



# Terry J. Brown

Franklin County Recorder

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 16, 2016**

Contact: Franklin County Recorder Terry J. Brown James Kaster, Disabled American Veterans  
(614) 507-6406 (330) 301-3690

## **Franklin County Recorder Terry J. Brown Announces Cost-free Veteran ID Cards**

*Thanks to an agreement with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, all Veteran ID cards now issued free of charge*

COLUMBUS – Franklin County Recorder Terry J. Brown today announced that he has eliminated the \$1 fee for the popular Veteran ID Card program his Office launched in 2013, making the program completely free of charge.

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners this month agreed to remove the \$1 fee for the Recorder's Office Veteran ID Card program. This ends the need for the non-profit Disabled Veterans of America Chapter 3 Capital City to raise and donate funds to hold in escrow to cover the fees for homeless and low-income veterans.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the Disabled Veterans of America Chapter 3 Capital City in partnering with us since 2013 in covering the costs for any veteran who could not afford a Veteran ID card," Recorder Brown said. "We thank the Board of Commissioners for agreeing to offer this card free of charge thus enhancing our ability to serve all veterans, regardless of income and recognizing the service and sacrifice of all our veterans."

In June 2103, the Franklin County Recorder's Office under Recorder Brown became the second Recorder's Office in Ohio to launch the Veteran ID Card program. Since then, the Franklin County Recorder's Office has issued more than 5,500 ID cards to veterans who have had their discharge papers, Form DD214, recorded with the Recorder's Office. The wallet-sized ID card eliminates the need for a veteran to carry their discharge document - which contains sensitive information and does not become a public record until 75 years after the date of recording - in order to provide proof of service.

"Our office worked with the Ohio Secretary of State to ensure the Veteran ID card issued by the Franklin County Recorder's Office can be used as a form of valid identification to vote provided the address on the card matches the address on file with the Board of Elections," said Brown. "It is also an easily recognizable way for businesses and organizations to recognize and honor the service of our veterans. Many retailers and restaurants choose to do so by offering discounts to our veterans."

"We're very pleased we were able to help hundreds of veterans who really needed a hand, especially those who served during the Vietnam War," said James Kaster, a retired disabled veteran and former president of DAV Chapter 3 and currently a DAV district commander. "The DAV of Ohio appreciates the leadership of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners in funding the printing costs of the ID program, and we hope other counties across Ohio follow their lead to ensure that all veterans have access to an ID card from their county Recorder's Office."

The Veteran ID cards are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Franklin County Recorder's Office on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of the Franklin County Government Center, 373 South High St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. There will also be a public event on Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Police Capital City Lodge #9, 6800 Schrock Hill Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43229. To obtain a Veteran ID card, the veteran must record or have previously recorded their original or certified DD214 and bring 2 forms of ID. More information is available at <http://Recorder.FranklinCountyOhio.gov>.

The Franklin County Recorder's Office was the second in the state of Ohio to issue Veteran ID cards in 2013. Since then Recorder Brown and his team have worked with other counties across the state to implement their own Veteran ID card program. The Veteran ID card program is now available in 34 counties and to over 55 percent of Ohio's veterans in the counties in which they live.