

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

JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

**JUDGE FELIX T. MATIA / CHESTER J. KOCH
2005 OUTSTANDING VETERAN OF THE YEAR**

George F. Qua

82nd Airborne Division Association, John Towle Cleveland Chapter

Mr. Qua's support of veterans is indicated by his Life Memberships in the following organizations: John Towle Cleveland Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, American Legion, Korean War Veterans Association, 101st Airborne Division Association and Association of the United States Army. The two principle criteria for the Award are distinguishing oneself while serving on active duty and upon becoming a veteran, serving other veterans in an exemplary manner.

A few examples of Mr. Qua's exemplary service are: supporting both active duty personnel, their families and veterans through his forty years of service to the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross. His principle efforts for the Red Cross have been in blood recruitment and assisting veterans in upgrading the classification of their discharges. When the Department of Defense National Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve was established in 1971 following the discontinuance of the draft, Mr. Qua was appointed to the Ohio Committee and served for a total of twenty-seven years. For many years, he funded the attendance of disabled veterans from our local VA Medical Center to attend the annual Veterans Day Luncheon. Since 1957, he has actively supported the ROTC program at John Carroll University as well as the Junior ROTC programs at several local high schools.

The Greater Cleveland Community has recognized Mr. Qua's leadership by selecting him to serve Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting on local, national and international levels. He served as the President of the Rotary Club of Cleveland when it was the third largest Club in the United States in terms of members. He was a founder of the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) and insured its continuing growth by co-authoring its COSE Group Health Plan. In 1974, he was one of the founders of Rapid Recovery, which evolved first into CleanLand Ohio, then ParkWorks and continues to serve that organization as a Director. In all of these roles, he insured that his status as a veteran was emphasized.

Enlisting in the Regular Army in 1952, Mr. Qua received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry upon graduating as an Honor Graduate from the Infantry Officer Candidate School. After being discharged from the Army in 1956 to the Standby Reserve, he joined the Active Army Reserve from which he retired as a full Colonel in 1984. During his 28 years in the Active Army Reserve, he held several significant assignments, to include Admissions Coordinator for West Point for all of Northern Ohio, Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon and Deputy Chief of Staff upon mobilization at Headquarters, U.S. Forces Caribbean.

Mr. Qua is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Case Western Reserve University, and the General Motors Institute. His military education includes graduation from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and the Army War College. In 1997 using the same criteria that has earned him the Judge Felix J. Matia/Chester J. Koch Veteran of the Year Award, the Army War College designated him as an "Outstanding Graduate."

From 1991-2003, Mr. Qua served as a Military Analyst for ABC, NBC, FOX and United Artist television affiliates in Cleveland as well as WTAM (formerly WWWE) radio. Rather than receive compensation, at Mr. Qua's request, these stations featured public service announcements in lieu of compensation. Mr. Qua and his wife, Sabra, have three children, including two sons, Paul and David, and a daughter, Connie.

We wish George good health so he can continue his commendable lifetime of volunteering, so many of us could learn to emulate, and most important, for fellow veterans, service men and women, and their families to continue to benefit from his caring, generosity and wisdom.

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 Chapter
2000	Kenneth P. Milenovic	Polish Legion of American Veterans
2001	Terrance Tyna	Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
2002	Chuck Ianni	82nd Airborne Division Association, John Towle - Cleveland Chapter
2003	Leonard Weinstein	Jewish War Veterans
2004	Robert Camburn	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 249
2005	A. Steve Klosowski	Polish Legion of American Veterans

JOINT VETERANS' COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
2007 INCOMING PRESIDENT

Rimantas Ray Saikus

82nd Airborne Division Association - John Towle Cleveland Chapter

Ray was born on July 24, 1946 in Rottweil, Germany to Jonas and Elena Saikus after they had escaped the Soviet occupation of Lithuania. In 1948 the family moved to Caracas Venezuela where he completed grade school. In October of 1959 the Saikus family moved to Cleveland and Ray attended the 8th grade at St. Jerome's School, then St. Joseph High School, graduating in 1964. He went to Cuyahoga Community College for a year and then started to work as a draftsman for Bailey Controls. In October 1966 he joined the Army, completed basic training at Ft. Benning, and when home on leave for Christmas, he became a U.S. citizen. Further training included Pioneer Engineer AIT at Ft. Leonard Wood, Airborne at Ft. Benning, Special Forces Light and Heavy Weapons Specialist at Ft. Bragg. In October of 1968 Ray reported to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam as an Operations and Intelligence Specialist, he was awarded the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medals. In Vietnam he also served as assistant and bodyguard to Battalion and Brigade Chaplains and then to the Red Cross Representative. Upon returning in September 1969, he went back to college and worked as a mechanical designer. Ray obtained a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree in 1977 from CSU's Fenn College of Engineering and went to work for TRW, he also obtained his Private Pilot license. He joined the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (now ASME International), held various offices and was Chairman of the 1000 member Cleveland Section in 1983-84. He continued to pursue his education and in 1984 he completed his MBA. He works as a business and technical consultant.

In 1983 Ray joined the Ohio Military Reserve with the Rank of Major and was the Chief of Unit Training until 1986. He became active with the veterans while working with Jim Quisenberry in preparation for the 1988 Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Cleveland. Other involvement with veterans includes: being a co-founder of Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial Inc. (initially Vietnam Veterans Memorial Inc.); lifetime member of both the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 15 board member) and 82nd Airborne Division Association; member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans and the Cleveland Grays, and Vice-President of the Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland (www.mdaogc.org). He was a member of a Vietnam Veterans group who stopped the renaming of Interstate 77 from Vietnam Veterans of America Highway to Hall of Fame Highway. He is a delegate from the JVCOC to the Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation (CCGF) representing the WWI Veterans Liberty Row Memorials and serves on the CCGF Executive Board. He is co-founder of Equal Honor for All (www.equalhonor.org), an organization formed to bring about a National Military Honor and Service Museum in Washington, D.C. that will record in one place our nation's defenders service and sacrifice, starting with the Revolutionary War, spanning all the conflicts where our soldiers have come in harms way, and incorporating future events.

Civic activities are also part of Ray's volunteerism: he was both a Boy Scout and a Sea Scout; was chairman of the Lithuanian College Union of Greater Cleveland; was board member of the Euclid YMCA; was co-founder of Citizens Vision (www.citizensvision.org) and is its current President; has been involved in the preservation of the Hulett Ore Unloaders and the Steamship William G. Mather and was instrumental in their designation as ASME Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmarks as well as placing the Huletts and Whiskey Island on the National Register of Historic Places. In defense of the Huletts, he was a lead plaintiff in a successful lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Federal Court ruled that the USACE violated the National Historic Preservation Act, as a result the dredging permit was revoked from the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority.

Recently he testified before the U.S. Senate Sub-Committee on National Parks and the National Capitol Planning Commission in Washington in opposition to legislation to exclude veterans, families and the public from the review process of the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center and against the center being built underground and in a flood plain.

Ray married Sylvia, a Nurse-Midwife, in 1970. They have a son Christopher (an Electrical Engineer) and a daughter Christina (a Chemical Engineer who has completed Medical School and now is working on the PhD in Engineering part of a MD-PhD Degree).

We wish Ray success in leading the JVCOC in continued service to veterans, veterans' families, our men and women in uniform, our country and community.

Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

Calendar of Events 2007

We encourage all veterans, families and fellow citizens to join in honoring our veterans and their service on the following dates, please watch for further information.

April 30 th , 2007	End of Vietnam War Ceremony	Vietnam Veterans of America
May 8 th , 2007	VE Day	
May 30 th , 2007	139 th Anniversary Memorial Day Commemoration Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland	
June 14 th , 2007	Flag Day	JVCOCC
July 27 th , 2007	End of the Korean War Ceremony	Korean War Veterans
August 21 st , 2007	VJ Day	
November 11, 2007	Veterans' Day	JVCOCC
December 7 th , 2007	Pearl Harbor Ceremony	Pearl Harbor Survivors

Significant Issues Needing YOUR Support

CULTURAL GARDEN ALLOCATION CONFLICT - No foreign corporations or nations should be allowed to appoint their agents to the Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation and have an influence over sites adjoining our veterans memorials.

JVCOCC has taken on the responsibility to represent the interests of the WWI Veterans Liberty Row Memorials at Rockefeller Park. Recent action by the Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation (CCGF), in violation of its constitution and by-laws, to allow foreign corporations and countries to add a Cultural Garden, (as is the case of the developing Azerbaijani Garden), threatens the integrity of the process by allowing foreign interests to influence how the site of these Veterans Memorials will be honored. The City of Cleveland Landmarks Commission refused to stop the process even after JVCOCC objected at a public hearing and raised great concern on foreign influence over an area dedicated to honoring veterans, the depriving of existing nationalities in the community of a choice spot, a garden design quality not compatible with existing gardens and detracting from the memorials, as well as grave safety concerns. **Action Plan A:** Write your objections to these violations, indicating support for the JVCOCC position, in letters to Mayor Frank Jackson and Council Members, City of Cleveland, 601 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114 and to the The Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation, Rockefeller Park Greenhouse, 750 East 88th St. Cleveland, Ohio 44108. Please send a copy of all communications to the JVCOCC and to the news media.

Sewer District has Doan Brook Project and Sewer Rate Hike under Consideration - Negative Affect on WWI Memorials (Liberty Row) at Rockefeller Park and Martin Luther King Drive by the Doan Brook Restoration Project (Veterans were left out of the process) - this issue stems from the transferring of a wetlands project due to the airport expansion to the Liberty Row area. The introduction of wild and unmanaged growth will make the area look abandoned and create a safety issue for visitors, neighbors and volunteers because it will become a haven for wild animals (rabies) and the criminal element. The taking of so much cared for land will remove the opportunity for replanting missing trees that had honored our veterans from throughout Cuyahoga County "Who gave their all" in WWI. There were over 800 plus trees planted with medallions dedicated. **Action Plan B:** Circulate existing Petitions for signatures (do not have to live in the city to sign or circulate, this is a county wide issue), turn them in to JVCOCC. For those living outside Cleveland but in Cuyahoga County ask your own city Mayor & Council for **resolutions to stop the Doan Brook Project and the Sewer Rate Hike**. Sample city resolutions available by writing to JVCOCC w/self addressed stamped envelope.

Memorial Day 2007 - The Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland needs donations and volunteers to help with decorating the gravesites and with the Ceremony. Please contact at MDAOGC P.O. Box 32700 Cleveland, OH 44132 Tel. (216) 514-7001 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
Ukrainian American Veterans
United Spanish War Veterans
Vietnam Veterans of America
Waves National
82nd Airborne Division Association

82nd Anniversary Installation and Awards Dinner

Monday, February 5th, 2007 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Select

HONORING

George F. Qua

*Judge Felix T. Matia/Chester J. Koch
2006 Outstanding Veteran of the Year Award Recipient*

Rimantas Ray Saikus

*Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County
Incoming 2007 President*

Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

OUTGOING OFFICERS - 2006

Bohdan Samokyszyn, *President*
Ukrainian American Veterans

Robert Szerdy, (Deceased 2006) *1st Vice President*
Polish Legion of American Veterans

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

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

Ron Kimmel, *Chaplain*
Vietnam Veterans of America -Chapter 15

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

INCOMING OFFICERS - 2007

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

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

2nd Vice President **Jim Quisenberry**
82nd Airborne Division Association
John Towle Cleveland Chapter

Secretary-Treasurer **Ken Milenovic**
Polish Legion of American Veterans

Chaplain **Ron Kimmel**
Vietnam Veterans of America -Chapter 15

Chaplain **Sean Ennis**
Vietnam Veterans of America -Chapter 15

Contact, Volunteer, and Donation Information

JVCOCC P.O. Box 32700 Cleveland, Ohio 44132-0700
Tel. (216) 514-7001 www.jvcocc.org E-mail: info@jvcocc.org

Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County

PROGRAM

*** Assembly & Salute Colors ***

National Anthem: **Rocco Scotti**

Invocation: **Fr. John Bolan, Retired**

Greetings: **Bohdan Samokyszyn, President**
JVCOCC

Master of Ceremonies: **Sean Ennis**

Presentation and Introduction: **Head Tables, Veteran's Organization**
Leaders & Auxiliaries

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

Installation of New Officers: **Vernon Kramer, Past President JVCOCC**
from the
Reserve Officers Association

Acceptance Remarks: **Rimantas Ray Saikus, President**

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

Presentation: **Judge Felix T. Matia/Chester J. Koch**
Award to George F. Qua

Acceptance: **George F. Qua**

Introduction: **Family and friends of**
Honoree George F. Qua

Announcements: **Sean Ennis**

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

*** Salute Colors / Dismissed ***