



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Thomas P. Charles, Director
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Ohio Department of Public Safety Honors Employee, Awards Grant Funding to Veterans Courts

(COLUMBUS) - In honor of Veterans Day, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) presented one of its employees with the 2011 Military Service Award. Dennis Tomcik is a highly-decorated Vietnam War Veteran and responsible for establishing the ODPS Military Committee that won a national award for its efforts.

"We are proud to present this award to Mr. Tomcik for his service to our great country, said ODPS Director Thomas P. Charles. "The Department is committed to honoring those who have served as well as providing resources to our veterans – such as investing in the success of veterans courts."

In 1997, Tomcik retired from the Ohio National Guard as a Colonel in charge of Operations with 27 years of service, both active and with the National Guard. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam where he was an infantry company commander. In addition, he is qualified as a U.S. Army Airborne Ranger and received the following awards: two Distinguished Service Crosses; nine Bronze Stars, four of which were for valor; a Purple Heart; and other awards.

Tomcik served as the first Chairperson of the ODPS Employee Military Committee, which was founded to support and bring recognition to the Department's military employees and their families. The Employee Military Committee has been recognized and awarded nationally by the national committee of the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve as the top governmental program for support of the National Guard and Reserves. He currently serves as the Chief of the Field Operations, Training and Exercise Branch for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of ODPS.

Also during the ceremony, an 11-minute trailer of a forthcoming documentary, "Operation Resurrection," produced by Dr. Chrisanne Gordon (of central Ohio) and Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini of Youngstown, was shown, explaining the plight of veterans returning from war, and the impact of PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. The film also featured veterans who benefitted from veterans courts. To view the movie trailer, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsoncnu-E8>

The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), another division of ODPS, along with Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, also presented \$35,000 in grant funding to Mansfield Municipal Court and Youngstown Municipal Court to support their current and future efforts with veterans courts.

To view the entire ceremony, please visit: <http://publicsafety.ohio.gov> and click on the "Military Service Ceremony" icon.

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