

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For More Information, Contact:**

Ray Girard, Public Affairs Officer  
Miami Valley Young Marines  
6161 Chambersburg Road  
Huber Heights, OH 45424  
937-657-7813; Email: raygirard@earthlink.net

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**VietNam Veterans of America and Miami Valley Young Marines  
Honor U.S. Veterans on Memorial Day**

Each year, the VietNam Veterans of America (VVA), Chapter 97, honor the Miami Valley Young Marines with an invitation to participate in the Memorial Day ceremonies at VietNam Memorial Park in Dayton. This year that participation was augmented by members of the Air Force Junior ROTC from Wayne High School in Huber Heights.

The ceremony commenced with a posting of the national colors by the VietNam Veterans Honor Guard. The keynote speaker, Dr. William F. O'Brien, Chief of Mental Health Services at Dayton's Veterans Administration Medical Center, presented inspiring words emphasizing a wish for peace for all of our veterans who have done so much to preserve our peace and the peace of the United States of America.

At the conclusion, a memorial wreath was cast into the Great Miami River by the VietNam Veterans Color Guard. This was followed by a ceremonial procession of wreath bearers remembering the 15 U.S. wars and conflicts occurring since the beginning of this nation's history.

The entire morning proceeded with dignity, intense feeling and some tears among the participants and onlookers. As the ceremonies concluded, many departed with the gift of that day's opportunity to remember our honored dead and an understanding and feeling of the peace wished upon them by Dr. O'Brien.

To learn more about the Miami Valley Young Marines see the national web site at [www.youngmarines.com](http://www.youngmarines.com), and the local web site at [www.miamivalleyyoungmarines.com](http://www.miamivalleyyoungmarines.com).

**SEE FOLLOWING SHEET FOR PIX. SEPARATE .JPEGs ALSO ATTACHED.**

## PIX from 2008 VVA Memorial Day



Wayne High School Air Force Junior ROTC Color Guard and Honor Detail Commander, Cadet Second Lieutenant Kyle Kruk.



Combined Young Marine and Air Force Junior ROTC Wreath Bearer Detail marches to flag raising ceremony



Dayton Police Sergeant Greg Gaby awaits signal for 21-gun salute



**VietNam Veterans of America, Chapter 97 Honor Guard raises US Colors**



**Dr. William O'Brien, Chief of Mental Health Services at Dayton VA Medical Center delivers keynote address**



**Young Marine Adjutant John Bankowitz in World War 1 Marine Corps uniform precedes VietNam Veterans Color Guard and Wreath Bearer Detail**



**Combined Young Marine and Air Force Junior ROTC Wreath Bearers march forth to honor US Veterans, followed by AF Jr ROTC Color Guard**



**One of 16 wreaths honoring US Veterans**



**Young Marine Lance Corporal Jacob Smith leads procession of Wreath Bearers honoring Veterans of all United States Wars and Conflicts.**