



STARK COUNTY VETERAN OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

(Adopted May 21, 2024)

The Stark County Veteran of the Year Program is a countywide program designed to recognize men and women who honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces and continued to serve their community with notable achievements, volunteerism, advocacy, professional distinction and public service, while participating in beneficial community organizations and activities.

1. **Eligibility.**

The Nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Must have served in the U.S. Armed Forces on active military duty
- Must have been discharged under honorable conditions for all periods of service
- Must be a resident of Stark County, Ohio
- Must have made significant contributions at the local, state, or national level by achieving excellence in their selected profession or through volunteer work

2. **Definitions.**

The definition of veteran:

Veteran means any person who has completed service in the Armed Forces, including the National Guard of any state, or a reserve component of the Armed Forces, who has been discharged under honorable conditions from the Armed Forces or who has been transferred to the reserve with evidence of satisfactory service.

The definition of Armed Forces:

Armed Forces of the United States, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, or any reserve components of those forces; the National Guard of any state; the commissioned corps of the United States Public Health Service; the Merchant Marine Service during wartime; such other service as may be designated by congress; or the Ohio Organized Militia when engaged in full-time National Guard duty for a period of more than thirty days.

3. **Nomination Packet.**

All nomination packages must include the following for consideration *(incomplete packages will not be considered)*:

- a. Nomination Form
- b. Military Discharge Document(s)
- c. Nomination Letter

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Nomination letter should include:

i.) Summary of Post-Military Achievements

This can include, but are not limited to professional accomplishments, veterans' advocacy, membership and involvement in service organizations, contributions to local community initiatives, public service, elected official positions and volunteerism.

ii.) Summary of Post-Military Awards & Honors

Provide a list of awards and honors, to include date(s). Clear copies of awards, certificates, and/or newspaper articles are acceptable. Do not send original documents.

iii.) Summary of Non-Military Education & Training Accomplishments

Highlight key education, training and professional development accomplishments.

iv.) Narrative Detailing the Veteran's Overall Accomplishments & Achievements

Include any information that will assist the committee to understand the accomplishments and achievements of the nominee.

4. Nominations.

Nominations are open from June 1st through August 31st.

The award may be presented posthumously. Serving board members of the Veterans Service Commission of Stark County are not eligible for nomination.

5. Review Committee.

The Review Committee consists of the Veterans Service Commission of Stark County Board of Commissioners and previous Veteran of the Year Awardees. Former Greater Canton Veterans Service Council's Veteran of the Year Awardees are also included in the Review Committee. The President of the Veterans Service Commission of Stark County Board of Commissioners will serve as Review Committee Chairman. In the event voting results in a tie, the chairman will render the deciding vote.

6. Nomination Review.

All nominations will be reviewed in the month of September, on a date selected by the Review Committee. This date will be on or before September 15th.

7. Announcement of Awardee.

Only the Nominator will be notified if their nominee is NOT selected. The selected Awardee will be notified at the earliest possible date. A formal presentation of the award will be made by the Veterans Service Commission of Stark County. If possible, the presentation will take place on Veterans Day during the Veterans Day Ceremony in the city/township of the selected Awardee.

8. Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Nomination.

The Veterans Service Commission of Stark County will complete an Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame (OVHOF) Nomination Form for the selected awardee for a maximum of three (3) consecutive years after their selection as Stark County Veteran of the Year. Any member of the County Veterans Service Commission selected will be nominated to the OVHOF after the 2 year wait period, if applicable. The Awardee is anticipated to assist with the nomination form to ensure all accomplishments and accolades are included for consideration.