



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

BOB TAFT, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

## News Release

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### **OHIO NATIONAL GUARD TO HONOR GOVERNOR TAFT WITH MEDAL OF MERIT**

***GOVERNOR RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF STATE'S NATIONAL GUARD AND VETERANS***

**Columbus** — Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio's adjutant general, will present the National Guard Association of the United States' (NGAUS) Charles Dick Medal of Merit to Governor Bob Taft during a brief ceremony Nov. 28 at 9:45 a.m. in the North Hallway of the Ohio State House.

The award is being presented in recognition of Taft's support of the National Guard, including legislative initiatives on behalf of Ohio's veterans and their families, Wayt said.

Established in 1988, the Charles Dick Medal of Merit is named in honor of Maj. Gen. Charles Dick, a Congressman and U.S. Senator who was responsible for legislation that established the foundation of the modern National Guard. The award recognizes elected officials who have distinguished themselves over an extended period of time in support of the National Guard.

Since taking office, Taft fought to ensure that Ohio's Soldiers, Airmen and their families were cared for in all aspects of their service, and presided over an unprecedented expansion of state benefits for Guardmembers and their families.

In a time of great upheaval throughout the National Guard, facing potential losses in force structure through the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, Taft effectively challenged policymakers in the Pentagon and White House, and assumed a leadership role among fellow governors to protect the status of the National Guard.

"He epitomizes what a commander-in-chief of a National Guard should be. During his term he has stood strong with the National Guard," Wayt said.

The Charles Dick Medal of Merit is a 2.5-inch gold-plated medal bearing the likeness of its namesake, who also served as a general in the Ohio National Guard and president of the National Guard Association from 1902 to 1909.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000 or James Sims at 496-3812.

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