



NEWS & UPDATES

HAMILTON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

July 2024 / www.hcvsc.org / 513-946-3300

Remembering WWII Veteran Edward Burke



From L-R: Burke in France, in dress uniform, and posing with his Silver Star. Photos courtesy of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library, Edward Burke Collection. **At right:** Commissioner Lee Watson, representing Hamilton Veterans Service Commission, at the funeral services for Edward Burke, with a proclamation for Burke's family that recognizes Burke's service.

World War II veteran Edward Burke passed away June 22, 2024. He was 104 years old. Maj. Burke (Ret.) began his active military duty in 1943, immediately after he graduated from Xavier University. He served in the A-821st Tank Destroyer Battalion. Gen. George Patton later selected Burke to command the unit.

Burke's service included campaigns in Normandy, Brittany, northern France, the Rhineland, and central Europe. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the French Croix de Guerre, the French Legion of Honor, the Medal of Honor of Luxembourg, and more. After the war, Burke dedicated time to serving his community as a member of Green Township Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 10380.

Saluting Our Fallen and Our Future

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 10 (VVA10) welcomed Hamilton County Veterans Service Commission (HCVSC) President Jean Wilson as the keynote speaker for VVA10's Memorial Day Ceremony, held March 27, 2024, at the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial in Eden Park, near downtown Cincinnati.



Wilson's spirited and patriotic words reminded us to respectfully reflect on this day and to honor our Armed Forces family members who fought and died to guarantee peace and freedom for those they left behind.

"On this solemn day, as the band plays 'Taps,' we salute our Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marine Corps, Merchant Marines, and foreign friends and allies," Wilson said. "On this day, we salute all the many men and women who died on national and foreign lands, and seas. On this day we salute you, your service and your sacrifice. May you forever remain in our hearts and minds."



In addition to honoring the heroes past, Army veteran Dorothy Harris, VVA10 scholarship chair, and Army veteran Charlie Doan, president of the Vietnam Veterans of Southwest Ohio Foundation, fortified our future by presenting scholarship certificates to six of eight awardees from Greater Cincinnati high schools. The \$1,000 scholarships are awarded annually to children and grandchildren of honorably discharged veterans. This year's awards included several repeat winners who are still attending college.



Brandt recognized all of the veterans in attendance from our nation's wars and conflicts, and for military service in between those conflicts. He then presented check to the University of Cincinnati band to commemorate their 25 years of supporting VVA10's Memorial Day programs. The band treated attendees to performance of patriotic and military selections.



Brandt presented keynote speaker Jean Wilson with a framed Vietnam War Monument picture and a VVA challenge coin, after which he closed the Memorial Day Ceremony with an Armed Services flag pageant and a 21-gun salute from the VVA10 Honor and Color Guards, commanded by VVA10 Air Force veteran Gary Henson.