

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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Paying it forward: Soldier helps others as birthday present to himself

Story by Bill Pierce
Ohio National Guard, Public Affairs

Columbus, Ohio – *Inspiration* is defined as: a person, place, event or object that motivates or drives a person to think, feel, do good or be creative.

Pfc. Anthony Snyder was inspired to be creative on his birthday this year, March 3. The Ohio National Guard Soldier is currently majoring in history at Bowling Green State University, and participating in Army ROTC. He is attached to the 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment in Stow, Ohio.

Earlier this year, Snyder decided he did not want to receive presents for his birthday. Instead, he decided to focus on helping others. So on his 19th birthday, he went out into the northeastern Ohio area and performed 19 random acts of kindness for complete strangers. He got the idea from watching videos on YouTube of strangers helping strangers for no apparent reason, except to “pay it forward.”

“I thought it was pretty neat, so I decided to do the same thing and try to help people get through the day,” Snyder said. “What better day to do it than my birthday?”

“Some of what I did was take coffee to people holding signs asking for money or food outside in the cold and renting movies for people at a video store. I also left money attached to a business card at a laundromat and washed a car,” Snyder said. “I delivered donuts to the Tiffin Fire Department and cookies to the emergency management services station in Findlay.”

Similar acts followed.

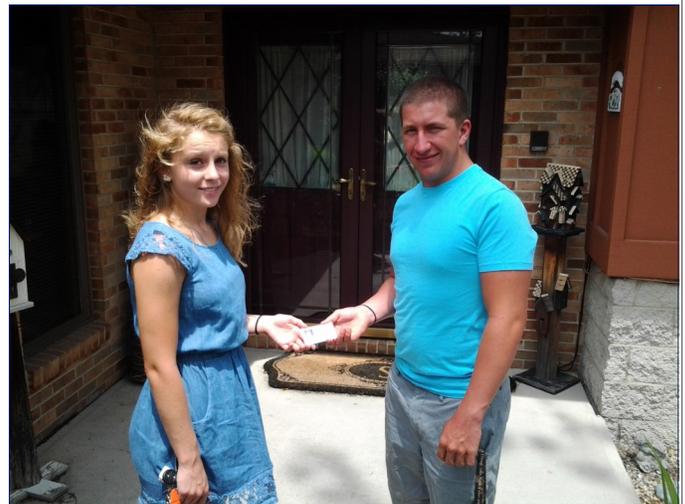
Two of the people he helped, a woman named Jessica and her husband John, were both dressed up and on their way to attend a formal dinner event. Snyder approached them as they were about to wash their car at a local self-serve car wash. Just as John was ready to begin spraying the foam and water onto his car with the power hose, Snyder walked up and asked if he could wash their car for them. As he introduced himself, he handed his card to them explaining what his purpose was for the day. Jessica and her husband were amazed that a stranger came out of nowhere to offer them assistance with their chore.

“I was totally caught off guard,” Jessica said. “We were both dressed up and it would have been awkward if my husband had gotten water all over himself by accident from power washing the car. We were very thankful for his (Snyder’s) help.”

Snyder made his own YouTube video highlighting his project, titled, “Kindness to change the world.”

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Pfc. Anthony Snyder (right) presents his card to Amelia Elgin. Earlier this year, Snyder performed 19 random acts of kindness on his 19th birthday as a way to “pay it forward.”

As he introduced himself, he handed his card to them explaining what his purpose was for the day. Jessica and her husband were amazed that a stranger came out of nowhere to offer them assistance with their chore.

House bill 488 eases Veterans' transition to employment

COLUMBUS — A bill sent June 18 from the Ohio General Assembly to Governor John Kasich for signature includes a number of provisions that help Veterans find employment as well as accelerate their education.

House Bill 488 eases Veterans' transition to employment and improves their access to higher education and employment. The bill is based on proposals that the Governor introduced in March as part of the Mid-Biennium Review (MBR). The MBR built on successes already achieved in state government fiscal, employment and related policies to keep state government moving forward and bring additional jobs to Ohio.

"We certainly appreciate Governor Kasich's leadership in bringing these proposals forward, and the enthusiasm of everyone in both the Ohio House and Senate to work together to make them the law of the state," Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell said. "This elevates Ohio's status as a Veteran-friendly state and as a place all Veterans can be proud to call home."



Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services
Director Tim Gorrell

The major provisions of House Bill 488 are:

Helping Veterans get jobs — Veterans often have advanced training in many of the skills that Ohio job creators are seeking. The bill makes it easier for Veterans to transfer their skills to receive credit toward a professional license so they can quickly begin applying their skills in good-paying jobs that support their families, job creators and their communities.

Fast track to state licenses — The bill contains a number of provisions that strengthen opportunities for Veterans who work with a professional license board, including making sure they can use their GI Bill dollars to pay for national or state occupational license and certificate testing fees, a prioritized process to expedite licensing and certification for Veterans and their spouses, a consistent and broad definition of *Veteran* to allow the State of Ohio to treat all Veterans equally and creation of a centralized website that provides state occupational licensing information to Veterans and their spouses.

Link to private employers with Veterans' preference — The bill permits private sector employers to voluntarily register with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services if they provide a preference in hiring for Veterans and spouses, and requires the Ohio Department of Veterans Services to provide, on its website, a link to a list of these employers.

Giving Veterans college credit for their military training and experience — Veterans who work toward a college degree deserve credit for the military training, experience and coursework they've received in the service — credit that can allow them to earn their degrees faster and reach their goal of obtaining a good-paying civilian job. The bill requires Ohio's higher education system to develop the means to make this happen. It creates the Military Transfer Assurance Guide to provide a baseline of standards, procedures and tools for granting college credit for military experience for any public college and university, providing more consistent services across the state system.

- Academic credit for military training and experience: Veterans who are working toward a college degree deserve credit for their prior military training and experience. The bill requires that Ohio's higher education institutions grant free college credit for military experience.
- Better academic counseling for Veterans: The bill requires that all public higher education institutions provide high-quality academic and career counseling for Veterans to help them ease back into civilian life and navigate the unique programs designed to support them. Veterans would also receive priority course registration.

Helping Ohio Veterans make the transition to college — When re-entering civilian life as a college student, Veterans often struggle to learn their options and the many opportunities available on a college campus. There are colleges and universities in Ohio with first-rate Veteran offices or specifically assigned counselors to support transitioning Veterans. The bill encourages every public campus in Ohio to implement these "best practices." The bill also requires that Veterans and active military service members will be provided priority course registration at Ohio public institutions, ensuring that they have access to the classes they need to succeed and thrive in civilian life. These programs are strengthened by a provision in the bill requiring the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents to report on their implementation and to recommend improvements for integrating student Veterans into campus life.

Protecting Ohioans called to active duty — The bill also includes a provision to increase the penalties for identity theft against an active duty military service member and their spouse, and members of the National Guard and Reserve who are called to active duty.

The assistance to Veterans enacted in House Bill 488 had its origins in the Governor's Executive Order (EO) of June 2013. This EO directed Ohio's boards and commissions to identify ways to quickly grant Veterans professional licenses based on their training and experience, and the Ohio Board of Regents to simplify the process of obtaining academic credit based on military service.

Ohio National Guard Youth & Family Programs

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. This year we are focusing on setting trends instead of following them, making 2014 the year people go **outside**, change their **outlook**, and get **involved** in their community through parks and recreation.



PARK & RECREATION MONTH

JULY 2014

JULY 7

National Matches First Shot Ceremony, Camp Perry, 1000 Lawrence Road, Port Clinton, 1000hrs.

JULY 20

Officer Candidate School Class 61 Commissioning Ceremony, 147th Regional Training Institute, 3990 East Broad Street Bldg. 1, DSCC, Columbus, 1000 hrs.

JULY 24

Change of Responsibility for the 1194th Engineer Company (Vertical), Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, bldg 159, Newton Falls, 1900 hrs.
Outgoing First Sgt.:
1st Sgt. Robert Blackburn
Incoming First Sgt.:
1st Sgt. Anthony McGraw

Change of Responsibility for Headquarters, 216th Engineer Battalion, Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, bldg 159, Newton Falls, 1900 hrs.
Outgoing First Sgt.:
1st Sgt. Anthony McGraw
Incoming First Sgt.:
1st Sgt. Robert Blackburn

Change of Command for Headquarters, 216th Engineer Battalion, Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Site, bldg 159, Newton Falls, 1900 hrs.
Outgoing Commander:
Capt. Tyler Hoffman
Incoming Commander:
Capt. Michael Antonas

JULY 26

Change of Command for the 812th Engineer Company (Sapper), Wooster Armory, 1400 W. Old Lincoln Way, Wooster, 1700 hrs.
Outgoing Commander:
Cpt. Brett Green
Incoming Commander:
1st Lt. Shane Leary

Ohio National Guard Youth Programs and Operation: Military Kids (OMK) in Ohio reaches out to youth with deployed Family members to create community support networks through a variety of educational, social and recreational programs:

- ◆ Camps for military youth, teens and Families are a high-light throughout the year.
- ◆ Hero Packs made by 4-H members and other youth groups are distributed to youth when their parent is deployed.



Troop & Family Camps—Welcome entire Families from babies to grandparents and everyone in between! Families have a chance to get away from it all and enjoy the thrills of flying on a giant swing, sailing on Lake Erie, playing ga-ga ball and making everlasting memories!

Hero Camps—Offer short-term experiences for 6-12yr olds, each with a specific focus, such as science or healthy living.

Strong Family Workshops—Concurrent with Hero Camps that share tips and tools for raising healthy resilient kids.

Teen Leadership Camps—Through hands-on activities teens explore what it takes to be a strong leader no matter what the setting. Teens discover more about themselves and how change, influence, communication and problem solving skills can assist them in life.



Contact Information:

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July Camps

6-11th Teen Adventure Excursion Camp, New River Gorge, WV

Ages 14-18, Cost \$30/teen (*Limited to 30 campers)

<https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1512483>

20-25th Military Teen Adventure Camp, Beulah Beach, Vermillion, OH

Ages 14-18, Cost \$30/teen

<https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1512495>

24th Hero Sports Camp, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Ages 6-12, Cost \$20/youth

www.regonline.com/HCSports

27th-Aug. 1st Teen Whitewater Adventure Camp, Ohiopyle, PA

Ages 14-18, Cost \$30/teen

<https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1512517>

** Many of the camps are full, but there are waiting lists if you still want to sign up*

2014 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

- Region 1 - 24 July - Akron*
Region 2 - 16 July - Chillicothe
Region 3 - 29 July - Cincinnati
Region 4 - 22 July - Dayton
Region 5 - 15 July - Findlay
Region 6 - 9 July - Columbus

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Staff Sgt. Ikia Perry 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-year 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**

If you are an Army Guard/Reserve or an Air Force Guard/Reserve retiree, and need help completing your retirement pay packet, contact Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wright at 614-336-7277.

Eyes on target



Sgt. Patrick McDonald (top) and Spc. Joseph Kenworthy practice basic sniper skills with the 7.62mm M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System, including range estimation during an unknown distance course of fire. Sniper Section, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment was conducting its two-week annual training with the rest of the battalion at Camp Ripley, Minn. (Capt. Russell P. Galeti Jr., ONG)