

# EyesRight



## Closer to Care

New VA Kent Imaging & Infusion Center Brings Specialty Services to Northeast Ohio Veterans



Summit County Veterans Service Commission is now providing transportation services to the new VA outpatient imaging and infusion center located at 3838 Cascades Boulevard, Kent, Ohio.

The Kent VA is the first specialty-specific VA facility to be constructed outside of Cuyahoga County, marking an important expansion of cancer care access for Veterans throughout Northeast Ohio.

The Kent location, which will take over the infusion services previously offered in Akron, will provide essential healthcare services to approximately 50,000 patients.

*The facility demonstrates the VA's commitment to providing the best quality care at the closest possible geographic location, particularly for our Veterans facing a cancer diagnosis.*

— Jill Dietrich Mellon  
Executive Director of VANEOMS

Services include cancer infusion treatments and advanced imaging such as MRI, CT, PET-CT, nuclear medicine, stress testing, ultrasound and comprehensive cancer care.

The facility is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information about the [Kent VA Clinic](#), call [330-593-3059](tel:330-593-3059) or VA Health Connect [833-940-1624](tel:833-940-1624). ★

## VA Scam Alert

**Veterans, Be Vigilant**



Scammers are targeting Veterans, Surviving Spouses, and families who receive VA benefits by posing as official VA representatives and demanding repayment for fake overpayments.

Messages sent by mail, email, or text often look legitimate and may use fake VA logos.

### Common Scam Tactics

- **Fake** VA logos or spoofed phone numbers to appear legitimate
- **Claims** that you owe money for overpaid benefits
- **Urgent pressure** to pay using gift cards, wire transfers, or crypto
- **Requests** for personal or financial information

### How to Protect Yourself

- **Be wary** of unsolicited emails or texts asking for personal details.
- **Verify** VA Benefits letters by logging into your [VA.gov](http://VA.gov) account
- **Do not pay** upfront fees
- **Do not share** personal information with unknown callers

If you suspect fraud, **report it** by calling **833-38V-SAFE** (833-388-7233) or visit [www.VSAFE.gov](http://www.VSAFE.gov). ★

# Director's Corner



## VA Now Offers Free Commemorative Urns or Plaques for Eligible Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) now offers free commemorative urns or plaques for eligible cremated Veterans whose remains are not interred. These items honor Veterans; however, accepting one permanently forfeits the right to burial in a VA national cemetery or a government marker.

### Key Details of the Program:

- **Eligibility:** The Veteran must have served on or after April 6, 1917, received a discharge other than dishonorable, and their cremated remains must not be buried, scattered, or placed in a columbarium.
- **The Trade-Off:** If a family accepts a VA-provided urn or plaque, they cannot later inter the Veteran in a national cemetery or receive a traditional VA headstone, marker, or medallion.
- **Application Process:** **Summit County Veterans Service Commission** can assist family members in completing and submitting [VA Form 40-1330UP](#). The form may be completed and submitted independently.

• **Purpose:** Provide a dignified, lasting tribute for families who choose to keep a Veteran's cremated remains at home.



## FREE 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 the 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
- Surviving spouse pension
- Burial benefits
- Headstones

### Two Options

- **Commemorative Plaque:** The walnut plaque is 10" x 8" x 0.75" There is a notched keyhole to allow the plaque to hang on a wall.
- **Commemorative Urn:** The walnut urn is 7.125" x 7.25" x 9.25"

Both include a 5" etched folded flag emblem, the word *Veteran*, branch of service, and a black plate with a brass inscription of the Veteran's name, date of birth, and date of death.

This new option is intended to honor the Veteran while providing recognition to families who choose not to use a national cemetery.

In Appreciation,

*Larry D. Moore*

**Executive Director**



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**

## Budgeting Basics



Budgeting is personal, and there is no one-size-fits-all plan. Build one that fits your life and goals, and keep it simple enough to stick with. Many people use color coding and clear categories to track expenses.

Your budget should include regular income and expenses, but not overtime. Overtime can change or disappear, so it is better used for savings like an emergency fund or large expenses. There are also new IRS considerations related to [Overtime and Tips](#) that may affect your planning.

If your income varies, create multiple budget scenarios for high, average, and low income periods. Save more during strong months to cover slower ones.

### Key Areas to Plan For

- Emergency fund (3 months of expenses)
- Vehicle repairs and maintenance
- Home repairs and rising housing costs
- Increases in rent, taxes, or insurance

A strong budget prepares you for both expected and unexpected expenses.

For help creating a personalized budget or financial plan, contact Lori Mann, Personal Financial Counselor at Summit County Veterans Service Commission at 330-564-8030.

Provided at **no cost** to Veterans. ★

## Email Can Now Be Added to Your DD 214

The **DD Form 214** is one of the most important documents a Service Member receives at separation. It verifies military service and is often required to access benefits, employment, and other services.

Recent updates have modernized the **DD 214** to better support today's digital environment. This change is part of a broader **DoD initiative** to modernize the form and improve post-service communication. New versions of the form include email contact information and improved electronic delivery options, making it easier for Veterans to access and share their records.

### What's New

- **Email** contact information added
- **Enhanced Electronic Delivery**
- **Reserve Component:** A new form, the **DD Form 214-1**, provides a standardized record of service for Reserve members.

The updated **DD 214** has now been implemented across military systems, with digital features built into platforms such as the **Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army (IPPS-A)** and other branch-specific personnel systems. Each branch continues to refine how records are processed and delivered.

If you have already separated and need to correct or update information on your DD 214, you must typically request a **DD Form 215** (Correction to DD Form 214) through your branch's Board for Correction of Military Records.



### How to Ensure Your Email is Included:

- **During Transition:** When reviewing your draft DD 214 worksheet during the separation process (typically 15-30 days before discharge), ensure the email field is filled out correctly.
- **Update DEERS:** It is highly recommended to update your **Primary Personnel Email Address** in the ID Card Office (IDCO) Online or via milConnect to ensure your records are accurate before the form is generated. ★

## Don't miss the latest news, events & resources from the Summit County VSC



**Sign up Today!**

[www.VSCsummitOH.us/eyesright-signup/](http://www.VSCsummitOH.us/eyesright-signup/)



## The Meaning of Coins and Stones on a Veteran's Headstone

When someone leaves a coin or a small stone on a Veteran's headstone, it carries quiet meaning. It is a simple way of saying, "You are remembered.

You are not forgotten." For families, it offers comfort knowing that others have taken a moment to visit, reflect, and honor their loved one's service.

Specific coin denominations indicate the depth of that connection between the visitor and the Veteran, while stones, rooted in Jewish tradition, represent lasting remembrance, honor, and gratitude for the Veteran's sacrifice.

The coin tradition gained popularity during the Vietnam War as a symbolic gesture, often representing sharing a beer or a game of cards with a fallen comrade.

In many national and state Veterans cemeteries, these coins are carefully collected over time and used to assist with burial costs for indigent Veterans or to support Veterans' organizations, allowing each gesture of remembrance to continue giving back.

These coins and stones are known as "grave goods" and should always be left in place as a sign of respect, serving as meaningful tributes honoring the Veteran. ★

### The Meaning of Coins and Stones



- **Penny:** Simply signifies that a person **visited** the gravesite of the Veteran



- **Nickel:** Indicates the visitor and fallen Veteran trained in **boot camp** together



- **Dime:** Signifies that the visitor and the deceased Veteran served together



- **Quarter:** Indicates that the visitor was physically **present** for the **Veteran's passing**



- **Stone or Pebble:** Rooted in Jewish tradition, a symbol of **enduring memory** and respect honoring the fallen Veteran



Tip of the **H.A.T.** Helping America's Troops

## Homeless Veterans in America, Unacceptable

Every Veteran raised their hand to serve this country. No one who has worn the uniform should ever face the uncertainty of not having a place to call home. Yet for too many, that is still a reality. [Support Our Veterans Co. \(SOVC\)](#) is working to change that.

Since adopting the **Housing First** approach in 2018, SOVC has provided safe housing and supportive services through homes in partnership with the VA's HUD-VASH program.

As of January 2026, the Veterans placed in these homes remain there, rebuilding their lives, regaining independence, and contributing once again to their communities.

*We exist to ensure Veterans in need are **never left behind**, and have access to housing, support, and a pathway to renewed stability, dignity, and independence.*



Founded on service, community, and camaraderie, SOVC is driven by a simple belief: "If you have the ability to change what you see is wrong, then it is our duty to do so."

Their vision is clear: a future where every Veteran has a safe home, access to support, and the opportunity to thrive.

Serving those who served is not optional; it is our duty. ★