

JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

PAST PRESIDENTS

**** *We salute these distinguished veterans for their exemplary service* ****

1957-58	Judge Arthur H. Day	Army & Navy Union
1958-59	William J. Gill	Catholic War Veterans
1959-60	Arthur Pink	Marine Corps League
1960-61	Cecil Whitcomb	Legion of Valor
1961-62	Robert Grogan	United Spanish War Veterans
1962-63	Morris Morgenstern	Jewish War Veterans
1963-64	Dr. E. J. Guzik	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1964-65	John T. Corrigan	Army and Navy Union
1965-66	Judge Norman Fuerst	Catholic War Veterans
1966-67	Frank D. Celebrezze	Marine Corps League
1967-68	David T. Matia	Legion of Valor
1968-69	Leo Chimo	United Spanish War Veterans
1969-70	Harry Jaffe	Jewish War Veterans
1970-71	Theodore Holtz	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1971-72	Bernard J. Stuplinski	Army & Navy Union
1972-73	Judge Robert J. Grogan	Catholic War Veterans
1973-74	Robert C. Keller	Marine Corps League
1974-75	Judge Jame F. Kilcoyne	Legion of Valor
1975-76	John T. Patton	United Spanish War Veterans
1976-77	Harry Marshall	Jewish War Veterans
1977-78	Edward F. Rybka	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1978-79	Anthony J. Celebrezze	Army and Navy Union
1979-80	Ron Seman	Catholic War Veterans
1980	Robert S. Valerian	Army and Navy Union
1980-81	Edward Sheehan	Marine Corps League
1981-82	Edwin M. Robins	Jewish War Veterans
1982-83	Edmund Goodwin	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1983-84	James S. Carnes	Army & Navy Union
1984-85	Joseph V. Klubert	Catholic War Veterans
1985-86	Thomas C. Westropp	Marine Corps League
1986-87	Rich Kruzer	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1987-88	Matthew J. Hatchadorian	Army and Navy Union
1988-89	Robert L. Bloom	Jewish War Veterans
1989-90	Richard G. France	Catholic War Veterans
1990-91	Mathew Lobas	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1991-92	Norman E. Lewis	Military Order of the Purple Heart
1992-93	Edwin M. Robins	Jewish War Veterans
1993-94	Ron Kimmel	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 15
1994-95	Denny Frangos	Navy Seabee Veterans
1995-96	Ken Milenovic	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1996-97	Frank Anderson	Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
1997-99	Sean S. Ennis	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 15
1999-00	Louise E. Koballa	WAVES National, Unit 133
2000-01	Roman Rakowsky	Ukrainian American Veterans
2001-02	James D. Quisenberry	82nd Airborne Division Association John Towle-Cleveland Chapter
2002-03	Edwin M. Robins	Jewish War Veterans
2003-05	Vernon Kramer	Reserve Officers Association
2006-07	Bohdan Samokyszyn	Ukrainian American Veterans
2007-09	Rimantas Ray Saikus	82 nd Airborne Division Association, John Towle, Cleveland Chapter

JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

JUDGE FELIX T. MATIA / CHESTER J. KOCH
2008 OUTSTANDING VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Richard T. Borkowski

Polish Legion of American Veterans, General Casimir Pulaski Post #30

Richard Borkowski was born July 20th, 1931. The youngest of eight children. Richard's early years were spent on Classen Avenue in the old Duck Town, a fine Polish neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio where he attended Holy Name Grade School. He then went on to Holy Name High School, graduating in June of 1949. After graduation Richard went to work for the Standard Oil Company of Ohio.

In August of 1949 he entered the U.S. Army, after boot camp he was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division where he advanced to the rank of Staff Sergeant. His combat citations include the Combat Infantry Medal, Korean Service Medal with 5 Bronze Service Stars, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Unit Presidential Citation and the Good conduct Medal. Upon return from the service he went back to work at Standard Oil Company of Ohio and spent a total of 27 years with the company.

Richard became a member of General Casimir Pulaski Post #30 of the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) in 1960. He has been instrumental in starting the Rifle Squad which is still active today. The rifle squad has been performing duties from Final Honors for Deceased PLAV Members to Final Honors at the Western Reserve National Cemetery for fellow veterans outside of the PLAV, who choose to be buried there. The rifle squad has also marched in many Memorial and Civic observances thru the many years of its existence and has put the PLAV in the forefront of Polonia and the Public.

Richard has held many offices within the PLAV including 4 years on the Post level as Post Commander, and to this day he still serves as a Director. Richard also has been active on the Department of Ohio level stepping up thru the chairs and then finally serving 2 years as Department of Ohio, State Commander.

Of his many volunteer activities, one quite notable of Richard's achievements is his dedication to his fellow veterans that have been injured or are sick. Richard presently serves as a Deputy Representative to the Cleveland Medical Center (formerly the Wade Park Medical Center) where he has in excess of 4,900 Volunteer Hours.

Richard was also honored by the Greater Cleveland Veterans Council in 1998 and in 2007, he was honored by the Polonia Foundation for his efforts upholding the rich Polish heritage, tradition and family values.

Richard is a Life Member of the Korean War Veterans Association, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and the Parma Veterans Center. He also serves as a Director of the Brooklyn Polish American Home and a Delegate to the Polish American Congress.

Richard and his wife Evelyn reside in Parma, Ohio they have been a team for many years always ready to help when called upon, they have a daughter Gail and a Stepson Karl.

**JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
JUDGE FELIX T. MATIA / CHESTER J. KOCH
PAST HONOREES - OUTSTANDING VETERAN OF THE YEAR**

1980	Ron Seman	Catholic War Veterans
1981	Stanley Sternik	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1982	Congressman Ron Mottl	Army and Navy Union
1983	Edwin M. Robins	Jewish War Veterans
1984	George M. Stricker	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1985	Robert Chaloupka	Catholic War Veterans
1986	Sam W. Berkowitz	Jewish War Veterans
1987	Richard G. France	Catholic War Veterans
1988	Casey Jaworski	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1989	Sam Rubin	Jewish War Veterans
1990	Robert G. Yuhas	Military Order of the Purple Heart
1991	Edward Sheehan	Marine Corps League
1992	Mathew Lobas	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1993	Donald R. Briggs	Vietnam Veterans of America
1994	Martha A. Kolley	United Spanish War Veterans
1995	Rich Kruzer	Polish Legion of American Veterans
1996	Robert W. Mills, Sr.	Catholic War Veterans
1997	Timothy T. (TJ) Stem	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 15
1998	Joseph Chervin	Jewish War Veterans
1999	Holly Koester	Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chptr
2000	Kenneth P. Milenovic	Polish Legion of American Veterans
2001	Terrance Tyna	Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chptr
2002	Chuck Ianni	82nd Airborne Division Association, John Towle - Cleveland Chapter
2003	Leonard Weinstein	Jewish War Veterans
2004	Robert Camburn	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chptr 249
2005	A. Steve Klosowski	Polish Legion of American Veterans
2006	George F. Qua	82nd Airborne Division Association, John Towle - Cleveland Chapter
2007	Melvin E. Lowe	Vietnam Veterans of America, Greater Cleveland Chapter 15

**JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY (JVCOCC)
2009 INCOMING PRESIDENT**

Charles H. Kiessling, Sr.

Marine Corps League – Major S.J. Logan Detachment
National Central Division Aide de Camp (OHIO)

Charles Kiessling was born the fourth child of Martha and Oscar Kiessling at Cleveland's Lutheran Hospital. Mother was daughter to the Pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Gretna, LA. Father was a German Merchant Seaman, who jumped ship in New Orleans when he met Martha. They got married and left Louisiana in the late 1920's for Cleveland to be near more German speaking people. His siblings include his late brother Ernst (an Air force vet), sister Annabelle and brother Ronald (a Marine vet).

Charles attended Lutheran grade schools on Cleveland's west side and graduated from Luther Memorial School. He graduated from John Marshall High School in January of 1954, enlisted in the Marine Corps that February and went to boot training at Parris Island Marine Base in South Carolina. Charles completed advanced infantry training at Camp Geiger in North Carolina and returned to Parris Island for Military Police Duty.

He was then transferred to Camp Pendleton Calif. for overseas assignment. There he volunteered for Military Police Duty with the Securities Forces Far East FMF, Pacific. He was assigned to Sangley Point Naval Station, Phillipines, for one year and then to Sasebo Naval Station, Japan for the second year. Charles returned stateside in late 1956 was discharged in February of 1957 from the Great Lakes Naval Station, Illinois. He was awarded National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

After discharge, Charles was hired by the Cleveland Transit System as a Trackless Trolley Operator at Denison Station (Denison & Ridge Road) Cleveland. After Trackless Trolleys were removed from service in 1959, he then transferred to Triskett Garage to be a Bus and Rail Operator. In 1970 Charles' Superintendent recommended him for the Schedule Department by it was short lived because of a layoff in 1971 and he returned to Triskett Garage. Charles returned to the Schedule Department in 1974, there he held many positions and was appointed Director of Schedules in 1987 and he retired from the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority in August 1991. He attended management courses at Baldwin Wallace College and the University of Wisconsin/ Milwaukee.

Following his retirement, in April of 1993, Charles started working part time at the Suburban Clock and Repair in Berea, Ohio in various capacities, including sales, repair, shipping and receiving. He also did computer work and data entry for the Sales and Repair Departments.

Charles married in 1957, moved into Brook Park, and raised sons Charles Jr. (a Marine Vet) and Robert. In 1999 he moved to Columbia Park, a manufactured home Senior Community. Son Charles Jr. married and raised three children, Chuck III, a Air Force vet., Jeanette and Theodore, (active duty - Marine Corps). A family with three generations of service to our country.

Charles has been a member of the Marine Corps League since 1956 when he was signed up by his brother as a Charter Member of the Cleveland Detachment (later merged with the Major S. J. Logan Detachment) and held many offices in the detachment. He also served at the Department of Ohio as Commandant and now serves as the Department Paymaster. While at the Department he was on the committee that started the Dept. of Ohio, MCL Youth Fitness Program in 1960, which won an award from the Freedoms Foundation. He was the coordinator for the meets that were held in Cleveland and Columbus then moved to Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware until it was discontinued in 2004 due to lack of participation by the schools. Major General Walter Churchill Sr, from Toledo was the Ohio Dept. member took the program to our national organization where it continues to have meets in San Diego, California.

Charles also serves as treasurer of the Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland.

We wish Charles success in leading the JVCOCC in service to veterans, their families, our men and women in uniform, our country and communities as well as supporting his family and the Marine Corps League.

Calendar of Events 2009

We encourage all veterans, families and fellow citizens to join in observing the following dates.

February 24 th	Dessert Storm End of War Ceremony	Southwest Asia Veterans
April 30 th	End of Vietnam War Ceremony	Vietnam Veterans of America
May 8 th	VE Day	
May 30 th	Memorial Day Commemoration	Memorial Day Association
	141 st Anniversary	of Greater Cleveland
June 13 th	Flag Day & U.S. Army Birthday	JVCOCC
July 27 th	End of the Korean War Ceremony	Korean War Veterans
August 21 st	VJ Day	
November 11	Veterans' Day	JVCOCC
December 7 th	Pearl Harbor Ceremony	Pearl Harbor Survivors

Outgoing President's Message

At this moment in our country we have over 24 million veterans but our numbers are rapidly dwindling. We share a unique bond in that most have shared in the sacrifice or have a great understanding of it. Also there is an extension of us veterans, our families and friends, most of whom also have a personal knowledge of what call to duty demands and its toll on those who serve and their families. We have to work together across all veterans organizations and as individuals to make sure that future generations of veterans and families will receive the best care they rightfully deserve and our fellow citizens have a clear reminder of the price of the freedoms they enjoy. The significance of our contributions should not die with us and we should leave an easier path for future veterans to assert their role in our society. We salute and commend all who make a lifetime commitment to serve their fellow veterans, those who are currently serving and their respective families. Our numbers can guarantee an outcome worth the legacy that we share.

Significant Projects Needing YOUR Support

LIBERTY VETERANS HONOR GARDEN - Establish a garden to honor all of our nation's defenders who gave their lives not only in the defense of our country but also to bring freedom to many nations around the world. It is appropriate to establish the garden among Cleveland's Cultural Gardens since the people of many of the nations represented in the Cleveland Cultural Garden chain now enjoy their freedom due to the ultimate sacrifice of those to be honored here. It is also to be an expression of gratitude to their families, those who served with them and their families. This site will let our current defenders and their families know that their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

The garden address is 710 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, and located near the Northernmost and West point of the Cleveland Cultural Garden Chain with a prominent view as well as an ample area to honor past and future generations of our nation's defenders and hold ceremonies in remembrance of their sacrifice and service. More details can be found at www.jvcooc.org

A tree will be planted in the garden for each century in which our nation has lost its sons and daughters in battle, starting with the Revolutionary War. There will be four trees initially planted, one for each of the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. A unique monument, near each of the century trees, will depict for the viewer the significance of the events that moved veterans and citizens to memorialize the sacrifice of those who gave their all. Theirs was the ultimate contribution to culture.

Our allies will be honored and remembered with a tree planted in the Liberty Veterans Memorial Garden for all who gave their lives while fighting alongside us on our soil and throughout the world. A monument will identify the defining events and present to the viewer their contributions.

A center monument of unique and significant design will be installed to express the citizens and veterans gratitude to our nations defenders and their families. It will allow future generations to continue to honor those who serve and help them never to forget those who came before them.

A separate stone with a plaque or a monument will introduce the visitor to this site and the WWI Veterans Liberty Row Memorials along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive (in 1919 dedicated as Liberty Boulevard in memory of those who died during WWI). We are also committed to restoring the trees and markers for the soldiers lost during WWI, it will follow the establishment of the garden.

MEMORIAL DAY 2009 - The Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland needs donations and volunteers to help with decorating the gravesites and with the Ceremony. Please contact MDAOGC P.O. Box 32700 Cleveland, OH 44132 Tel. (216) 373-2625 info@mdaogc.org www.mdaogc.org

Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

Army and Navy Union
Catholic War Veterans
Jewish War Veterans
Korean War Veterans Association
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Navy Seabee Veterans of America
Paralyzed Veterans of America



Polish Legion of American Veterans
Reserve Officers Association
Southwest Asia Veterans
Ukrainian American Veterans
United Spanish War Veterans
Vietnam Veterans of America
Waves National
82nd Airborne Division Association

84th Anniversary Installation and Awards Dinner

Monday, February 2nd, 2009 7:00 p.m.

100th Bomb Group Restaurant

Cleveland, Ohio

HONORING

Richard T. Borkowski

Judge Felix T. Matia/Chester J. Koch

2008 Outstanding Veteran of the Year Award Recipient

Charles H. Kiessling, Sr.

Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

Incoming 2009 President

Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

OUTGOING OFFICERS - 2008

Rimantas Ray Saikus, *President*
82nd Airborne Division Association - John Towle Cleveland Chapter

Charles H. Kiessling, Sr. *1st Vice President*
Marine Corps League
Major S.J. Logan Detachment

Frank Anderson *2nd Vice President*
Paralyzed Veterans of America Buckeye Chapter

Gary Rezabek *Secretary-Treasurer*
Southwest Asia Veterans

Joseph I. Mendise *Chaplain*
Korean War Veterans Association

Jim Quisenberry *Chaplain*
82nd Airborne Division Association - John Towle Cleveland Chapter

INCOMING OFFICERS - 2009

President **Charles H. Kiessling, Sr.**
Marine Corps League
Major S.J. Logan Detachment

1st Vice President **Frank Anderson,**
Paralyzed Veterans of America Buckeye Chapter

2nd Vice President **Joseph I. Mendise**
Korean War Veterans Association

Secretary **Gary Rezabek**
Southwest Asia Veterans

Treasurer **Rimantas Ray Saikus**
82nd Airborne Division Association
John Towle Cleveland Chapter

Chaplain **Michael Polichuk**
Polish Legion of American Veterans

Chaplain **Jim Quisenberry**
82nd Airborne Division Association
John Towle Cleveland Chapter

Contact, Volunteer, and Donation Information

JVCOCC P.O. Box 32700 Cleveland, Ohio 44132-0700
Tel. (216) 373-7799 www.jvcocc.org E-mail: info@jvcocc.org

Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

PROGRAM

Assembly & Salute Colors: **Gary Rezabek – SFC Ret. U.S. Army**
Secretary/Treasurer JVCOCC

Master of Ceremonies: **Richard DeChant, Commander Ret. U.S.C.G.**
Exec. Dir. Veteran Programs & Services Tri-C

Pledge of Allegiance: **All attendees**

National Anthem: **David M. Lynch**
Former Mayor, City of Euclid

Invocation: **Reverend George Hankins, Chaplain**
Cleveland VA Medical Center

Introductions: **Head Table, Veteran's Organizations & Auxiliaries, Guests, Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame**

Recognition: **JVCOCC Past Presidents and Past Recipients of Judge Felix T. Matia/Chester J. Koch Award**

Greetings: **Rimantas Ray Saikus**
President JVCOCC

Introduction: **Family and friends of Rimantas Ray Saikus**

Friend's Tribute: **Ken Milenovic**
Veteran and Past PLAV National Commander.

Outstanding Veteran of the Year: **Richard T. Borkowski, Honoree**
Judge Felix T. Matia/Chester J. Koch Award

Acceptance: **Richard T. Borkowski**

Installation of New Officers: **Vernon Kramer, Past President**
Delegate - Reserve Officers Association

Acceptance Remarks: **Charles H. Kiessling, Sr.,**
Incoming President JVCOCC

Announcements: **Rimantas Ray Saikus**

Benediction: **Reverend George Hankins, Chaplain**
Cleveland VA Medical Center

*** Salute Colors / Dismissed ***