



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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Veterans Offered Free Records On Wallet

Local veterans can receive a wallet-size copy of their discharge papers for free from the county recorder's office. Recorder Craig Brown announced his staff would begin providing the service for all veterans, regardless of whether their discharge, known as DD-214s, are on file in the office.

Brown, in a news release issued Friday, said he was offering the service to veterans in "recognition of what they have accomplished." Veterans always have been able to file their discharge papers with the recorder's office to create a duplicate document in case something happened to the one kept by the veteran or the original on file with the U.S. Military.

Now these veterans can have the information reduced down to cards that can fit inside their wallets. Brown said this is a convenience for veterans, who often need proof of their service when seeking health insurance coverage from the Veterans Administration or other benefits available to them.

Veterans who already have filed DD-214s with this office could request a wallet size copy, as can any other county veterans, including new discharges. "This just isn't for the new ones ... if you're a veteran and lost your copy, you should really get a hold of this," Brown said.

He estimate they have more than thousands of discharge records on file dating back to the 1800s. Approximately 70 were added to the list in 2005 by new veterans. The print is obviously smaller than the document since it has been reduced to fit on the card, but Brown said those who have a problem reading the information can use a magnifying glass or have the print blown up on a copier or scanned into a computer and magnified.

The cost is inexpensive. Brown purchased a laminating machine for less than \$50 and enough supplies to last five years or more. The total cost was about \$90, and he estimated it will cost less than 10 cents to produce a card.

For further information call the recorder's office at 330-424-9517, extension 640, or e-mail at cbrown@ccclerk.org.

Brown said this was the least he could do "to give something back to those who have given so much to us."