



HUBER HEIGHTS MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMISSION

City Hall-Council Chambers; 6131 Taylorsville Road, Huber Heights OH 45424

Quarterly Publication of the HHMAVC

Volume 1 / Issue 3

30 September 2021

DOWN-RANGE is the Commission’s quarterly newsletter. It is intended to provide useful information that will inform, inspire, and motivate active-duty and retired military members, veterans, families of both, and interested local citizens.

☆☆☆ It may be viewed at: <https://www.hhoh.org/517/Events-Resources>. Tell your neighbors.

☆☆☆ **EDITORS NOTE:** Be sure to attend the Huber Heights Veterans Memorial dedication on 6 November and the Huber Heights Veterans Day ceremonies on 11 November. Details below under **Upcoming Veteran Events**.



Chair’s Remarks: (ALBERT GRIGGS, JR.)



It is surprising to me to realize how much time has passed since the adoption of the Huber City Ordinance Number 2018-O-2355, dated 28 November 2018, which established the City Of Huber Heights Military and Veterans Commission. This ordinance grew from a recognition of the large active duty and retired military population of the city, it grew from a sincere desire of city’s leadership to provide better recognition and support of that population, with the goal being legitimately entitled to the designation of being a “military friendly” city. Certainly, the commission has experienced some growing pains, and some hard work establishing beneficial strategies to accomplish the goals of the city. Many fine ideas were offered by citizen visitors, some readily accepted, some admired but not feasible most often due to resource constraints. Even so, the Commission continues to work toward any beneficial solutions it can construct. I am happy to say that the Huber Heights Veterans Memorial, long discussed, has now become a reality, and will be dedicated on the Saturday 6 November of this year (see next). The Commission is very proud in having participated in the actualizing the Memorial and looks forward to more accomplishments in the future..



Honoring Military Veterans



Commission News:



HUBER HEIGHTS VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY The Huber Heights City Council, in coordination with the Huber Heights Military and Veterans Commission, is proud to announce the dedication ceremony for the Huber Heights Veterans Memorial. The ceremony will be held November 6, 2021, 11:00am, at the veterans memorial site located in Thomas A. Cloud Memorial Park, Huber Heights, OH. Thomas A. Cloud is located in Huber Heights on Brandt Pike, south of Kittridge Road and north of Needmore Road. Please accept our invitation to join us for the dedication ceremony. It will be a momentous event for the city and its military (veterans, active-duty military members, and families of both) community. An event we believe will be etched in each attendee’s memory for a long time.



Artist rendering on new Huber Heights Veterans Memorial



The U.S. Space Force (USSF) is the newest branch of the Armed Forces. It was established December 20, 2019, with enactment of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. The USFF organizes, trains, and equips space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force. USSF responsibilities will include developing Guardians, acquiring military space systems, maturing the military doctrine for space power, and organizing space forces to present to our Combatant Commands.



Special Notices



The **National Suicide Prevention Center and the Military Crisis Line** are at the same number and it is: **800-273-8255**. Mental health services have recently been enhanced by a program called, “**in Transition**.” No matter the situation, hard things happen. And it is nice to have someone to talk to. Assistance is 100% confidential and complimentary. You can see the details at: <https://www.pdhealth.mil/resources/intransition>.



R.E.D. Shirt Friday RED is an acronym that stands for Remember Everyone Deployed. R.E.D. Shirt Friday was created to remind people of our heroes overseas and show that we are thinking of them. People across the country wear red every Friday to serve as a reminder and spread the message of how important it is that we keep our troops in our thoughts. Our Red Shirt idea of showing our solidarity and support for our troops will be continuing on each and every Friday, until ALL of our troops come home. We hope that every RED-blooded American who supports our young military men and women, WEAR SOMETHING RED.





More News:



Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas – Remembered as a man who faithfully served his country and was a devoted father and a man of faith, Lt. Col. Richard “Dick” Cole, the last of the Doolittle Raiders, was honored and posthumously promoted to the rank of colonel during a September 7 ceremony at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course ballroom. Family members and distinguished guests, including Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown Jr., gathered to pay their respects for Cole, who died at the age of 103 on April 9, 2019. General Brown presented a certificate of Cole’s posthumous promotion to colonel to Cole’s children, retired Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Rich Cole and Cindy Cole Chal.



FREE ROOF - Montgomery County Veteran Services was contacted by DryTech Exteriors, a locally owned residential and commercial roofing company. They would like to give back to their military community by providing a military Veteran and their families with a Free Roof. This is a valid offer. If you know a Veteran or active service member in need of a new roof, please visit <https://drytechexteriors.com/roof-deployment-project/> To nominate them, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/DryTechExteriors/posts/926697001508574>



Please see The Boy on Omaha Beach (*Courtesy of Steve Ratcliffe, VVA 97*). Please-Please-Please watch this one. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8k9Si28k0Fk>



American Recovery Plan - *The American recovery plan will cancel many V.A. copayments for medical care and prescriptions. (Courtesy of Steve Ratcliffe, VVA Chapter 97)*
<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20210323-copayment-debt-refunds-forgiveness>



United Way VetsLink 2-1-1 is connecting Service Members, Veterans, and their families to the resources they need during this stressful period through phone by dialing 2-1-1 or chat at the link below. Get support for Rent, Utility or Food Assistance among many other needs 24/7 365.

<https://dayton-unitedway.org/vetslink-2-1-1/>



Winter Coat Giveaway. The Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual New Winter Coat Giveaway. All Montgomery County Veterans in need are welcome to receive one coat, hat, scarf, and glove set. Quantities are limited and it is first come, first served. See income guidelines and eligibility requirements at: <https://mcvsc.org/coats/>

November 17, 2021; 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our office:
627 Edwin C. Moses Blvd.; 4th Floor, East Medical Plaza
Dayton, OH 45417; 937-558-9172



☆☆☆ **UPCOMING VETERAN EVENTS:**



Saturday, 6 Nov 2021, 1100-1200 - Huber Heights Veterans Memorial dedication at the Huber Heights Veterans Memorial Park (Tom Cloud Park) on Brandt Pike just north of Needmore Road.



Thursday, 11 Nov 2021, 1600-1700 – Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Huber Heights Veterans Memorial Park (Tom Cloud Park) on Brandt Pike just north of Needmore Road.



☆☆☆ **RECOMMENDED READING:**



The Hero Code: Lessons Learned from Lives Well Lived,” by Admiral William H. McRaven

Available in public libraries.



☆☆☆ **PUBLICATIONS:**



Stars and Stripes (<https://www.stripes.com/>)



The Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission (MCVSC) is a county agency dedicated to serving Montgomery County veterans. It is not affiliated with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. MCVSC publishes a Newsletter and may be viewed through their web site at <https://mcvsc.org/newsletter-archive/>.

☆☆☆ **EDITORS NOTE:** For vietnam vets and those interested in the vietnam war, the next two publications will be of interest to you. Eventually you will be able to get both by becoming a member of VVA Chapter 97 in Huber Heights. For now, in order to see the magazine, you must go directly to the web site. Contact Chapter President Dave Fuchs, 937-750-6951 for further information.



Vietnam Veterans of America Magazine
<https://vva.org/publications/the-vva-veteran/>



VVA DISPATCHES (*obtained through membership*)

Serves Butler, Clark, Darke, Greene Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Warren counties.



Legislation: None to report for this quarter.



Did you know?

☆☆☆ **EDITORS NOTE:** This is a special section provided by Commissioner Bill Cromer, who does a superb job of providing interesting and relevant historical information about the military services.



ABOUT THE MARINE CORPS

Brief History of the United States Marine Corps

On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia passed a [resolution](#) stating that "two Battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces with the fleet. This resolution established the Continental Marines and marked the birth date of the United States Marine Corps. Serving on land and at sea, these first Marines distinguished themselves in a number of important operations, including their first amphibious raid into the Bahamas in March 1776, under the command of Captain (later Major) [Samuel Nicholas](#). The first commissioned officer in the Continental Marines, Nicholas remained the senior Marine officer throughout the American Revolution and is considered to be the first Marine [Commandant](#). The Treaty of Paris in April 1783 brought an end to the Revolutionary War and as the last of the Navy's ships were sold, the Continental Navy and Marines went out of existence.

Following the Revolutionary War and the formal re-establishment of the Marine Corps on 11 July 1798, Marines saw action in the quasi-war with France, landed in Santo Domingo, and took part in many operations against the Barbary pirates along the "Shores of Tripoli".



Marines took part in numerous naval operations during the War of 1812, as well as participating in the defense of Washington at Bladensburg, Maryland, and fought alongside Andrew Jackson in the defeat of the British at New Orleans.

The decades following the War of 1812 saw the Marines protecting American interests around the world, in the Caribbean, at the Falkland Islands, Sumatra and off the coast of West Africa, and also close to home in operations against the Seminole Indians in Florida.



During the Mexican War (1846-1848), Marines seized enemy seaports on both the Gulf and Pacific coasts. A battalion of Marines joined General Winfield Scott's army at Pueblo and fought all the way to the "Halls of Montezuma," Mexico City. Marines also served ashore and afloat in the Civil War (1861-1865). Although most service was with the Navy, a battalion fought at Bull Run and other units saw action with the blockading squadrons and at Cape Hatteras, New Orleans, Charleston, and Fort Fisher. The last third of the 19th century saw Marines making numerous landings throughout the world, especially in the Orient and in the Caribbean area.



Following the Spanish-American War (1898), in which Marines performed with valor in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, the Corps entered an era of expansion and professional development.

It saw active service in the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902), the Boxer Rebellion in China (1900), and in numerous other nations, including Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba, Mexico, and Haiti.



In [World War I](#) the Marine Corps distinguished itself on the battlefields of France as the 4th Marine Brigade earned the title of "Devil Dogs" for heroic action during 1918 at Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Michel, Blanc Mont, and in the final Meuse-Argonne offensive. Marine aviation, which dates from 1912, also played a part in the war effort, as Marine pilots flew day bomber missions over France and Belgium. More than 30,000 Marines served in France and more than a third were killed or wounded in six months of intense fighting.



During the two decades before [World War II](#), the Marine Corps began to develop in earnest the doctrine, equipment, and organization needed for amphibious warfare. The success of this effort was proven first on Guadalcanal, then on Bougainville, Tarawa, New Britain, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. By the end of the war in 1945, the Marine Corps had grown to include six divisions, five air wings, and supporting troops. Its strength in World War II peaked at 485,113. The war cost the Marines nearly 87,000 dead and wounded, and 82 Marines had earned the Medal of Honor.

While Marine units took part in the post-war occupation of Japan and North China, studies were undertaken at Quantico, Virginia, which concentrated on attaining a "vertical envelopment" capability for the Corps through the use of helicopters.



Landing at Inchon, [Korea](#) in September 1950, Marines proved that the doctrine of amphibious assault was still viable and necessary. After the recapture of Seoul, the Marines advanced to the Chosin Reservoir only to see the Chinese Communists enter the war. After years of offensives, counter-offensives, seemingly endless trench warfare, and occupation duty, the last Marine ground troops were withdrawn in March 1955. More than 25,000 Marines were killed or wounded during the Korean War.

In July 1958, a brigade-size force landed in Lebanon to restore order. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, a large amphibious force was marshaled but not landed. In April 1965, a brigade of Marines landed in the Dominican Republic to protect Americans and evacuate those who wished to leave.



The landing of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Da Nang in 1965 marked the beginning of large-scale Marine involvement in [Vietnam](#). By summer 1968, after the enemy's Tet Offensive, Marine Corps strength in Vietnam rose to a peak of approximately 85,000. The Marine withdrawal began in 1969 as the South Vietnamese began to assume a larger role in the fighting; the last Marine ground forces were out of Vietnam by June 1971.

The Vietnam War, longest in the history of the Marine Corps, exacted a high cost as well with over 13,000 Marines killed and more than 88,000 wounded. In the spring of 1975, Marines evacuated embassy staffs, American citizens, and refugees in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. In May, Marines played an integral role in the rescue of the crew of the SS *Mayaguez* captured off the coast of Cambodia.

The mid-1970s saw the Marine Corps assume an increasingly significant role in defending NATO's northern flank as amphibious units of the 2d Marine Division participated in exercises throughout northern Europe. The Marine Corps also played a key role in the development of the Rapid Deployment Force, a multi-service organization created to insure a flexible, timely military response around the world when needed. The Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS) concept was developed to enhance this capability by prestaging equipment needed for combat in the vicinity of the designated area of operations and reduce response time as Marines travel by air to link up with MPS assets.

The 1980s brought an increasing number of terrorist attacks on U.S. embassies around the world. Marine Security Guards, under the direction of the State Department, continued to serve with distinction in the face of this challenge. In August 1982, Marine units landed at Beirut, [Lebanon](#), as part of the multi-national peace-keeping force. For the next 19 months these units faced the hazards of their mission with courage and professionalism. In October 1983, Marines took part in the highly successful, short-notice intervention in Grenada. As the decade of the 1980s came to a close, Marines were summoned to respond to instability in Central America. Operation Just Cause was launched in Panama in December 1989 to protect American lives and restore the democratic process in that nation.



Less than a year later, in August 1990, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait set in motion events that would lead to the largest movement of Marine Corps forces since World War II. Between August 1990 and January 1991, some 24 infantry battalions, 40 squadrons, and more than 92,000 Marines deployed to the Persian Gulf as part of [Operation Desert Shield](#). [Operation Desert Storm](#) was launched 16 January 1991.

16 January 1991 was the day the air campaign began. The main attack came overland beginning 24 February when the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions breached the Iraqi defense lines and stormed into occupied Kuwait. By the morning of February 28, 100 hours after the ground war began, almost the entire Iraqi Army in the Kuwaiti theater of operations had been encircled, with 4,000 tanks destroyed and 42 divisions destroyed or rendered ineffective.

Overshadowed by the events in the Persian Gulf during 1990-91, were a number of other significant Marine deployments demonstrating the Corps' flexible and rapid response. Included among these were non-combatant evacuation operations in Liberia and Somalia and humanitarian lifesaving operations in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and northern Iraq.



In December 1992, Marines landed in Somalia marking the beginning of a two-year humanitarian relief operation in that famine-stricken and strife-torn nation. In another part of the world, Marine Corps aircraft supported Operation Deny Flight in the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. During April 1994, Marines once again demonstrated their ability to protect American citizens in remote parts of the world when a Marine task force evacuated U.S. citizens from Rwanda in response to civil unrest in that country.

Closer to home, Marines went ashore in September 1994 in Haiti as part of the U.S. force participating in the restoration of democracy in that country. During this same period Marines were actively engaged in providing assistance to the Nation's counter-drug effort, assisting in battling wildfires in the western United States, and aiding in flood and hurricane relief operations.

The Marine Corps continued its tradition of innovation to meet the challenges of a new century. The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory was created in 1995 to evaluate change, assess the impact of new technologies on warfighting, and expedite the introduction of new capabilities into the operating forces of the Marine Corps. Exercises such as "Hunter Warrior," and "Urban Warrior" were designed to explore future tactical concepts, and to examine facets of military operations in urban environments.

During the late 1990's, Marine Corps units deployed to several African nations, including Liberia, the Central African Republic, Zaire, and Eritrea, in order to provide security and assist in the evacuation of American citizens during periods of political and civil instability in those nations.



Humanitarian and disaster relief operations were also conducted by Marines during 1998 in Kenya, and in the Central American nations of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. In 1999, Marine units deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation Allied Force. Soon after the September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., Marine units deployed to the Arabian Sea and in November set up a forward operating base in southern Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2002, the Marine Corps continued to play a key role in the Global War on Terrorism. Marines operated in diverse locations, from Afghanistan, to the Arabian Gulf, to the Horn of Africa and the Philippines. Early 2003 saw the largest deployment of Marine forces since the Persian Gulf War of 1990-91 when 76,000 Marines deployed to the Central Command area for combat operations against Iraq.



The I Marine Expeditionary Force, including Task Force Tarawa and the United Kingdom's 1st Armored Division, were the first conventional ground units to enter Iraq in late March as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Fixed wing and helicopter aircraft from the 3d Marine Air Wing provided continuous close air and assault support to Marine and coalition units as they drove deeper into Iraq.

On the ground, Marines from I MEF moved nearly 400 miles from the Kuwait border to Baghdad and Tikrit, Iraq, and eliminated the last organized resistance by Iraqi military forces. Although I MEF would transition to stabilization and security operations and then redeploy to the U.S. by late September, I MEF began preparing for a return to Iraq in early 2004.

The adaptability and reliability of Marine forces continued to be highlighted around the world from the Horn of Africa to Haiti and to the Philippines.



Across the U.S., Marine units from both coasts fought and contained wildfires, and also supported hurricane relief efforts in various parts of the country. In December 2004, a tsunami struck numerous nations in the Indian Ocean region killing more than 150,000 and causing enormous devastation. Marine units from III MEF were immediately deployed to Thailand, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka to assist in disaster relief operations.



In early 2005, the II Marine Expeditionary Force replaced I MEF in Iraq as the primary focus began to shift to partnership operations with the Iraqi Security Forces. Marine units continued to provide air and ground support to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Closer to home, the flexibility and responsiveness of the Navy/Marine team was exhibited during September and October when nearly 3000 Marines and sailors conducted search and rescue, humanitarian relief, and disaster recovery operations in Louisiana and Mississippi in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Today's Marine Corps stands ready to continue in the proud tradition of those who so valiantly fought and died at Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, and Khe Sanh. Combining a long and proud heritage of faithful service to the nation, with the resolve to face tomorrow's challenges will continue to keep the Marine Corps the "best of the best."

Reference Branch
USMC History Division
July 2006



☆☆☆ ***EDITORS NOTE:*** We hope you find this information useful. Please see additional information about the Huber Heights Military And Veterans Commission (HHMAVC) via our Facebook Page and on the City of Huber Heights web site (hhoh.org) The Newsletter may be viewed at:

<https://www.hhoh.org/517/Events-Resources>

A POEM WORTH READING Author 'Unknown'

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, yelling stories of the past.,
Of a war that he once fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies, they were heroes, everyone.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many, just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary, very quiet sort of life.
He held a job and raised a family, going quietly on his way.
And the world won't note his passing, 'tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell of their life stories from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran goes unnoticed, and unsung.

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While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
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But the passing of a Veteran goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country and offers up his life?

The politician's stipend and the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary Veteran, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys.
Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out, with his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran, his home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran, who would fight until the end.
He was just a common Veteran, and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us; we may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict, we find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.
If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."