

THINK

VETERANS FIRST

THE 2024 VET OHIO EXPO

SUPPORT VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES!



SOUVENEIR GUIDE



WWW.THINKVETERANSFIRST.ORG



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With a mission to provide a transportation system that is safe, accessible, well maintained, and positioned for the future, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) supports the state highway system and promotes transportation initiatives statewide.

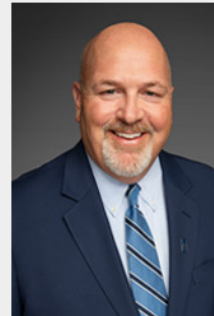
www.transportation.ohio.gov



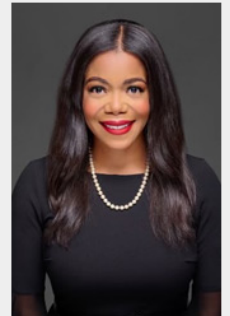
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The Franklin County Board of Commissioners is committed to serving, supporting, and uplifting all residents of Franklin County through a lens of respect and human-centered care. We strive to ensure that every resident's needs are met on the fundamental social, wellness, economic, and environmental levels. We are dedicated to constant innovation, sustainability, and progress, for the sake of providing the best possible quality of life for all residents.

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Founders Page

Welcome to the 2024 Vet Ohio Expo!



Regina Rembert, Founder and CEO of Think Veterans First.

We are honored to have you here today at the 4th Annual Vet Ohio Expo, a premier event designed to support and uplift veteran-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. This expo is more than just a gathering—it's a movement to promote economic empowerment, business growth, and veteran advocacy. As veterans transition into the world of entrepreneurship, they face unique challenges, and Think Veterans First is committed to providing the resources, connections, and opportunities to help them succeed.

The Vet Ohio Expo is a cornerstone of our mission. It not only showcases the amazing talents and businesses of our veteran community but also fosters collaboration and networking with partners across industries. This year, we're proud to introduce our first-ever Matchmaker Procurement Event, where veteran-owned businesses will connect directly with government officials and corporate buyers. This is an incredible opportunity for veterans to pitch their products and services, make valuable connections, and secure new contracts.

Following this groundbreaking session, we'll come together for our Rooftop Reception, a special evening designed to celebrate these new partnerships and build even stronger ties between veterans, sponsors, and supporters. This is a chance for you to connect in a relaxed setting, discuss future ventures, and toast to the ongoing success of our veteran business community.

The vision of Think Veterans First is simple yet powerful: to advocate for, support, and promote veteran-owned businesses.

Our mission is to create a lasting impact by helping veterans succeed in business and life, offering them the tools, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our amazing sponsors for their unwavering support: Brightstar Consulting, U.S.A.A., Kemba Financial Credit Union, City of Columbus, Franklin County Commissioners, One Hope Winery, Urban Trendsetters, Worthington Enterprise, Bath & Body Works, Huntington, NaVOBA, Columbus Urban League/MBAC, and the Ohio Department of Transportation. Your belief in our cause makes all of this possible.

We also thank our dedicated exhibitors, partners, and volunteers for their invaluable contributions. Your involvement in the Vet Ohio Expo helps shape the future of veteran-owned businesses, creating opportunities for growth and success. Together, we are empowering veterans and creating a brighter future. Enjoy the expo, make new connections, and be inspired by the incredible innovation and determination of our veteran community!



**Proceeds benefits Think Veterans First.
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| Website Design Website Development, Design, & Audit and Other Services Available | Targeted Display AD placement on websites and apps while users surf the web. | SEM/SEO SEM Campaigns including Search-Based Display/ Search Engine Optimization help | Paid Social Paid Social campaign management on Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok, and LinkedIn | Targeted Email Acquisition & Targeted Email Campaigns with Audience, Behavioral & Geo-targeting | Mobile Geofencing Location-Based Targeting, Reach Consumers Based on Where They Are & Where They Have Been | Monetization Landing Pages, Courses, Membership and Affiliate Marketing Workshop & Sponsor Guide Design | Billboards Indoor and Outdoor Billboards in every major market. | Events Align your brand locally, regionally, and nationally. |

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For more general information about Alcoholics Anonymous: AA.ORG

THINK VETERANS FIRST NEW BUSINESS DIRECTORY LAUNCH

Get your FREE Business Listing on the NEW Think Veterans First Online Business Directory.

Official Launch on Veterans Day 2024 www.thinkveteransfirst.org



UNLOCK THE SECRETS TO EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP WITH BRIGHTSTAR CONSULTING'S LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING.



Brightstar Consulting is a Veteran, Female, and Minority owned company specializing in Human Resources consulting, training, and professional development coaching.

Regina Rembert, CEO
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Women who win!



2024 NETWORKING SERIES

WHY WINNING WEDNESDAY? W is for Women & Wednesday is the middle of the week!

WHY THE LAST WEDNESDAY? Women have the most productive day of the week!

SPECIAL GUEST



Linda Pringle Evans
Founder & CEO of Pringle Business Consulting

As the Founder & CEO of Pringle Business Consulting, Linda Pringle Evans is a trailblazing brand specialist renowned for her exceptional ability to transform individual names into powerful brands, turning reputations into lucrative opportunities. With a career spanning over three decades, Linda's expertise has left an indelible mark on the fields of branding, niche marketing, and self-marketing strategies, particularly for women in leadership.

An active member of esteemed organizations such as the National Small Business Association and Junior Achievement, Linda is also a founding board advisor for the Global Black Women Chamber of Commerce. Her commitment to promoting positive change led her to serve as the Dean of Education for Empowering a Billion Women, where she has been instrumental in shaping the next generation of female leaders.

Through her dedication, innovation, and unwavering commitment to excellence, Linda Pringle Evans continues to inspire individuals worldwide, making a lasting impact in the realms of branding, entrepreneurship, and women's empowerment.

GUEST VENDORS: Buttercup Balloons * One Hope Winery * Melanbird Gifts * Denise Robinson Desserts * Serene Essential Services * Caterer - Creative Catering (Woman Owned)

Food and Beverage Sponsors: Brightstar
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 5-30-7-00 PM

COHATCH POLARIS: 1554 POLARIS PKWY SUITE 325, COLUMBUS, OH 43240

To purchase tickets go to Eventbrite.com and search for Women Who Win or scan the QR Code.





Daniel J. O'Connor Jr.
Franklin County Recorder

The Franklin County Recorder's Office is a county government agency that oversees the recording and storing of public records related to real property and other important legal documents. The Recorder's Office also has a veteran's program where veterans can record their discharge forms (DD-214) with the office, free of charge, for a secondary place of safekeeping. (These records are NOT considered public records and will be shielded from view for the public.) When a veteran records their DD-214 with the Recorder's Office, they are eligible to receive a county-issued veteran ID card which can be used to show proof of service at retail establishments to obtain discounts.

When a veteran stores their DD-214 with the Recorder's Office, a digital copy is generated and stored within our database. If the veteran ever needs an additional copy or certified copy, they can obtain one from the Franklin County Recorder's Office free of charge. We also are able to help families of deceased veterans obtain military funeral rights by supplying the DD-214 to the funeral home, if the veteran had previously recorded their DD-214 with the office before their death.

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X (Twitter): @RecorderDannyO

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NaVOBA

NATIONAL VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

NaVOBA's mission is to create corporate contracting opportunities for America's Veteran's and Service-Disabled Veteran's Business Enterprises (VBEs/SDVBEs) through certification, advocacy, outreach, recognition and education.

This initiative creates a nationally recognized gold standard in certification for veteran-owned businesses of all sizes and enables corporate America to proactively source and confidently utilize businesses that are at least 51% owned, operated and controlled by U.S. military veterans.

WWW.NAVOBA.ORG



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Perrine Hill, CEO

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Carla Meinberg

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**2nd ANNUAL
SENIORS TECH CONFERENCE**
FREE EVENT FOR SENIORS 55+

“BASICS TO BRILLIANCE”

The Fawcett Center 2400 Olentangy River Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43210

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th, 9:00am – 4:00pm

- Free Admission
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- Tech Vendors
- Free Lunch – (while supplies last)
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Women in Business Day Brunch

Join us as we celebrate the incredible journeys of successful women in business who have defied the odds and made their mark. **Get ready to be inspired by their stories.**

SEPT 22, 2024
From 11:00 - 1:00
Doors open at 10:00 a.m. ET.

This event is being televised on The Lindaingle Evans Show on UTV

THE Lindaingle Evans SHOW 

SPECIAL GUEST



**CONGRESSWOMAN
JOYCE BEATTY**



**GUEST SPEAKER
DR. IRIS COOPER**

Community Service Advocate for over 30 years - supporting Central Ohio nonprofits



**GUEST SPEAKER
LATYNA HUMPHREY**

Representative Latyna M. Humphrey proudly represents Ohio's 2nd House District



**GUEST SPEAKER
JENNY SAUNDERS**

Women's Rights Activist
FC Bank President



**GUEST SPEAKER
CLAUDIA DE LEON**


President/Executive Committee
La Mega Media COO

JEFFERSON COUNTRY CLUB
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BLACKLICK, OHIO 43004

R.S.V.P.



REGISTER TODAY!  www.Womenomicslive.com | bit.ly/womenomic-brunch-24



Military Women's Memorial

The Military Women's Memorial, located at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, honors and tells the stories of women, past and present, who serve our nation.

Without HERstory our nation's history is incomplete


The Military Women's Memorial is the only historical repository documenting all military women's service, we educate and inspire through innovative and interactive exhibitions, our world-class collections, and engaging programs and events for all generations. We honor the commitment, contributions and experiences of every woman who serves in, or with, the Armed Forces.


For more information please contact:
Judy Pearson
Ohio Ambassador Military Women's Memorial
WIMS.Amb.oh1@gmail.com • 513-295-7048


www.womensmemorial.org

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Minority Business Assistance Center

Our mission is to advance opportunities for minority and small business enterprises and provide market access that leads to sustainable business relationships, opportunity, and growth.

Let's Start Working On Your Business!



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mbac@cul.org
614-372-2358



Columbus Urban League
Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.



Department of Development
Minority Business Assistance Center



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MATCHMAKER EVENT – NOON – 2:00PM

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**Department of
Transportation**

VET OHIO EXPO MATCHMAKER PRIMES

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES



CAMERON FONTANA
WSYX - NEWS 6

Cameron is a 4-time EMMY Award-winning TV host and entertainment reporter for Good Day Columbus and Good Day Marketplace. Cameron was born in Osaka, Japan, grew up in Southern California from age 7 moved to Columbus, Ohio in 2005 and currently resides in Pickerington with his wife Katie and daughter Sweet Chanel. He graduated from Valor Christian College majoring in music. Before joining CW Columbus, ABC 6 and FOX 28, Cameron was the Creative Director for World Harvest Church and Breakthrough Television for five years and has been working in branding, graphic design, animations, media, and television & radio production since 2007.

THE SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM



**ARIYAH WALLACE, STUDENT THE
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Ariyah Wallace is a fourth year student at The Ohio State University. She is majoring in Music Performance with a minor in Musical Theatre. The Columbus native has been performing since the age of three and has been performing on various stages around the city.

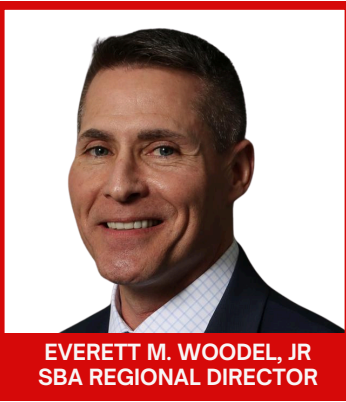


SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MATCHMAKER EVENT – NOON – 2:00PM



Lorraine Stevens is the Regional Outreach Manager for central and southeast Ohio for the Office of Outreach within the Division of Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ODI). In addition her outreach duties, Lorraine oversees a statewide initiative effort for our Ohio veterans. Her focus is to assist Minority, Women, Veteran & Small Businesses throughout the state that are interested in doing business with ODOT



Everett M. Woodel Jr. is the District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in the Columbus District Office. In this role, he oversees the strategic efforts and daily operations of the SBA’s activities across 60 counties in central and southern Ohio, including the Dayton and Cincinnati metropolitan areas.

Woodel has a diverse background with experience in both the private and public sectors. Before joining the SBA, he served as the Ohio regional director for VEIC, a sustainable energy company. He also worked for the State of Ohio as the director of public affairs and financial literacy, and as the director of operations. Additionally, he has held senior-level positions with the U.S. House of Representatives and is a U.S. Army veteran.



Nancy Day-Achauer is a community leader with a decade of experience collaborating with community stakeholders to create programs that address human service needs on the Westside.

As a councilmember, she looks to use this experience addressing human service needs on the Westside to work for all of Columbus, improving the quality of life and access to services for residents in every corner of the city. Councilmember Day-Achauer will chair the Neighborhoods, Recreation, and Parks committee and will vice chair the Public Service and Transportation committee.



Nicholas J. Bankston is a native of Columbus, proud graduate of Columbus East High School and The Ohio State University.

In addition to currently serving on Columbus City Council, Nick serves as the Director of Community Partnerships & Strategic Initiatives for Alvis, Inc. Alvis serves individuals with justice involvement and their families, those facing addiction issues and their families, as well as individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

<https://www.bankstonforcolumbus.com/>





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

VET OHIO EXPO MARKETPLACE 3:00PM – 6:00P



Cierra Johnson is an anchor and reporter with NBC4. She is a graduate of Gahanna Lincoln High School, followed by The Ohio University where she studied broadcast journalism.

Cierra joined NBC4 after working at KNTV in San Francisco. Cierra previously worked at WBNS as the station's first ever multimedia journalist. She has also worked as a reporter and anchor at WKBW in Buffalo, New York, and as a participant in the Scripps Apprentice Program at WCPO in Cincinnati. <https://www.nbc4i.com/author/cierra-johnson/>



Prior to being appointed as Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services on Jan. 14, 2019, Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenhurst (U.S. Army, retired) served as the Senior Vice President, Military Strategy of R2 Associates.

Ashenhurst received numerous awards and decorations, including the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with one Silver and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster) and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.



State Senator Hearcel F. Craig currently represents Ohio's 15th Senate District and holds the position of Assistant Minority Leader. Craig has an extensive background in public service at the state and local levels. Prior to being elected to the Ohio Senate, he served in the Ohio House and on Columbus City Council. Craig serves as the Ranking Member on the Senate Insurance and Veterans and Public Safety Committees. Senator Craig also sits on the Senate Finance; Medicaid; and Rules and Reference Committees. Additionally, Senator Craig serves as Sergeant-at-Arms for the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus.



Cristina Villarreal is a dynamic financial industry professional driven by innovation and a passion for tackling challenges. Among her achievements are innovative products and improved market portfolios. As a key member of USAA's New Business Ventures and Innovation team, she plays a pivotal role in supporting the military community, particularly focusing on small business initiatives.



Chris Borja is a Serial Networker and Consultant, Community-Builder, Speaker, Coach, Publisher and Author of Networking Essentials. <https://chrisborja.com>



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CLOSING SPEAKERS: 5:30PM



**MICHELLE REYNOLDS
STATE SENATOR**

Senator Michele Reynolds is serving her first term in the Ohio Senate. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Arts in Public Administration and Urban Studies from the University of Akron, a Master of Law from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from CICA International University, and Seminary, and All But Dissertation for her earned doctorate degree in Business Administration from Northcentral University. In addition to her public service, Senator Reynolds is a third-generation business owner and non-profit CEO. Senator Reynolds and her husband pastor The Destiny Center a church located in Central Ohio.



**FRANK LAROSE
OHIO SECRETARY
OF STATE**

Frank LaRose became Ohio's 51st Secretary of State on January 14, 2019, bringing to the office years of hard-earned leadership skills and public service developed as a U.S. Army Reservist, State Senator, U.S. Army Special Forces Green Beret, and Eagle Scout. As Secretary of State, he oversees a statewide constitutional office responsible for administering elections and incorporating new businesses. Prior to his election as Secretary of State, LaRose served as a member of the State Senate, where he led efforts to increase government transparency and efficiency, particularly in the areas of elections administration and regulatory reform.



**ALLEN G. PERK
THINK VETERAN FIRST
BOARD CHAIR**

Founded on January 19th 1991, the birthday of his late father Mayor Emeritus of Cleveland, Ohio - Ralph J. Perk, XLN SYSTEMS strives to meet the excellence that our clients demand and expect. Allen Perk is a Miami University graduate who began his career at Ernst & Ernst and the State of Ohio and Digital Equipment Corporation before deciding to create a business where he could bring 'corporate world' expertise to clients regardless of their size and skill. His accomplishments include board chair for Think Veterans First.



**REGINA REMBERT
THINK VETERAN FIRST
FOUNDER**

Regina Rembert is the Founder and CEO of Brightstar Consulting and Think Veterans First a 501c3 non-profit organization and creators of The Vet Ohio Expo. Regina retired from the U.S. Army Reserves in 2010 after a military career that spanned 22 years. During her military tenure, she held various roles with her final role being the Chief Paralegal Non-Commissioned Officer, 416th Theatre Engineer Command in Darien, Illinois. Regina has more than 25 years of professional Human Resources experience in union, non-union, and government sectors. She is a former HR Recruiter for Luke Air Force Base, Glendale AZ and the Department of Veteran Affairs in Columbus, OH.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ROOFTOP RECEPTION - 6:30PM - 8:00PM



WILLIAM (BILL) KIEFFER
KIEFFER & ASSOCIATES LTD

William E. "Bill" Kieffer, is the President and Chief Advisor of Kieffer & Associates, LTD, a veteran-owned business offering specialized services created to optimize talent capability, assist in military veteran career transition, executive coaching, strategic talent management, and professional speaking & facilitation. Bill, a former U.S. Army officer with over a decade of active duty service and more than twenty years of senior leadership experience in global companies, brings a practical, thoughtful, results-focused approach to his work.

7:30 PRESENTATION: CHRIS BORJA, AUTHOR OF NETWORKING ESSENTIALS

8:00 PM CLOSING SPEAKER: ALLEN PERK, TVF BOARD CHAIRPERSON

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First Dawn



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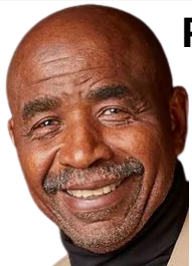
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WHO ARE WE?

WE ARE A CYBER SECURITY COMPANY BRINGING OUR TECHNICAL SKILLS TO THE IT ASSET DISPOSAL MARKET. WE WANT TO HELP YOU REDUCE SECURITY VULNERABILITIES, WHILE ALSO RESPONSIBLY RECYCLING IT ASSETS.

SMEDV

SECURE MOBILE ELECTRONIC DESTRUCTION VEHICLES COME TO YOUR SPECIFIED LOCATION.

WE MEET THE **HIGHEST SECURITY STANDARDS** OUTLINED BY THE NSA WHICH EXCEED THE STANDARDS PUT OUT BY NIST.

www.mansfieldtech.us

Learn more at mansfieldtech.us



New Concepts II



Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Ohio Bureau of Workers Comp
Minority & Small Business Advocate
30 W. Spring St., 22nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215



THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS / EXHIBITORS

Ohio Chamber of Commerce for Veterans

Ohio Department of Health

Ohio Department of Labor

Ohio Department of Veteran Services (ODVS)

Ohio Means Jobs

Ohio Secretary of State

Plan Logistics

Precision Pest Inspections

Strive

The Candied Cottage

Troops to Training

Veteran Companion Animal Services (VCAS)
70 N Sandusky St, Delaware, OH 43015 ·
(614) 918-8221
www.vcascharity.org

U.S. Department of Labor

USA Benefits Group

Health and Life Insurance Regional
Leader Email: shinds@usabg.com
Website: www.usabg.com/shinds
Office: 614-791-9990

Walsh University

Health and Life Insurance Regional
Leader Email: shinds@usabg.com
Website: www.usabg.com/shinds
Office: 614-791-9990
Cell: 614-361-3315

**White Deer Run Treatment
Network/PMRC/HCRC**

YMCA



LEGAL AID
of Southeast and Central Ohio



THINK VETERANS FIRST

SUPPORT

ADVOCATE

EMPOWER

AT THINK VETERANS FIRST, OUR MISSION IS TO HONOR THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE OF OUR VETERANS BY EMPOWERING THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT. THROUGH ADVOCACY, COLLABORATION, AND COMMUNITY BUILDING, WE STRIVE TO CREATE A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK WHERE VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES CAN THRIVE.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THE THINK, SHOP, BUY VETERAN FIRST MOVEMENT, ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO PRIORITIZE VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THEIR PURCHASING DECISIONS. TOGETHER, WE AIM TO BUILD A STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT ECONOMY WHILE HONORING THE SERVICE OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION.

JOIN US!

WWW.THINKVETERANSFIRST.ORG

DESIGNED BY SHARON S GORDON, URBAN TRENDSETTERS MEDIA, LLC