



STATE OF OHIO

John R. Kasich, Governor

Ohio Silver Jackets

Website: <http://bit.ly/12NdcuV>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2013

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(Excerpts from the March/April Ohio Historical Society's *Echoes* newsletter and the Ohio Silver Jackets website)

Ohio Silver Jackets Commemorate 100th Anniversary of the 1913 Flood *Flood Safety Awareness Week is March 18-22*

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ohio Silver Jackets, a group of state and federal partners with interest in flood mitigation that is dedicated to addressing the state's flood risk management priorities, is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Great Flood of 1913 during National Flood Safety Awareness Week.

The Ohio Silver Jackets is promoting a year-long flood awareness campaign that focuses on the 100th anniversary of the Great Ohio Flood. By highlighting the widespread impact of the flood, the Ohio Silver Jackets will highlight the state's advancements made in flood control, flood mitigation, safety and preparedness.

The Great Flood started on March 23, 1913 and continued for four unrelenting days. Areas of the state received between six and 11 inches of rain. It flooded more than 100 communities, killed 430 people, and destroyed approximately 35,500 homes, statewide.

Rain and flooding lasted for weeks, impacting all of Ohio, the Ohio Valley and the majority of Indiana. In its wake, nearly 600 people lost their lives and damages were estimated in the hundreds of millions, making it at that time, one of the worst natural disasters in Ohio and the country. President Woodrow Wilson designated the American Red Cross as the federal government's official disaster relief agency. Signal Corps officers worked with Ohio National Guardsmen to distribute federal aid in the form of food and clothing.

Since the Great Flood of 1913, great strides have been made in reducing the threat to life and property from flooding. According to the Ohio Silver Jackets, some of these strategies include:

- Prevention Measures (building, zoning, storm water management, floodplain regulations)
- Property Protection Measures (acquisition, elevation, relocation, mitigation, flood insurance)
- Natural Resource Protection (wetland protection, erosion/sediment control)
- Emergency Services (warning programs, disaster response)
- Structural Projects (dams, levees, channel modifications)
- Public Information (outreach, technical assistance, education)
- Flood Warnings and Alerts

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Governor John R. Kasich has proclaimed March 18-22 as Flood Safety Awareness Week and stated that this weather safety campaign "...not only recalls the widespread impact of the Great Flood, but highlights the advancement of flood safety and flood control."

National Flood Safety Awareness Week is promoted by the National Weather Service. The weather campaign defines the different types of flooding, how flooding occurs and how to prevent loss of life and property in the event of flooding.

The Ohio Silver Jackets, established in 2005, is comprised of 18 local, state and federal partners who collaboratively plan and implement solutions addressing flood damage, flood control, and flood hazard reduction across the state. More information about the Silver Jackets is available on the following website, <http://ema.ohio.gov/OhioSilverJackets.aspx>.

For additional information on flood safety and the Great Flood of 1913, visit the following websites:

National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/floodsafety/>

Ohio Silver Jackets - The Great Flood of 1913: <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/1913Flood/>

Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness: <http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/>

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