



Butler County
Veterans Service
Commission

**PRESENTATION FOR:
FORUM ON AGING
MARCH 4, 2025**

Veterans Helping Veterans




1

ROLE OF COMMISSION

- 1. WE ARE NOT THE (VA)**
We are advocates working on behalf of Veterans, Surviving Spouses, Dependent Children and Veterans Parents.
- 2. STRUCTURE**
The commission has an FTE of 15.5 which includes 5 Commissioners, Executive Director, Assistant Director, Executive Assistant, 5 County Veteran Service Officers, 2 Veteran Benefit Coordinators, 2 Receptionists and 1 Administrative Assistant.
- 3. ROLE**
To ensure that the veterans living in Butler County receive every possible benefit entitled to them on a federal, state and county level. We strive to maintain a strong relationship between the veterans, spouses or widows/widowers of veterans, dependents of veterans and the agencies in place to serve them. We offer this through the four pillars of service: Financial Assistance, Transportation, Service Work and Suicide Prevention

2

MEET OUR LEADERSHIP



Mike Farmer
Executive Director/CVSO



Matt Jones
Asst. Director/CVSO



Lisa Meece
Executive Assistant



Bruce Jones
President, AMVETS



Ken Calihan
Vice President, AMLEG



Mark Applegate
Secretary, VFW



Chuck Rosenbalm
Member, DAV



Greg Robinette
Member, At-large

3

MEET OUR TEAM

Tian Myers
Service Officer II

Apt Boykin
Service Officer II

Steve Harbin
Service Officer II

Daniel Anderson
Service Officer II

Logan Reardon
Service Officer I

Nika Cooper
Veteran Benefit Coordinator

Dan Schofield
Veteran Benefit Coordinator

Anita Lewis
Receptionist/
Scheduler

Anna Connaughton
Receptionist/
Scheduler

4

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- **Who is eligible**
Veteran or spouse, surviving spouse, dependent parent, minor child or active duty member of the Armed Forces
- **Residency matters**
The applicant must be a resident of Butler County, Ohio
- **Discharge**
This program requires the veteran served at least 1 day of active duty outside of training and have an **UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS** or higher character of discharge

5

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- ✓ TYPICALLY 4-7 DAYS TO ADJUDICATION
- ✓ UP TO \$2,500 PER APPLICATION
- ✓ 3 APPLICATIONS WITHIN 12 MONTH CYCLE*
- ✓ ORC ALLOWS 30 DAYS PROCESSING

6




PROVIDE 30 DAYS OF BASIC NEEDS

- ✓ MORTGAGE/RENT
- ✓ AUTOMOBILE LOAN
- ✓ AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE
- ✓ UTILITIES
- ✓ FOOD
- ✓ CLOTHING
- ✓ TELEPHONE/INTERNET
- ✓ AUTOMOBILE REPAIR

7



TRANSPORTATION

- **Who is eligible**
Any Veteran of the Armed Forces
- **County Resident**
The applicant must be a resident of Butler County, Ohio
- **What is the service?**
Cost free transportation to VA scheduled medical appointments AND VA funded appointments at private providers



8



TRANSPORTATION

- ✓ Adult companion may accompany the rider 
- ✓ Non-scheduled appointments and urgent needs riders should call their doctor or dial 911 

9


VA HEALTHCARE

- **Enrollment eligibility is based**
 - Dates of service
 - Location of service
 - Exposures during service
 - Service Connected Disability
 - Financial Income
 - \$62,315 annual income or less
- **Flat rate billing**
 - \$15 PCP
 - \$50 Specialty Care
 - \$50 Specialty Tests
 - \$30 Urgent Care
 - \$5-\$11 per 30 day supply prescriptions
 - Inpatient < 90 days \$1632 + \$10/day (365 day period)
 - Inpatient >90 days \$816 + \$10/day (365 day period)

10

SERVICE WORK



- **Service Connected Compensation**
 Compensation may be granted for current conditions that you suffer from that originated or were aggravated by your time on active duty in the United States Military.
The condition does not have to be combat related!
- **What do we need to prove to the VA**
 1. Must have a current diagnosed condition
 2. An event occurred while on active duty
 3. A link or nexus between item #1 and #2

Ultimately, this is the Veteran's claim.
 It is essential that you provide the VA with what they need for you to receive a positive result.

11






TYPES OF SERVICE CONNECTION

- ✓ DIRECT
- ✓ AGGRAVATION
- ✓ SECONDARY
- ✓ PRESUMPTIVE
- ✓ 38 U.S.C 1151 CLAIM

12

PRESUMPTION: BLUE WATER NAVY

What:
 On January 1, 2020, the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019 went into effect
 Extends presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange to BWN Veterans who developed one of 14 conditions which is presumed related to their exposure.





Importance:

- ✔ 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans
- ✔ Unfortunately, many have passed way but we can review things with the surviving spouse
- ✔ Call us, even if previously denied

13

NON-SERVICE CONNECTED PENSION

- **Enrollment eligibility is based**
 - Discharged under other than Dishonorable conditions
 - At least 90 days of active duty prior to 09/07/1980 OR
 - at least 24 months OR
 - the full period to which called for active duty
 - One day of active duty service during a wartime era
 - Must be disabled or over age of 65
- **Net Worth Limit**
 - \$159,240 is the net worth limit in 2025
 - Assets are investments, furniture, boats
 - Doesn't count primary residence, your car, appliances
 - 3 year look back period for asset transfers

14

NON-SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY PENSION







- ✔ **PENSION**
 - Indigent level
 - limited income and ability to earn income
- ✔ **HOUSEBOUND**
 - Substantially confined to their premises due to permanent disability
- ✔ **AID AND ATTENDANCE**
 - Resident of a nursing home or requires daily attendance of another person

Maximum Assistance Amount: \$2,358 per month*
 *Single veteran with no dependent


15

SURVIVORS PENSION

- **Enrollment eligibility is based**
 - Discharged under other than Dishonorable conditions
 - At least 90 days of active duty prior to 09/07/1980 OR
 - at least 24 months OR
 - the full period to which called for active duty
 - One day of active duty service during a wartime era
 - Surviving spouse, dependent children under age 18 or 23 if enrolled in FT college, dependent children who were totally disabled prior to 18 years of age
 - Surviving spouse must have been married to a Veteran at the time of their passing and not have remarried since
- **Net Worth Limit**
 - \$159,240 is the net worth limit in 2025
 - Assets are investments, furniture, boats
 - Doesn't count primary residence, your car, appliances
 - 3 year look back period for asset transfers

16



SURVIVORS PENSION


- ✓ **PENSION**
 - Indigent level
 - Limited income and ability to earn income
- ✓ **HOUSEBOUND**
 - Substantially confined to their premises due to permanent disability
- ✓ **AID AND ATTENDANCE**
 - Resident of a nursing home or requires daily attendance of another person

Maximum Assistance Amount: \$1,515 per month*
 *Surviving spouse with no dependents

17

DEPENDENCY & INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

Monetary benefit granted if the Veteran passes away from a service connected condition or was continuously rated at 100% service connected for a period of 10 years prior to passing.



- **Eligibility**
 - Unremarried Surviving Spouse (they may remarry after the age of 57)
 - Unmarried children under the age of 18
 - Children between the ages of 18 and 23 if they are attending a VA approved school
 - Low income parents of a Veteran

18



BURIAL BENEFITS

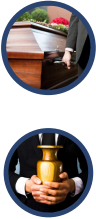
- ✓ HEADSTONE/GRAVE MARKER
- ✓ BURIAL FLAG
- ✓ BURIAL REIMBURSEMENT

Not all Veterans will qualify for the same benefits

19

INDIGENT BURIAL ASSISTANCE

- Assistance to eligible claimants for the dignified interment of the deceased Veterans/family who do not the financial means to provide these services
- Up to \$1,000.00 may be granted to the funeral home
- Available for:
 - Veterans
 - Veterans Spouses / Surviving Spouse
 - Veterans Parent
 - Veterans Children are **NOT** eligible



20



MEDALS AND RECORDS

- ✓ MEDALS / RIBBONS
- ✓ RECORDS / PERSONNEL FILE / SERVICE TREATMENT RECORDS
- ✓ DISCHARGE UPGRADE / CORRECTION OF RECORDS

21



VETERAN HOMELESS HOUSING PROGRAM


- ✓ IN CONJUNCTION WITH VA HUD-VASH, SSVF AND GPD PROGRAMS
- ✓ HONORABLE CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE, NO MINIMUM TIME REQUIRED
- ✓ IMMEDIATE SHELTER IN BUTLER COUNTY FOR UP TO 90 DAYS IN AN SINGLE OCCUPANCY EFFICIENCY UNIT

22

VETERANS ID CARD PROGRAM

Requirements:

- ✓ Original or certified copy of DD 214
- ✓ Two forms of current ID
One must have a photo
- ✓ ID is valid for 10 years after issuance



23

DENTAL PROGRAM

We offer:


- ✓ Basic Annual Examination
- ✓ Basic Dental Cleaning
- ✓ Panoramic X-Ray (if recommended)
- ✓ Bite Wing X-Ray (if recommended)
- ✓ Fluoride Treatment (if recommended)



24

VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Mission
 The Butler County Veterans Suicide Prevention Committee includes a diverse and broad range of stakeholders who come together with the common interest in preventing Veteran Suicide, connecting those touched by Veteran Suicide to helpful resources and providing education about suicide to the public and professional community within Butler County.



Goals:

- ✓ Create a network of like-minded individuals, who can collaborate together on projects, trainings, and programs, to provide the best possible outcomes to preventing Veteran suicide.
- ✓ Serve as a central, coordinating resource for suicide prevention.
- ✓ Coordinate activities surrounding the promotion of suicide prevention, including campaigns and events during September of each year, which coincides with Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

25



**Butler County
Crisis Hotline**
 Call or text:
1-844-427-4747
 24 hours/day

Butler County
Veterans Service Commission

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF SUICIDE RISK

The presence of these signs requires immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, killing or suicide
- Self-harm or other behavior such as drug abuse, seizures, etc.

Call us if you experience any of these warning signs:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there's no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Dropping daily activities without warning
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends





VETERANS, SUICIDAL?



1-844-427-4747

26



Butler County
Veterans Service
Commission

THANK YOU

OUR CONTACT



513-887-3600



BCVetsOH.gov



vsc@bcOhio.gov



315 High St, 1st Fl, Hamilton, OH 45011

27
