

2021 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame - Thomas Humphries Interview Transcript

[music FADES IN]

[imagery] In succession, the portraits of 16 assorted Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame inductees from various years FADE IN quickly on a canvas of black and then ZOOM IN to full screen, 8 of them moving to the LEFT of the screen and 8 moving to the RIGHT as they FADE OUT.

Narrator, V.O. The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame recognizes Ohio's distinguished men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation's armed forces and then continue to contribute to their communities, state...

[graphic/text overlay] A gold outline of the state of Ohio, containing the text
Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony
Class of 2021
OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME (logo)
FADES IN on the black canvas, and moves LEFT
while on the RIGHT...

[imagery] In succession, thumbnail portraits of all 20 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2021 inductees CUT IN quickly on a canvas of black and then ZOOM OUT slightly as they move into distinct positions, to form 4 rows of 5 portraits.

Narrator, V.O. ...and nation through exceptional acts of volunteerism, advocacy, professional distinction, public service and philanthropy. The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Nominate a veteran today.

[music FADES OUT, then quickly FADES IN again, from the top]

[graphic/text overlay] At LEFT, the text contained in the gold outline of the state of Ohio FADES OUT while the OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME logo moves up and FADES OUT, replaced by the U.S. Air Force logo which FADES IN and moves to the area in the state where the honoree is from] while on the RIGHT...

[imagery] The thumbnail portraits of 19 of the 20 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2021 inductees CUT OUT, leaving just the portrait of Thomas Humphries. At the same time, the following CUTS IN, above the thumbnail portrait:

[video footage (commanding about ¼ of the screen) of Hall of Fame Class of 2021 inductee Thomas Humphries, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a white collared shirt and light blue tie, seated in an auditorium, in front of stage with large U.S. flag, speaking to camera]

[graphic/text overlay] AT RIGHT, the portrait of Humphries FADES OUT, replaced by the white text

2021 Honoree (appearing ABOVE the video box)
Thomas M. Humphries (appearing BELOW the video box)
Air Force – Trumbull County

Thomas Humphries My name's Tom Humphries. I'm a U.S. Air Force veteran and I served during (the) Vietnam Era.

[FADE TO BLACK]

[FADE TO the previous video scene of the inductee, now at FULLSCREEN size]

Thomas Humphries I grew up in Youngstown. Umm...after high school, I went 'n started working in various jobs. And about three years after high school, uh, Vietnam was going on and I felt that, uh, I should serve my country. And I also wanted to get a career, because I was working in the mill at the time. And I was a laborer and I thought that I could do better. So I decided...

[image overlay, photo of Thomas, a portrait of him as a young soldier in jacket, tie and hat]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...I was going to join the Air Force and serve my country and get myself a career. I had a lotta sss-good memories and I was in the technologies, uh...

[image overlay, photo of a young Thomas standing in military uniform and hat, in front of a brick building]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...area of, um, the Air Force. I did telecommunications and data.

[image overlay, a collage of photos of Tom in the military spread out on a desktop – four standing poses in uniform, including one against a Dodge truck and one of him climbing an electrical pole]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. I had the privilege of building a command post for, uh, President Johnson...

[image overlay, a B&W photo of President Johnson standing amidst a large group of U.S. soldiers in uniform, greeting them]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...when he visited our base. In fact, it was sorta fun because, um, fun in that...

[image overlay, a TIGHTER B&W photo of President Johnson standing amidst a group of U.S. soldiers in uniform, greeting them]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...uh, sss-there was a piece of technology that went bad...

[video footage of Thomas, again seated and talking to the camera]

Thomas Humphries ...and I had to go over to the house where the command post was and the President's sittin' in the living room. And I had to excuse myself to walk through the living room while the President was sittin' in the chair readin' the newspaper. So, uh, and I got a pack...

[image overlay, CLOSEUP photo of pack of RO CLASS A CIGARETTES with the presidential seal]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...of cigarettes out of the deal.

Interviewer, V.O. Did you?

Thomas Humphries, V.O. Yeah.

Interviewer, V.O. Did he give you the cigarettes or-

Thomas Humphries, V.O. Uh, he did. A pack that says, uh, uh, “White House,” um, uh, and the seal of the President of the United States.

[video footage of Thomas, again seated and talking to the camera]

Thomas Humphries Once you’re a veteran, you’re always a veteran. And it’s something that I’ve been proud of...

[image overlay, photo of Tom wearing an Air Force VETERAN ballcap, in CLOSEUP, smiling as he poses with his wife in front of the sea]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...my entire life. And I think anybody ~~that~~ (who) joins today—even though the environment...

[video footage of Thomas, again seated and talking to the camera]

Thomas Humphries ...has changed—you’re still a veteran. And you still have a lot to be proud of. And it stays with you your entire...

[image overlay, photo of Tom, posing with his wife and two sons, all four in dressy attire]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...life. The one thing I’ve done as a veteran that I’m most proud of...

[video footage of Thomas, again seated and talking to the camera]

Thomas Humphries ...is probably something that’s not very visible in my career. And that is, I’ve spent a lot of time on the PI-Prisoner of War, um, MIA issue in our country, from World War II to Korea to Vietnam. Uh, I’ve spent a lot of time working with families that, um...

[image overlay, photo of Tom, posing in front of a plaque that reads “THOMAS HUMPHRIES HALL EASTERN GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE” alongside his wife, both in dressy attire]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...um, have lost, uh, loved ones (who) never came home.

[video footage of Thomas, again seated and talking to the camera]

Thomas Humphries And a lot of them were, uh, individuals ~~that~~ (who) were the only son of a family and the family spends their entire life looking for their child. And so I've spent some fair amount of time over the...

[image overlay, photo of a magazine—Cleveland Magazine's Business Hall of Fame issue, propped up beside a 2017 Cleveland Magazine Business Hall of Fame Trophy with Tom's name emblazoned upon it]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...last twenty plus years tryin' to help people get information as to the whereabouts of a loved one and the...

[video footage of Thomas, again seated and talking to the camera]

Thomas Humphries ...outcome of their, uh, position in...

[image overlay, photo of Thomas, with Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame plaque in tow, greeting Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Executive Committee Chair Dana Robinson-Street as he stands beside another Class of 2021 Inductee at a regional Induction Ceremony]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...life. It's one of those very humbling things that you never expect. Umm...

[video footage of Thomas, again seated and talking to the camera]

Thomas Humphries ...we go through life trying to help people and I think that's what we're all made of.

[image overlay, photo of Thomas, posing alongside two other Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2021 Inductees as well as ODVS Director Deborah Ashenhurst and Chair Dana Robinson-Street at the conclusion of a regional Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. Every day we get up—every morning—to try to do the best we can. And I think all of us do that. I don't think...

[video footage of Thomas, again seated and talking to the camera]

Thomas Humphries ...I'm special. Umm...what is special is when someone, um, takes the time to identify...

[image overlay, photo of Thomas, posing alongside two other Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2021 Inductees, each holding up their plaques, at the conclusion of a regional Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony]

Thomas Humphries, V.O. ...the contribution that I made and feel that it was worthy of being recognized. And so...

[video footage of Thomas, again seated and talking to the camera]

Thomas Humphries ...it's very humbling to be, uh, in that position. And it's very humbling to be able to sit here in front of people and say, "Thank you for allowing me to represent all of the veterans of the country."

[FADE TO]

[background image (PANNING LEFT TO RIGHT), a shot of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame display in the Riffe Center in Columbus]

[graphic/text overlay] OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME (logo) (LEFT)
Nominate a Veteran Today (RIGHT)
OhioVets.Gov
Deadline June 1st

Narrator Selection and induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is a great honor.
Nominate a veteran today.

[imagery in background FADES TO BLACK so that only overlay remains]

[music FADES OUT]

[FADE TO BLACK]