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RICO-Bluecoats: A Partnership for Safety Forces



RICO Manufacturing President Dave Mueller, left, presents check to Michael Marquard, president of Bluecoats. The presentation took place at RICO plant headquarters on West Liberty Street.

Medina's RICO Manufacturing has made a generous contribution to Bluecoats of Medina County. The \$8,000 gift is twofold and truly unique in nature. The company wants to be sure that at least half of this amount remains in the Bluecoats account. The balance will be available to pay for a special safety forces' Tactical Training Class.

"RICO appreciates the role Bluecoats serves for the families of fallen officers," says company President Dave Mueller. "During difficult economic times, police departments cut costs. Unfortunately, one of the first things to go is training."

Bluecoats President Michael Marquard sums it up, "The concept is simple: Provide our officers with very sophisticated, high-tech training to keep them alive."

RICO is a fabricator of specialty lift trucks. With 125 years experience, the company customer base includes the industrial, military, health care and commercial markets.

ATTENTION – BLUECOATS MEMBERS & SAFETY FORCES CHIEFS

Mark your calendars now to be our guests for Bluecoats Annual Dinner Meeting the evening of Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at Medina Country Club. Details to follow.

Action-Packed PSA Currently being Aired

Membership is the goal and jam-packed safety forces visuals are fast-paced in to a 60-second Public Service Announcement now being seen by thousands of households throughout Medina County. It is the work of Miles Reed, the high-energy, extraordinarily creative CMA video producer.

Enthusiastically dedicated to Bluecoats, Miles finished the spot just before leaving for most of April in India. He hunted tigers—alone and armed with only his camera! The colorful video is playing on community channels as well as Armstrong and Time Warner "drop-in networks" in Medina, Brunswick and Wadsworth. These airings are thanks to Bluecoats board members Ed McKeon of Western Reserve Bank and Ron Paydo of FirstMerit Bank.

To see and hear the spot, go to our website www.bluecoatsofmedinacounty.org and click on the icon at the top of the Home Page.

ANNUAL DUES 2010

Two official dues notices have been sent to all members along with return envelopes. If you do not yet have the 2010 sticker for your membership card, please send annual dues of \$250 payable to **Bluecoats of Medina County**. A current year sticker and tax exemption letter will be mailed to you. Thanks!

Police Officer is First Honored on Bluecoats Plaque in Perpetuity



From left, Medina Police Chief Patrick Berarducci, Judge John Lohn, Sgt. Nathan Simpson, Mayor Dennis Hanwell and Michael Marquard, president of Bluecoats.

Medina Police Officer Nathan Simpson's name was inscribed as the first one on the "In Honor" column of Bluecoats' *Plaque in Perpetuity* in the lobby of the County Courthouse. The April 9 recognition was conducted for his life-threatening efforts to save a 7-year-old boy in a blazing house fire last October.

Although young Tashawn Okoye did not survive, Simpson was credited by Chief Berarducci for risking his life amid smoke and fire. Recovering at the hospital, Simpson was deemed a hero by his chief. Nathan's response: "It's what we do, chief."

Nine names are listed on the plaque's "In Memory" column, dating back to Medina Village Marshal John Gates in 1916. The last name is that of Jeffrey Murray, Sharon Township Volunteer Firefighter, who suffered a fatal heart attack in February 2007. He became Bluecoats' first line of duty loss since the organization was founded in 2003.

Membership Recruitment is Task No. 1

This is to urge each Bluecoats member to recruit at least one new member now. **Sustaining Membership** is \$250 the first year and \$250 annually thereafter. **Founding Membership** is \$1,000 the first year and \$250 annually thereafter. Especially in these trying economic times, it is important that we increase our base of support. With appreciation, **Gregory E. Kramer, Membership Chair.**

Benefits Increased for Families

Bluecoats has increased the initial benefits for families of fallen safety forces from \$2,000 to 5,000. In addition, since paper work takes as much as a year for federal and other funds, the board has authorized the Disbursements Committee to extend the housing assistance for the time it takes.

Mission Statement

Bluecoats of Medina County Inc., a nonprofit organization, provides financial assistance and other services to families of police, firefighters (paid and volunteer), emergency medical officers, sheriffs and corrections officers who lose their lives or become permanently disabled in the line of duty serving the Medina County public.

Bluecoats also serves as an information catalyst and liaison to federal, state and regional resources that provide help and support to families of fallen safety officers.

Bluecoats Comings & Goings:

Good News—Bluecoats has been selected by **Dorman Farrell** to be one of four Medina nonprofit organizations to receive funds from its Third Third Annual Charity Golf Outing, Monday, June 21 at Medina Country Club. We were recipients in their first...The irrepressible **Joe Tait** has been honored by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. For 40 years the radio voice of the Cavaliers, Joe long ago passed his 3,000th broadcast. In 2008 he was our richly entertaining Annual Meeting speaker...**Michael Marquard, Nobby Lewandowski, Greg Kramer** and **Bob Cummings** represented Medina at the Cuyahoga County Bluecoats Spring Dinner early in May. Cuyahoga lost a Firefighter and a Police Officer in recent months...Medina's **Taylor Burke**, daughter of rightly proud parents **Julie** and **Bill Burke**, won the national high jump title at 5-feet, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in the Nike Indoor Nationals in March in Boston. In December Taylor was cited in Sports Illustrated, recognizing top amateur athletes throughout the nation. The multi-talented young lady was picked for her soccer goal tending efforts, 12 consecutive shutouts and 18 for the season for the Bees en route to the state championship. She also plays forward for Medina girls basketball.



Bluecoats of Medina County, Inc.

4902 Foote Road, Unit #2 • Medina, OH 44256 • Phone 330.723.7934
e-mail: bluecoatsrbc@aol.com • www.bluecoatsofmedinacounty.org

