



AGENDA

Veterans Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | 3:15 PM

Dublin Schools - Emerald Campus

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of 03-20-2025 Dublin Veterans Advisory Committee Minutes

[03-20-25 DVAC Minutes - draft.pdf](#)

CITIZEN COMMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

Veteran's Appreciation Card Program - Ticket Drawing

OLD BUSINESS

Memorial Day Ceremony Update

Eyes of Freedom Update

Military Round Table Update

Veterans Affairs

[Veterans Affairs 5.15.25.pdf](#)

STAFF COMMENTS

ROUNDTABLE

ADJOURNMENT



MEETING MINUTES

DUBLIN VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Noble, Chair, called the Dublin Veterans Advisory Committee (DVAC) meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jeff Noble, Bonnie Gamary, Tim Hansley, Roger Ansel, Sean Clifton, Stephen Dickman, Tracy Owens, John Reiner (arrived at 4:20 p.m.)

Members Absent: Jan Rozanski, Michael Kehoe

Staff Present: Kendel Blake, Lori Gischel

Guests Present: Buck Bramlish, Ex. Director, Franklin County Veterans Service Commission; Tom Holton, President, Dublin Historical Society; Mark Lehr, Dublin City Schools; Zoe Lefferts, Maya Falco, John Witt, Dublin Scioto High School

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL MINUTES

Ms. Gamary moved, Mr. Hansley seconded approval of the November 11, 2024 DVAC meeting.

Vote: Vice Chair Gamary, yes; Mr. Clifton, yes; Chair Noble, yes; Mr. Hansley, yes; Mr. Ansel, yes; Mr. Dickman, yes; Mr. Owens, yes.

[Motion carried 7-0.]

NEW BUSINESS

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade Recap**

Chair Noble stated that there was a good turnout for the parade, despite the rainy weather.

Ms. Gischel stated that the attendance numbers for the parade revealed that the attendance was only 300-400 less than the previous year, and there were only 10 less parade units.

- **Memorial Day Ceremony Update**

Chair Noble reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Ceremony. This will be the 20th anniversary of the Lima Company struggle in Iraq.

- **Eyes of Freedom Exhibition Update**

Chair Noble stated that the Eyes of Freedom exhibit will be present in Dublin that day. The Eyes of Freedom is a life-size portrait representation of the Lima Company marines who were killed in Iraq. The representation is currently on display at the State House, and will be brought to Dublin to be on display on Memorial Day, May 26.

Ms. Gischel stated that trucks will be bringing the exhibit in to Dublin on Sunday evening, May 25 and the exhibit will be on display in the North Market Monday, May 26 through Thursday, May 29. An outdoor replica of the Eyes of Freedom exhibit will be on display in Riverside Crossing Park Monday May 26 through Saturday, May 31. Although the North Market will be closed on Monday, the exhibit will be available to the public to visit that day. Ms. Gischel stated that the Memorial Day festivities will be begin with the parade at 11:00 a.m., which will follow the same route as previous years. The wreath-throwing ceremony will be observed on the Bridge Street Bridge followed by a ceremony at the Dublin Cemetery at 11:30 a.m. The ceremonies will be followed by the community picnic in Monterey Park at noon. The public is invited.

Chair Noble stated that the Memorial Day ceremony speaker this year will be Jody Davids, mother of Wesley G. Davids, a member of the Lima Company who was killed in Iraq.

- **Franklin County Veterans Service Commission 2024 Assistance Report**

Chair Noble stated that the 2024 Franklin County Veterans Service Commission Assistance Report was provided in the meeting packet and invited Buck Bramlish to present the report.

Buck Bramlish, Executive Director, Franklin County Veterans Service Commission, stated that many years ago, he was a school teacher in Pickerington. Because one of the Lima Company members killed had been a student in his class, that event impacted him. He referred to the assistance graph in the packet, and noted that in 2024, the Commission had 6,952 applications for financial assistance. 98% of the applicants were approved for all or part of their request, which totaled over \$4M in services and resources. Last year, the Commission provided \$1.9M in food and \$1.4M in rent and mortgage for veterans. Their objective is to keep veterans housed and with food on the table. Those veterans in need of additional case management are referred to other resources. In addition, they provide assistance with utilities, car payments and other forms of emergency financial assistance. Mr. Bramlish stated that the process for seeking veteran assistance benefits is lengthy, although they attempt to expedite the process as much as they can. Last year, they filed over 1,000 new claims; 6,092 financial assistance claims; and 1,844 service assignments. He reviewed the demographics of those they assist. He noted that Jeff Noble is his boss; he is one of the 5 commissioners appointed by the Court of Common Pleas who select and oversee the Executive Director of the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission. In 2024, the Commission experienced the greatest number of veterans serviced and the largest budget that they have expended. In his experience, Franklin County is a very friendly and supportive county for veteran causes. This year, he will have some requests to pose to the Dublin Veterans Committee, although they might be outside the committee's purview. There is a need for additional State Veterans Homes in Ohio. He attended the veterans caucus this past week, and he believes there are some legislators who will be interested, but it will take time to confirm their support. Per a recent report, 81 projects have been approved at the state level and referred to the federal level for new State Veterans Homes. All the contiguous states to Ohio have either more veterans homes or a better ratio of nursing beds to veterans. Ohio is the worst out of 5

contiguous states and in the bottom 10 in the nation, when comparing the number of veterans to veteran home nursing beds. 50% of the capacity to serve veterans in nursing homes through the Veterans Administration is in State Veterans Homes. Those homes are funded 35% by the State and 65% by the Federal government. It costs approximately \$100M to build a new state veterans home. Once built, 40% of the operating funds come from the State, 40% from the Veterans Administration and 20% from the veterans. Ohio has to approve the portion that comes from the State before it can get on the list for Federal funds. Currently, the State's focus is only on rehabilitating its two existing State Veterans Homes (one in Sandusky and one in Georgetown, Brown County). He needs some assistance in asserting influence on this cause, and that is where Dublin comes in.

Mr. Reiner inquired if the State Veterans Homes provide comprehensive care. Would a modern veterans home be comprised of a combination of single-family units, apartment units and some total care units?

Mr. Bramlish responded that he and two Amvet representatives recently visited a newly constructed state home in Michigan, which was very nice. The facility provides memory care and single-occupancy units; there are no locking doors; it is wristband device-controlled. The intent of most veteran homes is to provide nursing and/or memory care.

Chair Noble stated that he watches the Franklin County Veterans Commission statistics closely, in particular the ratio of internal expenditures versus distribution of veteran funds. The ratio has not changed much in 9 years. The Commission continues to increase its budget, making sure that it does not get ahead of itself financially.

Mr. Hansley inquired if there is federal review of the local agency. Could the Federal government come in and cut Franklin County's budget, operations and program?

Mr. Bramlish responded that since their agency is locally funded, per ORC 5901, there is no risk. There are some states that do more for veterans than Ohio, but Ohio does the Veterans Assistance program well. Every Ohio county replicates this program. The County Commissioners can review the budget, but they can't revise it. He has no concerns due to how the agency is funded.

Mr. Reiner requested clarification. Is it his mission to see that a veterans home is built in this area? As he understands it, one veterans home exists in northern Ohio and one in southern Ohio, but there are none within this area.

Mr. Bramlish responded that Ohio needs two additional State Veterans Homes, one in the northeast and one in central Ohio. Approval requires a State vote. New State Veterans Homes are only 130-140 beds. Part of the objection is that there is a lot of unused nursing home capacity, but adding two new State Veterans Homes should not present an issue. It is a political issue, so he needs influential assistance in sharing this need with the governor's team. Right now, the governor's office stance is that the two existing State Veterans Homes are being rehabilitated. More understanding is needed regarding the large number of veterans in need of a place to stay. If the State were to approve the addition of a State Veterans Home to the next State operating budget, it still would be 12 years before the project was funded and 15 years until construction was completed.

Mr. Reiner suggested that it might be easier to buy and convert an existing nursing home that is not particularly successful. Additionally, some tiny single-family houses could be constructed around it. In so doing, the project would provide both memory care and single-family units.

Mr. Bramlish stated that Mr. Reiner's suggestion is similar to one that Mr. McDaniel suggested several years ago. He had questioned the need to wait on Federal participating funds. Mr. Bramlish responded that he does not know enough about the concept to respond knowledgeably. He does know that they do not want to rehabilitate a hotel. There is a new place called Vista Village that is comprised of tiny homes, which purportedly supports veterans as well as others. He is free to do this type of research. He is aware that for a facility to be a veterans home, the land has to be given to the state. He compliments this veterans committee, which is different than similar bodies in other communities. His goal is to have a central Ohio state veterans home and wants to exert consistent efforts to achieve that.

- **Dublin Scioto Purple Star Club - Veteran's Experience at the Veteran Story Event**

Chair Noble introduced Zoe Lefferts and Maya Falco, Dublin Scioto High School Students, and their advisor, Mr. John Witt, who are present to describe their Purple Star project.

Ms. Lefferts stated that she and Maya are sophomores at Dublin Scioto High School and are members of the Dublin Scioto Purple Star Club, led by Mr. Witt. At this point, they have participated in the Purple Star program for two years. In their sophomore year, club members work on a veterans storyboard project that focuses on veterans' stories. For their project this year, they will be adding a focus titled "A Veteran's Experience," to the presentation.

Ms. Falco stated that for their add-on project, they will need to interview as many veterans as possible. They are collecting veterans' stories with the goal of honoring and displaying their stories to others.

Ms. Lefferts stated that they have conducted many interviews but would like to interview and collect more stories. Their goal is to complete and provide a week-long presentation the week before Veterans Day, November 2025. She and Maya are hopeful that some of the veterans on this committee will be willing to be interviewed for their project.

Ms. Falco noted that they are interested in hearing the veterans' entire story, including what made them want to join and their experience in and after their military service.

Ms. Lefferts distributed sign-up sheets for those who are willing to be interviewed to sign up. A QR code is also provided, if members would like to sign-up in that manner.

Chair Noble stated that he believes most committee members have viewed the Dublin Scioto Purple Star Club veterans storyboard project. Ms. Lefferts and Ms. Falco are undertaking an adjunct project.

Ms. Blake inquired the deadline for completing their interviews.

Ms. Lefferts responded that they would like to have completed the interviews by the middle of May 2025. Their intent is to do preparatory work on their project throughout the summer and be ready to focus on it at the start of the new school year in the fall with the goal of having the project completed in November.

Ms. Blake stated that the City distributes periodic emails to veterans notifying them of upcoming events, one of which will be sent shortly before Memorial Day. In that email, she would be happy to provide a link to their QR code inviting interested veterans to reach out to Ms. Lefferts and Ms. Falco.

Ms. Gamary requested that they share the extended period of time they hope to have the presentation available beyond the one week of "The Veterans Story Event."

Ms. Lefferts responded that they have been voice-recording veterans' interviews. Their intent is to be able to post the veterans' photos and stories at the website, so the stories are available to more than Dublin Scioto community members.

Chair Noble suggested that Ms. Lefferts and Ms. Falco contact Dublin Arts Council (DAC). There are veterans who are no longer with us whose stories were recorded a few years ago by the Dublin Arts Council for a veterans art exhibit. They may be willing to provide the students access to some of that information.

Ms. Falco responded that they would be happy to reach out to DAC.

Ms. Blake stated that she would provide them with the contact information.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Historical Society - Cemetery Project Update**

Tom Holton, Dublin Historical Society stated that Mark Lehr, who has been working on the Dublin Cemetery project is present to provide an update. He noted that Ms. Ingraham, City Parks division, has been very helpful with this project.

Mark Lehr, Dublin City Schools, Operations Department, stated that he has been assisting Mr. Holton with this project since mid-July 2024. In the past months, they have added 28 names of veterans that were not previously recognized in the Dublin Cemetery database. If only a name is provided in the database, they have attempted to add birth, death and military information, such as rank and regiment. He and Mr. Holton spent some time at the Ohio History Center trying to find records that confirm Dr. Pinney, former Dublin physician, participated in the Civil War as an independent surgeon. To date, they have been unsuccessful. Another Dublin Cemetery veteran, Amaziah Hutchinson, participated in the Revolutionary War. In 1941, The Columbus Dispatch ran an article on Amaziah Hutchinson's participation in the Revolutionary War. Sons of the American Revolution ran a similar article, as well, but provided some resources to validate their research. One of those was Mr. Hutchinson's Revolutionary War pension file, but when he accessed that file, he discovered it was not Mr. Hutchinson. There is some flawed data in the files of the Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution, but they are attempting to make corrections.

Mr. Holton stated that they are not conducting just local research; they are searching the national archives.

Mr. Lehr stated that his background is in conducting exhaustive researches to be able to confirm that he has checked all available resources. He actually researched 121 individuals to be able to confirm the 28 additions to the Dublin Cemetery's veterans database. He has essentially completed his Revolutionary and Civil War research and is now working on World War II veterans. As a researcher, he submits requests for service records of deceased veterans. There is a 62-year privacy law with service records. The response he sometimes receives is that he must submit

proof of death and a statement from the next of kin expressing no objection to his obtaining that information. Moving forward, that privacy law might hamper his ability to conduct that research. JustFOIA requests typically take months to have filled.

Mr. Owens asked if there were anything this committee could do to assist, such as provide a letter.

Mr. Lehr responded that he and Mr. Holton had discussed the possibility of asking the Dublin Veterans Committee to provide a letter indicating that Mr. Lehr is conducting research for a Dublin veterans project. However, he does not know if a local letter would carry much weight with the National Personnel Records Center.

Mr. Bramlish stated that he would discuss the situation with one of his team members who has experience in this area and see if they might have a suggestion.

Mr. Holton observed that although the research process is slow and plodding, Mr. Lehr is a persistent researcher. The City is fortunate to have his services with this project.

Mr. Hansley stated that he appreciates Mr. Lehr's philosophy of ensuring the information in the cemetery's database is correct.

- **State and Federal Veterans Affairs**

Ms. Blake stated that an update of current legislative efforts on behalf of veterans was provided in committee members' meeting packets. State and Federal legislators have introduced multiple bills related to veteran activities. Quite a few are related to the homestead exemption, medical care and the Veterans Administration System in general. We are trying to remain aware of any legislation that could affect Dublin residents.

Mr. Bramlish stated that the state legislators who were present at the Veterans Caucus this week referred to the homestead exemption. Most veterans are not satisfied with it, but Representative Richardson said they were trying to take an iterative approach.

Chair Noble stated that Franklin County provides dental and eye care to veterans at a higher level than normal financial assistance to veterans.

Mr. Bramlish stated the Veterans Assistance Commission has a good dental financial assistance program, but they are not providing much vision care assistance at this time, as they have had difficulty finding participating providers.

- **Upcoming Military Round Table Events**

Chair Noble stated that he is still completing the agendas for upcoming Military Round Table events at the Dublin Community Recreation Center. Their next scheduled speaker is Gene Bostic, who will be speaking on Monday, March 31, at 1:00 p.m. He is working on scheduling other speakers for future Round Table discussions.

STAFF COMMENTS

There were no staff comments.

ROUNDTABLE

There were no Roundtable comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Jeff Noble, Chair

Assistant Clerk of Council

Level of Government	Bill #	Bill	Legislator(s)	Status
State	SB 225	To amend section 5.481 of the Revised Code to designate September 22 as Veterans Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day	Roegner K.	Signed by the Governor and effective on 10/24/24
	SCR 7	To urge Congress to reissue Department of Defense Civilian Retiree Identification Cards, which were discontinued in 2023. The resolution argues that the new access requirements for military recreational areas are burdensome and that retired civilian DoD personnel deserve continued recognition and benefits, including easier access to these sites.	Koehler, K.	Adopted by Senate, In House Veterans and Military Development Committee
	HB 22	To authorize a full homestead exemption for surviving spouses of uniformed service members killed in the line of duty. The bill amends sections of the Ohio Revised Code to grant these surviving spouses a complete exemption from property taxes on their primary residence, ensuring financial relief and recognition for their loss.	Lorenz B.	In the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee
	SB 39	To require the Ohio Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Department of Veterans Services, to create a poster outlining benefits and services available to veterans. The poster must include information on veteran programs, crisis support, mental health and substance abuse treatment, education, tax benefits, unemployment eligibility, and legal services. Employers in Ohio may choose to display the poster in a visible location for employees, with copies provided free of charge upon request.	Johnson T., Craig H.	Passed by the Ohio Senate, In House Veterans and Military Development Committee
	HB 40	To increase the enhanced homestead exemption for certain disabled veterans. The bill amends sections of the Ohio Revised Code to expand property tax reductions for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses, ensuring greater financial relief. It adjusts income thresholds and exemption amounts to provide more substantial benefits, offering additional support to those who have served.	Richardson T., Dovilla M.	In the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee
	SB 92	To authorize a total property tax exemption for the homesteads of totally disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The bill amends sections of the Ohio Revised Code to exempt these individuals from paying property taxes on their primary residence, ensuring full financial relief.	Patton T.	In the Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee
	HB 95	To appropriate funding to support higher education institutions that are members of the Ohio Veterans Education Council. The bill allocates funds for military and veterans' offices, including grants, student awards for Military Community Advocates, and professional development opportunities. It also funds administrative support, a veteran resource website, and initiatives to enhance veteran services at Ohio colleges and universities.	Roegner K.	In the Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee
	HR 71	Veterans Health Care Freedom Act - To establish a three-year pilot program within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to expand veterans' access to health care. The program allows enrolled veterans to choose their health care providers within the VA system, the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP), and Veterans Care Agreements. It removes certain eligibility restrictions, such as location-based requirements, and after four years, permanently eliminates these restrictions to ensure veterans can access care under the same conditions as the pilot program.	Biggs A.	Introduced in House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and referred to the Subcommittee on Health
	HR 109	TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act - Seeks to improve the administration of VA caregiver programs by requiring the VA to formally recognize caregivers in veterans' health records. The bill mandates standardized notifications for veterans and caregivers regarding clinical determinations affecting eligibility, tier reductions, or termination of benefits. Additionally, it requires a temporary 90-day extension of benefits under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers when a veteran loses eligibility, except in cases of fraud, abuse, caregiver replacement, abandonment, or voluntary withdrawal.	Biggs A.	Introduced in House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
	HR 136	Veteran Overmedication and Suicide Prevention Act of 2025 - Seeks to require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study suicide deaths among veterans who received VA care in the five years before their death. The report must include the total number of these deaths, categorized by suicide, violent death, or accidental death, along with demographic data, regardless of whether the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported the information.	Buchanan V.	Introduced in House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and referred to the Subcommittee on Health

Federal

HR 244	Veterans' True Choice Act of 2025 - Seeks to allow certain veterans, including those with service-connected disabilities, former prisoners of war, and recipients of the Purple Heart or Medal of Honor, to enroll in TRICARE Select, the Department of Defense's health care program. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) must reimburse the Department of Defense (DOD) for the costs of enrolling eligible veterans. However, covered veterans cannot receive medical care from both the VA and DOD simultaneously.	Steube G.	Introduced in House Committee on Armed Services, Referred to the Subcommittee on Health
HR 210	Dental Care for Veterans Act - Seeks to expand eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) dental care to all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. Currently, only those with service-connected dental issues or specific qualifications receive VA dental services. The bill phases in eligibility over four years based on factors such as existing eligibility, service-connected disabilities, former prisoner of war status, Purple Heart awards, financial need, and overall VA health care eligibility.	Brownley J.	Introduced in House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and referred to the Subcommittee on Health
HR 224	Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act - Seeks to exclude military service-connected disability compensation from a veteran's income when determining eligibility for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The bill ensures that disability compensation does not affect access to housing support and other community development benefits. Additionally, it requires the Government Accountability Office to report on how service-connected disability compensation is considered in all Department of Housing and Urban Development programs, identifying any inconsistencies in its treatment.	De La Cruz M.	Passed House, Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
HR 333	Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act - Seeks to modify military retired pay provisions by allowing veterans with a service-connected disability rating of less than 50% to receive both military retired pay and VA disability compensation concurrently. Additionally, the bill extends eligibility for concurrent receipt to certain disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, with specified reductions in retired pay.	Bishop S.	Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
HR 95	Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act - To amend section 3(b)(4) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exclude certain disability benefits from income for the purposes of determining eligibility for the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19), and for other purposes.	Sherman B.	Passed the United States House and was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
HR 748	RELIEVE Act - Seeks to expand eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reimbursement of emergency treatment at non-VA facilities. The bill waives the current requirement that a veteran must have received VA care within the past 24 months if the emergency treatment occurs within 60 days of the veteran enrolling in the VA health care system.	Bergman J.	Introduced to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
HR 828	SERV Act - To require the Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator to report on the veterans interagency task force and to mandate the Comptroller General to assess access to credit for small businesses owned and controlled by veterans, Reservists, or their spouses. The bill aims to improve financial opportunities and resources for veteran and Reservist entrepreneurs.	Davids S.	Passed the United States House and was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
HR 818	SPUR Act - To require federal agencies to include new small business entrants in their annual small business contracting scorecard. Specifically, the bill mandates reporting on the number of first-time prime contract recipients that are owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, HUBZone small businesses, socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and women. It also amends the Small Business Act to formalize these reporting requirements and enhance accountability in federal small business contracting.	Stauber P.	Passed the United States House and was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Up to date as of 5/8/25