

For Immediate Release
November 10, 2005

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Coleman appoints full-time Veterans Affairs Coordinator

(Columbus) During today's Veterans Ceremony, Mayor Michael B. Coleman announced the appointment of a full-time position in his office to serve as his Veterans Affairs Coordinator.

"There are an estimated 130,000 military veterans in our region, and we deal regularly with the issues they and their families face," said Mayor Coleman. "I believe that it is important that veterans have a strong voice in my administration, working every day to coordinate our City's services and make sure that we are doing the right thing, not only for employees with military backgrounds, but also for all the residents of Columbus who serve the nation through the United States Armed Forces."

The Mayor appointed Richard A. Isbell to the position, replacing Steve Miller, who proudly represented the City to the Veterans community for 17 years as a part-time appointee. Isbell, who served in the US Air Force from 1986 to 1993, spent the last five years working as a Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialist for the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. In that post, he designed and implemented the Veterans 1st Campaign for the State of Ohio among many other duties.

"Rick's experience with managing programs, handling labor issues and advocacy for Veterans is perfect for our team in City Hall, and we've got a lot of work ready for him to start," continued Coleman. "I am proud that we had so many strong candidates to interview, and that we've found someone who will continue to grow as a leader on Veterans issues in Columbus."

The Coordinator will serve as a liaison to the local veterans' community, coordinate the activities of the Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council and local veterans' events, advocate for veterans' benefits and issues, and guide internal policy for returning servicemen and women who are City employees.

"I am proud and honored to be part of such a dynamic team whose sole purpose is to serve those brave men and women of the armed forces," said Rick Isbell. "Helping veterans and their families, actually listening to their needs and being proactive in the role of preserving veteran's rights is extremely important to me. I look forward to building further upon the excellent foundation that Steve Miller has made and taking the program to new heights."