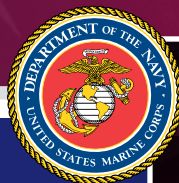


# EyesRight

Spring 2019 Edition



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS HIGHLIGHT EDITION



The USMC recently won the VSC Facebook branch contest and won a highlight in this edition of EyesRight. We invited nominees to name a marine in Summit County who was still serving his community. We hope you enjoy the story of Jamie Jones, a Marine Corps veteran who has dedicated his work to support other Summit County veterans. Oorah!



## The Honor of Selfless Service to Veterans

Marines Corp Veteran Dedicates Work to Support Others

Medically discharged U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jamie Jones is familiar with the challenges veterans face when returning to civilian life and the loss of the strong sense of community and brotherhood shared by those who serve. His unique story – getting injured in one of the last training exercises prior to deployment – and strong work ethic have driven him to approach his medical discharge and retirement as a more than full-time opportunity to serve other veterans.

"I am honored to serve veterans," said Jamie, a resident of Akron's North Hill neighborhood. "I was awarded 100-percent retirement through my medical discharge, and I felt it was a call to serve fellow veterans as if it were my job. Volunteering with veterans allows me to wake up and have a sense of purpose every day."

And every day, he serves.

Whether it's the Valor Court, Boy Scouts of America, Summit County Stand Down, Wheels4Change or any of dozens of other organizations he serves, his altruism is an inspiration to many. In fact, several community members nominated him for this spotlight article, a true testament to his selflessness.



Jamie Jones volunteers at the Summit County Stand Down

Jones serves as a mentor to the Summit County Court of Common Pleas "Valor Court," a specialized docket that addresses the challenges veterans face in their return to civilian life with military-specific physical and/or mental trauma. Through Valor Court, veterans are provided access to programs, treatment and interactions with mentors in a

collaborative environment to increase their chances at overcoming specific challenges. Jones has only missed one session since beginning his weekly service to the court last September.



Jamie Jones manning the Valor Court table at an event in Hudson

"I've sat in courts and watched veterans get hammered with a line like 'You're a veteran; you should know better,'" he said. In Valor Court,

Judge Amy Corrigan Jones and the veteran volunteers take a deeper view. Jamie Jones remarked, "It's a place where the message is 'You're a veteran, and

*See 'Selfless Service to Veterans', page 3*

## How can you get involved?

Learn more about these organizations and opportunities to serve by clicking the logos below:



[Valor Court](#)



[Boy Scouts of America](#)



[Summit County Stand Down](#)



[Wheels4Change](#)

# Director's Corner

## Alzheimer's is the Sixth Leading Cause of Death in the United States

Veterans who suffered brain injuries while in the service were more likely to develop Alzheimer's decades later. Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) have a 60% greater chance of developing Dementia. Veterans who had multiple risk factors — such as PTSD, depression, or heart disease in addition to head injury — were more likely to develop dementia.



VA estimates there are 170,920 VA patients nationwide with Alzheimer's dementia. Because of the projected growth of the disease, the number of VA patients with Alzheimer's dementia is expected to grow 27 percent to about 217,000, by FY 2033, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA estimates that about 25 percent of the veterans in their memory units have had PTSD or TBIs.

VA is starting to see younger veterans affected. The VA is seeing people in their 50s occasionally and in their 40s who are having significant cognitive issues. Research has found that women with military-related risk factors had a 50% to 80% increase in developing dementia relative to women without these diagnoses. In addition, military veterans often have depression occurring with posttraumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury.

New treatment strategies for depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, or traumatic brain injury could as a result decrease the risk for dementia. The degree of combat exposure, Vietnam era Agent Orange exposure and Gulf War Illness may also influence risk for Alzheimer.

Using available data on the association of Alzheimer and specific exposures and risk factors, the VA conservatively estimated 423,000 new cases of Alzheimer in veterans by 2020, including 140,000 excess cases associated with specific military exposures. The rapidly climbing number of those affected with Alzheimer includes a growing population of aging military veterans affected who may have an added risk for the disease as a consequence of traumatic brain injury, posttraumatic stress disorder, and/or service-related injuries.

Veterans and military members, who have histories of TBI, PTSD should receive routine, regular screenings for signs of cognitive impairment and mental function. Veterans with dementia who seek VA care may be eligible for certain dementia care services including in-home care, community-based-outpatient, inpatient acute and long term care services.

In Appreciation,

*Larry D. Moore*

Executive Director



## Services for Vets

*We assist veterans with basic living needs; these services are available to eligible veterans, their dependents and widows. Services are subject to change.*

- Financial Assistance
- Mortgage payments / Homeowner's insurance
- Rent
- Utilities
- Roofs
- Furnace (replacement and repair)
- Stoves and refrigerators
- Food
- Children's clothing
- Adult work clothing
- Car payments, repairs and insurance (limited)
- Medical / Dental (including dentures, glasses and hearing aids)
- Regularly scheduled transportation to VA medical facilities and Ohio Veterans Home
- Grave markers and flags

## Veterans Affairs Assistance

- Assistance applying for Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits
- Preparation of VA forms and paperwork
- Supportive documentation of claims and pertinent data
- Proper submission of claims to the VA
- Service connected compensation
- Non-service pension
- Widows pension
- Burial benefits
- Headstones

*If you are a veteran in financial need or need help with your VA claim, please visit us at 1060 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron, OH, or call*

**330-643-2830.**



# Veterans Can Apply for New or Renewed CCW License at No Cost Through SB81

*Senate Bill 81 Waives Concealed Carry Permit Fee for Active Duty Military, Retired & Honorably Discharged Veterans While Funds Available from the State*

A law passed last fall allows current and former servicemen and women to get an Ohio concealed carry handgun license without paying the fee. For Summit County veterans, you'll be required to present one of the following for the waived fee: a county issued veteran ID card or Form DD-214 that shows an honorable discharge at the time of application. It is still required that the veteran show evidence of required firearms training, included in a DD-214 form that shows

military police or documentation of military firearms training equivalent to civilian requirements.

The Attorney General monitors the number of license fees waived statewide and caps the total amount at \$1.5 million, which means those who apply earlier in the year have a better chance at the fees being waived. Once the statewide cap is reached, the fees will no longer be waived until January of the next year.

No appointment is required with the Sheriff's Department of Summit County. Applications and license pickup are available at the Summit County Jail, Gun Registration office, 205 E. Crosier St., Akron, Ohio 44311, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday



between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call 330-643-7922 with questions or for additional details.

Download and print [this application](#) to begin the process of applying for a new or renewed CCW license. ★

*'Selfless Service to Veterans', from page 1*

you've obviously dealt with a lot of big things, and somehow we didn't provide the support when you came home that we should have."

Of all the organizations Jones serves, Valor Court leads the list. He encourages other veterans to visit the court and find out if volunteering would suit them. "It's very rewarding. We sit one on one with veterans who need it, listen to them, encourage the camaraderie and let them know that there is someone in their corner to fight for them. Just that alone can help turn their lives around."

A close second to Valor Court for Jones is his work for the Boy Scouts of America. Over the past five years, Jones has volunteered in a number of roles, from scout master, scout master assistant and fundraising steward to his current role as a committee member. "Teaching them about how to become better people, better adults, and how to go out into society, how to deal with life and how to handle things...these kids are our future."



Picking up trash on the streets for Boy Scouts with Ethan (left) and Dylan (right)



Salvation Army bell ringing for Boy Scouts with his sons Dylan (left) and Ethan (middle)



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS HIGHLIGHT EDITION

A former Boy Scout himself, Jones has enjoyed bonding with his own sons through the program. His sons, Ethan, 16, and Dylan, 15, are on the cusp of becoming Eagle Scouts, each with one more merit badge and the Eagle Scout project remaining. Jones said, "I'm super proud of them. Scouting has given us an opportunity to do things together that I never would have thought to do. Activities like going to hike a mountain and camp or go kayak a river together. Especially growing up in North Hill, it's just not something I would have thought to do."

Another organization supported by Jones is Summit County Stand Down, a community-based intervention program designed to help homeless veterans combat life on the street. Jones serves as co-chair for the annual "Laura's Summit County Stand Down" event, a service day for homeless veterans or veterans



*'Selfless Service to Veterans', from page 3*

down on their luck and who need a hot lunch, haircut, cold weather gear, hygiene items, ID cards and boots. The office of Veterans Affairs and other government services are there to help veterans obtain VA and government services and apply for benefits. There are medical services such as foot and eye clinics, HIV screening, blood pressure screening, flu shots and others. Job assistance also is available, with on-site training and assistance from prospective employers. This year's event will take place September 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the VFW #338, 690 West Waterloo Road in Akron (Akron Metro Bus Line #13). "It's sad to say...no, it's exciting to say that over the course of the last 14 years, it's become so effective that there may come a day

when it's not needed in the same way. That's great," Jones said.

Jones serves Wheels4Change and its co-founder Cassie Schumacher by doing anything and everything they ask him to do. Wheels4Change is an Ohio-based charity that provides veterans and their families with resources to address post-military issues while providing support, including employment, fitness and motivational opportunities and a sense of community they may feel they have lost. Wheels4Change supports and raises awareness for veterans in several ways, including special events and outreach programs. "One of the biggest challenges veterans face is the threat of suicide," said Jones. "That's what I love about this organization – suicide

is often brought on by depression which can be overcome through exercise."



**WHEELS**  
**4**  
**CHANGE**

Jones said Schumacher's "love of veterans is really inspiring. You spend 30 minutes with this woman and you can just feel how much she loves and cares about veterans." Jones can be described the same way.

As one of Jones's recommendation letters reads, "Jamie tirelessly devotes himself to helping others in his community. He does this because he sincerely enjoys helping people." His contributions as a marine to the greater Summit County community are significant and his actions encourage other veterans to serve. ★

## F.Y.I



### Volunteers Needed for Memorial Day

On the Saturday before Memorial Day, volunteers are needed to join us as we honor fallen veterans by placing a flag on each gravesite at our county's cemeteries. Open to volunteers of all ages, please complete the volunteer form available on the VSC's website [here](#) or contact David Burden at 330-643-7636. Join us Saturday, May 25, for this commemorative service.

Send us your Memorial Day events! Share with us on our [Facebook page](#) or send all information to [David Burden](#) to be posted on the VSC website! ★

### Proper U.S. Flag Retirement & Upcoming Flag Day

As a courtesy, VSC headquarters accepts worn-out flags to dispose of in accordance with proper flag etiquette. Spring is a great time to inspect the state of your flag and remove from service if damaged, ripped, torn or frayed. The VSC coordinates several flag retirement ceremonies every year; please contact us if you'd like to volunteer for these services.

Remember **Flag Day is Friday, June 14!** It commemorates the adoption of the U.S. flag in 1777 and the day now includes a ceremonial raising of the national flag, a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, the singing of our national anthem and more. ★