

BCC INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION

DATE: Wednesday, January 25, 2012

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BCC, SK

Clermont County Commissioners
Mr. Edwin H. Humphrey
Mr. Robert L. Proud
Mr. Archie Wilson



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Dear Commissioners

My name is Dr. John D. Schupp. I am presently a chemistry lecturer at Tiffin University, and a board member of a non-profit organization supported by the Vietnam Veterans of Ohio called "The American Veteran Education Foundation", whose goal it is to help this present generation of veterans succeed in becoming the Next Great Generation of Americans.

I spent over 25 years in the laser optics industry developing materials for Lasik Surgery, as well as optical components for Intel, Motorola, and many others. I have 4 patents for this work.

Most recently, my efforts have centered on the post-secondary education of our nation's veterans. In 2006 I developed a campus veteran program (SERV, Supportive Education for the Returning Veteran) that was implemented on the campus of Cleveland State University and the University of Arizona in the spring of 2008. The success of the program can be shown in many ways including retention rates of greater than 80% and 3 year graduation rates of 50%, on campuses that consistently had 65% retention rates and 29% 6 year graduation rates. (*The Cleveland Plain Dealer: Monday, April 11, 2011*).

The SERV program won the inaugural Wal-Mart award of \$100,000 in November of 2008. It was then rolled out in a Department of Education Grant, funded at \$6M, in July of 2010 (part of the Higher Education Act of 2008). SERV was also selected as a 'Best Practice' by the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Combined Assessment Review of the Tucson VA in April of 2010.

In 2010, I was selected as the Advocate of the Year by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter, and as the 2010 Zachary Fisher 'Humanitarian of the Year' by the Department of Defense, where my name appears on plaque in the Zachary Fisher memorial display at the Pentagon.

I am writing to you today to introduce an event to be held in Delaware Ohio next summer called "The Patriot Games". The Patriot Games are a four day event celebrating the decision of our veterans to use their GI Bill and attend the campus(es) in your county. The Games consist of athletic competition among our student veterans and GI Grads in events designed by the veterans for the veterans. They will be competing for gold, silver and bronze medals as well as 'bragging rights' between each branch of service and each campus. It will take place July 5th thru the 8th in 2012 in Delaware Ohio

I have received signed letters of support for the Games from Presidents and administrators from many of our public and private campuses state-wide as well as the Vietnam Veterans of Ohio, the Ohio Board of Regents the Ohio Department of Veterans Services as well as public and private corporations and individuals.

The goal of the games are many, but the primary goal is to reward those Post 9-11 veterans that are choosing to take advantage of the GI Bill that they have earned, as well as encourage those veterans within each community to use their GI Bill. A report that I conducted in 2011 for the Board of Regents showed that only 18% of the 36,550 Post 9-11 veterans that have come back home to Ohio are currently using their GI Bill.

The table below shows the present impact of the Post 9-11 veterans that are using the GI Bill in Clermont County. The BAH is the Basic Allowance for Housing, a monthly stipend that every Post 9-11 veteran is entitled to while they use their GI Bill. The GI Bill is good for 4 years (36 months, 8 semesters), and they have 15 years in which to use it completely. The \$1,320 figure is based on 36 months of active duty, and it is pro-rated for every month that is less than 36.

There are only three rules for the Torch Relay-

1. Any money raised by the student organizations has to be divided equally among the military and veteran groups of each community. The money raised by each student group is kept within the community; there is no 'overseeing group' that needs to have a share of it for a greater cause.
2. The torch hand-offs must be alternated between a student and a veteran.
3. Each community is responsible for working with the torch bearers that is ahead of it on the map, then mapping out and carrying out all of the logistics within its 'radius of responsibility', and then handing off the responsibility to the next community's student organizations along the path to Delaware.

It should be a tremendous sight in Delaware Ohio, when all five torches (5 branches of the military) come together to light the flame, while students cheer alongside 5 generations of veterans who have served during War and Peace-time.

The second reason for contacting you today is to let you know that **Fox Sports Ohio** will be broadcasting the Games and the Torch Relay, with two prime-time shows in August of 2011. They will have multiple crews covering the torch relay as each town prepares itself for the torch to come through and then at the Games themselves to show the epic opening ceremony as well as the individual stories of each of the veterans competing.

What I would like from you, the county commissioners, is a letter of support for the Torch Relay, and contact information for the person(s) that the participating campus in your county could contact to help them with logistics, support, police escorts, etc. and to help them contact the county commissioners in the neighboring counties so as to coordinate the efforts as the torch passes through Highland County, into Clermont then onto Hamilton County. If I don't receive a letter of support by March 1st, then I will take that as a 'no' and I will let the campuses and students know so that they can find other means of support/contact.

The letter should include your commissioner letterhead, with a signature from either yourselves, or someone who you feel I can contact as we move forward with the relay. It can be signed, scanned, and e-mailed to me at john.schupp@uspatriotgames.com, or sent by regular mail in the envelope that is included.

Knowing that 2012 will be a very active year in the US, with local and national elections taking place, it will be a welcome sight for many to see the cooperation of hundreds of thousands of Ohio's citizens, students and veterans working together for one goal. Commissioners, please help the students in Clermont county help Ohio show the nation that we know how to work together to accomplish great things. I can be reached at john.schupp@uspatriotgames.com and by phone at 440-488-6416.

Thank you again Commissioners Humphrey, Proud and Wilson, , and thank you from all of the student veterans in your county as well as the 15,048 veterans from 5 generations of war and peace-time service in Clermont County. I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Kind Regards



Dr. John Schupp,

Executive Director, The Patriot Games

Financial Impact-Presently

County	# of Post 9-11 veterans that have returned home	Before Patriot Games % attending campus	Monthly BAH	Total BAH spent in Clermont 2011-2012
Clermont	799	18.00%	\$1,320	\$1,707,983

If the Patriot Games and Torch Relay encourage 50% of Clermont County's Post 9-11 veterans to attend college the potential financial impact is shown in the table below.

Financial Impact- Potential

County	# of Post 9-11 veterans that have returned home	Before Patriot Games % attending campus	Monthly BAH	Total BAH spent in Clermont 2012-2013
Clermont	799	50.00%	\$1,320	\$3,744,397

Human Impact-Potential

If the campuses and the community create a welcoming environment to our Post 9-11 veterans by bringing programs and services to the veterans while they are attending classes, the Human Impact of the Patriot Games, shown below, is even more striking.

County	# of Post 9-11 veterans that have returned home	After Patriot Games % attending campus	# of homeless vets prevented	# of suicides among vets prevented	# of marriages saved among vets
Clermont	799	50.00%	19	1	26

These figures are based upon studies of combat veterans by the RAND Corporation,(homeless) The Army Surgeon General (divorces), and the VA(suicide).

The Torch Relay

There will also be an accompanying Torch Relay that will pass through Clermont County on or around May 20 2012. I have sent letters to UC Clermont and I am also working with the High Schools in the county to take part in the Torch Relay.

The Torch Relay is a chance for the student organizations of each campus to raise money both for their own group's interest as well as the military and veteran organizations in each of the campus's hometowns. It is also a way for the student organizations to find, communicate, and work with the veterans in their community in order to 'complete the mission' and get the Torch to Delaware Ohio to light the flame that starts the Games. Some of the teachable moments arising from this Torch Relay are:

1. Working together for the Common Goal
 - Whether they agree or disagree with their fellow student/veteran/citizen
2. Making decisions that will allow them to be self-reliant
 - No government grants are used for this event
3. Putting themselves second and the bigger picture first
 - Setting aside their own needs temporarily to accomplish the task



Dec 31, 2011

Dr. John Schupp
National Director-The Patriot Games
10770 Chillicothe Road
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Dear Dr Schupp,

The Clermont County commissioners are pleased to submit our letter of interest to participate in the Ohio Patriot games and/or Torch Relay. We have enclosed the name and contact information of the representative from our administrative staff that will assist you with Clermont county's participation. We have discussed the Patriot Games and Torch Relay concept with our staff and administration and we believe these two events can help county officials connect with our veteran population throughout our county. We also look forward to assisting the campus(es) and school districts within or near our county when representatives from both of these institutions reach out to our offices. It is our hope that the Patriot Games and Torch Relay may increase the student veteran enrollment in our county, and produce long-term benefits for our student veterans and our community.

We are fully aware that this letter of interest is non-binding, and we are only showing an interest in the concept. We look forward to hearing more about the games and the types of fundraising events that will take place during the Torch Relay and Games themselves. By accepting this letter of interest, we agree to not create, nor be part of/nor advise a group that has an interest in the creation of a similar set of games, or using the name "Patriot Games" nor the "Patriot Games" and "Torch Relay" logo.

Please keep us updated as to the details of the games as they become available. We understand that this concept is a challenging undertaking, and we would like to assist your organization to the best of our ability. We look forward to working with you on this exciting concept.

Kind Regards

Patriot Games & Torch Relay representative --Clermont County