

# WVI Newsletter

February 2019



## ODVS Director 2019

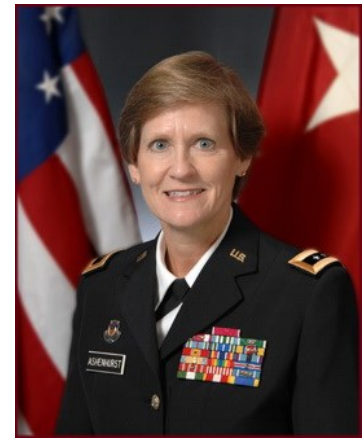
Ohio Governor, Mile DeWine has appointed Major General Deborah Ashenhurst (U.S. Army, retired) as the first women veteran Director of the Ohio Department of Veteran Services.

Ms. Ashenhurst began her career in the Ohio National Guard in 1978. She has held assignments at all levels from company, battalion, brigade and Joint Force Headquarters. Ms. Ashenhurst is familiar with operating at a state cabinet level, as she served four years as the Adjutant General and Commander of the State of Ohio.

During her military career, Maj. Gen. Ashenhurst received numerous awards and decorations, including the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with one Silver and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster) and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. She retired from the U.S. Army and the National Guard in October 2015.

Ms. Ashenhurst stated “I am absolutely thrilled to serve our great veterans all across Ohio and do all I can to be a voice and listener, for our veteran community.”

Source: ODVS Veteran Update, January 17, 2019



Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenhurst  
Picture provided by National Guard Bureau

## Lights Before Christmas

Kristen Cotton invited WVI members to join her December 30, 2018 at the Toledo Zoo for the Lights Before Christmas. Kristen was joined by Elizabeth Sepeda and together they enjoyed hot chocolate and the colorful light display. Elizabeth stated they had a wonderful time and it was a positive experience seeing the community filled with joyful energy.

Source: K. Cotton and E. Sepeda



K. Cotton & E. Sepeda  
Picture provided by K. Cotton

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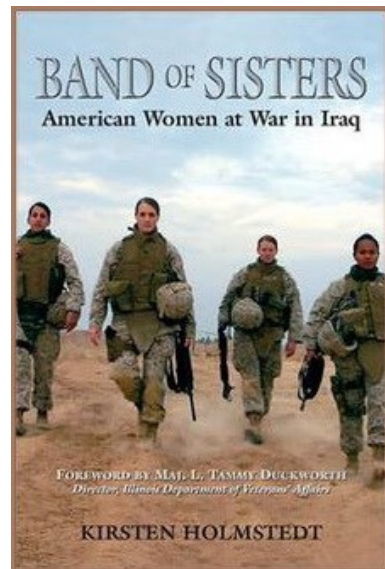
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## Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq

“Band of Sisters is a 2007 book by Kirsten Holmstedt about the Iraq War and the women in the military. Band of Sisters presents twelve stories about women on the front line including America’s first women pilot to be shot down and survive, the U.S. military’s first black female combat pilot, a 21 year old turret gunner defending a convoy, two military policewomen in a firefight and a nurse struggling to save lives. Holmstedt claims that women need greater protection from hazing and abuse by fellow soldiers, but that they are as strong as men and should be given full combat roles.”

Source: Wikipedia



Picture provided by Stackpole Books

## Clothing Fundraiser

WVI will be working with Nothing Over Nine to organize a clothing drive for April 2019 (Flier will be available in early March). Nothing Over Nine is a for-profit store with a focus on serving the community. The store will feature a monthly charitable giving and clothing drives to benefit nonprofit organizations. WVI will be the official nonprofit organization for April 2019. The store is very clean and the items are nicely displayed. Everything Under Nine stocks quality clothing for men, women and children plus purses, shoes and accessories. There is also a plus size section. The store is located at 2543 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo. Hours: Mon. - Sat. 10:00am - 8:00pm and Sun. 10:00am - 6:00pm.



## Women History Month - Women in the Military

March is Women History Month - Women in the Military and the ODVS would like the five Ohio Districts to participate in increasing the communities awareness of women in the military. As the Coordinator-WVI, I would could like to form a committee to organize a program for 2020.

If you are interested in serving on the committee or have a military story you would like published in the March 2019 newsletter contact C. Nagy at [cenagy@bex.net](mailto:cenagy@bex.net).

**WVI Contact: Carolyn Nagy**  
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Don't forget to follow  
WVI on Facebook!

United States Vets, Inc. is a tax exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of veterans and their families.