



October 2009

THE FAIRFIELD VETERAN'S MESSENGER

FAIRFIELD COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE
 COMMISSION
 227 E. MAIN STREET
 LANCASTER, OHIO 43130
 (740) 689-6202

Volume 6, Issue 3

America is #1 Thanks to our Veterans

2009 VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION

President, Donald Phillips At Large	
Vice President, Ken Gregg Disabled American Veterans	
Secretary, Chuck Keller Veterans' of Foreign Wars	
Commissioner, Jim Hanley AMVETS	
Commissioner, Dean Scholl American Legion	

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fisher House Donations	1
Payments to Veterans Awaiting VA Education Benefits	2
Veterans' Day Parade	
V.A. Presumptive Vietnam Vet Diseases-	3
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade	4
Telephone Prescription Scam Lancaster Public Transit Applebees Free Dinner	5

www.fairfieldcountyvets.org

Fisher House Donations

I would like to thank the Fairfield County Service Organizations that participated for your very generous donations to the Fisher House that is being built at Wright Patterson AFB.

I was very proud to present the donation checks to Chris Stanley, Fisher House and Carol Holden, whose son was seriously injured in Iraq and spent an extended period of rehabilitation at Walter Reed Hospital. It was her experiences, trying to be near her son during the time he was convalescing, which spearheaded the goal of building a new Fisher House at Wright Patterson AFB.

Fairfield County donations totaled \$4,586.00 plus a raffle item, a Stadium picture from the 2005 OSU Championship game, which brought in \$101.00. That brought the grand total to \$4,687.00.

The parade of checks at the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers, OSACVSO Fall Conference and \$4,253.50 from the auctioned items came to a Grand Total of \$48,643.00. Chris Stanley from the Fisher House said that since the OSACVSO began this project, they have helped collect \$136,409.00 and holds the honor of being the largest contributor to the Fisher House at Wright Patterson and for that we should all be very proud. Our military families will have a free place to stay while their loved one is in the hospital and that is because of great people like you. Donations included:

Retired Armed Forces Association	\$1,187.00
The American Legion Post #11	\$1,000 + \$101 (Stadium Picture)
The American Legion Post #11 Auxiliary Unit #11	\$500.00
AMVETS Post #1985	\$1,000.00
AMVETS Post #1985 Auxiliary	\$500.00
Sons of the AMVETS Post #1985	\$200.00
Disabled American Veterans Chapter #40	\$100.00
The American Legion Post #20	\$100.00

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS,
 ED MOHLER/CVSO

Payments to Veterans Awaiting VA Education Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs is issuing advance educational benefit payments to Veteran-students in the form of US Bank business checks. These emergency checks are issued in amounts not to exceed \$3,000 for Veteran-students who have applied for educational benefits and who have not yet received their VA payment. VA's 57 regional offices began issuing these checks to eligible Veteran-students across the country on Friday, October 2, 2009.

VA is soliciting the support of local and national banks to honor and cash these emergency checks written to our Nation's Veteran-students.

In many cases these checks are handwritten and could pose concerns of fraud from banks. Therefore, VA has established the following special customer service call-in number for banks to verify the validity of any US Bank check brought to them by a Veteran.

1-800-827-2166

Banks calling this number will be connected directly to a VA employee who can access all necessary information to verify who the



Veterans' Day Parade

The Veterans' Day Parade will be held on November 11, 2009. Line up is at the Fairgrounds at 10:00a.m. Parade begins at 10:30a.m. A ceremony will be held at the Veterans' park in downtown Lancaster at 11:00 a.m. Any questions please contact Mary Austin at (740) 689-6202.



Former POW License Plate Now Available

The new Former POW License plate is now available. Changes to the license plate include the following:

- The license plate shows the actual ribbon.
- Spells out "Prisoner of War".
- Says "Veteran" at the bottom
- Says "No exp" in the bottom, right hand corner so there will be less confusion from law enforcement.

Former POWs are encouraged to contact their local BMV to confirm local available before stopping in to the BMV.

A special thanks to the Department of Public Safety for their efforts to change the plate in response to our POW community.

VA Presumptive Vietnam Vet Diseases

Relying on an independent study by the Institute of medicine (IOM), Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki decided to establish a service-connection for Vietnam Veterans with three specific illnesses based on the latest evidence of an association with the herbicides referred to Agent Orange. The illnesses affected by the recent decision are **B cell leukemia, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease**. Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present. Between June 65 and Apr 70, an estimated 2.6 million military personnel who served in Vietnam were potentially exposed to sprayed Agent Orange. In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

The Secretary's decision brings to 15 the number of presumed illnesses recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). "We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will", Shineseki added. "Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence." Following is the new list of 15 illnesses now recognized under VA's presumptive rule.

1. Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy (Note; must become manifest to a degree of 10% or more within a year after the last date on which the veteran was exposed to a herbicide agent during active military service and the condition is transient (temporary) and resolves within two weeks. Chronic peripheral neuropathy is not presumed by VA to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange.)
2. AL Amyloidosis (ALS)
3. Chloracne or other acneform disease similar to chloracne (Note: Must become manifest to a degree of 10% or more within a year after the last date on which the veteran was exposed to a herbicide agent during active military service)
4. Chronic Lymphocyte Leukemia
5. Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)
6. Hairy Cell Leukemia
7. Hodgkin's Disease
8. Ischemic Heart Disease
9. Porphyries Cutanea Tarda (Note; Must become manifest to a degree of 10% or more within a year after the last date on which the veteran was exposed to a herbicide agent during active military service.)
10. Prostate Cancer
11. Respiratory Cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea)
12. Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

[Source: VA News Release 13 Oct 09++]



For further information, please contact:

Fairfield County Veteran's Services

227 E. Main Street

Lancaster, Ohio 43130

(740)689-6202



**WELCOME HOME
VIETNAM
VETERANS PARADE**



NOVEMBER 7, 2009

2:00 P.M.

**DOWNTOWN SHELBY,
OHIO**

CONTACT JARED SMITH

(740)398-4584

**LOOKING FOR VIETNAM VETS TO BE
IN THE PARADE**

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP

**Veterans please show up at 1 p.m. at Grand BLVD in Shelby and please ask other
Veterans to show up too.**

VA Warns Veterans of Telephone Prescription Scam

Washington (Sept. 17, 2009)-The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning Veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information.

"America's Veterans have become targets in an inexcusable scam that dishonors their service and misrepresents the Department built for them," said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "VA simply does not call Veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone."

Veteran Service Organizations have brought the VA's attention that callers are misrepresenting the VA to gain personal information over the phone. They say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the Veteran's credit card number.

"VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines," Cross said. "Nor has VA changed its long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of this nation's Veterans."

Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA medical center or call, toll-free 1-877-222-8387.



Lancaster Public Transit

To honor our local active and retired service members, the Lancaster Public transit would like to thank you for your service by offering you free rides on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2009. Free rides are for active or retired service members only and do request that you be able to provide validation. To schedule a ride call (740)681-5086. Hours of Operation 6 a.m. -9 p.m.



APPLEBEE'S MEALS ON VETERANS' DAY

In recognition of your service to our country, all veterans and active duty military personnel are invited to eat free at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar Restaurants this Veterans' Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2009.

Proof of service includes: U.S. Uniform Services I.D. Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired I.D. Card, Current Leave & Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, photograph in uniform or wearing uniform.

REMEMBER: For all your veterans needs come to your Veterans Service Commission Office.

We are Located at:

Fairfield County Veterans Service Commission

227 E Main Street ; Lancaster, OH 43130

Phone: (740) 689-6202

**AMERICA is #1
Thanks to it's
VETERANS**

