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STAND AT EASE

'Tis The Season

By Don Stark, Sales Manager

2020? Wow! You just can't plan on what we have been through! Let's just hope that we can work together to get back to a semblance of what we had. Those that we have lost this year due to the virus or complications of it would be blessed for us to conquer the pandemic. We owe them that!

I began helping out with sales for the *DD214 Chronicle* in mid-March, and I haven't looked back. Coming off a goodly amount of years in retirement, I certainly wasn't sure that a fifteen to twenty-hour work week would be enough to make a dent, or even scratch the surface. As weeks became months, the original thought of how can I do this became, how can I continue this, to grow at this pace, and maintain contact with our long-time support?

The veteran population is a proud and loyal entity! Referrals are the lifeblood of sales and we get many from our loyal family of friends. Our readers love to support our mission and those that have

helped us, you know who you are; and we want to wish you the best this season!



Our advertisers know they are reaching some of America's Best, and are pleased to stay on this avenue of support for service men and women. We know that our readers deserve topics that matter, and we strive to deliver. In our July/August edition we introduced our Female Veterans Report. As we grow, we intend to continue in our path, to add editorial that matters to the Newspaper For Veterans and All Who Love Them!

We at the *Chronicle*, want to say thanks to all our advertisers, our families and friends, and most importantly our readers that have given to our beloved country!

'Tis The Season, and we should take the time to consider where we have been, where we are going, and how we can make this season special for someone in need of a lift.

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

By the time you read this column the election will be over. Thank GOD! Have you ever noticed how politicians turn to organized religion when they want a vote? What hypocrisy.

Cheats, liars, thieves, adulterers... turning to the leaders of organized religion made up of cheats, liars, thieves, adulterers...

The only thing that counts when you're on the battlefield of life is your own spirituality. Your relationship with God is your own personal relationship. You don't need some idealized person dressed in a frock or wearing a collar to guide you. Hell, talk to your friend, your spouse, your partner or your shrink. Their advice is just as good or probably even better.

Spirituality has to do with having a sense of



peace and purpose in life. There are as many different ways of expressing spirituality as there are 'spiritual' people. Learn how to find out what's important to you and give your life deeper meaning.

Religion is a specific set of organized beliefs and practices, usually shared by a community or group. Spirituality is more of an individual practice and has to do with having a sense of peace and purpose. It also relates to the process of developing beliefs around the meaning of

life and connection with others.

It's kind of like the brothers and sisters you served with. They had your back and you had their backs. There was a spirituality that was there then and is still there now.



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and All Who Love Them.*

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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.

The Chronicle would not exist without its advertisers.

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Ohio Veterans' Memorial Park salutes those who served

By Brian Albrecht

The coronavirus pandemic probably rained on many plans for parades or public ceremonies marking this year's Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

But you can still march with honor, respect and remembrance for that day at the Ohio Veterans' Memorial Park in Clinton, located in Summit County just southwest of Akron.

The 13-year-old park (www.ovmp.org) is a salute in granite and steel to Ohio's veterans, and a 1.7-acre site that many first-time visitors find breathtaking, according to Gary Kindig, park president.

"They're blown away. They just can't believe that this park is in Clinton, Ohio. We don't even have a traffic light in this town," he said.

They come to pay their respects to Ohioans who paid the ultimate price for freedom. That includes Veterans Day, one of the park's most popular visitation days, which will feature a 6-7 p.m. candlelight vigil this year.

Perhaps the park's most impressive feature is the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall, with the names of 3,095 Ohioans lost in that conflict, etched on 50, black-granite panels under the inscription "Lest We Forget." The 125-foot-long wall is the longest free-standing monument in the U.S., according to park officials.

The back of the wall displays the names, to date, of Ohio's fallen in



the War on terrorism, and scenes/descriptions of conflicts the state has been involved in since 1803.

Other displays at the park that's open 24 hours a day, every day, include:

- A POW/MIA Reflecting Pond and Eternal Flame, the largest of its kind in Ohio with a 50-foot of black-granite wall and cascading stream.
- Statues of a Gold Star Mother and Gold Star Father (the nation's first), each embracing a folded American flag, representing parents who lost a child in the service.
- Static displays of a Cobra helicopter that flew during the Vietnam war, an M60 Patton tank, and a reconditioned ambulance that saw duty in the Korean War.
- Medal of Honor and Purple Heart Memorials. Some 309 Medals of Honor were awarded to military personnel with a connection to Ohio, including famed World War I aviator Eddie Rickenbacker.
- A Family of Heroes Hall, available for special events such as funerals, weddings, meetings and parties. Inside, 32,768 dog

tags hang from the ceiling in the shape of a Soldiers' Cross, representing Ohioans killed in action since World War I. Outside, personalized plaques of individual veterans are displayed.

Kindig said the park hopes to expand its displays to include a memorial inscribed with the names of nearly 2,000 Ohioans killed during the Korean War.

There are also plans for a "Tears of War" display, with water trickling over historic military gear, symbolizing soldiers' tears.

A half-dozen volunteers keep the park running, but more are needed. The camaraderie among volunteers is "just out of this world," according to Kindig, who'd like to have more volunteers on hand to share that bond with visitors.

The rewards of both volunteering and visiting are similar, Kindig said.

Kindig, an Army vet who served in Vietnam, explained that the park "gives me a sense of purpose."

He added, "A lot of it has to do with feelings. If you come here, you're coming here to honor something. Or maybe it's just curiosity."

"But once you walk down the walkway to longest free-standing wall in country, it overwhelms you."



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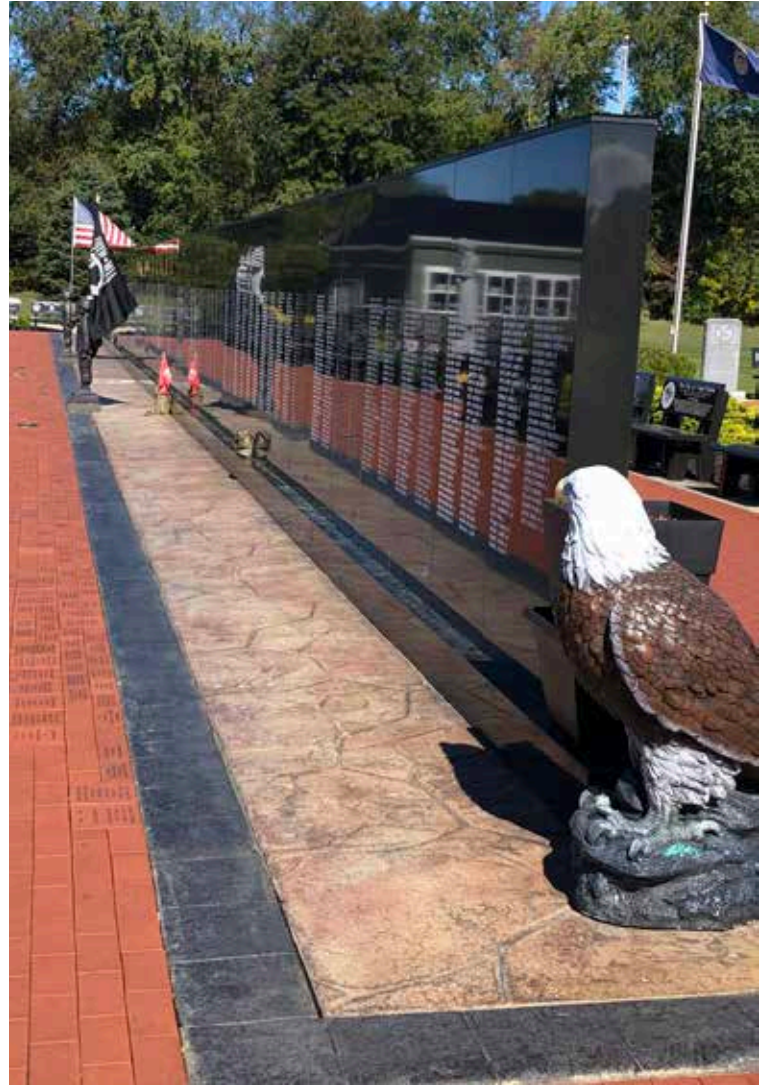
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Welcome back! We missed you!

Veterans and Their Benefits

What are My Veterans Benefits?

When you come into the Medina County Veterans Service Office one of our experienced associates will assist you. The people that work in the Medina County Veterans Service Office have a compassionate understanding of the issues, which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their families.

Veterans of the United States Uniformed Services may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by The Federal Government and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as well as various State and local governments. In most cases, eligibility for most benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. State and local benefits can sometimes be more complex and have other criteria associated with their eligibility. Such as residence requirements, service

connection for a disability, receipt of a certain medal or award and in some cases income. In all cases, each veteran must be assessed for eligibility independently from their peers. No two veterans are alike when it comes to Veterans Benefits. Although several benefits can be cast across a broad demographic of veterans there are those benefits that are specifically designed to help our most at-risk Veterans.

Federal Government (VA)

Benefits: Disability Compensation, Veterans Pension, Medical, Education and Training, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, Home Loan and Life Insurance.

State of Ohio Benefits: Ohio Veterans Homes (Ohio has two veterans' homes in Georgetown and Sandusky), Ohio Veterans Bonus Program, State Tax Exemptions, Homestead Exemption, Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF), Financial Assistance (from county

office), State Employment, Ohio Educator License Fee Elimination, Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, Ohio War Orphans Scholarship, The Ohio Promise and Recreation Benefits such as Disabled Veteran Recreational Benefits, Hunting & Fishing Licenses, Boating Licenses & Registration, Camping at Ohio State Parks, Active Duty Hunting and Fishing Licenses and Camping Discounts at Ohio State Parks.

Medina County Benefits:

Financial Assistance Program, Request for military records, Proper submission of claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through a VA Accredited Service Officer, Grave markers and flags, Notary Service, Transportation and Veterans Identification Cards.

At the Medina County Veterans Service Office, we are deeply concerned with the assistance, care

and support that our Veterans receive. We understand that alleviating the suffering that accompanies an accident, illness or death is important. In most cases we are able to offer veterans, their surviving spouse, and/or dependent children the assistance they need and deserve. It is our duty to ensure our Veterans have the very best service possible. This is at the heart of our mission here at the Medina County Veterans Service Office.

No two Veterans are alike and need to be looked at as individuals when applying for their earned benefits. If you are a Medina County resident and have, any questions about veteran's benefits, contact the Medina County Veterans Service Office at 330-722-9368 or email us at veterans@medinacountyveterans.org or catch us on the web at www.medinacountyveterans.org



We provide two basic services:

1. Temporary emergency financial aid and assistance to eligible veterans and family members who have demonstrated a need as set forth by the Commission.
2. Assist veterans, family members and survivors when applying to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for benefits.

Our assistance includes but is not limited to:

Financial Assistance:

- Rent and mortgage payments
- Utilities: Gas, Electric and Water
- Food and personal Hygiene items
- Certain Medical
- Dental Program for eligible Veterans
- Transportation to and from VA Medical Centers in Cleveland, Parma and Akron.
- Grave markers and flags
- Notary Public & DD 214 Certification for Veterans & Families
- Free public transit on the MCPT in Medina County
- County Veterans ID card

Service Assistance:

- Preparation of forms and paperwork
- Documentation of claims and pertinent data
- Proper submission of claims and prosecution of appeals to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Submission for awards records, decorations and medals

Our services are FREE of charge!



Our Pledge

When you come into the Medina County Veterans Service Office you will be assisted by one of our knowledgeable associates. The people that work in the Medina County Veterans Service Office have a compassionate understanding of the problems which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their families.

Sincerely,
Veterans Service Staff

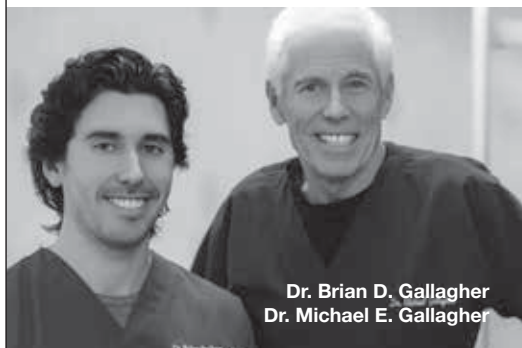


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Veteran to Veteran: Thank you for your service

VETS - YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The past thirty-five years, on the Saturday before Christmas, a totally unique holiday tradition takes place. And this coming December will be no different. Loving hands of help focused on needy kids, and life-challenged men, women and families will again demonstrate the true spirit of Christmas and the Holiday Season.

Ninety-plus friends of **Vietnam Veteran, Dick Clough**, board donated Lakewood Lines buses near his home in Lakewood loaded with 200+ custom packed containers with merchandise together with a bus full of coats and another with oversized toys. Escorted by Cleveland Police, there are nine stops located in different parts of Cleveland beginning at 4 PM and ending after Midnight, and in between delivering Christmas to 1,200 inner-city kids, adults including previously homeless veterans, and families. The annual project is aptly called - **Tour of Good Cheer**.

To meet the needs in 2020 the **Tour** is partnering with **PAL** (Cleveland Police Athletic League), and working with **DD214** to reach support from the Veteran Community.



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PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT THE TOUR.

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at Lorain County Community College

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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



"LCCC was my best choice because I knew there was a military and veterans presence here."

Anna Lupson, Navy veteran and LCCC psychology student who is using her veterans benefits to attend school. She plans to continue her education through LCCC's University Partnership program.

Call LCCC's Veterans Service Center at 440-366-7685

or visit www.lorainccc.edu/veterans

or email our office at veterans@lorainccc.edu.



*Lorain County
Community College*

American Veterans of Foreign Service

“We’ve agreed to form an organization one that’s going to be active”

On September 26, 2020 hundreds of VFW Post and Auxiliary members gathered at Green Lawn Cemetery located in Columbus, Ohio to honor 13 men who came up with the idea of starting an organization for those who served their country. James Ramanis 1878-1954 is one of the 13 and is laid to rest at Greenlawn. On September 29, 1899 when Francis Dubiel the proprietor of a tailor shop located at 286 Main St. Columbus closed the men gathered.

“Men, you all know why we are here. We’ve talked about this among ourselves for several weeks now. Thousands of our comrades are in desperate need. Somethings got to be done to help them. We’ve waited long enough for the government to act, but nothing has happened.

Ramanis worked at the pharmacy located just outside the gates of the Columbus Barracks he watched the exodus of discharged veterans, many of them sick and barley able to carry the few belongings they had. Many came to the pharmacy to buy quinine and other medicines in an effort to cure the diseases that attacked their bodies.

Romanis felt a deep compassion for these “forgotten men” they had fought gallantly only to come home and find their brave deeds forgotten and their families suffering from hunger and neglect. “Something has to be done to help these men”. All agreed it is up to us since no one else seems interested

it is also up to us to see this country is better prepared if we have to fight another war. “We all know what happened to our men because we didn’t have what we needed to protect us and we weren’t properly trained.

We need to form an organization that will fight for proper treatment of our veterans. We’ve go to think alike on the basis of our own experiences. If every man who joins our organization is entitled to wear a campaign badge he is sure to be familiar with the conditions we faced during war. “We can’t expect the comrade who served in camp here at home to understand what we went through, nor will we condemn him. When we speak up for nation defense or a fair deal for veterans the people will know that we speak from personal experience”.

The gentlemen pledged to work together for the benefit of our country and for all men who are required to serve in our armed forces at home and beyond. After many suggestions the name “American Veterans of Foreign Service was chosen and on October 11, 1899 the new veterans group was chartered.

August of 1913 the American Veterans of Foreign Service, The Colorado Society, Army of the Phillippines and the Foreign Service Veterans meet at an encampment in Denver and became what is now know as the Veterans of Foreign War.

Today we gathered to pay tribute to the men who saw a need and did something about it



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Let him depart; his passport shall be made,
And crowns for convoy put into his purse;
We would not die in that man's company
That fears his fellowship to die with us....
.....But we in it shall be rememberèd—
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition;
And gentlemen in England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.*

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Happy 245th Birthday



10 NOVEMBER 2020



Friendly Food Pantries Cater to Veterans

by Jerri Donohue

Lynn Algeri, director of Geauga County Veteran Food Pantry, motioned to steel shelves loaded with pasta, canned beans, boxed pancake mix and other staples. Each week, her nonprofit distributes these and other groceries to 100 veterans, their dependents or widows.

"It's hard enough to go to a food pantry," Algeri said.

"But I think for veterans it's even harder."

Her daughter Kaitlin was in Iraq with the Air Force 11 years ago when Algeri discovered the need for a veteran food bank. While volunteering at Geauga County Job and Family Services, the military Mom befriended the handful of veterans receiving assistance. She eventually helped found the veterans food program, now located in the basement of the former County Home, a stately brick building in Claridon township.

A veteran who is an attorney prepared paperwork pro bono to make the program a 501 (3)(c) nonprofit. Participants apply through the Geauga County Veterans Services

in Chardon, which confirms their veteran status and need.

"Most of my veterans are Vietnam era," Algeri said. Two Korean War vets also frequent the pantry, as do younger men and women. Some are regulars. Others come only when unemployed.

Ten longtime volunteers staff the food bank on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Most are veterans, including Algeri's husband, Tom.

Before the COVID 19 pandemic, pantry shoppers swapped stories over coffee and goodies baked by a vet's daughter. Algeri, a retired caterer, also prepared a hearty lunch once a month in the spacious kitchen.

"The social component is every bit as important as the food," Algeri said. "A lot of them are single guys. This is their social time."

Socializing ceased during the recent lockdown, but volunteers filled grocery lists and carried the food to recipients' cars.

These days, vets shop in person, following protocols such as wearing masks. (Algeri sews masks for them.) Every Friday, they choose

two meats or fish, two dairy products, produce, canned and boxed goods, toiletries and paper products, based on availability.

Algeri recited a list of regular donors, including women who bring duck eggs and organic vegetables. A bridge club member delivers canned goods from other players. VFW posts and rotary clubs support the program. This year, Geauga County Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand contributed a pig from the county fair and stuffed three vehicles in a "Fill the Cruiser for Veterans" drive.

Area food banks share, especially perishables. Nothing is wasted. Algeri called hunter friends after a car killed a buck in front of her home. They dressed the deer and she had the meat processed. When the pantry distributed 80 pounds of ground venison, vets responded with such enthusiasm that Algeri now longs for venison donations.

Meanwhile, she suspects a need for veteran food pantries elsewhere in Ohio.

"Everyone wants to help vets, but they don't know how," Algeri said. "If anyone wants to do this in

another county, come talk to me."

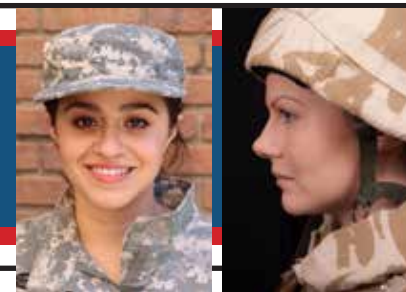
For more information, contact Lynn Algeri at gcvetpantry@yahoo.com or call 440-901-4030.

In Ashtabula, Tracy Bidwell, too, recognized the reluctance of vets to visit food banks. Not only has Bidwell worked with veterans, but her father served in the Air Force and she has a brother in the Army and another in the Coast Guard. She understands the military mindset.

"They are proud," Bidwell said. "They don't want to tell you they need food. And a lot of them don't have support systems like family."

Bidwell's original plan was to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables. Aware of her interest, Navy veteran George Boh gave her an issue of *DAV Magazine* featuring the Feed Our Vets organization. Bidwell promptly called founder Rich Synek and he suggested she observe his pantry in Utica, New York. Boh, Bidwell and her husband, Micah Bidwell, spent a day there in October 2018.

Although she works full time and



has two young sons, Bidwell set about creating a new food bank modeled on Feed Our Vets. She adopted its name but operates independently of it.

A veteran who is a realtor helped her obtain a store rent-free for one year. Home Depot and Lowe's donated materials for its renovation. American Legion Riders built a wheelchair ramp entrance. On an interior wall, tattoo artists painted a mural of a flag. The pantry inscribes the names of individual and group donors around it.

In October 2019, Feed Our Vets celebrated its grand opening. One year later it serves 165 families.

To qualify, a veteran must provide a DD 214, a Veterans Administration ID or a driver's license indicating he or she is a veteran. The food pantry assists former servicemen and women or

their widows, ranging from a few World War II vets to those who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Until the COVID 19 lockdown, food recipients shopped on the third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. until noon in two rooms stocked with canned or boxed goods and a third room offering fresh produce. Dairy products and frozen meats were distributed in the fourth.

Some vets opted to hang out in the cheery gathering area, enjoying complimentary coffee and popcorn.

"They are around other veterans, others they feel comfortable with," Bidwell said.

Because of the pandemic, Feed Our Vets is temporarily a drive-through operation. The day before, 20 to 25 volunteers pack boxes

tailored to the needs of specific recipients. Many of Bidwell's helpers are veterans or Blue Star Mothers.

Area residents donate most of the food. The pantry opens to receive donations twice a month and Main Street Pizza collects them year-round. Food drives by a church and a chemical plant recently boosted inventory. One woman routinely supplies toilet paper and laundry detergent.

Although the pandemic torpedoed its fundraising plans, Feed Our Vets still hopes to buy its present building with the help of locals.

"Our little community is so amazing," Bidwell said. "I didn't realize all the support I'd have. I still get overwhelmed."

For more information, contact Bidwell at tracy@feedourvets.org or call 440-813-5131.

PANTRY WISH LIST

Geauga County Veteran Food Pantry

13211 Aquilla Road
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Coast Guard Exchange offers bargains for veterans

By Brian Albrecht

Retired Coast Guard officer Rick DeChant knows a good bargain when he buys one.

That's why he's a regular at the Otto Graham Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) – named for a fellow Coast Guard vet and famed Cleveland Browns quarterback.

The exchange, one of three in Cleveland (shopcgx.com) and 63 nationwide, offers a variety of products for veterans of all service branches. Their inventory includes clothing, electronics, major appliances, uniforms, health and beauty aids, shoes, Goodyear tires, military gear, spirits, wine and much more.

DeChant, a consultant for the Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism and Cleveland Police Foundation, visits the exchange about two or three times monthly.

"It's the selection. It's a little mix of everything. They carry some house brands and some big-name brand stuff. It reminds me of going to Sears back in the '50s," DeChant said.

"I also enjoy the staff," he added.

"They're extremely knowledgeable and helpful. If they don't have something, they'll make an effort to get it, or direct you to another resource, especially if it offers a military discount."

The chief draw of the exchange is discount prices because no tax is charged, according to Dianna Veihdeffer, general manager. "Our TVs are priced crazy. With large-ticket items, with no tax, it adds up," she said.

Veihdeffer said 90 percent of their business is in spirits and wine, which do not have to follow state pricing guidelines.

The exchange averages about 220 customers daily, but during their annual "Black Friday" days (Nov. 20-30), with additional special sales on spirits, that number can soar to 600-700, Veihdeffer said.

The customer count has increased 39 percent this year, and profits are up. All profits benefit the military morale, welfare and recreation fund, which provides multiple aid programs for service members and veterans.

One factor in the increased number of customers has been expansion of eligibility for shopping benefits this year, Veihdeffer said.

That new eligibility covers all Purple Heart recipients, former POWs, veterans with service-connected disabilities (Veterans Affairs-certified ratings of 0-90 percent), and primary family caregivers of vets.

Qualifying vets in the first three categories will have that designation printed under their photo on their Veterans Affairs' Veteran Health Identification Card, presented to gain entry to the exchange. Primary family caregivers must present an eligibility letter from the VA's Office of Community Care.

Honorably discharged veterans are eligible to shop through the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit, offered by all military branches. (Veterans should check www.vet-verify.org.)

The Cleveland CGX locations have remained open throughout the pandemic but masks and social

distancing are required, and guests of qualified shoppers are no longer allowed at this time.

Veihdeffer said they are increasing their staff from 12 to 15 to handle increased customer traffic this year, and they are hiring more, particularly veterans.

DeChant also noted that CGX could be ideal "for young military persons just assigned here, and getting that apartment set up with everything from toasters to fryers to microwaves.

"If you're not taking advantage of CGX, you really should."

Cleveland CGX locations and hours are:

CGX Otto Graham, 1390 West Parkway Road, (216) 671-3500, Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

CGX Moorings, 1055 East 9th Street, (216) 687-1449, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

CGX Cleveland Federal Building, 1240 East 9th Street, (216) 241-4124, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



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1055 East 9th Street

CGX CLEVELAND FEDERAL BLDG
1240 East 9th Street

shopcgx.com



Community West Foundation Announces Neighborhood Alliance as Award Recipient



The Community West Foundation announced Neighborhood Alliance as the 2020 recipient of the *David and Martha Hessler Illuminating Hope Award*. Neighborhood Alliance provides basic needs services to individuals and families in the Lorain County area and has done so since 1927. The award itself is a replica of Community West's homeless Jesus statue that travels around the community reminding people of the tragedy of homelessness. In addition, the winner receives a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation. The award is named after long-time Community West supporters and philanthropists, David and Martha Hessler, and was created to recognize a local nonprofit with a deep history and commitment to our community that is truly Illuminating Hope.

Community West Foundation is dedicated to supporting organizations that provide the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care in the western Cuyahoga and Lorain County areas. Their mission is to advance the health and well being of our community. The staff and Board of Directors are guided by the words in Matthew 25:35-40: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

For more information, visit communitywestfoundation.org.

COVID-19 Emergency Fund

visit CommunityWestFoundation.org/Donate to give



The Military Draft During the Vietnam War

The military draft brought the war to the American home front. During the Vietnam War era, between 1964 and 1973, the U.S. military drafted 2.2 million American men out of an eligible pool of 27 million. Although only 25 percent of the military force in the combat zones were draftees, the system of conscription caused many young American men to volunteer for the armed forces in order to have more of a choice of which division in the military they would serve. While many soldiers did support the war, at least initially, to others the draft seemed like a death sentence: being sent to a war and fight for a cause that they did not believe in. Some sought refuge in college or parental deferments; others intentionally failed aptitude tests or otherwise evaded; thousands fled to Canada; the politically connected sought refuge in the National Guard; and a growing number engaged in direct resistance. Antiwar activists viewed the draft as immoral and the only means for the government to continue the war with fresh soldiers. Ironically, as the draft continued to fuel the war effort, it also intensified the antiwar cause. Although the Selective Service's deferment system meant that men of lower socioeconomic standing were most likely to be sent to the front lines, no one was completely



safe from the draft. Almost every American was either eligible to go to war or knew someone who was. The Vietnam War draft was controversial because people who did not support the war and had no say in formulating war policy were nevertheless being forced to fight. Draftees could be under 21 (18 at the youngest), and at that time, nobody under the age of 21 was allowed to vote. Thus, many 18-year-olds protested that they should not be forced to fight in a war if they had no say in electing the leaders...

History of the Draft

Conscription during the 1960s took place under the legal authority of

the peacetime draft, because the United States never formally declared war on North Vietnam. Legal authority for a peacetime draft came from the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, signed by President Franklin Roosevelt in order to mobilize American civilian-soldiers in anticipation of entry into World War II. During the Korean War, the Selective Service began the policy of granting deferments to college students with an academic ranking in the top half of their class. Between 1954-1964, from the end of the Korean War until the escalation in Vietnam, the "peacetime" draft inducted more than 1.4 million American men,

an average of more than 120,000 per year. As part of their Cold War mission, many state universities required ROTC training by male students, although campus protests caused administrators to begin repealing mandatory ROTC in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Tom Valentine quoted the following on the Vietnam War website, 2013: "In the beginning of the war, names of all American men in draft-age were collected by the Selective Service System. When someone's name was called, he had to report to his local draft board, which was made up of various community members, so that they could begin to evaluate his draft status. By this manner, local draft boards had an enormous power to decide who had to go and who would stay. Consequently, draft board members were often under pressure from their family, relatives and friends to exempt potential draftees. As American troop strength in Vietnam shot up, more young men of call-up age sought to avoid or delay their military service and there were some legal ways to do that. Men who had physical or mental problems, were married, with children, attending college or needed at home to support their families might be granted deferments. It is worth noticing that many men received deferments were from wealthy and educated families."

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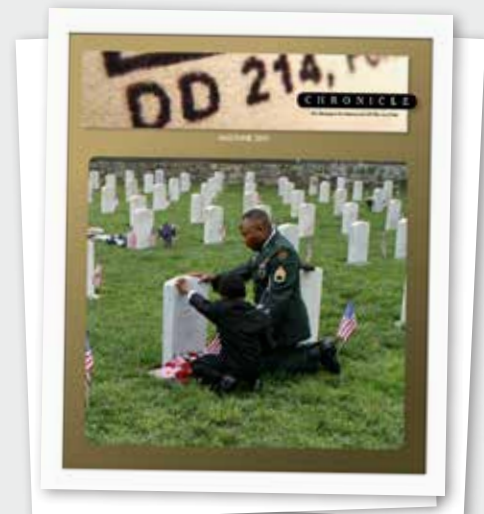
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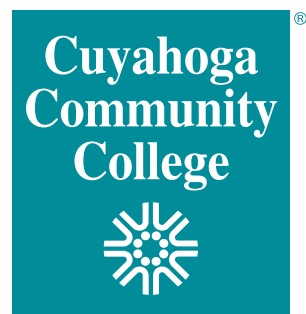
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CLEVELAND CAN LEAD POLICE-COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A Message for the Community from The Cleveland Police Foundation

Clevelanders should be aware and reassured that reform initiatives are well underway thanks to the efforts of The Cleveland Police Foundation (CPF) through its strong partnership with the Cleveland Division of Police and emerging relationships with business, community and philanthropic organizations.

Just over a decade old, the CPF is an independent alliance of business and civic leaders, law enforcement organizations and individuals committed to the ideal that an educated, well trained and modernly equipped law enforcement agency leads to a safer community. CPF works proactively to support and invest in programs, community policing initiatives and engagement, and events that foster stronger relationships between citizens and police officers as well as the Cleveland Police Charities.

With support from St. Luke's Foundation, the ***Cultural Transformation Project*** was launched in Cleveland's 4th Police District. A cultural diagnostic survey was developed to provide an honest assessment of the District's internal culture and as a catalyst and roadmap for innovation and institutional change. Program elements have improved internal relationships and operations. And the program is helping police officers to be more empathetic and culturally responsive to the communities and neighborhoods they serve. *Now the Foundation is seeking additional philanthropic support to implement this successful program in all of Cleveland's Police Districts.*

The Public Safety Career Pipeline Program engages high school students in underserved areas in leadership development activities and empowers them to build their social capital and equip them with the skills in preparation for a successful career in public safety. The goal is to close the gap between high school graduation and the eligibility age to apply for law enforcement and other public safety employment opportunities. We are literally creating a "pipeline" of qualified candidates.

CPF will soon introduce **Neighborhood Engagement Tools** for community organizations to help them gain access to resources and information about CPF Programs so they can effectively collaborate with us.

These programs and other initiatives developed by the CPF, Cleveland Division of Police and partner organizations are positioning Cleveland as a national leader in fostering change and improved community relations with law enforcement. It is a challenge the CPF has embraced and is passionately committed to.

For more information about The Cleveland Police Foundation and how you can support our work, please visit www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org and/or send inquiries to info@clevelandpolicefoundation.org.



The basic mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas.

The Lake and Geauga County Toys for Tots Campaign operates within the two counties ensuring all monetary donations along with physical toy donations remain in our counties to provide Christmas to families who need a little help. Last year we were able to get over 270,000 toys to over 30,000 children. We couldn't have done this without the help from our local businesses like The Marine Veteran Color Guard, The City of Willoughby, Parker Hannifin, May Fran, C-4 Shooting and Training Center, Honda of Mentor, The Great Lakes Mall, Mentor Public Library, Spuddy's Tavern, Best Funeral Home, Willoughby Police, The Wild Goose, The Marine Corps League Detachment #555 and all of those throughout our community who donated to the cause. We can only accomplish our goal to get the gift of a new toy, help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children with your help. Thank you!

This year we are facing many obstacles from the effects of COVID-19 and are hoping

that our monetary donations will be greater than new unwrapped toy donations. With the monetary donations, we'll be able to "stretch" the dollar by purchasing toys in bulk straight from the toy facilities. Our volunteers donate many hundreds of hours throughout the year and many more hours during the collecting, sorting, and distributing toys. We attend many functions that help get the numbers needed with toy donations and monetary donations so we can purchase toys at a discounted rate. This will help us cut down on manpower to disinfect the toys from possible allergens. When we receive the donated toys, we'll need to spend extra time to ensure they are disinfected to distribute safely.

We are accepting online applications from October 17, 2020 – November 7, 2020. The application can be found on our local webpage: <http://mentor-oh.toysfortots.org>. Local collection sites can be found from this webpage as well. If you have questions please contact the local campaign through text message at 440-497-6833 or through email laketoyfortots@yahoo.com

Merry Christmas from all of the volunteers at Lake and Geauga County Toys for Tots.



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For more information go to www.toysfortots.org

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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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