



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karlhton F. Moore, Executive Director
www.ocjs.ohio.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 17, 2012

Contact: Kristen Castle, Public Information Officer, (614) 728-4623
Andrea Boxill, Franklin County Municipal Court, (614) 645-8511

OCJS Awards Grant Funding to Franklin County Veterans Court

(COLUMBUS) - The Ohio Department of Public Safety's (ODPS) Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) presented the Franklin County Municipal Court with \$20,000 in grant funding to support its efforts with its Military and Veterans Service Specialty (MAVSS) Docket.

"We are deeply committed to honoring our veterans and providing services to those who have served on behalf of all of us," said Karlhton Moore, OCJS executive director. "We are proud and humbled to be able to provide resources to our veterans by investing in the success of veterans' courts."

Since its inception in February 2012, the MAVSS Docket has worked with dozens of veterans by connecting them to housing, addiction, mental health, jobs and health care services. The MAVSS Docket team works to link, advocate, and provide intensive support and probation to the defendant to improve his or her quality of life.

Today's presentation was made in memory of Sergeant First Class Shawn Hannon, an Ohio National Guardsman who died April 4, 2012, during Operation Enduring Freedom. Hannon was assigned to 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and served as chief legal counsel for the Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs. He is survived by his wife and a son.

"Sergeant First Class Shawn Hannon was a committed and dependable soldier and attorney," said Judge Scott D. VanDerKarr, Franklin County Municipal Court. "The funds from this grant will be used for men and women like Shawn who served and fought for this country with honor."

Specialty dockets provide concentrated and comprehensive care in a courtroom setting, bringing social and court services together to provide needed programming for non-violent offenders as a cost-effective alternative to incarceration. Franklin County currently has specialty dockets that focus on alcohol and drug addiction, prostitution, and defendants with mental health concerns.

###

OCJS, a division of ODPS, serves as the lead justice planning and assistance agency for the state. Through research, technology and grants, OCJS serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio.