

EyesRight

Fall-Winter 2025 Edition



Ellen Leidy Named VSC's 2024 Veteran of the Year

Marine Awarded Honors for Her Unwavering Loyalty, Dedication and Service to Others



—James C. Seminaroti—
VETERAN OF THE YEAR
2024 AWARD

While U.S. Marine Ellen Leidy's contributions in the military were significant, it is her dedication to her fellow Veterans – especially Ohio Veterans – after her service to country that resulted in her earning the 2024 Veteran of the Year award from the VSC.



Leidy served in the United States Marine Corps from 1969 to 1972, as a Corporal based in Washington, D.C. Leidy would go on to receive a Bachelor of

Science in Education from Central Michigan University in 1979. She retired from the Department of Defense as a Quality Assurance Specialist after 25 years of service in 2007.

Throughout all these significant professional milestones in Leidy's life – she has been called to serve Veterans, future Marines and her community. And she certainly has answered that call.

"Ellen leads by example," said 2023 VOTY Award Winner Tyrone Sanders, a Veteran who felt his call to serve others after meeting Leidy when they worked together at the Akron VA in 2017.

It's no surprise to see her entry into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame (Class of 2007), her recognition with the Chapel of Four Chaplains Award (2010) or her U.S. Marines Corps Reserve Commanders Award (2004).



She has held multiple positions in the [Chesty Puller #269 Detachment](#) in Cuyahoga Falls, where she's a life member. She has served in nearly every level of the local organization's command as well as serving at the national level as Marine Corps League National Administrative Review Chairman. Through her 27 years of service to this organization, she's been awarded Marine of the Year (2018) by

Free Tax Preparation and Filing for Veterans



Did you know Veterans and their families have multiple no-cost options for having their income taxes prepared? The VA offers a convenient list of links to tax preparation and electronic filing services that will help ensure you keep more of your hard-earned money on Tax Day. [Click here for complete details.](#)

Certain eligibility requirements apply for some of these services, so be sure to review them carefully and find the option that works best for you. ★

REMINDER

The deadline to file and pay your income taxes is April 15!

See Ellen Leidy article, page 3

Non-Invasive, Painless & Drug-Free Treatment Option Available for Veterans with Sleeping Issues, Depression, Anxiety, Brain Fog, Irritability and Similar Symptoms

Veterans are now eligible for eTMS treatment to help treat common sleeping issues, depression, anxiety, brain fog, irritability and similar conditions. eTMS also has shown improvements for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and concussions. This is a confidential medical treatment available to qualifying Veterans through a grant from the state of Ohio.

What is electroencephalogram Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (eTMS)?

Using FDA-approved equipment, the patient will be positioned by a trained technician to receive the individualized treatment protocol to the targeted region of the brain. The equipment delivers the prescribed amount of magnetic waves, gently stimulates the specifically targeted areas of the brain. This is a non-invasive, pain- and drug-free therapy option.

This treatment delivers magnetic pulses to specifically targeted areas of a brain. A typical appointment lasts around 15 minutes.

This transformative approach to therapy is in its Phase 2 of FDA trials at Wright State University to prove the efficacy of eTMS specifically for PTSD. Patients were reporting about 64% improvement in their PTSD symptoms through this treatment.

To learn more about advanced brain therapy for Veterans, please visit this [webpage](#).

eTMS Overview & Benefits

Starting with a quantitative EEG or qEEG, [eTMS Ohio](#) can help Veterans identify varying disorders of the brain and develop an electroencephalogram transcranial magnetic stimulation treatment plan that is 100% free for qualifying Veterans and First Responders.

- Offers a drug-free treatment option
- Provides treatment without pain and is non-invasive
- Free treatment programs for those who qualify

Summit County Veterans with Questions About eTMS Can Contact:

Bryan A. McGown
Gunnery Sergeant "Gunny"
United States Marine Corps (Retired)
Northeast Ohio Peer Mentor
(216) 200-8762
bmcgown@jlcservicesinc.com



Services for Vets

We provide financial assistance* for basic living needs to eligible Veterans and their dependents.

- Mortgage payments
- Rent
- Utilities
- Food
- Children's school clothing
- Adult work clothing
- Dentures, glasses and hearing aids

Free to Veterans!

- Regularly scheduled transportation for medical appointments at VA medical facilities and Ohio Veterans Home

* Other types of financial assistance may be considered on a case by case basis. All types of assistance are subject to change based on need and funding.

Veterans Affairs Assistance

- Assistance applying for Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits
- Preparation of VA forms and paperwork
- Supportive documentation of claims and pertinent data
- Proper submission of claims to the VA
- Service connected compensation
- Non-service pension
- Widows pension
- Burial benefits
- Headstones

If you are a Veteran in financial need or need help with your VA claim, please visit us at 1060 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron, OH, or call

(330) 643-2830.



VA Expands Presumptive Cancer Coverage for Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veterans



The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced the addition of several cancers



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

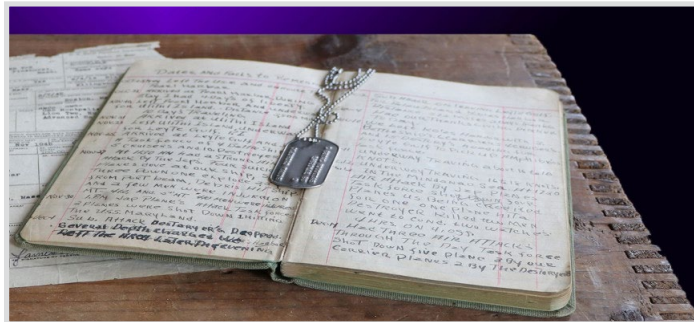
presumptive for service connection, helping to lower the burden of proof for Veterans of the Gulf War and Post-9/11 to receive no-cost health care and earned benefits.

The list of presumptive cancers for these Veterans now includes acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, myelodysplastic syndromes, myelofibrosis, urinary bladder, ureter, and related genitourinary cancers.

By lowering the burden of proof, Veterans are no longer required to prove that their military service caused their condition to receive benefits. The VA will automatically assume a service connection for the condition and provide the necessary benefits and provides access to free health care for that cancer. For effective dates for the various presumptive cancers covered, please review this [article](#). The [article](#) also contains definitions of the Gulf War and Post-9/11 Veterans whom are covered by this.

The expansion was part of comprehensive, yearslong effort led by the VA and the Biden-Harris Administration's focus to help fulfill the nation's obligation to our Veterans. For more information, please read this [article](#). ★

Veterans Legacy Memorial Offers Veterans Opportunity to Share Story & Legacy



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently expanded the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM),



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

the nation's largest digital platform dedicated to the memory of Veterans and service members, through a new "Your Story, Your Legacy" feature. The new feature allows pre-approved Veterans to log into the secure website and privately share and submit images, stories, autobiographies, military and life milestones, and related historically significant documents. This will allow Veterans to tell and share their own stories before they pass away.

"The legacies we leave behind come in many forms," said Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ronald Walters. "Providing Veterans with resources to document their stories while they are still with us ensures their voices are heard and allows family members, friends, and others to appreciate the experiences of those who served."

For more information, please refer to this [article](#), published recently by the VA. ★

Looking for More Information About VA Burial Benefits?

Contact the Summit County VSC to set up an appointment to review what benefits may be available. Summit County Veterans can [review this](#) to learn more about burial services.

Additionally, for information about VA burial benefits, visit one of VA's [National Cemetery Locations](#) in-person, visit online at [VA burial benefits and memorial products](#), or call toll free at 800-827-1000. To plan for you and your family, visit NCA's [pre-need eligibility website](#). ★

Veterans
Crisis Line



DIAL 988 then
PRESS 1

Starting an open conversation can
**make a difference
for a Veteran in crisis.**

Ellen Leidy, from page 1

the detachment and Ohio Marine of the Year (2013) by the state's department of Ohio Adjutant.

In addition, Leidy has served in various roles of the Military Order of Devil Dogs for the last 14 years, including Pedigree Devil Dog and dog handler for National Military Order of Devil Dogs. She also is a life member of the Women Marines Association, American Legion, MILWOMEN (formerly WAVES) national organization, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

She participates in funerals and donates time to Toys for Tots efforts and has led in several capacities of local and regional Young Marines. She regularly volunteered at the VA hospital in Brecksville, where she provided more than 10,000 hours of service and where she met Sanders.

"She not only served others at the VA hospital – she also brought the Veterans joy. She created this area for coffee and fellowship that Veterans still ask about today," Sanders said. "Her impact reaches so far for so many."

She also was awarded the Department of Defense's STEM Role Model Award for Women's History Month Observance and Recognition Ceremony, carrying the theme "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," at Arlington National Cemetery in 2006.

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Leidy has been instrumental in leading and now providing critical advisory services to the Summit County Stand Down, a local event that gives homeless and displaced Veterans a hand-up by offering free services such as mental health counseling, dental and vision exams, employment training and more.

"She donates countless hours of her time and her own money to support Veterans – from parades to reenactments to playing taps at a funeral to helping families financially to attend graduations to serving the Young Marines and so much more," Sanders said. "Her impact is huge, and her standards are exacting, just what you'd expect from a U.S. Marine."

Throughout her professional career and military service, Leidy volunteered and led with her heart – and her sense of humor – inspiring hundreds of other Veterans to work selflessly in support of one another, as Sanders noted.

That commitment to serving others helps future generations carry the torch forward and is truly her biggest legacy to the greater Summit County community. Her decades of Veteran and community service exemplify the Veterans Service Commission of Summit County James C. Seminaroti Veteran of the Year award.

And when she's not giving back, Leidy is devoted to her family and travel. She has recently been enjoying adventuring to see family, according to Sanders. ★

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www.vscsummitoh.us/eyesright-signup/

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Ohio Department of Veterans Services