



Montgomery County

Veterans Service Commission

Newsletter

January 2021

Director's Message



Through WREATHS across AMERICA, we had the distinct honor and privileging of remembering the Fallen...Honoring those who served...and Teaching our children the value of Freedom. There were 5,860 wreaths laid in remembrance on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. Please consider helping us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering Wreath Day or inviting your family and friends to attend with you. Next Wreath Day is scheduled for December 18, 2021.

Kimberly Frisco,
Executive Director

Benefit News

Expanded Benefits for Veterans exposed to Agent Orange

Veterans who have Parkinsonism, bladder cancer, and/or hypothyroidism as a result of Agent Orange exposure may now apply for disability compensation provided by the VA under the recently approved National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

Veterans with Parkinsonism, bladder cancer or hypothyroidism who have previously applied for VA disability compensation, but were denied, should reapply and might be eligible for retroactive compensation. Exposed Veterans who have not yet applied should consider filing a new claim.

Last year, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act was signed into law. The legislation makes Vietnam Veterans stationed off the coast eligible for the same benefits as ground forces exposed to Agent Orange.

For assistance in applying for benefits, call 937-225-4801.

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Nomination

President Biden nominates former Obama White House Chief of Staff, **Denis McDonough** as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. McDonough is scheduled to testify before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee this month. If confirmed, Denis McDonough would be only the second non-veteran to lead the department.

Updates Cost of Living Increases to VA Benefits

2021 VA Disability, and Dependency Indemnity Compensation rates, saw 1.3% cost-of-living increase based on the COLA calculations. Veterans Pension rates saw a 1.6% cost-of-living increase. Annually the VA makes cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to VA disability benefits to ensure that the purchasing power of VA benefits is not eroded by inflation. Under federal law, the cost-of-living adjustments to VA's compensation and pension rates are the same percentage for Social Security Benefits.

Please ensure your dependent information is up-to-date by filing VA Form 21-686C and ensure you have all supporting documentation so you don't miss out on any benefits you are entitled to receive.

National Personnel Record Center (NPRC) Backlog

NPRC is the agency responsible for providing our Veterans with important personnel, health and medical service records required to qualify for a wide range of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) related benefits.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 23, 2020, NPRC reduced its staffing and ceased processing requests, which caused a significant backlog of records requests.

Our Veterans have been unable to get their service records which is causing considerable delay in Veteran compensation claims.

Congressional petitions request that the NPRC establish a working plan, including a detailed timeline, in order to state how the agency intends to address the growing backlog of military personnel records requests.

Congressman Warren Davidson stated: "COVID may require people to work differently, but it cannot become an excuse for inadequate performance."

This Month in History

January 1, 1776

During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

January 1, 1863

The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union..

January 15, 1929

Martin Luther King (1929-1968) was born in Atlanta, Georgia. As an African American civil rights leader he spoke eloquently and stressed nonviolent methods to achieve equality. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. In 1983, the third Monday in January was designated a legal holiday in the U.S. to celebrate his birthday.

January 17, 1991

Beginning of Desert Storm, the military operation reverse Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. 35 Nations unleashed a six-week air campaign followed by four days of ground combat, which drove the last Iraqi invaders from Kuwait on February 28, 1991.

About Us

Montgomery County Veterans Services Commission

627 Edwin C. Moses Blvd.
4th Floor, East Medical Plaza
Dayton, OH 45417

Phone: (937) 225-4801

Office Hours: Monday - Friday,
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Appointment Hours: Monday -
Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

MCVSC NEW WEBSITE

Visit us at [MCVSC.org](http://www.mcvsc.org)

COVID-19 FINANCIAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Call for more information at
937-225-4801

Winter Coat Giveaway

Coats are still available in limited quantities and sizes (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL)

Coat Distribution

627 Edwin C. Moses Blvd
4th Floor, East Medical Plaza
937-225-4801

Eligibility Requirements:

- Eligible Veteran (honorable DD-2214)
- Montgomery County Resident
- At or below 250% Federal Poverty Level

Commission Meetings:

February 12, 2021 at 10:00am

March 11, 2021 at 10:00am

April 14, 2021 at 10:00am

Our Commissioners

Jerry Hays, President,
Disabled American Veterans

Federico Rojas, Jr.,
Vice President,
Veterans of Foreign Wars

William Fried, Secretary,
Vietnam Veterans of America

James Dare,
American Legion

Mark Wilson, American
Veterans (AMVETS)