



Department of  
Veterans Services

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Chip Tansill, Director



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Contact Eileen Corson  
[Eileen.Corson@dvs.ohio.gov](mailto:Eileen.Corson@dvs.ohio.gov)  
614-728-0235

## **Director Tansill Thanks Walmart for Hiring 4,575 Ohio Veterans** *Highlights Ohio's New Veteran Fast Track to Jobs and Education*

**COLUMBUS** – Speaking to about 75 employees and veterans at the Walmart Distribution Center in Grove City yesterday, Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Chip Tansill showed his gratitude toward the multinational retail chain.

“Never have I been to an event where their leadership knew so much about the veteran community and the things going on inside it,” Director Tansill said at a lectern inside the massive facility. “Clearly, Walmart is a wonderful place to work, and this gathering here shows it’s also a great place for veterans.”

Prior to offering remarks, Col. Tansill visited with various members of Walmart management and listened to the stories of former service members Chris Curley, an Auto Care Center manager for Walmart in Columbus, and Matt Carter, who is a store manager in Powell.

Walmart’s Welcome Home Commitment, which started Memorial Day 2013, guarantees a job offer to any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the United States military. Since the initiative was announced, 153,000 U.S. veterans have been hired nationwide including 4,575 in Ohio.

“Walmart has welcomed veterans into every aspect of its 180 facilities in Ohio, from Supercenters to distribution centers and Sam’s Club locations,” said Market Manager Jeff Stone. “Our flexibility and scheduling opportunities make it possible for transitioning service members to make their own path, whether that is pursuing educational goals or finding a meaningful new career path.”

Tansill presented Stone, Distribution Center General Manager Mike Vahle, Market Manager Billy Link and General Transportation Manager Jonathan P. Gaupp with an OhioMeansJobs [Veterans Challenge Coin](#) for their dedication to hiring and retaining Ohio veterans.

The Director then shook hands and thanked each the veterans in attendance. He presented the Vietnam veterans with a special 50-year commemorative pin.



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Learn more about Ohio's fast track to jobs and education for veterans and military spouses at [OhioMeansVeteransJobs.com](http://OhioMeansVeteransJobs.com).

**Background:** Ohio is proud to be called home to approximately 900,000 veterans and military service members. Veterans represent the valuable, talented and skilled employees that Ohio businesses need to succeed and grow. Recognizing this, the state continues to cut bureaucratic red tape to prioritize workforce services for veterans, military service members and their families. The Office of Workforce Transformation, together with state agency partners, developed four key strategies to assist military service members, veterans and their families to compete for Ohio's in-demand jobs:

- **Award Credit for Military Experience:** State colleges, universities and licensing boards now award course credit for military education and experience.
- **Link Veterans to Employers:** The Veterans Business Support Center – accessible at [OhioMeansJobs.com](http://OhioMeansJobs.com) – connects employers to qualified veterans for free.
- **Support Ohio's Veterans:** Veterans receive priority of service across the state's workforce system and veteran resumes are prioritized on [OhioMeansJobs.com](http://OhioMeansJobs.com), allowing employers to review these first when looking for perspective employees.
- **Attract Veterans to Ohio:** [OhioMeansVeteranJobs.com](http://OhioMeansVeteranJobs.com) provides a single point of entry for veterans seeking information about employment, education and financial benefits available in Ohio.

*To learn more about benefits, bonuses, jobs and resources for Ohio veterans and military families visit [www.ohiovets.gov](http://www.ohiovets.gov) or call 1-877-OhioVet.*

**Note:** The attached photo shows eight dignitaries. They are identified, left to right, as follows:  
Distribution Center General Manager **Mike Vahle**  
General Transportation Manager **Jonathan Gaupp**  
Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services **Chip Tansill**  
Store Manager (1st Sergeant) **Matt Carter**  
Market Manager **Billy Link, Jr.**  
Auto Care Center Manager (Major) **Chris Curley**  
Market Manager **Jeff Stone**  
Governor John R. Kasich Regional Liaison **Sandra Brasington**

For more photos of the event, courtesy Walmart, go to:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/lesiccamper/sets/72157676612042875/>