



# AMVETS

Department of Ohio

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Dear AMVET Member:

The 2011-2012 Department of Ohio Electronic Guide Book should become part of your Post records and be made available to your Post Officers upon reasonable request. For your convenience, the information contained within this Electronic Guide Book can also be accessed on the internet, from the Ohio AMVETS website, [www.ohamvets.org](http://www.ohamvets.org), and click on *Forms/Guides*.

To make the Electronic Guide Book more functional and user friendly, our Vice Commanders, along with the Department Headquarters staff, have worked diligently to enhance the design of the Electronic Guide Book and the forms contained within. Membership Vice Commander Sandy Vorhies, VAVS/Veterans Welfare Vice Commander Rod Hughes, and the Programs Vice Commander have submitted updates to the Membership, VAVS/Veterans Welfare, and Program sections of this guide. Also you will find individual awards defined, along with the various programs in which EVERY Post in the State of Ohio is eligible to participate.

For a prosperous year, we are going to need the help of every AMVET. I know with full cooperation, the Department of Ohio will continue to be the largest Department in the Nation. If at any time any AMVET or Officer of the AMVETS has any questions, please call me or any other State Officers in the Department. We will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Yours in Service,

James A. Graham  
Department Commander



## BORN OF WAR

AMVETS was literally born in war.....for the cause of peace. In December, 1944, nine veterans organizations over the nation, made aware of each other by a Collier's Magazine article, met in Kansas City, Missouri to form a National Organization. They adopted the name "American Veterans of World War II". A newspaperman, trying to fit the name of the veterans' organization into a headline created the abbreviation, "AMVETS" and this later was adopted officially. AMVETS first national convention was held in Chicago on October, 1945.

## FEDERAL CHARTER

On July 23, 1947, President Truman signed the Bill, passed unanimously by the 80<sup>th</sup> Congress, to grant a federal charter to AMVETS. By request of AMVETS, the charter was amended in 1950 to open membership to veterans who served during the Korean Conflict, and was amended again in 1966 to open membership to Vietnam Veterans. In May, 1984 a charter amendment was again brought before Congress requesting that eligibility be extended to include those who served after May 8, 1975. This bill was passed on May 17, 1984 and subsequently signed into Public Law 98-304 on May 31, 1984 by President Ronald Reagan.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1946, John L. Smith signed the Charter for the AMVETS Department of Ohio. Carl Freudenberg proudly served the Ohio Department as our First State Commander in 1945-46.