

EyesRight

Fall 2022 Edition



Two Veterans, Two Journeys, One Prestigious Honor

Summit County VSC Recognizes Veterans of the Year
Ginger MacCutcheon and Donald Lloyd



—James C. Seminaroti—
**VETERAN
OF THE YEAR**



Larry Emery presenting Donald Lloyd's Veteran of the Year award to his long-term partner.



2021 Veteran of the Year recipient Ginger MacCutcheon.

Their backgrounds and military careers could not have been more different, but their stories align in one unforgettable way: their commitment to helping others. The VSC recently presented the James C. Seminaroti Veteran of the Year Award to Ginger MacCutcheon for 2021 and the late Donald K. Lloyd for 2022.

"We are pleased to have been able to re-establish our Veteran of the Year Dinner in the wake of the pandemic and could not have selected two more deserving recipients," said David Burden, project manager, VSC. "Ginger and Donald have helped bring peace and a sense of wellbeing to others whose own post-military journeys have

not always been easy. Their stories are unique but these two recipients' commitment to others has been very much the same."

2021 Recipient: Ginger MacCutcheon

Ginger MacCutcheon had every reason to bury her memories of military service due to sexual trauma she experienced as a member of the U.S. Women's Army Corps in the late 1970s. Joining the Army straight of high school, she had hoped for a long, meaningful military career. Instead, she has used her experiences to support



other women who are dealing with similar trauma. "The first thing that helps (military sexual trauma) victims is finding someone to talk to. The second is having that person help them access programs and treatment available through the VA," she says. "I was in my fifties before discovering there was help available for what I had gone through. It's important for these women to get help early so they can live their best life."

Ginger's commitment to others can be seen not only through her one-on-one support and guidance of MST victims but also her extensive volunteerism on behalf of all veterans. Among her many activities have included serving as 2nd Jr. Vice Commander of the [Disabled American Veterans Department of Ohio](#) and Commander and Chaplain of Chapter 116 Brooklyn/Parma; [AMVETS Department of Ohio](#) - District 20 Chaplain, Post 176 2nd Jr. Vice Commander, Chaplain, and Trustee; Administrative Volunteer for the Employee Patient Experience Service, and Chairwoman of the Veterans Advisory Council at the [Louis Stokes Veteran Administration Medical Center](#); and a mentor for Summit County Valor Court. She also for many years was a caregiver to the elderly wife of a World War II veteran.

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Director's Corner



Services for Vets

We provide financial assistance* for basic living needs to eligible Veterans and their dependents.

- Mortgage payments
- Rent
- Utilities
- Food
- Children's school clothing
- Adult work clothing
- Dentures, glasses and hearing aids

Free to Veterans!

- Regularly scheduled transportation for medical appointments at VA medical facilities and Ohio Veterans Home

* Other types of financial assistance may be considered on a case by case basis. All types of assistance are subject to change based on need and funding.

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.

Tips for Enrolling in VA Health Care

You might have recently learned that the [PACT Act](#) expands health care eligibility for many Veterans. If a Veteran you know hasn't enrolled in VA health care before, here are some details you can share to help them get the care they've earned and deserve:

Vietnam Era Veterans who served in these locations and time periods are eligible to apply for enrollment now:

- Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975
- Thailand at any U.S. or Royal Thai base between January 9, 1962, and June 30, 1976
- Laos between December 1, 1965, and September 30, 1969
- Certain provinces in Cambodia between April 16, 1969, and April 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa (or their territorial waters) between January 9, 1962, and July 30, 1980
- Johnston Atoll (or a ship that called there) between January 1, 1972, and September 30, 1977

Beginning October 1, 2022, **Gulf War Era Veterans** who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after the Persian Gulf War may be eligible to enroll in VA health care. This also includes Veterans who, in connection with service during such period, received the following awards or recognitions:

- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Service Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Combat Era Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Campaign Specific Expeditionary Medal
- Any other combat theater award established by Federal statute or Executive Order

Post-9/11 Veterans discharged before October 1, 2013, can enroll in VA health care during a special one-year enrollment period between October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2023. To be eligible, one of the following must be true:

- They served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or
- They served in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998.

Tell your friends to apply for VA health care in the following ways:

- [Online](#) or by calling the toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387
- By mailing [VA Form 10-10EZ](#) to: Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30329
- In person at their nearest [VA medical center or clinic](#)

In Appreciation,

Larry D. Moore

Executive Director





Join Us in February for the Four Chaplains Program Lunch!

Mark your calendars! Summit County Veteran's Council invites you to attend the Four Chaplains / God & Country Program Lunch on February 4, 2023.

Where: Acker-Moore Memorial Post, 3733 Fishcreek Rd., Stow, OH 44224

When: 1 p.m. social hour, 1:30 p.m. lunch, ceremony to follow

Cost: \$20 per person & cash bar

RSVP to Kathy Linn by email, pebbles0916@yahoo.com, or phone, (330) 860-4225, by Jan. 25. Please email names of deceased veterans from 2021 and 2022 to Bob Burgess at rabburgess@yahoo.com

Limited reservations available, no money or reservations taken at the door



Winter clothes for students are available now through 12/31/2022

Summit County Veterans in need can still apply for winter coats and boots for their school-aged children/dependents. Stop by the VSC Akron office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to fill out an application, or call (330) 643-2830 for more information. ★



Tip of the H.A.T.

Helping
America's
Troops

Golf Outing Raises Record Breaking Amount

The VSC and [American Legion Post #473](#) invited golfers to attend the 6th Annual James Seminaroti Benefit Golf Outing on Monday, Oct. 10, 2022, to raise money for ALS, and the event was nothing short of a success. We are so grateful for the more than 55 people who attended and played 18 holes of golf, bought 50/50 raffle tickets, and participated in other fundraising opportunities. To our signage and event sponsors, we are thankful for your dedication to our Veterans and contribution to the [ALS Association](#), an organization we look forward to supporting every year. The 6th Annual James Seminaroti Benefit Golf Outing raised more than \$2,600 for ALS – a record breaking donation for this annual event.

Thank you to the Charter Development Foundation for supporting our Veterans and this event. ★

ALS

ASSOCIATION



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But there's another side to both Ginger's volunteerism and continued recovery: Her healing truly began when she was introduced to Sadie on Wheels, a paralyzed service dog she adopted with the help of a Northeast Ohio non-profit. "Sadie (now retired) was always watching and let me know when someone was behind me," Ginger says. "She gave me the courage to go out to the mall, hockey games, baseball games, basketball games and other places I wouldn't normally have gone because there were too many people and too



2021 Veteran of the Year recipient Ginger MacCutcheon with her service dog Sadie on Wheels



many things happening."

Based on her experiences with Sadie, Ginger achieved accreditation as a trainer of service dogs for veterans suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. She also worked extensively with a Northeast Ohio-based organization that paired veterans with trained service dogs.

Thanks to countless programs and services available through the [VA](#) and other organizations – and through the lifechanging support of Sadie – Ginger MacCutcheon is looking forward rather than reliving the past. And this healthy outlook fuels her commitment to serving those in need: "I truly believe we are defined by our willingness to give of ourselves to others," she explains.

2022 Recipient: Donald Lloyd

Donald Lloyd, who was aware he had been nominated for the VOTY Award but sadly passed away prior to the announcement, was a familiar face to hundreds of veterans and family members throughout Summit County and beyond. A Purple Heart recipient who served in the Vietnam War, Don went far in his professional career – retiring from Parker-Hannifin Corp. after more than 40 years – but never lost sight of the duty, honor and purpose of his military service. Moreover, he helped honor the selfless commitment of countless other veterans through decades of work with the [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#), where he served as chapter senior vice commander, [American Legion](#), [Vietnam Veterans of America](#), Pup Tent and other groups.

"I could count on him for just about anything," says Larry Emery, who

worked alongside Don in Chapter 699 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Perhaps what was most telling about Don, however, were the dozens of other services he performed in virtual anonymity. Emery recalls learning, following Don's death, that he had long considered it his duty to replace worn Purple Heart flags for a local VFW post. "He didn't do things for recognition; he did them out of the kindness of his heart," Emery explains.

Don's selfless service included volunteering each week at the VSC offices to help support vets seeking assistance with health benefits and other needs, conducting flag burning ceremonies for veterans who wanted to retire their worn flags, and lending a hand in the annual Summit County VSC toy drive. He also volunteered for the Goodyear Hunting & Fishing Club Special Needs Children's Trout Derby, which helps deserving children learn the thrill of fishing. It is suspected that, in many cases, Don made sure kids went home with their own brand-new rods and reels.

Beyond serving those in need, Don



Larry Emery accepting the 2022 VOTY Award on behalf of Donald Lloyd

spent innumerable hours honoring deceased veterans by working with the color guard at military funerals at the [Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery](#) in Rittman. Additionally, he and Emery regularly drove through cemeteries looking for flags needing replacement and each year they joined their chapter in decorating three area cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day.

Congratulations to these two distinguished recipients of the James C. Seminaroti Veteran of the Year Award!

