The Knox County Joint Veterans Council are looking for volunteers!!!

The Knox County Joint Veterans Council is located at the Knox County Veterans Service Office located at 105 E Chestnut St. Mount Vernon, Ohio. The post conducts regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting time is 7:00 P.M. Contact Carol Riley @ 740-504-3264 to schedule services. Contact Eddie Stage@ 740-504-1597 if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!



They stand guard silently, vigilantly through whatever Mother Nature dares throw at them. They do so with great pride to honor one of their own. And they do this without thought of payment. For them, honoring a fallen brother-in-arms is compensation enough.

For the families of the deceased soldier, they are the ever-watchful sentinels, and their selfless act is a much-appreciated tribute.

They are the Joint Veterans Council.

Army to evaluate new 2-in-1 all-weather jacket from Gore

As the military looks to get rid of "forever chemicals" in equipment and clothing, outerwear maker Gore hopes a lightweight jacket that uses a fleece lining, not a chemical coating, to block wind and weather will appeal to Army equipment testers. Gore plans to submit its All-Weather Active Insulation Jacket to the Army's Soldier Enhancement Program early next year so it can be evaluated for rapid fielding, company staff told Military Times.

The jacket aims to replace two items in the Army's existing Extended Cold Weather Clothing System, or ECWCS: the Level III high-loft fleece jacket and the Level IV wind jacket. At just under 17 ounces, the all-weather jacket weighs less than half of the two layers together and takes up about 40% less packing space, according to the company. The inner fleece layer also dramatically reduces air permeability compared with the wind jacket alone. And wind is a key consideration, said Collin Friedman, a marketing specialist at Gore. He said the company was aware that soldiers stationed in cold zones shy of Arctic temperatures faced training impacts and even cancellations due to wind. "The ask is really something that cuts the wind," he said.

The all-weather jacket is being offered as part of Gore's All-Weather Integrated Clothing System, a simplified 10-piece set of pants and jackets that Friedman said protects soldiers in conditions from -40 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit and could bridge the gap between existing ECWCS gear and the recently fielded Cold Temperature and Arctic Protection Systems, or CTAPS. Friedman said Gore aims to fill a "capability gap" as soldiers increase training in cold and mountainous regions, and need comprehensive and lightweight protection. In addition to meeting those standards, the company is positioning its gear to be a non-toxic solution to traditional outerwear treated with durable water repellent, or DWR. This coating contains per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, a family of long-lasting chemicals the military has targeted for elimination in substances like the firefighting foam used in aircraft hangars. Efforts to eliminate DWR from new garments have left outerwear makers without an equally effective replacement for fabric waterproofing.

One solution for Gore, as with the all-weather jacket, is to use fleece, a time-tested material, although bulkier than a coating. But multiple components of the All-Weather Integrated Clothing System also contain Gore's Windstopper technology, a laminated membrane affixed to the inside of garments. "Unlike DWR-treated or polyurethane-based membranes that lose performance over time or under temperature stress, WINDSTOPPER® maintains its integrity in extreme conditions. Its chemically resistant membrane resists degradation from oils, lubricants and fuels — providing consistent, durable protection mission after mission," Friedman said in a provided statement.

Active soldier trials of the AWICS system are ongoing with the 11th Airborne/Arctic Regions Test Center integration cell in Alaska; the Army Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vermont; and the 19th Special Forces Group in Bluffdale, Utah, Friedman said. "Soldier feedback has been overwhelmingly positive," he said.

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At 50, He Survived Marine Boot Camp — Then Fought at Peleliu and Okinawa

When 50-year-old Paul Douglas showed up at Marine Corps boot camp in 1942, the white-haired economics professor looked more like a seasoned general than a private. Instead, he was just another recruit, running the same obstacle courses and getting the same punishment as the younger troops. What set Douglas apart wasn't age or rank, but the fact that he had already been a Chicago alderman, a failed candidate for mayor, and an adviser for the president. By the end of World War II, he would also be a combat-decorated Marine.

Douglas was born in Salem, Massachusetts, on March 26, 1892. His mother died young, and his father was abusive, prompting his stepmother to move the children to Maine. He graduated from Bowdoin College before earning a master's degree and Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University in 1921. His academic career took him across the country, including a post at the University of Chicago, where he worked on banking reform proposals known as the "Chicago Plan" and co-authored *A Program for Monetary Reform.*

Douglas also became active in politics. He advised Gov. Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania and Franklin D. Roosevelt when he was governor of New York. He served as an alderman in Chicago, ran unsuccessfully for mayor, and joined reformist movements such as the Farmer-Labor Party. His second wife, Emily Taft Douglas — later a member of Congress — encouraged his growing interest in politics. He attempted to win a seat in the senate, but this also failed. By the early 1940s, his political career had stalled. When the U.S. entered World War II, Douglas saw an opportunity to serve his nation. Hundreds of thousands of men were drafted for the military and many volunteered. Some even lied about their age to enlist in the military before they were old enough. Douglas was at the other end of the spectrum, so he reached out to his friend Frank Knox, former publisher of the *Chicago Daily News* and Secretary of the Navy, asking to enlist. Knox made sure the Marines accepted him.

At age 50, Douglas reported to Marine Corps boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina. There was no waiver for his age — he trained alongside recruits young enough to be his grandsons. Drill instructors treated him no differently, and Douglas earned the respect of the younger Marines, who saw him as both an example and a mentor. Douglas later recalled: "I found myself able to take the strenuous boot camp training without asking for a moment's time out and without visiting the sick bay." After graduation, Douglas was assigned clerical work and promoted to staff sergeant within a few months. Still unsatisfied, he begged for combat duty in the Pacific. With Knox's help, he received a commission and got his orders for the 1st Marine Division.

In September 1944, Douglas landed on Peleliu with the 5th Marines. His commanders initially tried to keep him away from combat, but he begged for permission to serve at the front. After receiving approval, he carried ammunition and supplies to rifle companies under fire and earned a Bronze Star for his actions. One of the Marines he resupplied was Eugene Sledge, who later recalled the encounter in his famous memoir *With the Old Breed*.

Douglas saw heavy action at Peleliu. While carrying flamethrower fuel, he was wounded by shrapnel and awarded his first Purple Heart. He also killed a Japanese sniper in a cave after the soldier had already shot two Marines. Reflecting on that moment, Douglas later wrote: "As I came out, covered with mud and blood, the thought went through my head that perhaps the fellow was a professor of economics at the University of Tokyo. What a world it is that causes each of us to seek the other's life." The 1st Marine Division later fought at Okinawa, where Douglas again placed himself in danger. Serving with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, he carried supplies, helped evacuate wounded Marines, and shared hardships with his men. While rescuing a wounded Marine, he was struck by machine gun fire, which permanently disabled his left hand. He earned a second Purple Heart. Marines recalled him telling corpsmen to treat younger men first, even removing his officer insignia to ensure enlisted troops received care ahead of him. Marine Pfc. Paul Ison later remembered the scene: "There, lying on the ground, bleeding from his wound, was a white-haired Marine major… He was saying, 'Leave me here. Get the young men out first. I have lived my life. Please let them live theirs.'" Douglas had earned the respect of the young Marines around him.

Douglas spent 13 months recovering at the National Naval Medical Center before retiring from the Marine Corps as a lieutenant colonel. He returned briefly to teaching but soon reentered politics. In 1948, he campaigned across Illinois, speaking in support of the Marshall Plan and civil rights. When his opponent refused to debate, Douglas debated an empty chair. He won with 55 percent of the vote and went on to serve 18 years in the Senate. Douglas became a leading voice for civil rights, environmental protection, and housing reform. His wartime service gave him credibility on Capitol Hill, where few could question his patriotism.

Douglas published his autobiography, *In the Fullness of Time*, in 1971 and died in 1976 at age 84. The Marine Corps later named the Parris Island visitor center in his honor, with a plaque commemorating him as the oldest Marine recruit in history. His legacy stretches beyond the laws he passed or the books he wrote. It is best defined by the moment the 50-year-old chose to carry a rifle and stand with his Marines in some of World War II's bloodiest battles.

Pictures of the Month



Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters lift an M777A2 howitzer and a Joint Light Tactical Vehicle during the 2025 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show in San Diego, Sept. 26, 2025



Air Force personnel assigned to the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron's fire protection team participate in a live aircraft fire exercise at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., Sept. 16, 2025.