**September 2021**

**Dayton Area Chapter of MOAA**

**SOURCES AND GUIDES TO ASSIST SURVIVING SPOUSES**

***VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS***

 **WPAFB: Casualty Assistance Team 88 Air Force Support Squadron. *Air Force Retirees ONLY.***

 **2000 Allbrook Dr. WPAFB, OH 45433. (937)257-6405 FAX (937)656-3550. Area A Bldg. 2**

 **Pete Petersen; Bill Mayo (USAF Retired Chief); Cherrie Ollinger. (Other Branches below)**

**County: County Veteran Service Offices: help with Claim Preparation & Assistance,**

**Transportation to VA Medical Appointments, and Military Injury Relief Fund**

[**https://veteransaffairs.ohio.gov/county\_veterans\_service\_offices.htm**](https://veteransaffairs.ohio.gov/county_veterans_service_offices.htm)

 **Greene County – 571 Ledbetter Rd., Xenia, OH 45385. (937)562-6020**

[**www.greenecountyohio.gov**](http://www.greenecountyohio.gov)

 **Montgomery County – 627 Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Dayton, OH. (937) 225-4801**

[**www.mcvsc.org**](http://www.mcvsc.org)

 **Warren County – 320 E. Silver St., Lebanon, OH 45036. (513) 695-2717**

[**www.warrencountyveterans.com**](http://www.warrencountyveterans.com)

**State: Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services (877) 644-6838**

[**https://veteransaffairs.ohio.gov/**](https://veteransaffairs.ohio.gov/) **Ask them for the VETERANS SERVICE GUIDE VET-19-20 (lots of information, many sources.)**

**American Legion - American Legion of Ohio** [**www.ohiolegion.com**](http://www.ohiolegion.com)

 **VFW – VFW Department of Ohio** [**https://vfwoh.org**](https://vfwoh.org)

***FORMS* (How to get them; get help to fill them out; get help to file them.)**

**VA and government forms are available online, or directly from Dept. of Defense/or VA if you call them (phone numbers in the section below.) Forms are available through your County Veteran Service Org. (see above section) and they can assist you in ordering what you need, in filling them out, and then submitting them. You may also get forms and assistance at a VA medical Center (see HEALTH below) or the VA Veteran Benefits Admin. Regional Office (in OH, the VA Cleveland Regional Office 1240 E. 9th St, Cleveland, OH 44199. (800) 827-1000 -** [**https://www.va.gov.benefits/offices.asp**](https://www.va.gov.benefits/offices.asp)

 **\*\*Form DD214 is the Key Form that verifies a service member’s proof of military service, it is often called a Discharge Form and may be part of Retirement Papers. It is needed for almost all dealings with various parts of the Dept. of Defense as well as the Veterans Administration (Health and Benefits sections.) The VA or Vet. Service Orgs. can help you to get a copy.**

**VETERAN ADMINISTRATION (VA) – (800) 827-1000. To apply for benefits you must have: a certified or original DD214 (see above), marriage certificate/birth certificate, sometimes proof of household income.**

**Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Office of Survivors Assistance – (202)461-1077** **officeofsurvivors@va.gov** **There is an online Booklet for Survivors Assistance –** [**www.va.gov/SURVIVORS/docs/OSAEndoftheYearReport!Sep2012.pdf**](http://www.va.gov/SURVIVORS/docs/OSAEndoftheYearReport%21Sep2012.pdf)

 **Veteran Affairs Pension Benefits – (800) 827-1000** [**www.benefits.va.gov/pension**](http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension) **This program offers a tax free, monetary benefit, to eligible low-income veterans; a survivors benefit is also available to eligible family members of a deceased veteran.**

 **VA Pension Information (Milwaukee VA) – (877)294-6380.**

***FINANCIAL*- (DFAS) Defense Finance Accounting Service** [**HTTPS://www.dfas.mil**](https://www.dfas.mil)

**For information on your pay status and SBP (Survivor Benefit Plan) if your spouse opted into that plan.** [**https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/**](https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/) **They have two newsletters with current topics: Retiree Newsletter and Survivor SBP Newsletter.**

 **The Veterans Service Officers (County or at the VA Medical Center) can help apply (transfer) Survivor Benefit Plan funds to your name; they can help determine your eligibility for DIC or other benefits. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is merited if the military spouse died as a result of a service-connected injury or disease (eg. Agent Orange Exposure for military service in Vietnam during specific years.)** [**https://www.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/survivors/dic.pdf**](https://www.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/survivors/dic.pdf)

**HEALTH – Most retired military qualify for TRICARE which provides healthcare for eligible surviving spouses. They provide lower cost prescription drugs through mail order and local pharmacies; at military treatment facilities RX is free.**

**VA Medical Centers – Dayton VA Medical Center located at 4100 W. Third St. Dayton, OH 45428, and telephone is (937) 268-6511.** [**Https://www.dayton.va.gov**](https://www.dayton.va.gov) **There are Veterans Service Officers at the Medical Center who can provide the same assistance as listed in the section at the top of this document in your COUNTY. You may call them for information or an appointment at (937)266-6511 [the Veteran Benefit Counsellor Ext. 2962; to reach Veteran Service Officers use Extensions 2964, or 2129, or 1219, or 3045.]**

 **Veterans Affairs Benefit, Office of Finance – there is Family Members Insurance called CHAMPVA if you do not qualify for TRICARE (DoD’s healthcare for retired military and their families.) CHAMPVA is Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.** [**Https://www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/champva/**](https://www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/champva/)

**SUPPORT FROM PEERS- talk, meet online to share information; meet in person at DAC-MOAA monthly Chapter Meetings (plus attend outings and luncheons after COVID restrictions are reduced.)**

 **Military Officers Assn. of America - MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is an online chapter that meets monthly via Zoom. Issues of interest to these people are enhanced with programs on relevant topics. You may write for information or a request to join at** **mssvc02@gmail.com**

 **Facebook Page – Surviving Spouses and Friends - is a private Facebook group for surviving spouses of military, trying to navigate the maze of government paperwork when you are still hurting from loss.**

 **Gold Star Spouse – is a person whose spouse who passed away while serving in the US Military. The survivors seek support among other widows (widowers) in groups like “SOS.” For more information** [**https://www.military.spouse.com/military-life/coping/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-gold-star-spouse/**](https://www.military.spouse.com/military-life/coping/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-gold-star-spouse/)

**OTHER SOURCES: Department of Defense –** [**www.defense.gov**](http://www.defense.gov) **OR Call - Army Retirees: (800) 626-3317. Marine Retirees: (800) 847-1597. Navy: (800) 368-3202. Coast Guard: (800) 772-8724**

 **Social Security Administrations –** [**www.ssa.gov**](http://www.ssa.gov)

 **Internal Revenue Service –** [**www.irs.gov**](http://www.irs.gov)

**BOOKS/PAMPHLETS: What Every Veteran Should Know 2021 [85th Edition (Revised yearly), Pubs. by Veterans Information Service, PO Box 111, East Moline, IL 61244-0111 – price $28.00**

**“Survivor Benefits and Services” by Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Office of Survivor Assistance.**

**“Benefits Resource Guide” by Ohio Department of Veterans Services (877) 644-6838**

**“Veterans Resource Guide VET 19-20” Treasurer of Ohio, (800) 228-1102**