



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Disabled American Veterans Elect Roberto Barrera National Commander

DENVER— Declaring, “I can think of no finer mission than to build better lives for America’s disabled veterans and their families,” Roberto Barrera was elected National Commander of the 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at the organization’s 88th National Convention today.

Commander Barrera is a combat-disabled Vietnam War veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He suffered serious facial burns and the loss of his right hand at the wrist and his left arm at the shoulder when a bomb was exploded by enemy forces beneath an armored personnel carrier in which he was traveling in 1969.

A life member of Chapter 5 in San Antonio and native of Del Rio, Texas, Commander Barrera earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology at St. Mary’s University, and later, while teaching at Del Rio High School, a master’s degree at Sul Ross University. Barrera’s career has also included positions of leadership and management as a juvenile probation counselor and Family Support Center Director at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio.

Commander Barrera was elected to national office as National 4th Jr. Vice Commander at the 2004 National Convention in Reno, Nevada, and consecutively elected 3rd Jr. Vice Commander through Sr. Vice Commander thereafter.

Commander Barrera is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. They include: the DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year for 1998; LIFE’s (Leaders In Furthering Education Foundation) Presidential Unsung Hero Award for 1998; Disabled Veteran of the Year for the State of Texas in 1990 and again in 1998 and Department of Defense Outstanding Employee with a Disability Award for 1997.

Commander Barrera and his wife, Maricelia, reside in Del Rio. They are parents of three children and grandparents to four grandchildren.

The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation’s disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation’s disabled veterans and their families. For more information, visit the organization’s Web site www.dav.org.

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