



Senator Dave Burke
26th Ohio Senate District

GUEST COLUMN

November 4, 2011

Contact: Kinsey Jolliff
(614) 466-8049

FROM OUR STATE SENATOR: *DAVE BURKE*

Remembering and honoring the service and sacrifice of Ohio's veterans

Each year on Veterans Day, we pause to pay tribute to all those who have donned the uniform of service in defense of our country. From those first heroes and patriots who fought during our country's formative years to the men and women who follow in their footsteps today, our veterans deserve the thanks of a grateful nation. Their dedication and courage to our country and to their fellow man allows each of us to live in peace and freedom.

These individuals are more than soldiers; they are also mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers. The sacrifices they endure each day are many, and while words alone are not enough to express our gratitude, we will continue to honor their service by working to making our state and nation better each day through our policies, laws, words and deeds.

This week, you can pay tribute to a veteran by dedicating your vote to them on Election Day through the Vote in Honor of a Veteran Initiative. Participants can post a testimonial about the veteran they are honoring on the Ohio Secretary of State's Web site and also receive a special pin to wear. More information about the Vote in Honor of a Veteran initiative can be found by visiting www.OhioMilitaryVotes.com.

In addition, the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will induct 20 new members from across the state who have served both their country and their community. The Veterans Hall of Fame recognizes Ohio veterans who have put their skills and abilities to work in their communities for the benefit of veterans and civilians alike. An inspiration to all Ohioans, these individuals represent one of the greatest attributes of our military service members – that even after their military service is completed, they continue to serve others.

Later this month, my colleagues and I in the Legislature will recognize a number of Ohio's veterans for their service with the Ohio Military Medal of Distinction. This honor was created in 2009 as a way to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of Ohio soldiers killed in battle. During a joint session of the General Assembly, we will honor 35 Ohioans who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country and offer our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to their families.

The Military Medal of Distinction features a gold star taken from the gold star service flag, which has been displayed in the homes of the families of fallen service members since World

War I. Each point on the star represents the five branches of our nation's armed forces: Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. Surrounding the star is a wreath of laurel signifying the most honorable endeavor of the fallen service member. And, in the center of the star is the Great Seal of Ohio illustrating Ohio's diverse geography.

As we celebrate Veterans Day, I hope you will join me in recognizing all those who have served our country with honor and distinction. Whether they served here in the United States or overseas, we must never forget the bravery and valor of our veterans, as they stood in the face of evil and terrorism so that our country might remain secure.

Serving as your state senator is an important responsibility and one I take seriously. Please feel free to contact my office if you have questions or concerns about any of the matters we are discussing at the Statehouse. I can be reached at (614) 466-8049, via e-mail at SD26@senate.state.oh.us or by writing me, State Senator Dave Burke, 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor, Columbus, OH 43215.

-30-

Senator Burke represents the 26th Ohio Senate District, which encompasses all of Crawford, Logan, Marion, Sandusky, Union and Wyandot counties as well as portions of Ottawa and Seneca counties. For more information, please visit www.ohiosenate.gov/dave-burke.