

Subject: Let's Make a Difference for Our Veterans This Holiday Season

Dear Post Officers,

Imagine the joy and gratitude on a veteran's face as they receive a heartfelt gift this holiday season. The *Department of Ohio Gifts for Yanks* program, established in 1952, was designed to bring that very joy to veterans hospitalized in VA facilities across Ohio. Beyond holiday gifts, your contributions also fund essential programs like Veteran picnics, comfort carts, food insecurity initiatives, and supplies for our VA Voluntary Services Representatives.

This impactful program is powered entirely by the generosity of our Posts across Ohio. This year, we are encouraging a donation of **\$1.00 per member**—or more if you're able. Every dollar you give goes directly toward improving the lives of those who have given so much for us.

In December 2024, we distributed \$35.00 gift cards to all hospitalized veterans in Ohio VA hospitals and state run Veteran Nursing Homes. I had the privilege of attending the distribution at Wade Park in Cleveland, and I can't express how moving it was to see the surprise and gratitude in their eyes. Many shared that these gift cards would help loved ones visit them, easing the burden of gas expenses. It was a moment of connection and hope that your generosity made possible.



Cleveland VA Gifts for Yanks Distribution 12-20-2024.



Sandusky Veterans Home Gifts for Yanks Distribution 12-19-2024

Thanks to your support, we also funded these and more:

- **Comfort carts** stocked with essential items, a **food insecurity program** to ensure no veteran goes hungry and funds for a **Clothing Closet** at the Cincinnati VA.
- **2 Golf Carts** for Cleveland VA
- **Wheelchair accessible Golf Cart** for Sandusky Veterans Home
- **Veterans Appreciation Night and Homeless Programs** at Chillicothe VA
- Coffee, water, and more for our Voluntary Services offices.

Our collective efforts are gaining momentum! **48 Posts** have already stepped up...are you next?

This year, let's raise the bar even higher. Together, we can ensure every veteran feels the warmth of our gratitude and the support of their community.

How to Donate:

- Make checks payable to *Gifts for Yanks* and include your Post and district number in the memo line.
- Mail your contributions to:
Department of Ohio American Legion
Gifts for Yanks
PO Box 8007
60 Big Run Rd
Delaware, OH 43015

If your Post participates in AG-sponsored e-Bingo, you can even use your Charity Account funds to support this vital program.

Thank you for your dedication to this incredible mission. Your generosity is more than a donation—it's a lifeline, a reminder to our veterans that they are valued and not forgotten.

Let's make 2025 our most impactful year yet!

With gratitude,

Holly Lewis

Chair, Department of Ohio Gifts for Yanks