It’s time for our state to give credit to its military veterans: editorial

Kudos to Ohio Gov. John Kasich for his executive order this month that seeks to fairly compensate the well-honed skill sets of the state’s 900,000 military veterans with college and vocational-education credits.

Specifically, Kasich’s order directs all state-run boards, commissions and departments issuing occupational licenses to take into account a veteran’s military education, skills training and service time when determining equivalency for licensing requirements. In addition, the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents and university presidents must determine how to award more college credit tied to military service and do so when appropriate.

The order represents another tangible and deserved recognition of the state’s gratitude for the service and sacrifice of its living veterans from World War II through the War on Terror. It also recognizes the need to work aggressively to lower the state’s woefully high unemployment rate for veterans. For example, of the state’s 75,000 veterans returning from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the jobless rate is 12.8 percent, compared with the state’s overall unemployment rate of only 7 percent.