart Money Choices

The Ohio Treasurer of State offers an educational series that consists of financial education programs and workshops. Topics include budgeting, credit and debt management, elder care, entrepreneurship, retirement and estate planning, homeownership, identity theft and fraud prevention, insurance, investments, kids and money and Social Security.

Contact:

Ohio Treasurer of State
800-228-1102
www.tos.ohio.gov/smartmoneychoices

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- Learn about other scholarships available
- Talk with a Veterans Certifying Official
- Meet with a Counselor
- Explore all that LCCC has to offer

Call the LCCC Veterans Service Center at 440-366-7378 or visit lorainccc.edu/veterans



Lorain County
Community College

The Real Property Partners



Mary Beth O'Neill

440-729-9956

marybethoniell@kw.com



Denis Nowacki

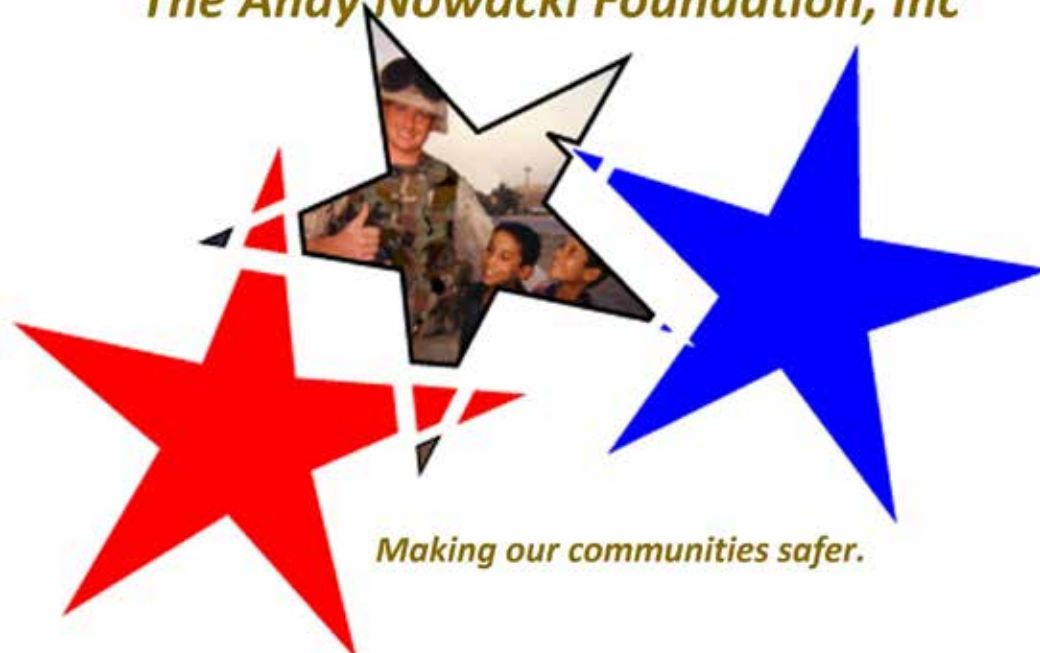
440-346-5740

denisnowacki@kw.com

A portion from each transaction is donated to the

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The turmoil involving police and citizens in cities across the U.S. need not happen here.

You Can Help...

Transform police culture to improve police community relations, and achieve a safer community for you and your family or business.

Although Cleveland shares many of the same underlying problems other communities are experiencing, **the Cleveland Police Foundation is at the forefront pursuing a different approach to resolving issues.**

Engage. Invest. Implement.



VISION '21 CAMPAIGN



Just over a decade old, the Foundation is an independent alliance of business and civic leaders, law enforcement organizations, and individuals and families like you and yours committed to the ideal that an educated, well-trained, and modernly equipped law enforcement agency leads to a safer community.

The Cleveland Police Foundation is making a difference. We have been quietly working proactively by **investing in and implementing innovative community policing initiatives** and engagement activities and events that foster stronger relations to build bridges between citizens and police officers.

Defunding police is NOT the answer. The Foundation's continuous investment in proven strategies and programs is working. The result is bringing citizens and law enforcement together to resolve issues and encouraging police openness to reform through cultural transformation.



We have launched the **Vision '21 Campaign** to enlist the involvement and financial support of citizens and businesses across the region to help fund investment in six critically important areas:

- 1. Implement "cultural transformation"** in each of the Cleveland Police Districts across the city. With your help we can build on the success of the pilot program implemented in District 4 that improved internal relationships and operations and helps police officers to be more empathetic and culturally responsive to the communities and neighborhoods they serve.
- 2. Introduce technology** to support human efforts, in order to fight crime in the city's neighborhoods to save lives and track down perpetrators. **Shot-spotter technology** has been installed in a high crime area to pinpoint the location of gun shots via sensitive audio equipment, enabling rapid response. Recently four lives have been saved.
- 3. Enhance demographic and gender diversity with CPD** through initiatives like the Foundation's acclaimed "Safety Career Pipeline Program" that engages high school students in underserved areas to equip them with the skills in preparation for successful careers in public safety. The program enables students to close the gap between graduation and the eligibility age to apply for opportunities and thus creates a "pipeline" of qualified candidates.
- 4. Expand opportunities for interaction between police officers and citizens** through enhanced "Community Policing" events including the annual "Fishing with Cops" event that draws hundreds of kids to experience the lake, often for the first time, and Christmas activities.
- 5. Increase the capacity of Cleveland Police Charities** including PAL, Cops for Kids, Mounted Unit, Pipes & Drums Corps, and the Police Historical Museum to better support Community Policing efforts.
- 6. Support** the welfare and mental health of Cleveland Police officers who face incredibly stressful circumstances in pursuit of their duties. The "Heroes Fund" assists families of officers killed in the line of duty, and officers with duty-related health issues.

Please use this form with your check made payable to the *Cleveland Police Foundation*. and mail your payment to Cleveland Police Foundation, 2301 Payne Ave., Suite 201, Cleveland, OH 44114. Thank you for your support!

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Name	Address	Today's Date		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	At which level are you joining us?		
Phone	Email (Please print clearly)	<input type="checkbox"/> Patrol Officer (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sergeant (\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lieutenant (\$150)
Pay by credit card:		<input type="checkbox"/> Captain (\$250)	<input type="checkbox"/> Commander (\$500)	
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Name on Card	Credit Card Account Number	Expiration (MM/YY)	Security Code (3 Digits)	Billing Zip Code

Do you want to opt out of membership perks and apply that savings toward the Vision '21 Campaign? Yes

Join online at **www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org/friends**. Questions? Call 216-623-3333.

Note: Membership expires 5/31/22. Some perks may be fulfilled later in the year as appropriate or due to supply availability. Larger quantities of items may be purchased at Foundation cost if supplies are available.

INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY / SMALL BUSINESS

Patrol Officer – \$50 (Individual)

Membership Card and Frameable Certificate
Lapel Pin, Window Decal, and T-Shirt
Link / Partner Newsletter
Safety Booklet
Annual Report / Website Listing

Sergeant – \$75 (Add Spouse)

One – Frameable Certificate
Two – Membership Cards, Lapel Pins, Decals, and T-Shirts
Link / Partner Newsletter
Safety Booklet / Listings

Lieutenant – \$150 (Family)

Four – Membership Cards, Lapel Pins, Decals, and T-Shirts
One – Frameable Certificate
Two – Safety Booklets
One – Calendar
Link – Partner Newsletter,
Annual Report / Web Listings

Captain – \$250 (Business Friend - Standard)

One – Frameable Certificate
Four – Membership Cards, Lapel Pins, Decals, and T-Shirts
Two – Safety Booklets
Calendar / Yard Sign / Membership Poster
Link – Partner Newsletter,
Annual Report / Web Listing (Business Logo)
Social Media Recognition

Commander – \$500 (Business Friend - Premium) One – Collectible Mini-Badge

Four – Membership Cards, Lapel Pins, Decals, Safety Booklets, and T-Shirts
Frameable Certificate
Two – Calendars and Yard Sign / Poster
Link – Partner Newsletter
Annual Report / Web Listing (Business Logo)
Social Media Recognition, and Inclusion in a News Release

Please Note

Some perks may be fulfilled later in the year due to supply availability.

Larger quantities of decals, Safety Booklets, calendars, lapel pins and t-shirts may be purchased if supplies are available at Foundation cost plus shipping.

Thank you!



For just pennies a day you and your family (or business) can benefit from Cleveland Police Foundation investments to improve police and community relations. Please consider making a difference by becoming a Friend of the Cleveland Police Foundation, and receive some "cool" perks in appreciation for your support. *Thank you!*

Join online at **www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org/friends** or use the tear-off form and mail in your contribution. Gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Check out our website for more information at www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org.



They gave us freedom.
**GIVE THEM
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Donate at neopat.org

The Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism | 888-636-7281 | www.neopat.org



Medina County Veterans Service Office

We provide two basic services:

1. Temporary emergency financial assistance to eligible veterans and family members.
2. Help with applying to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for benefits.

Our services are FREE of charge!

Examples of assistance we provide:

- Rent, mortgage payments, utilities
- Food and personal hygiene items
- Medical and dental expenses
- Transportation to and from VA Centers in Cleveland, Parma and Akron
- Free public transit on MCPT in Medina County
- County Veterans ID card
- Submission for awards records, decorations and medals

When you come into the Medina County Veterans Service Office you will be assisted by one of our knowledgeable associates. Everyone here has a compassionate understanding of the problems which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their families.



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





Because I said I would is focusing its charitable programs on supporting people directly and indirectly affected by COVID-19.

Unemployment Transition Program for COVID-19 Job Loss

Because I said I would is offering an eight week Unemployment Transition Program designed to improve mental health outcomes and update job skills. The program inspires participants, building the mental stamina and resiliency to find life-sustaining employment. To date we have offered over 300 scholarships to people unemployed due to COVID-19.



Masks for Healthcare Facilities

When frontline workers needed masks and PPE was scarce, because I said I would enlisted one of the largest organized volunteer efforts in the state of Ohio to sew over 20,000 masks.



Public Service Announcements

We are creating PSAs with educational content in an effort to stop behaviors that are spreading COVID-19 and endangering lives. Our recent videos have been seen by millions nationwide.

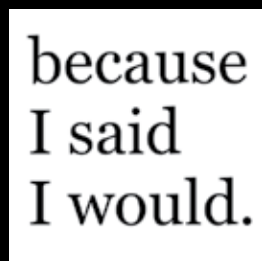
Bereavement Support

Losing a loved one due to COVID-19 is especially hard. With many families unable to hold proper funerals or memorial services, they are struggling even more in the bereavement process. Because I said I would is organizing volunteer service projects to help bereaved families find comfort and closure in this difficult time.

Endurance Meals for Frontline Healthcare Workers

Because I said I would is sending free lunches to frontline healthcare workers in regions hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic so they have one less thing to worry about.

For more information, visit becauseisaidiwould.org/covid19



Because I said I would is a social movement and nonprofit dedicated to the betterment of humanity through promises made and kept.

Find out more at becauseisaidiwould.org

Donations

Donations can be made online at becauseisaidiwould.org/dd214 or mail a check to:

because I said I would.
20525 Center Ridge Rd. Suite 365
Rocky River, OH 44116



Dominion Energy has been named
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**It helps when 1 in 5
new hires is a veteran.**

This year's "Management Top 250," published by *The Wall Street Journal*, ranks the best run U.S. companies based on customer satisfaction, employee engagement and development, innovation, social responsibility and financial strength. Dominion Energy was **ranked as the top electric and gas utility**. And military publication *G.I. Jobs* ranks Dominion Energy top in our industry and 5th among all U.S. companies. It marks the 10th consecutive year Dominion Energy has been recognized as a military-friendly company. So to each and every one of our 16,000+ dedicated employees, THANK YOU for your commitment to excellence, your dedication to community and most of all for the energy you bring to this company each and every day.

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