

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

VOLUME 5, EDITION 6

JUNE 1, 2013

Pickerington, Ohio, 7th-grader named national Military Kid of Year

By Bill Pierce
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Molly Frey, a 12-year-old from Pickerington, Ohio, and daughter of two Airmen with the Ohio Air National Guard's 121st Air Refueling Wing, was recently recognized as one of four Military Kids of the Year by the Our Military Kids organization.

The daughter of Senior Master Sgts. Kim and Renee Frey, Molly was selected because, in addition to being an "excellent ballet dancer," she is an accomplished figure skater and sailor, and has helped raise money for breast cancer awareness by participating in Skate for Hope, an organization that has raised \$430,000 for breast cancer research, according to Our Military Kids officials.

Our Military Kids is a national nonprofit organization that provides activity grants to children of deployed National Guard and Reserve members, along with wounded and fallen warriors from all branches and components of service. To compete to be a Military Kid of the Year, a child had to receive an initial grant, be an active volunteer in his or her community and have a parent deployed.

Molly's father, Kim, was deployed to Camp Leatherneck, a 1,600-acre Marine Corps base located in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2012, when Molly received her grant.

Molly's mother, Renee, sent in the nomination paperwork not knowing that Molly would be one of only four children selected from across the country. She was chosen out of about 100 candidates who qualified.

"I surprised Molly by showing up in her classroom at Pickerington Lakeview Junior High to tell her she was selected," Renee said. "She thought it was the neatest thing that I told her in front of her classmates."

After being selected, Molly was flown with her mother in April to Arlington, Va., to attend the Our Military Kids' fourth annual "A Celebration of our Military Kids' Star Power" awards program.

Upon their arrival, they met with U.S. Rep. Steve Stivers, of Ohio's 15th Congressional District, and toured the Capitol and Pentagon.

"It was a very moving experience to see the memorial that was built for employees killed during the terrorist attack at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001," Renee said. "Each of them has a bench with their name on it that is lit up at night in remembrance."



Molly Frey (left), a Pickerington, Ohio, native, stands with Cincinnati Reds manager Dusty Baker before her favorite team plays the Washington Nationals April 25, 2013, in Washington, D.C. Molly, who was invited onto the field at Nationals Park prior to the game, was one of four youths selected as a Military Kid of the Year by the Our Military Kids organization, a national nonprofit organization that provides activity grants to children of deployed National Guard and Reserve members, along with Wounded and Fallen Warriors from all branches and components of service. (Courtesy photo)

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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

121st Air Refueling Wing
 123rd Air Control Squadron
 178th Fighter Wing
 179th Airlift Wing
 180th Fighter Wing
 200th Red Horse Squadron
 220th Engineering Installation Squadron
 251st Combat Communications Group
 269th Combat Communications Squadron

Army units:

Det. 21
 1487th Transportation Co.
 Military Advisory Team - 2
 837th Engineer Co.
 838th Military Police Company
 437th Military Police Battalion
 371st Sustainment Brigade

As of May 22, 2013, about 1,189 Ohio National Guard Airmen and Soldiers are deployed

Pickerington, Ohio, 7th-grader...

(cont. from pg. 1)

Later that day, Molly attended a Washington Nationals baseball game where the hometown club competed against her favorite team, the Cincinnati Reds.

“My favorite part was posing for a photo with Reds manager Dusty Baker,” Molly said. “I’m a huge Reds fan.”

The next night was the Our Military Kids ceremony which focused on the four nationwide Military Kids of the Year award recipients and the 2013 Military Family of the Year. Molly’s part of the ceremony was performing a ballet routine that she choreographed herself. With the help of her instructors, she put together a routine to Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” a song she heard her father playing on his guitar after he returned from deployment.

Molly said the best part of the trip was meeting the other Military Kids of the Year recipients, who hailed from California, Florida and Louisiana.

“I think it’s such a great thing that military kids get honored, because in a military Family, we all serve.” Molly said.

Applying for the grant is a simple process. Visit the organization’s website at www.ourmilitarykids.org, and download and complete an application. Eligible Families are notified soon after they apply for the grant. The children then receive a packet thanking the child for their service to the country and notifying them of the \$500 grant.

Ohio Operation: Military Kids

Family Camp Volunteers Needed



Family camps are an amazing way for Military Families to bond, grow and learn together! OMK is looking for **3 volunteers for EACH** of our family camps. We need support:

June 7-9 Camp Joy, Clarksville

August 23-25 Camp Patmos, Kelleys Island

August 23-25 Beulah Beach, Vermillion

Volunteer duties include taking photos and assisting with games; we promise you will have plenty of time to enjoy camp.

Contact Amanda Fogle Sigmon at Amanda.m.fogle.ctr@mail.mil or 614-336-4241 to volunteer.

Meet you by the campfire!



Past events**May 25 -**

Welcome Home Ceremony for 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church, Reynoldsburg, Ohio

June events**June 8 -**

The 6th Annual SFC Daniel B. Crabtree Memorial 5K begins at 10 a.m. Register at www.active.com. Enter 'SFC Dan Crabtree' in the search box. For more information, contact Maj. Marshall Jackson at: elapid007@yahoo.com

June 17 -

121 ARW Chief's Council Golf Outing, Homestead Springs Golf Course, 5888 London Lancaster Road, Groveport. Morning registration at 8 a.m.; Shotgun start at 9 a.m.

Only \$50/Person or \$200/Team. Contact Chief Master Sgt Fuller (614-492-3404), Chief Master Sgt Gordon (614-492-3544), or Mrs. Ebert (614-492-4417) for more information. HURRY! Registration closes June 10



Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

IT'S YOUR CALL

Confidential help for Veterans and their families

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

VA Partners with Vets Groups to Reduce Claims Backlog

By Alex Horton

Listen to the chatter in a VA medical center waiting room or scroll our Facebook page, and you'll get a sense of one of the biggest issues affecting Veterans: the disability claims backlog. The problem did not begin overnight, and as a result, the solutions won't arrive that quickly either. But VA took another step to square away the backlog once and for all.

In partnership with the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans, VA will ramp up its Fully Developed Claims output in an effort to cut down on the backlog. From Military.com:

"We have been working with VA since last December on its fully developed claims process," [American Legion National Commander] Koutz said. "Teams of our experts have already gone to VA regional offices in Denver, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and other cities to help identify best practices for FDCs, and to further train our own service officers."

FDCs—claims with all the necessary evidence that can be processed in half the time of normal claims, with better accuracy—are a key part of the solution. A great deal of time spent on a claim is simply waiting for evidence to be submitted and collected. FDCs strip away that antiquated method in order to reach claims decisions much faster.

The Legion and DAV have keyed on a vital aspect of their relationship with VA. Their members are a sounding board for issues affecting Veterans, and their policy experts can channel their experiences into strong, common sense solutions that VA can implement. The two-way communication also helps us to amplify our initiatives to VSO members—which has always been a challenge. So if you know someone about to file a claim, have them look into FDCs along with a Legion or DAV representative, often found right in a VA medical center.

This partnership is just one of the ways VA is tackling the issue. In recent weeks, mandatory overtime has gone into effect for 10,000 claims raters in the agency through the fiscal year, along with a decision to assign provisional ratings to claims older than a year to get Veterans their benefits more quickly.

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Community Outreach Office

Alumni Affairs
2825 W. Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, OH 43235
(614) 336-4135

SPACE-A SCHEDULE - RANGB

Another great opportunity to travel Space-A!

Please check the Space-A travel recording at 614-492-3143 for updates. You may sign up online at www.takeahop.com

Print and bring a copy or fax your request to 614-492-3475

Questions/comments can be directed to:

Tech. Sgt Bob Koteles at 614-492-3476

2013 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - July 25

Region 2 - July 17

Region 3 - July 23

Region 4 - July 23

Region 5 - July 16

Region 6 - July 10

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Staff Sgt. Michael Carden at (614) 336-4135

Retirement Packets

Retirement packets are mailed to your last known mailing address. If you change addresses before your 59th birthday, make sure you contact the office below so they will know where to send your packet.

You will need to send the packet back to receive your retirement pay. Make sure to include the following: NGB Form 22, DD Form 214(s), NGB Form 23, 20-yr letter and SBP election. If you are missing any documents, contact Ms. Jeanette Coughenour at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs).

**U.S. Army Human Resources
Center of Excellence - Fort Knox
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Dept. 420
Fort Knox, KY 40122-56402
1-800-318-5298 or 502-613-8950**

They're Baaaack

The 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, Ohio, welcomed the first two C-130H Hercules, May 24, 2013. The unit is receiving eight C-130Hs, with the final cargo aircraft set to arrive by June 2016. (Ohio National Guard photo by Staff Sgt Joseph Harwood)

