



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF DAV AND AUXILIARY

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2015

# MAGAZINE

## New leaders take **center stage** in the Mile High City

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### LOOKING AHEAD

DAV leads  
the discussion  
on the future of  
VA health care  
and benefits





## 94th DAV and Auxiliary National Convention Highlights



**Below:** Junior Auxiliary member and country music star McKayla Reece opens the joint opening session, paying honor to our nation's colors and singing the national anthem.



**Above:** A young guest takes in the sights at the national convention.



**Left:** In a quick moment off duty, two DAV member service dogs stop to greet VA Secretary Bob McDonald. **Right:** Four members of the DAV Department of Puerto Rico prepare to cast their national line officer election votes at the final business session.



**Right:** National Junior Activities Chairman Linda Oliver (center left) poses with the winners of the crazy hat contest, Ashton Johniken, Connor Lindeman and Clarke Chandler.





## From the NATIONAL COMMANDER

### MOSES A. MCINTOSH JR.



## We're going to get busier

**F**ellow veterans, families and friends, DAV has had a busy year. It's my intent to make sure we get even busier.

Last year at this time, the talk around the campfire was that our weary nation was beginning to wind down from nearly 13 years in a nonstop battle rhythm.

But events occurring in the world in just the past few months remind us that the tactical situation on any battlefield is always in flux, always in motion, always fluid. Just the other day, the news reported that we had more than 4,000 American service members back in Iraq. There's also talk of extending our commitments in Afghanistan.

While there's no guessing what the political process will determine for our men and women in uniform, it reminds me of our legacy of service to veterans and their families. It's why we exist. We still have men and women deployed in harm's way, and many will come home with their lives changed forever.

But that's where we come in. That's where DAV is at its best. We've all been there before. DAV was there for us when many didn't know who to turn to. Now

we owe it to those who brought us into the DAV family to ensure we're still reaching out to veterans of all eras today. That includes older generations who may not know about us, up to and including those currently serving.

Last year, several issues came to light that disappointed and angered a lot of veterans—as well they should. But

access and funding remain the central issues, and DAV will continue to tell our elected leaders we expect them to fully fund the VA so our country's bravest receive the health care and benefits they absolutely have earned.

I have spoken with Secretary McDonald, and I truly believe he cares deeply for

veterans and is fully committed to fixing the issues within the VA.

I look forward to working with you all this year. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your National Commander. I pledge to work tirelessly to ensure your voices are heard as we build upon our 95 years of service to the men and women who raised their hand, said "Send me," and went forward to conduct America's business when called.

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As the Vietnam War drew down, DAV experienced enormous growth of both membership and responsibility as new traumas and illnesses emerged.

**Moses A. McIntosh Jr.** National Commander  
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## From the NATIONAL ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS



### Day of the Deployed

**T**here are numerous national holidays and days of observance throughout the year, during which we come together to celebrate and honor significant historical events, figures and members of our society. Veterans Day, Memorial Day and POW/MIA Day are just a few occasions marking the service and sacrifice of military veterans, and we hold these as sacred opportunities to remember our brothers and sisters, especially those who never came home.

One such observance that often seems to be overlooked is truly near and dear to DAV's mission of veteran-to-veteran service. Oct. 26 marks the nation's annual Day of the Deployed, which honors the men and women who have, or are currently, deployed in harm's way in order to defend our country.

Unless we personally have a friend or loved one serving overseas, it can be easy to lose sight of the immeasurable sacrifice being made every day on our behalf. This seems especially true for the majority of our country, which does not have a connection with active military members.

Recognizing the Day of the Deployed is also in line with one of our most critical functions: ensuring veterans and their families are able to transition to civilian life as smoothly and successfully as possible.

As you are reading this, there are men and women standing posts across the world, far from their homes and loved

ones. Soon, many of those individuals will be transitioning back to civilian life and will need a friendly face to help guide their way.

As members of DAV and the DAV Auxiliary, we have experienced this difficult journey firsthand, and we have a great responsibility to make sure those who come behind us are well-served by their fellow veterans. It's part of our mission to help raise that awareness and keep our veterans and military members a part of the conversation. I encourage you on the Day of the Deployed—and throughout the entire year—to help your local communities remember the sacrifices made by a few on behalf of the whole.

This could be done by spreading the word about DAV's employment resources, job-search tools, All Veterans Career Fairs and our employment website, [jobs.dav.org](http://jobs.dav.org). It may be by helping to direct local veterans to a nearby National, Transition, Department or Chapter Service Officer for assistance with their claims. It might be something as simple as spreading the word in your local community that DAV will be there for their deployed loved ones when they return home.

To all my brothers and sisters who answered the nation's call with service overseas or underway, I offer thanks to you and your families. Now, let's take our experiences and help make things better for the entire veterans' community.



## Don't take it for granted

I for one will never take my freedom for granted. Our country has been kept free due to all who have served and secured that freedom. We must remember all those veterans who gave their lives, were wounded or disabled so we can have the freedoms we have. Remember who secured those freedoms for you, and whenever you meet a veteran, reach out and thank them for their service.

**Al Koger, Charleston, W.Va.**

## Proposed changes unthinkable

I am opposed to changing the Veterans Pension program to limit disability payments and benefits to veterans who have a net worth of over \$119,220. I am retired and worked for over 50 years to save money for retirement. I served my country and earned the Purple Heart. I should not be punished for working hard and saving money. My VA retirement is figured in my requirements for retirement, and if taken away, it would lower my ability to live a quality life. **Bryan Wilson, Millbrook, Ala.**

## Women veterans

I just read the magazine, *Stand Up for Women Veterans*. Finally, someone listened. Every woman profiled said the same thing I have been saying since 1980. The VA system still isn't sure what to do with us, but they are getting better. **Jan Lawrence, Ocala, Fla.**

## Purple Heart for PTSD

I just read a letter by M.T. Emming ("Invisible Wounds") in the May/June issue. I totally agree with what this person has to say. I have written hundreds of letters to many people and sources, asking the very same thing. I have been 100-percent PTSD for over 40 years, and I think about 'Nam every damn day. As far as I am

concerned, this PTSD is just as bad as losing an arm or leg. It is in your brain, and it does not go away. It is with you for life. So why does the government not recognize this, do the right thing and award us veterans with the Purple Heart? **Gregory Wagner Ohland, Libby, Mont.**

In response to veterans with service-connected PTSD, my two Purple Hearts both say the same thing on the documents: "For wounds received in action." Virtually every veteran of every war has some level of PTSD. To hand out Purple Hearts for PTSD would cheapen what our first president meant the medal to represent. "Wounds received in action" is very specific, and PTSD is not what the medal is for. **Gregory T. Chavez, South St. Paul, Minn.**

## Dependency allowances

In many families across America, one spouse does not have a job, so he or she does not directly pay into Social Security. Still, that spouse can collect up to half of the other spouse's Social Security, according to regulations. Considering a spouse's and dependent's entitlement percentage of the disabled veteran's disability pension, it is very disproportionately rated. In many cases of disabled veterans, they depend wholly on their compensation money to live, whether they are married, have children, are of retirement age or not. For disabled veterans rated 30 percent and above, their spouses

should be granted half of their disabled veteran's compensation to match the formula used for Social Security. Other dependents such as children need to have higher payments also to make it fair and just. **Russell D. Ward, Buffalo, N.Y.**

## Unsung hero

In the May/June issue of *DAV Magazine*, National Commander Ron Hope stated that "(Family Caregivers) are Unsung American Heroes who often sacrifice their own health, well-being, employment, educational and other goals to care for their loved ones, our nation's true heroes." Chills ran up my spine as I read this; tears ran down my cheeks. Never have I considered myself—a caregiver, to my darling disabled Vietnam veteran husband—an "Unsung American Hero." This is the most wonderful feeling to know that Commander Hope can reach out to us and give us 24/7-caregivers the honor of and privilege to be called, "Unsung American Heroes." **Patricia Cox, Marietta, S.C.**

## National Convention

I've had the privilege of attending DAV National Conventions for more than 40 years. I think this year's was the best on record. DAV members should be proud of the state of our organization and the path we're taking. Anyone who hasn't attended a convention should consider going. It's an incredibly rewarding and educational opportunity. **Dan Stack, Uxbridge, Mass.**

**WRITE TO US** We welcome letters from our readers. Please mail them to *DAV Magazine*, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076, or submit them via email to [feedback@dav.org](mailto:feedback@dav.org). We regret we are unable to acknowledge every letter due to the volume received. We also welcome feedback on our Facebook ([facebook.com/DAV](https://facebook.com/DAV)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/davhq](https://twitter.com/davhq)) pages. Letters used are subject to editing for clarity, style, accuracy, space and propriety. Messages involving individual claims are referred to the DAV Service Department.





*DAV National Service Supervisor Oscar Olguin conducts Department and Chapter Service Officer certification training at this year's Virginia Department Convention.*

# Chapter, Department Service Officer training growing

**DAV is working nationwide to maintain the most highly trained corps of service officers**

By Joseph R. Chenelly

**D**AV's largest endeavor in fulfilling its mission is providing services for veterans, their families and survivors to assist in filing claims for earned benefits. The unparalleled program, staffed exclusively by service-connected disabled veterans, is the backbone of DAV, extending from the Chapters and Departments to the national level.

DAV's Transition Service Officers (TSOs), National Service Officers (NSOs) and Department and Chapter Service Officers (DSOs and CSOs) are on the proverbial front lines, maintaining a tradition that ensures promises made to those who served are kept.

"They are meticulous, ensuring that every earned benefit is received," said National Service Director Jim Marszalek. "I am particularly proud of the jobs they do. It takes incredible dedication to properly provide the level of service that we, as an organization, pledge to deliver."

These officers serve the nation's service-connected injured and ill veterans, their families and survivors day in and day out.

Service Officers at the state and local levels are key to helping veterans where they live, being visible in the communities and making a meaningful difference.

The Department of Oklahoma, for example, has a robust training program. Every service officer must attend two-day training annually, and the Department offers follow-up training periodically throughout the year, covering special topics such as the sensitivities of helping a victim of military sexual assault or what benefits are specifically available for a widow.

There are now 140 DAV-certified Service Officers in the Sooner State. One office there files an average of 200 new claims per week, according to Department of Oklahoma Adjutant Danny Oliver.

"We are able to help many more veterans all over Oklahoma by having 140 motivated, well-trained service officers working together," he said. "Our service officers are often the only people in many towns prepared to help."

The service officers' work gets noticed by community leaders, often garnering invitations to be more visible in

*(Continued on pg. 18)*

# Convention elects McIntosh National Commander



## DAV, VA and House leaders tackle key veterans issues

**A**l Labelle, Legislative Director for the Department of Wisconsin, has attended the DAV National Convention every year since 2007. “It was so good that it solidified my decision to become heavily involved with DAV,” said Labelle. “But compared to this year’s event, it just pales in comparison. This year’s was by far the best I’ve ever been to—extremely creative and informative.”

The centerpiece of this year’s highlights include DAV’s new National Commander, Army and Air Force veteran Moses A. McIntosh Jr., promising members a busy year working to ensure veterans receive the care and benefits they earned and to continue efforts to provide fair, equal treatment for caregivers and women veterans.

“While there’s no guessing what the political process will yield for our men and women in uniform...our legacy of service to veterans and their families will continue,” said McIntosh. “It must continue, and that’s

where we come in. That’s where DAV is at its best.”

Other National Officers elected by convention delegates are Senior Vice Commander David Riley, 1st Junior Vice Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 2nd Junior Vice Commander Dennis Nixon, 3rd Junior Vice Commander Harmon Evans and 4th Junior Vice Commander Stephen Whitehead. Delegates also re-elected Michael Dobmeier as National Judge Advocate and Michael Dover as National Chaplain.

In addition, the DAV Auxiliary elected Linda Stake, of Arkansas, as its National Commander. Stake’s theme for the year, “Partners Pulling Together,” signifies the Auxiliary’s commitment to continued collaboration and action alongside the DAV national organization.

As part of his report to the convention, outgoing National Commander Ron Hope recalled working alongside DAV members once again during Operation:





*Longtime DAV friend and veterans advocate Gary Sinise, along with the Lt. Dan Band, joined DAV members once again for the annual Fun Night celebration.*

Keep the Promise at this year's Mid-Winter Conference in February. Hope noted the tremendous work done by members and supporters on behalf of caregivers and women veterans during his time at the helm.

"We've done great things, but there's much more to be done," said Hope. "We must continue to remain a strong organization in order to be the organization that veterans and their families know they can turn to."

A service officer for more than 30 years, Hope also commended the efforts of those in the field working each day to ensure veterans receive their earned benefits. He took time during his remarks to praise the efforts of DAV's Chapter, Department, Transition and National Service Officers, as well as the Chapter and Department leaders, DAV Transportation Network drivers and other volunteers.

"It has been my absolute privilege to be your National Commander and

represent you this year. Meeting many of you in my travels was an honor I will never forget and certainly the highlight of my tenure," he said.

Shortly following Hope's address during the joint opening session, Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald was invited on stage to deliver his remarks to DAV members. The secretary proposed a long-term solution to fixing the VA so it can keep its promise to our nation's veterans.

"Recently, some people in Washington have begun to question the need for VA," McDonald said. "One thing I've learned since my confirmation as secretary is there is no substitute for VA."

McDonald went on to discuss the need for more permanent flexibility in distributing VA funds to cover care and programs.

"The lack of flexibility to give veterans real choice, the cuts, the discussions about whether veterans actually deserve a medical system to call their own: All lead to the same place," said McDonald. "It leads to a place where the needs of veterans are secondary to ideology. A place where VA is set up to fail. A place where there are no winners, and veterans who have

sacrificed so much more for much nobler purposes are the ones left suffering.

"That's unacceptable to me and should be unacceptable for anyone who claims to actually care about the sacred

responsibility that we have as a nation to care for those who have borne the battle," said McDonald.

The Arthur H. and Mary E. Wilson Award for Top Venture Impacting Veterans went to the North Carolina-based nonprofit Veterans Healing Farm and to the Florida-based Operation Purple Hearts of Gold.

Air Force veteran John Mahshie and wife Nicole founded Veterans Healing Farm in 2013, helping veterans transition to civilian life through agricultural

**"We must continue to remain a strong organization in order to be the organization that veterans and their families know they can turn to."**

*— Then-National Commander Ron Hope*



*Lynn Quigley (center) presents a \$200,000 check to National Adjutant Marc Burgess and then-National Commander Ron Hope to support the DAV Transportation Network program.*

## Ford continues support for DAV programs

Ford Motor Co., whose relationship with DAV dates back to a donation by Henry Ford in 1922, has been a longtime supporter of DAV and has once again demonstrated the company's dedication and generosity to America's injured and ill veterans with the donation of seven Flex vehicles, announced at the 2015 National Convention.

"We are happy to be able to provide these vehicles to show our appreciation for all of the sacrifices those who have served have made to protect our freedom," said Lynn Quigley, community relations manager for Ford Motor Company Fund.

Since 1996, Ford has donated nearly 200 vehicles to DAV's fleet. This is in addition to the 2,967 Ford vans the DAV National Organization, its Chapters, Departments and the National Service Foundation's Columbia Trust have purchased since 1987, at a cost of more than \$65 million. These vans have all been donated to VA medical centers for use in the Transportation Network.

"Our Hospital Service Coordinators and volunteers throughout the country arrange and facilitate transportation for injured and ill veterans, making it possible for them to receive the care they need at VA medical facilities," said then-National Commander Ron Hope. "Throughout our history, DAV has received unprecedented support from many sources, but there has been one committed ally who has truly been with us since the beginning and continues to support our mission, and that is Ford."

Ford also contributes to the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship and the annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colo.

work in their own communities. Tanner Kuth, an Army veteran, established Operation Purple Hearts of Gold to bring together gold star families and wounded veterans to help each other heal through fellowship and recreation. Each year, this award recognizes newly formed disabled-veteran-owned businesses that both impact and improve veterans' lives. The award also includes \$5,000 to help sustain business.

Auxiliary National Commander LeeAnn Karg's address to the convention noted fulfillment of her vision for the Auxiliary to establish a closer working relationship with DAV. "Last year, DAV and the Auxiliary marched shoulder-to-shoulder on Capitol Hill and made it clear lawmakers needed to pass advance appropriations," said Karg. "Together, we mounted a fight to ensure benefits keep flowing to our veterans in spite of political infighting and government shutdowns."

Specifically, Karg praised the Auxiliary for rallying behind DAV's fight for equalized caregiver benefits—an issue near and dear to many Auxiliary members. In closing, she remarked: "I would like to express my thanks to all of the members in the DAV and Auxiliary that made this year so memorable for both Commander Hope and me...and my life is richer for having gotten to know all of you."

As part of the convention's evening activities, members were once again treated to the entertainment of longtime DAV friend Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band during Fun Night.

The 95th National Convention will convene at the Hyatt Regency on Peachtree Street in Atlanta July 31–Aug. 3, 2016. Please note, this event will deviate from traditional schedules as it will start on a Sunday and conclude on Wednesday. ■



### Learn More Online

Download speeches, reports and other information from the convention at

**[www.dav.org/events/2015-national-convention](http://www.dav.org/events/2015-national-convention)**

View all video coverage on DAV's YouTube Channel

**[www.youtube.com/user/DisabledVeterans/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/DisabledVeterans/videos)**

Photos are available for download at

**[www.flickr.com/theDAV](http://www.flickr.com/theDAV)**





VA Secretary Bob McDonald (center left) and House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (center right) discuss their plans for the future of VA health care and benefits before an audience of DAV members. The event was moderated by DAV National Service Director Jim Marszalek (left) and National Legislative Director Joy Ilem (right).

## DAV forum: the future of the VA

In a departure from the traditional format of the National Convention, Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald and House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller held an open discussion on the future of VA health care and benefits reform. National Service Director Jim Marszalek and National Legislative Director Joy Ilem moderated the two-hour event.

The leaders fielded questions covering many topics, leading with a discussion about the Choice Card program, the future of Choice for veterans, and the possibility of combining VA's current multiple outside care options into one system.

"I think the idea of making Choice permanent, that is to allow the veteran to choose where they go and when they go, is critical," said Miller. "And I wholeheartedly agree that combining the seven fee-basis programs together is the right thing, because it does confuse not only the veteran but also those who are administering the program."

"[VA] is a great system," said McDonald. "We need to strengthen it. We need to supplement it with private care and community care. But there's no question that we are not in favor of privatization or doing anything that would atrophy the VA system to a point where it couldn't adequately care for veterans."

Another key topic under discussion was accountability within VA, and the department's

ability to fire failing employees. The secretary and chairman also discussed the benefits side of the VA, specifically touching on claims and appeals. Disability claims peaked at 611,000 in mid-2013, and as of August numbered fewer than 110,000, thanks to efforts to digitize the process.

"This would not have happened without DAV because you can't digitize the process without fully developed claims. And looking at what you've done and other VSOs have done to give us fully developed claims has been outstanding and enabling of this."

"We are incredibly grateful that both of these leaders took the opportunity to engage with our members on the future of VA health care and benefits," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. "This unprecedented event not only educated our members, but also reached far into the veterans community and helped elevate these critical issues across the nation." ■



### Learn More Online

Streaming live online and replayed on DAV's social media channels, the discussion has been viewed well over a million times. Visit the DAV YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/DisabledVeterans/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/DisabledVeterans/videos) to watch the full discussion.

# 1

## DAV-supported appeals pilot program legislation moves closer to law

A key House subcommittee approved legislation in July that would create a new “fully developed appeals” (FDA) pilot program that could cut the time for appeals to be resolved by up to three years. The FDA proposal was developed by a DAV-led coalition of veterans service organizations working together with the Board of Veterans Appeals, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and Members of Congress.

The legislation (H.R. 800) would empower veterans whose claims for disability compensation were denied to submit their appeals, along with any new evidence they may have, directly to the Board of Veterans Appeals, rather than requiring local VBA regional offices to first review, develop and process that evidence and appeal.

H.R. 800 will next go to the full committee for its approval.

# 2


## Voicing support for pro-veteran legislation in the House

In testimony in June before the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, DAV voiced support for several pending bills. In line with DAV Resolution No. 203, then-Assistant National Legislative Director Adrian Atizado voiced support for S. 425, which would extend through 2020 the VA’s authority to provide important homeless assistance to veterans and their dependent children.

Atizado also noted DAV support for S. 471, the Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act. The bill is consistent with DAV’s 2014 report, “Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home,” as well as DAV Resolution No. 040 to support enhanced services and benefits for women veterans.

Additionally, DAV was pleased to support S. 684 in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 203. The bill, known as the Homeless Veterans Prevention Act, seeks to improve services for homeless veterans such as expansion of dental care, financial assistance to support low-income veteran families and availability of public and private legal services for veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.





## DAV opposes age limits for Individual Unemployability benefits

3

DAV testified in July before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in opposition to any recommendations that would impose tighter standards for determining eligibility for Individual Unemployability (IU) benefits.

In June, the Government Accountability Office's IU Report identified several options to revise IU eligibility requirements, including suspending IU payments to veterans who have passed Social Security's full retirement age, which is between 65 and 67, depending on birth year.

Consistent with several resolutions adopted during the National Convention, DAV strongly opposes any legislation or recommendation that would restrict entitlement to IU on the basis of age and opposes the offset or reduction of IU benefits to disabled veterans simply because they are in receipt of separate benefits under another federal program.

"Age is not a determining factor in IU, nor should it be," said Assistant National Legislative Director Paul Varela during testimony. "Today, many people work well beyond what was once considered normal retirement age."

IU payments rose 30 percent, from \$8.5 billion in 2009 to \$11 billion in 2013. DAV leaders believe this growth is consistent with an increase in the number of seriously disabled veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in addition to increases in claims processing, the VA's intense outreach efforts and expansion of presumptive disabilities and new rules governing claims for post-traumatic stress disorder. The increasing prevalence of service-connected PTSD and other mental health disorders, as well as those veterans with newly adjudicated compensation for Agent Orange exposure, may also account for the increase in IU ratings.

"Because the purpose of VA compensation is to make up for the effects of service-connected disability, it should not be tied to factors extraneous to the character of the disability," said Varela. "It would be inappropriate to pay different levels of compensation based on age."



## From the NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

### JOY J. ILEM

#### Plotting the course for VA reform

In my first column as DAV's National Legislative Director, I must take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to my predecessor, mentor and friend, Joseph A. Violante, who retired in July after serving in this position for 18 years.

Joe's sphere of influence within our community is vast, and he leaves a tremendous legacy to build on. I am confident that our entire legislative team will carry on his tradition of strong, unrelenting advocacy on behalf of wounded, injured and ill veterans. We all wish Joe the best in his most-deserved retirement.

And now looking forward as we move into the next year, we know one of the most contentious battles we will face is over the future of VA health care reform.

In response to the access crisis last year, Congress quickly passed the Choice Act to ensure veterans who were waiting for care could be seen. However, some of the proposals now before Congress go far beyond this kind of "choice," and could actually endanger the entire VA system of care that so many of us rely on. Because of the VA's past failures, some have called for downsizing, privatizing and even dismantling the VA. We agree there are serious problems to be fixed, but we need to ensure that our choice to use the VA remains viable.

Congress recently enacted legislation to expand eligibility and access to the temporary Choice Program, but it is unclear if the program will continue once the funds have been exhausted—or what impact the expansion will have on VA

hospitals and outpatient clinics. We all agree that when the VA can't provide a medical service, there must be another option outside the VA system. While DAV has always supported disabled veterans' access to community care whenever needed, we must be mindful that every choice has consequences, some which could potentially be negative.

Because of all the attention focused on veterans health care, we have an opportunity for real change—but the VA must get it right. DAV strongly believes reform should focus on preserving and strengthening the VA so it can develop into a modern, high-quality, accessible and accountable system that veterans deserve. At our National Convention, we outlined a four-part plan: rebuild the VA's clinical staff and infrastructure to meet demand, restructure and consolidate the VA's community care programs into a single extended care network, realign and expand services to meet the diverse needs of veterans, and reform the VA's culture and management with greater accountability and transparency. We believe this framework offers a pathway to the VA system of the future.

I cannot overstate the importance of our grassroots network in this fight. When we stand together, educated on the issues and armed with facts, we can ensure sensible, effective reforms are enacted to sustain a robust health care system that meets the unique needs of service-connected disabled veterans.



In his report to the convention, Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine highlighted some of DAV's accomplishments over the past year, as well as emphasized the need for a fully functional VA. In particular, he stressed the importance of a financially solvent VA and why DAV continues to fight for just that.

"There is a growing national debate about the future of the Department of Veterans Affairs," he said. "Some even question whether our nation can afford to provide future generations of veterans the health care and benefits the VA provides today. So, it seems important to ask, what would life be like without a financially solvent VA?"

"For me, it would have meant a dramatically different life, certainly a much more difficult one. And while it's been decades since I served, I am sure the same holds true for countless veterans who are much younger than me," Augustine told attendees.

"As I continued to have medical issues throughout my life due to my combat injuries, I went back to the VA for treatment and adaptations to my car and house to allow me to function, even when more surgeries relegated me to a wheelchair. All of this was provided without charge.

"Some people have proposed that, instead of an integrated and comprehensive VA, we should provide veterans with payment cards so that they can find care in the private sector. Does anybody really believe that the private sector would have had the expertise—much less the capacity—to take care of me when I returned home from Vietnam, and to provide the lifetime of support I needed? Does anybody believe the private sector can provide this level of integrated care for the wounded veterans who have recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan?"

Augustine told the audience DAV agrees that too much of what transpired in the VA health care system is inexcusable. "But," he said, "rather than give up on a VA health care system, we must remain optimistic and continue working toward success." ■



*"...It seems important to ask, what would life be like without a financially solvent VA?"*

*—Garry Augustine, Washington Headquarters Executive Director*

## Four steps to VA reform

- 1 REBUILD** its internal capacity to provide timely, high-quality care. We need enough doctors, nurses and other health care professionals—along with sufficient treatment space—to meet the rising demand for care.
- 2 RESTRUCTURE** and consolidate all non-VA care programs, including the Choice Program, into a single integrated extended-care network that provides seamless access for veterans wherever they live.
- 3 REALIGN** health care services to increase access to care for all veterans, particularly for women veterans and those in rural America.
- 4 REFORM** management and culture by increasing transparency and creating real accountability.





## National Convention DAV & Auxiliary Award Highlights

### Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year



Army veteran **Robbie Myers** (center) accepted the 2015 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Award. A veteran of the Afghanistan War, Myers has been an active advocate for veterans' employment and treatment of PTSD.

### Auxiliary Member of the Year



**Alice Ostrand** (center) was named Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year for her dedicated support to injured and ill veterans and their families. Ostrand has held each office and been chairman of every program in her Unit.

### National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee Awards



The award for **Outstanding National Cemetery Administration Employee** was presented to **Gregorio Kishketon** (center) for his work as a cemetery representative, outreach coordinator and minority veterans program coordinator at Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery.



The **Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Employee** award was awarded to **Peter Nastasi** for his work as change management agent and public affairs officer at the Buffalo, N.Y., VA Regional Office.



**Teresa Parks** (center) received the **Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee** award for her nearly two decades of work with ill and injured veterans as the VA's director of the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

### Disabled Veterans Outreach Program



**Brad Aune** (center) is an employment specialist at Job Service North Dakota. Aune works closely with the local VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment counselors in Fargo to assist those going through vocational rehab to find employment. He has had a success rate of 100 percent.

### Large Employer of the Year



Michigan-based **Roush Enterprises** has on its team more than 250 veteran employees, including many disabled veterans. Accepting the award is Veterans Initiatives Manager and Army veteran Dave Dunckel.

### Small Employer of the Year



**Legion Logistics** is a Kentucky-based company that makes it part of their business strategy to recruit, hire, train and develop veteran employees in addition to its support of veterans in the community.





### Top Recruiter of the Year



**George Roso** (right) from Chapter 20 in Krebs, Okla., was credited with recruiting 171 members to join DAV during the 2014–2015 membership year. This is his third straight year recruiting at least 100 new members.

### Robert S. Marx Award



Past Department Commander **Helen Parr** (right) accepted the award for the **Department of South Dakota**, which had the highest percentage increase of fully paid life members.

### General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award



For the sixth consecutive year, the **Department of Texas** took top honors for closing the year with the largest increase in members. Department Commander **Jay Johnson** (center) accepted the award on behalf of his Department.

### Local Veterans Employment Representative



The award was presented to **Curtis Chalupa** (center) of Fort Worth, Texas. This year, the Army veteran contacted more than 481 employers to talk about veteran job seekers and their unique skill sets, helping 133 veterans find meaningful employment.

### Local Veterans Assistance Program Awards



Division One: The **Department of Virginia**, Past Department Commander **Jim Procnier**, with 187,575 hours



Division Two: The **Department of Minnesota**, Past Department Commander **David Valtinson** (center), with 47,513 hours

### Local Veterans Assistance Program Awards, continued



Division Three: The **Department of Missouri**, Past Department Commander **Tom Dolenz** (center right), with 17,889 hours



Division Four: The **Department of Connecticut**, Department Commander **John Mrosz** (center), with 13,030 hours



Division Five: The **Department of North Dakota**, Past Department Commander **Roderick Olin** (center), with 3,972 hours





# Convention seminars deliver pertinent information to members

**D**AV's National Convention provides members a multitude of opportunities for enrichment and growth. One vital benefit is the chance to engage in educational seminars hosted by DAV's elected officers and staff. This year was no different.

The **Service and Legislative Seminar** featured Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald and Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee Jeff Miller, who presented their visions for the future of the VA health care and benefits systems. DAV National Service Director Jim Marszalek and DAV National Legislative Director Joy Ilem moderated the seminar. The **Benefits Protection Team Seminar**, led by Ilem, included a presentation about the current state of VA health care and benefits and how DAV plans to protect and improve those systems.

Many attended the **Women Veterans Seminar**, which included a special 20-minute screening of "Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home," followed by a discussion with the filmmaker, JulieHera Destefano, about her collaboration with DAV. Ilem provided an overview of findings from DAV's special report, "Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home." Guests were given copies of the report.

At the **Membership Seminar**, DAV National Membership Director Douglas K. Wells Jr., along with appointed members to the Interim Membership Committee, shared details about the DAV New Member Orientation Training Guide for Chapters. John Kleindienst, DAV's National Director of Voluntary Services, gave a basic overview of what to expect with DAV360, DAV's upcoming customer resource management application, at the **Voluntary Services Seminar**. He also talked about how it will be used to assist in all aspects of programs related to Voluntary Services.

The **POW/MIA Seminar**, hosted by DAV POW/MIA Committee member Vincent Darcangelo and Deputy Director of External Communications Johnie Webb, of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency,



*Members listen to the question-and-answer portion of the Membership Seminar hosted by National Membership Director Douglas K. Wells Jr.*



*National Legislative Director Joy Ilem shared with members DAV's stance on the future of the VA health care and benefits reform at the Benefits Protection Team Seminar.*

reinforced DAV's promise to never forget those taken prisoner, missing, unaccounted for, or the brothers and sisters left behind, as well as their survivors. They led a discussion on efforts to ensure that all who serve receive a homecoming and are treated with honor and dignity.

The **Communications, Social Networking and Outreach 101** seminars presented by members of DAV's National Communications team discussed DAV's upcoming efforts in the Communications Department, magazine contributions, media relations support and more to spread the word about DAV in the community. Members learned how Chapters and Departments can best use social media to most effectively engage members, potential members, local media, officials and



other valuable stakeholders in their communities, as well as illustrated how Chapters can expand and further develop their community outreach efforts through a variety of vehicles including print, TV, radio and social media. They also covered interview techniques while engaging media outlets, basics of press releases, media-relations skills and community engagement. At the end of these sessions, seminar participants gained skills to effectively communicate DAV's efforts.

Jeff Hall, DAV's National Employment Director, provided an overview of DAV's employment program and the road ahead during the **Employment Seminar**. He was joined by Marilyn James of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at the **HHS Employment Workshop**. There, participants gained a greater understanding of the many career paths and developmental programs available through the HHS, in addition to the department's mission, structure, reach and work. They learned how to navigate USAJOBS, nail an interview, bring a strong portfolio and craft a robust resume, among other things.

Dr. Diane Corcoran, a retired Army colonel, developed an interest in near-death experiences while serving in Vietnam. She discussed these experiences, their effects and implications on beliefs about life, death and human purpose during the **Chaplains Seminar** with DAV's National Chaplain.

The **Inspector General Seminar** provided current and practical information on matters related to the day-to-day activities and operations of Departments and Chapters. This was a great opportunity for new Department and Chapter leaders to learn the basics of the National Constitution, Bylaws and National Executive Committee Regulations of the organization from Inspector General Ed Hartman.

DAV remains committed to service work, volunteerism and advocacy. Education and training seminars provided at the DAV National Convention ensure members at all levels continue to succeed in fulfilling our mission. ■



### Learn More Online

Seminar sessions can be viewed on the DAV YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/user/DisabledVeterans/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/DisabledVeterans/videos)

## 2015 DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Recipients Named



### Hannah Farmer *First-Place Scholar*

The top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship winner, Hannah Farmer of Myrtle Beach, S.C., received \$20,000. She is looking forward to attending college to pursue her long-term goal of serving veterans by becoming a physician.

Farmer has been a DAV volunteer since 2011 and has contributed 786 hours at the Fayetteville, N.C., VA medical center, where she has served as a recreation assistant for diversionary activities and as an office assistant maintaining and filing records, as well as answering calls. She has been the lead youth volunteer for the past three years and is the point of contact for new youth volunteers.

"I would not trade my time volunteering for anything in the world and I look forward to touching more lives as I continue to volunteer and pursue my dream of becoming a doctor," Farmer said.

"Hannah and the seven other 2015 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarships recipients have widely divergent interests, but they have one thing in common—they honor those who defended our nation's freedom by volunteering their time to assist service men and women," said National Director of Voluntary Services John Kleindienst.

### Other Youth Scholarship Recipients

Alain Carles, Miami, Fla.	\$15,000
Sarah Pegouske, Portage, Mich.	\$10,000
Durga Ganesh, San Jose, Calif.	\$7,500
Andrew Warburton, Sewickley, Pa.	\$7,500
Jaspreet Kaur, North Little Rock, Ark.	\$5,000
Braden Newman, Jacksonville, Ark.	\$5,000
Taylor Puckett, Saline, Mich.	\$5,000

## Chapter, Department Service Officer training

(Continued from pg. 5)

the communities through parades and other events, as well as in local media.

“No one has more impact on our organization’s ability to meet our primary mission,” said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. “No one has more impact on our organization’s stellar reputation. And I believe no one has a tougher task than those representing veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the government. In addition to the long hours, often frustrating circumstances and tedious tasks, a service officer must have a solid understanding of the claims process in its complex entirety.”

Recognizing the vital importance of Chapter and Department service programs to the fulfillment of DAV’s overall mission of service to veterans, the national organization offers the highly acclaimed Department & Chapter Service Officer Certification Program.

“I feel strongly that every single service officer in the entire organization should complete this program,” Burgess said.

The program is designed to enhance the knowledge



*Department Service Officer and Commander Joe Parsetich puts his training to use helping a veteran seeking an increase in compensation for a service-connected injury.*

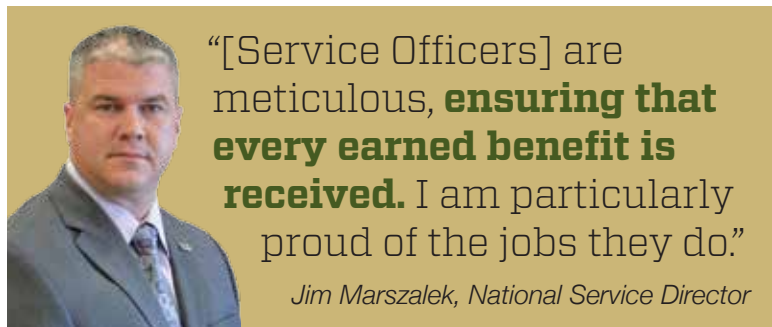
The training course, which is the most robust offered by any veterans service organization, is updated at least annually. Next year’s instruction will include a stronger focus on issues unique to victims of military sexual trauma and to those veterans just transitioning from military service to veteran status.

The course is highly interactive, providing practical-application opportunities and lots of discussion. Everyone who completes the training receives an updated Service Officer Guidebook and access to the DAV Digital Service Officers Guide, containing volumes of the most up-to-date, vital information to help veterans obtain the benefits and compensation they need and earned.

“The training materials were completely reformatted this year to make them easier to understand and navigate,” Marszalek said. “The VA’s new standardized claims and appeals forms are included and explained. This is the complete package.”

Departments interested in hosting this training should contact the nearest National Service Office Supervisor. Chapters should contact their Departments to find out when the next training will take place.

“Being the best-trained, most informed service officers anywhere has long been a hallmark of DAV,” Burgess said. “We put a lot of resources into this because it is important that every service officer—at every level—is as prepared as possible. This is how we remain the best.” ■



and professionalism of the nonaccredited Department and Chapter Service Officer. Claims work is covered in detail, explaining the adjudication process from start to finish, providing the knowledge necessary to create a successful and quick claim. It also covers benefits, entitlements, compensation, pensions and several other key topics.

“In short, it will make you a more effective service officer and an asset to your community,” Marszalek said.

More than 2,300 CSOs and DSOs completed the training in 43 states, earning certification and indemnity coverage last year. Those numbers were increased from 2013, and the National Service Program is aiming to provide training for even more service officers this year.



## 2015 George H. Seal Awards

# Honor Dedicated Volunteers

**T**wo selfless volunteers were honored for their compassion and service to veterans at the DAV and DAV Auxiliary 94th Annual National Convention.

Robert Scruggs, of Mills River, N.C., and Irene Sorah, of Johnson City, Tenn., were selected to receive the 2015 George H. Seal Memorial Trophy, awarded each year for extraordinary volunteerism. The awards were presented by DAV then-National Commander Ron Hope in Denver.

“This year’s Seal Award recipients are dedicated volunteers,” said Hope. “They represent the finest DAV has to offer in serving veterans.”

“Volunteerism is one of the most important components of our mission to serve injured and ill veterans and their families,” Hope continued. “DAV has more volunteers than any other veterans’ service organization. From our hospital volunteers to our Transportation Network drivers to our Local Veterans Assistance Program, we reach out to deliver assistance to the veterans who need us.”

An Air Force veteran and DAV life member, Scruggs has been an active volunteer for 43 years and has accumulated nearly 20,000 hours of serving fellow veterans at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, N.C.

DAV Auxiliary life member Irene Sorah has been a volunteer in the veteran community for 33 years and has accrued more than 3,000 volunteer hours at the Mountain Home VA Medical Center in Knoxville, Tenn.

The prestigious award honors the best of thousands



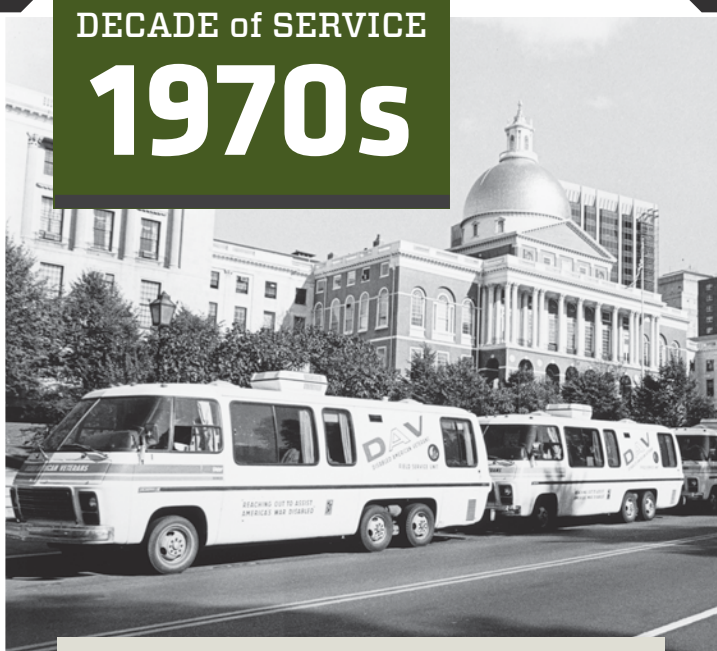
**Above:** Robert Scruggs (center right) accepts the Seal Award from (from left) National Adjutant Marc Burgess, National Director of Voluntary Services John Kleindienst, and then-National Commander Ron Hope. **Below:** Irene Sorah (third from left) accepts the Seal Award from (from left) National Director of Voluntary Services John Kleindienst, then-National Auxiliary Commander LeeAnn Karg and then-National Commander Ron Hope.



of remarkable volunteers who serve in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program. The awards are conferred each year in memory of George H. Seal, who was DAV’s Director of Membership and Voluntary Services and the leading organizer and administrator of DAV volunteer programs. ■



## DECADE of SERVICE 1970s



*Field Service Units at the State House in Boston*



*The 1973 groundbreaking of the DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C.*

Every year leading up to DAV's 100th anniversary in 2020, the September/October issue of *DAV Magazine* will chronicle a decade in our organization's history. This year's installment provides some historical background and highlights of important issues and events that affected disabled veterans and their families during the 1970s.

By Joseph R. Chenelly

**T**he 1970s brought positive change for the already storied organization. DAV welcomed many new faces, innovatively increased who could receive assistance, laid out the post-traumatic stress epidemic and took up the charge to ensure veterans exposed to Agent Orange received the care and benefits they, their families and survivors deserved.

As the Vietnam War drew down, DAV grew exponentially. The men and women leaving the military during this controversial war were systemically denied the full measure of honor they had earned. But they were rightfully seen as heroes by DAV, who welcomed them home to the organization's ranks.

Vietnam veterans swelled the DAV's rolls past 353,000 members in 1970 and to 427,000 by 1972.

The U.S. Postal Service marked DAV's 50th anniversary in 1970 by issuing a stamp commemorating the DAV's half-century of veterans serving veterans. DAV celebrated its birthday right up to the 1971

National Convention, which was held at the Detroit Hilton Hotel—just 50 yards from the actual site of DAV's first National Convention.

As DAV celebrated its golden anniversary, it also offered its gratitude to the Auxiliary, which marked its 50th anniversary two years later. The Auxiliary had steadfastly stood at DAV's side through the years, assisting in DAV's mission, offering a special understanding of veterans' families, contacting legislators and helping in so many other ways.

Also in 1970, new leaders emerged. National Adjutant Dale Adams appointed John J. Keller as National Service Director. Keller was charged with recruiting and training a new generation of disabled veterans from the Vietnam War, as the organization's mission was growing while the war was coming to an end.

Keller was a World War II veteran, stationed at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941. He later served throughout the Pacific during the war and

was medically discharged after incurring a severe back injury and contracting malaria.

In his new role with DAV, he was focused on extending DAV's services to underserved veterans. In 1974, under his direction, a caravan of six new motor homes, converted to serve as rolling offices, pulled out of National Headquarters, kicking off the Field Service Unit program. In one of the most impressive outreach programs ever mounted by DAV, these offices on wheels enabled National Service Officers (NSOs) to take their services to the suburbs and rural areas of America, often distant from DAV's National Service Offices.

Soon that fleet had increased to 18 vans. The DAV emblem was displayed on the vehicles as they traveled the United States visiting thousands of communities. Two NSOs aboard would assist disabled veterans with their claims, and the units attracted a great deal of public recognition as well.

Over a 19-year period, they brought DAV's no-cost services to 608,000 veterans and members of their families before the program was retired in 1993 and reinstituted a few years later as DAV's Mobile Service Office program.

As America celebrated its bicentennial in 1976, DAV opened its National Service & Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C. On March 4, 750 people attended the grand opening, including President Gerald Ford, who addressed the group. DAV leadership in Washington soon shifted hands, with Keller retiring as National Service Director to be replaced by Norman B. "Gabby" Hartnett, who had been serving as the organization's Employment Director.

DAV saw two major legislative victories in 1978. A serious threat to veterans preference in federal employment was defeated, and a drive to saddle the VA with a particularly meager budget was halted in its tracks. Also of importance was the return of Veterans Day to Nov. 11, rather than scheduling the holiday as part of a three-day weekend.

In 1976, DAV also funded the groundbreaking Forgotten Warrior Project, which first defined the

issue of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among war veterans.

Vietnam veterans were experiencing serious post-war problems at the time. DAV hoped the new study would make it impossible for Congress, the VA and the American public to ignore what was going on.

When Congress and the VA failed to act on the findings of the project, DAV initiated its own Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program. Fortunately, this DAV-

sponsored study and DAV's clinical outreach work spurred other research that forced the government to realize the psychological impact of war on veterans of Vietnam and all wars.

When that finally happened, the DAV Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program was already there to serve as

an effective treatment model to be adopted by the VA's Vet Center program.

By March 1979, DAV reached a new milestone of 600,000 members. Having achieved this figure, DAV's strength was impressive by any standard. Of the 2.2 million disabled veterans eligible for membership, more than one-fourth were DAV members.

In recognition of its newest members, DAV spearheaded the observance of Vietnam-era Veterans Week, May 28–June 3, 1979. Conferences were held at George Washington University with President Jimmy Carter addressing the group. DAV honored the Vietnam-era veterans with a separate observance for the entire month of May.

At the same time, an aforementioned topic of vital importance to many recent veterans, Agent Orange exposure, was beginning to attract attention. DAV was taken aback when it learned that a VA committee formed to study the effects of Agent Orange included no Vietnam veterans. DAV raised objections and realized a victory when a combat-disabled Vietnam veteran was named to the group.

With many new members and leaders, DAV closed out the '70s prepared to continue its fight into the second half of its first century, especially for those suffering because of Agent Orange and PTSD. ■



*The DAV 50th-anniversary commemorative stamp, 1970*

# Columbia Trust Spreading the wealth



**By sharing and distributing funds, the Trust ensures promises are kept nationwide.**

By M. Todd Hunter

It's sobering to realize that Chapters and Departments can sometimes lack sufficient funds to provide the direct services and special programs needed for injured and ill veterans in their communities. Fortunately, the Columbia Trust exists as a valuable resource to ensure DAV's many invaluable services are distributed to veterans and their families across the country.

Conversely, Chapters and Departments that have excess funds can "spread the wealth" by contributing to the Trust, which began as an initiative from the Department of Colorado in 1996 to encourage outside-the-box thinking and unique projects to improve direct services to veterans.

Chapters and Departments that have liquid assets exceeding three times the expenses of their last fiscal year are required to spend the excess for service, per Article 18 of the National Bylaws. Funds donated to the Trust ensure DAV's mission is supported where funding might not otherwise be available.

As a "restricted fund" within DAV's National Service Foundation (NSF), the Trust exists solely to support DAV service programs at Department and local levels. No other use is permissible.

"One of the most successful functions of the Trust is its role as a catalyst, bridging resources from well-populated Departments and Chapters to those in need," said NSF President Arthur H. Wilson. "Funds contributed to the Trust are then used for service initiatives that other Departments and Chapters simply couldn't afford to offer veterans in their communities."

Commanders and adjutants are encouraged to identify unmet needs and develop projects to serve veterans in their communities. If a grant from the Trust

is needed to initiate or maintain programs, Chapters and Departments should apply.

In order to ensure the funds go where they are needed most, grants are not awarded to Chapters and Departments that demonstrate an ongoing ability to meet their proposed service obligations.

"The Columbia Trust is about creative generosity and providing the means to help others," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "Departments and Chapters have to look out for each other the same way we did while wearing the uniform."

"[The Columbia Trust] provides the means for our leaders at the local level to **keep our promises** to America's ill and injured veterans and their families."

*National Adjutant J. Marc Burgess*



Members of an advisory committee, which includes one member from each DAV district, review the grant applications. This provides each geographical area with equal representation and a voice in the decision-making process in determining how funds from the Trust are used. While the committee provides specific spending recommendations, the Foundation's board of directors is the final arbiter of the grants and affirms, rejects or modifies the advisory committee's proposals.

"The Columbia Trust makes service initiatives possible where they are most needed," Burgess said. "It enables us to both give and receive. It provides the means for our leaders at the local level to keep our promises to America's ill and injured veterans and their families." ■



**Learn More Online**

More information about the Trust, including a grant application and steps on how to contribute, is available online at [www.nsf.dav.org/trust/](http://www.nsf.dav.org/trust/).



## From the AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER

### LINDA S. STAKE



## Caregivers are heroes, too

**S**imple words cannot do justice to how humbled I am to serve as the DAV Auxiliary's Commander for this next year. Please know I do not take the trust you've placed in me lightly, and I intend to walk in lockstep with our parent organization as we continue to fight on behalf of veterans and their families.

There is one issue in particular that I think our Auxiliary is uniquely suited to support, and that is the needs of caregivers. Many of you have direct, personal experience with this matter. Wives, mothers, fathers, siblings and now, more than at any other time in our history, husbands are often left with the arduous task of becoming the primary caregiver to a veteran who returned home with a life-altering illness or injury. This has been overlooked for far too long.

Caregivers are truly the best kind of hero—the kind that does what they do out of sheer devotion and love. Yet only a small portion of our nation's caregivers are given adequate support for the

assistance they provide that saves taxpayer dollars and enhances the lives of those who've served.

DAV and the Auxiliary support the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, which provides comprehensive assistance for family caregivers. But currently, only

family caregivers who care for veterans who sustained a serious injury—including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma or other severe disorder—incurred or aggravated in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible for this assistance.

That leaves out family caregivers from World War II up to every conflict

before the events of 9/11. All injured veterans deserve the same high-quality care and assistance, and this is the message we need to carry through to Washington.

I need your support in this fight. Please join me in advocating for caregiver support for all eras of service. I intend to be a loud advocate until our government does justice to these behind-the-scenes heroes.

I hope you'll be just as loud with me.

I need your support in this fight. **Please join me** in advocating for caregiver support for all eras of service.



## From the NATIONAL CHAPLAIN MICHAEL P. DOVER

### Freedom of speech



**G**reetings, everyone! “Can I speak freely?” is a familiar phrase in our culture. When a person says these words, he or she usually is seeking permission to set aside tact and diplomacy and get brutally honest. So, are our words “free,” or is it possible that when we use words incorrectly or carelessly, they can cause great damage to the ones we love or the organization we represent?

The First Amendment of the Constitution guarantees every U.S. citizen the right to free speech (as well as religion, press and assembly). However, it does not guarantee the right to be heard! Every veteran has sacrificed a portion of their lives to maintain this freedom, and it is the defense of this right that makes America great.

My faith teaches me that I cannot simply say anything I want, but that I am accountable for every word I say or don’t say. It is important to remember that any time you begin a conversation with “I probably shouldn’t tell you this, but...” it’s almost certain you shouldn’t be telling it. If you are like me, you have probably said words in the past that you regret. Guess what? We will never be able to take them back. Once the words come out, there is nothing we can do to erase the moment.

To use words recklessly and dishonestly and then appeal to the “I was only kidding” defense is like throwing a red-hot iron, shooting arrows and flinging death at others. Imagine if someone came into your home and shot you in the leg. Your response would be something like: “Hey, what are you doing?” or “Are you nuts?” or maybe “You could have killed me!” What would you think if that person replied, “Hey, it was only a joke,” or “Where’s your sense of humor?”

Most of us, after saying something hurtful or hateful, will tell that person they should just get over it (easy to say but virtually impossible to do).

Here’s the truth about words. We do not have the right to speak “freely” at all

times, we cannot claim that we were “just kidding” when we break hearts and spirits with our words, and we are deceived if we believe that our negative words evaporate into thin air and are quickly forgotten (Proverbs 26:18–19).

Positive words  
can **bring life  
and healing,**  
and they have a  
shelf life with no  
expiration date.

Positive words can bring life and healing, and they have a shelf life with no expiration date. Hurtful words pierce people and go deep into their souls. As DAV and DAV Auxiliary professionals, we must always remember that exercising our right to free speech comes with a great and measured responsibility.

In His Service for You.



## Department leaders meet, discuss state of DAV affairs

By Steven Wilson

**T**he annual DAV State Commanders and Adjutants Association's orientation, held at DAV National Headquarters this summer, gave 130 state-level leaders a snapshot view of DAV's multifaceted mission of service to veterans and their families.

"DAV is perpetually evolving, and Department Commanders and Adjutants are critical to ensure veteran-related issues are raised to supporters and stakeholders in their hometowns," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess.

"This year I noticed a real feeling of nationwide networking and exchanging of best practices by our fraternal leaders, and that always makes us stronger."

Part of the direction for this year's meeting was aimed at bringing DAV's individual Department leaders up to speed on the myriad issues the organization is addressing.

"We covered a lot of issues with our Department leaders this year," said National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. "I'm grateful Washington Headquarters Director Garry Augustine was here as well."

**"Department Commanders and Adjutants are critical to ensure veteran-related issues are raised to supporters and stakeholders in their hometowns."**

—DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess

"There is a lot of veteran-related legislative material in the works right now, and I'm thankful he was here to pass that on so our Commanders and Adjutants could take that home," Jesinoski said.

Other sessions included seminars detailing the great progress DAV's public-service-announcement campaigns have made, the achievement of more than 1 million followers on Facebook and the developments made by the new Employment Department in its first year.

"It's fortunate we have a chance to have our Department leaders under one roof every year and have a chance to

talk and exchange ideas," said National Director of Voluntary Services John Kleindienst. "This was a golden opportunity to stress the importance of our volunteer Transportation Network, and I know many

of our leaders will return home looking for ways to inject new life into that program."

The attendees echoed the success of the yearly event and emphasized its importance.

"This is one conference where we can get a lot of information in a timely manner," said Department of Arizona Commander Ron Cox. "It also gives us a great opportunity to get to know our counterparts from other states." ■



# New staff appointments announced

Each year at the National Executive Committee meeting, following the final business session of the DAV National Convention, National Adjutant Marc Burgess announces his staff appointments at both the National Headquarters and the National Service and Legislative Headquarters.

“The individuals appointed stand firm in DAV’s commitment to serving veterans with the highest standards of excellence,” said Burgess. “I am incredibly proud of the staff we’ve built and the dedicated work they do.”

National Commander Moses McIntosh met these appointments with enthusiastic support. “I have the utmost faith in Adjutant Burgess’ appointments and confidence in the individuals selected to undertake these positions in service to veterans.”

The new appointments include Adrian Atizado as Deputy National Legislative Director, Shurhonda Love as Assistant National Legislative Director, LeRoy Acosta as Assistant National Legislative Director, Scott Hope as Assistant National Service Director, Todd Hunter as Assistant National Director of Communications and Bryan Cody Van Boxel as Assistant National Director Human Resources.



Atizado

## Deputy National Legislative Director

As Deputy National Legislative Director, Adrian Atizado will work to support and advance a broad range of federal legislative goals and policies to assist injured and ill veterans and their families.

“Adrian is an extremely knowledgeable and talented advocate for our nation’s heroes,” said Burgess. “He brings a great deal of passion and experience to this position and has done a superb job representing disabled veterans and their families.”

A 15-year veteran of DAV, Atizado began his career as a National Service Officer in Chicago in 2000. He

joined the national legislative staff at the Service and National Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., as Associate National Legislative Director in 2002. He was appointed Assistant National Legislative Director in 2003 and worked to safeguard current benefits and services for veterans in that capacity until his current appointment.

Atizado was born in California and raised in Chicago, enlisting in the Navy in 1989. Following his initial training as a Navy corpsman, Atizado’s service included Company B and battalion aid station corpsman for the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., as well as duties at the San Diego Naval Hospital. He was medically discharged from the Navy in 1993.

A life member of DAV Chapter 36 in Chicago, Atizado earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics in 1999.

## Assistant National Legislative Director

Shurhonda Love has been appointed Assistant National Legislative Director, responsible for advancing DAV’s legislative priorities and advocating for veterans and their families before Congress.



Love

Love, an Army veteran, began her DAV career as a National Service Officer trainee in 2008 in Montgomery, Ala. In 2011, she was promoted to assistant supervisor of the National Service Office in Salt Lake City. The following year in October, she was appointed supervisor of the New Orleans National Service Office, where she served until her appointment to the national legislative staff.

Enlisting in the Texas Army National Guard in 1990, Love later joined the Regular Army in 1995 and served as a medic until she was discharged as a result of service-connected disabilities in December 2002. She is a life member of Chapter 23 in Westwego, La.

“I have the utmost faith  
in Adjutant Burgess’  
appointments  
and confidence in the  
individuals selected to  
undertake these positions  
in service to veterans.”

—National Commander Moses A. McIntosh Jr.

## Assistant National Legislative Director

In his new position as Assistant National Legislative Director, Gulf War-era veteran LeRoy Acosta will work to support and advance legislation and policies critical to veterans and their families.



Acosta

Having served in the Marine Corps from 1979 to 1992, Acosta joined the DAV professional staff in 2005. He served as a trainee and National Service Officer at the National Service Office in San Diego. In 2007, he was promoted to assistant supervisor and in 2012 was promoted and transferred to his most recent post at the National Service Office in Oakland, Calif.

Acosta is a life member of DAV Chapter 2 in San Diego, and served as state commander of DAV Department of California from 2011–2012.



Hope

## Assistant National Service Director

As Assistant National Service Director, Scott Hope plays a critical role in carrying out the day-to-day operations and oversight of the National Service Program.

A veteran of the war in Iraq, Hope served in the Army from 1997 to 2005. He began his DAV career as a National Service Officer in Pittsburgh in 2009, moving through the ranks to become a supervisor in 2011 and ultimately a National Area Supervisor in 2014, a position he held until his current appointment. He is a life member of DAV Chapter 76 in Pittsburgh.



Hunter

## Assistant National Director of Communications

Todd Hunter, a Marine Corps veteran of the Afghanistan War, continues to broaden the reach of DAV’s mission and services in his new position as Assistant National Director of Communications. He started his career as an Associate

National Director of Communications in 2014, a position he held until his current appointment.

Joining the military in 2005, Hunter is a graduate of Syracuse University’s Military Motion Media program and a highly decorated broadcast journalist. Following his honorable discharge in 2013, he served as an intern at the White House Office of Digital Strategy.

Hunter earned a Master of Arts degree in strategic communication from American University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Thomas Edison State College. A native of Orlando, Fla., he is a life member of DAV Chapter 10 in Fairfax, Va.

## Assistant National Director Human Resources

In his new position, Bryan Cody Van Boxel will assist in directing, planning and supervising the implementation of all policies and activities relating to personnel recruitment, training, retention, compensation, benefits, promotions, retirements and safety.



Van Boxel

A Marine Corps veteran of the Iraq War, he began his career as a National Service Officer trainee at the DAV National Service Office in Washington, D.C., in 2011. Following successful completion of the 16-month NSO training program, Van Boxel laterally transferred to the Philadelphia National Service Office as an Associate National Service Officer. In 2013, he was promoted to Assistant Supervisor prior to his advancement to National Service Office Supervisor.

He enlisted in the military in 2003 and was honorably discharged in 2009. A veteran of the war in Iraq, Van Boxel attended Western Governors University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in business management.

He is a life member of DAV Chapter 25 in Collegeville, Pa. ■





# DAV Flight Team descends on Oshkosh

By Steven Wilson



*The Lt. Dan Band, with DAV supporter Gary Sinise, entertained the crowd at the concert sponsored by DAV and EAA.*

The DAV Flight Team once again landed at EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for its annual visit July 20–26 in what was a record-breaking year for America’s largest airshow.

“This was the biggest event, attendance-wise, in about 10 years,” said Mike McCabe, DAV Flight Team director. “EAA estimates around 550,000 people visited this year. The concert by the Lt. Dan Band, which DAV sponsored, also broke attendance records. The whole week was a home run,” he said.

The theme for this year’s airshow was Vietnam War-era aviation. So, instead of the usual B-25 Mitchell bomber used by the flight team, the Warbird Heritage Foundation generously donated their period-authentic A-4 Skyhawk and A-1 Skyraider.

“Oshkosh is the perfect venue for DAV,” said Paul Wood, founder of the Warbird Heritage Foundation. “There are a huge number of veterans attracted to these old warbirds. I was very pleased to be able to put two of our preeminent aircraft on display that played a huge role in the Vietnam era.”

Past National Commander Richard Marbes led the hundreds of participants in the Salute to Veterans Parade, which was attended by veterans of several eras and represented all branches of service.

“I can’t say enough for the dedicated and professional work of the DAV Air Support team,” said Marbes. “Mike, Lynn, Kerry and the entire team—they really know their job and make us look great to the thousands of people who passed through our display.”



*Past National Commander Dick Marbes and DAV Flight Team Member Lynn May interview with a local media affiliate at EAA AirVenture 2015.*

Special guests included longtime DAV supporter Gary Sinise and veterans advocate.

“Airshows are a unique platform to tell our nation about DAV’s mission of service to veterans and their families,” said Past National Commander Ron Hope. “Citizens at these shows tend to be patriotic, and I’m very thankful for our longtime partner in EAA in supporting our attendance at this unique event.” ■



**Learn More Online**

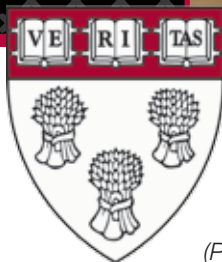
The next Oshkosh event is scheduled for July 25–31, 2016. For more information on DAV’s Flight Team, visit [www.dav.org/events/airshow-schedule/](http://www.dav.org/events/airshow-schedule/).

# DAV goes Ivy League

By M. Todd Hunter



## DAV Charitable Service Trust supports Harvard Veterans Legal Clinic



*DAV's General Counsel Christopher J. Clay (far left), and Richard E. Marbes, Past National Commander and Chairman of DAV's Charitable Service Trust (fourth from left), present a grant check to students and faculty of the Veterans Legal Clinic at Harvard Law School. (Photo by Tony Rinaldo)*

**D**AV has a well-earned reputation because of its commitment to ensuring veterans receive the benefits they earned.

In fact, DAV assisted more than 340,000 veterans with their VA disability claims last year alone. Sometimes, however, veterans need additional legal help beyond what DAV normally offers.

Last August, DAV's Charitable Service Trust (CST) significantly increased an existing grant to the Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC) at Harvard Law School, in order to respond to those additional needs. The grant, which now totals \$1 million to cover the entire cost of four years of veterans advocacy, expands its support of the clinic's *pro bono* work in a number of law-practice areas, including certain state court appeals of veterans benefit denials, discharge upgrades, estate planning and combatting predatory veteran student lending.

"By providing core funding to the Harvard Veterans Law Program, the Trust continues its great tradition of finding diverse and innovative opportunities to put its resources to work for veterans," said CST Chairman Richard E. Marbes, who traveled to Boston last October to formally present the grant to the school.

With the funding, the VLC also initiated the DAV Distinguished Speaker Series, which brings high-profile leaders to the school to raise awareness of the needs of veterans and to speak on public policies that impact veterans. The first lecturer was Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald. DAV General Counsel Christopher Clay has also spoken at the VLC.

"What struck me most forcibly about the Harvard program was the people behind it," said Clay. "The

Harvard lawyers and law students were welcoming, embracing and eager to learn from DAV's 90-plus years in the veterans' arena."

"Much of the work at the clinic is performed by law students under the close supervision of faculty," explained Harvard Law Professor Daniel Nagin. "We are well aware of DAV's nationwide programs to assist disabled veterans and their families, and Harvard is proud to join the army of advocates—lawyers and non-lawyers alike—devoting themselves to this important cause."

According to Marbes, that devotion serves as an investment for the veterans' community at large.

"Not only is Harvard Law School providing *pro bono* legal services for veterans, it's instilling a commitment to veterans and the issues we face in the best of the next generation of lawyers," he said.

In just one example of the clinic's hard work and dedication, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims held oral arguments at Harvard last October in a case that came from the school's Board of Veterans' Appeals office. Student advocates argued on behalf of the appellant, and the court ruled in favor of the veteran.

"We are humbled and privileged to have the opportunity to advocate on behalf of disabled veterans and to work every day to help close the justice gap for those who have worn the uniform," said Nagin.

"DAV is a nationwide leader in representing veterans," said DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "Partnering with Harvard is a true testament to the lengths DAV will go in order to ensure veterans receive the best services and representation possible." ■





# INSPIRED BY YOUR SERVICE.

For more than 90 years, USAA has supported the military community, and we're proud to honor the members of DAV. USAA is committed to stand alongside you wherever life, or the military takes you.



USAA is  
**Honored to Serve**  
Disabled American Veterans





### **Serving veterans together...**

National Adjutant Marc Burgess (left) and then-National Commander Ron Hope (right) accept a check for \$500,000 from Lead Affinity Account Manager for USAA's Military Affinity Group Gina Jureck (center) at the National Convention. The contribution by USAA will help to further support DAV's mission of service to veterans. USAA is DAV's exclusive credit card and property and casualty insurance provider, and both organizations are working together to help improve the financial well-being and security of DAV members.

DAV receives ten dollars for every new DAV USAA Rewards credit card account opened, one dollar for each renewal and 0.25% of each purchase (excluding refunds, returns or cash and reward point transactions). The agreement between USAA and DAV runs through June 30, 2020.



### **Fighting for America's heroes...**

U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (center right), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which funds the Department of Veterans Affairs, is presented the DAV Veterans Champion Award in recognition of her successful efforts to fight for VA benefits by then-National Legislative Director Joseph Violante (left), Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine (center left) and current National Legislative Director Joy Ilem (right). Mikulski was selected largely for her work to secure advance appropriations for veterans benefits in the fiscal year 2015 Omnibus bill.





## It's easy to leave a legacy gift to DAV

Charitable Gift Annuity donors receive generous fixed payments for life that are largely tax-free, a charitable income tax deduction and DAV Guardian Society recognition for their generosity.

### CGA Requirements:

- Minimum amount for CGA is \$10,000.
- Minimum age is 60.
- Up to two annuitants (both must be over the age of 60).
- No maximum age.
- Rates are based on age.
- The older you are, the higher the rate.

### For more information:

- call 1-800-216-9802, ext. 1
- OR**
- email [giftplanning@dav.org](mailto:giftplanning@dav.org)
- OR**
- return the attached postcard

# The gift of **HOPE**



## Veteran generates income for life, creates legacy of hope

**W**hen speaking to Wavie Rodgers, one is immediately astounded by his passion for DAV and the veterans we serve. Rodgers proudly expresses his sentiments for his brothers- and sisters-in-arms with a pride and conviction that only a fellow comrade could. When asked what inspired him to establish such a generous legacy of compassion for his fellow veterans through a Charitable Gift Annuity, Rodgers humbly explained that he believes it to be the right thing to do.

"It seems to me a small thing to do, in that my brothers and sisters of the military have sacrificed life and limbs for the safety of all," said Rodgers. "Therefore, borrowing from the words of Sgt. Bobby Lisek, 'I can't stand to think of our brothers and sisters who are serving, sacrificing today and returning home without a sense of hope.'

"And like him, I have benefited from DAV myself, and DAV has

welcomed me into its community and has proven to me that these veterans care for one another. In short, I can do no less and am willing to lend my support."

Rodgers' generous donation provides him with fixed payments for life, and DAV receives the remainder of the funds as a donation through his estate. Many CGA donors consider this type of contribution a win-win for themselves and DAV. ■



*Wavie Rodgers at his home in Texas. He is a proud veteran who is enthusiastic about the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of his fellow veterans.*



### Junior Auxiliary members thank veterans...

DAV Auxiliary Junior members from Unit 19 in Northern Kentucky, developed a unique way to thank veterans for their service. The juniors colored "Thank You, Veteran" coloring pages and surprised veterans who attend their church with a ceremony during which each veteran was presented with the thank-you message and a mug featuring the American Flag and the inscription, "Thank You for your Service, Thank You for our Freedom."



**Right:** John Ekenbarger  
with National Service  
Officer Jakub  
Dziemaszkiewicz



### POW finally receives recognition...

Korean War veteran and former prisoner of war John Ekenbarger receives replacement medals on the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War. His military medals were initially destroyed in a house fire; however, he was never awarded the POW medal. Captured in 1950, Ekenbarger was held captive until 1953. Jakub Dziemaszkiewicz, a National Service Officer in Newington Conn., was asked to speak at the ceremony and present the POW medal to Ekenbarger. At the ceremony, Ekenbarger humbly stated he simply "did his duty" but added, "You don't know what home means to you until you've been over there." Dziemaszkiewicz told Ekenbarger that veterans like him "are the reason I do what I do."



## 2015 ALL VETERANS CAREER FAIRS

Date	City
September 17	New York, NY
September 17	Riverside, CA
September 24	Phoenix, AZ
September 24	Columbia, SC
October 8	Cincinnati, OH
October 8	Atlanta, GA
October 8	Chicago, IL
October 15	Austin, TX
October 15	Minneapolis, MN
October 22	Pittsburgh, PA
October 22	Oklahoma City, OK
October 29	Charlotte, NC
October 29	San Jose, CA
November 5	Washington, DC
November 5	Los Angeles, CA
November 12	St. Louis, MO
November 12	Norfolk, VA
November 12	Seattle, WA

Visit [jobs.dav.org](http://jobs.dav.org) for details on venue locations.

Disabled American Veterans National Headquarters			
Unaudited Statement of Financial Position • June 30, 2015			
<b>Unrestricted Assets</b>		<b>Unrestricted Liabilities</b>	
Current Assets	\$ 26,161,657	Current Liabilities	\$ 127,781,555
Investments, at Market	376,942,981	Total Liabilities	127,781,555
Land, Buildings and Equipment, Net of Depreciation	7,984,873	<b>Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	
Other Assets	192,000	General and Net Assets Designated by the Board of Directors	283,499,956
		Total Unrestricted Net Assets	283,499,956
<b>Total Unrestricted Assets</b>	<b>\$ 411,281,511</b>	<b>Total Liabilities and Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 411,281,511</b>
<b>Life Membership Assets</b>		<b>Life Membership Liabilities</b>	
Current Assets	\$ 11,368,522	Current Liabilities	\$ 721,085
Investments, at Market	55,570,470	Reserve for Future Distribution of Life Membership Dues	66,217,907
		<b>Total Life Membership Liabilities and Reserve for Future Distribution of Life Membership Dues</b>	<b>\$ 66,938,992</b>
<b>Total Life Membership Assets</b>	<b>\$ 66,938,992</b>		



[bbb.org/charity](http://bbb.org/charity)

DAV is very proud we have been authorized to display the seal since 2004, in recognition of meeting the Alliance's 20 Standards for Charity Accountability, which encourage fair and honest solicitation practices, promote ethical conduct by charitable organizations and to advance public support of philanthropy.



**National Commander**

Moses A. McIntosh Jr., Hephzibah, Ga.

**Sr. Vice Commander**

David W. Riley, Semmes, Ala.

**1st Jr. Vice Commander**

Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Vallejo, Calif.

**2nd Jr. Vice Commander**

Dennis R. Nixon, China Spring, Texas

**3rd Jr. Vice Commander**

Harmon L. Evans, Columbia, S.C.

**4th Jr. Vice Commander**

Stephen Whitehead, Rosemount, Minn.

**National Judge Advocate**

Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, N.D.

**National Chaplain**

Michael P. Dover, Ellerslie, Ga.

**Past National Commander**

Ron F. Hope, Clemmons, N.C.



*Front row, from left: David W. Riley, Moses A. McIntosh Jr., Delphine Metcalf-Foster  
Back row, from left: Ron F. Hope, Michael E. Dobmeier, Michael P. Dover,  
Harmon L. Evans, Stephen Whitehead, Dennis R. Nixon*

**NEC 1st District**

Daniel P. Stack, Uxbridge, Mass.

*Alternate*

Raymond Richards, Bellingham, Mass.

**NEC 2nd District**

Robert J. Finnerty, S. Ozone Park, N.Y.

*Alternate*

Chester Wisnesky Jr., Constable, N.Y.

**NEC 3rd District**

Richard Fournier, Windsor, Maine

*Alternate*

Robert Nicodemus, Enfield, N.H.

**NEC 4th District**

Timothy J. Kelly, Fairfield, Conn.

*Alternate*

James M. Kopley, Princeton, N.J.

**NEC 5th District**

Lawrence F. Kelly, Beaver Meadows, Pa.

*Alternate*

Samuel Blow Jr., Melrose Park, Pa.

**NEC 6th District**

Bennie Harris Jr., Washington, D.C.

*Alternate*

Idalis M. Marquez, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico

**NEC 7th District**

Richard L. Tolfa, Winter Springs, Fla.

*Alternate*

John Raber, Bradenton, Fla.

**NEC 8th District**

Kevin A. Wenthe, Ancoco, La.

*Alternate*

Dave Sensat, Sulphur, La.

**NEC 9th District**

Cleveland Bryant Jr., Cary, N.C.

*Alternate*

Rodney Tucker, Lexington, N.C.

**NEC 10th District**

Rolly D. Lee Sr., Farwell, Mich.

*Alternate*

Steven C. Pruitt, Grand Rapids, Mich.

**NEC 11th District**

Robert Bertschy, East Liverpool, Ohio

*Alternate*

David Uetterling, Defiance, Ohio

**NEC 12th District**

Rodney Helgeson, Warrens, Wisc.

*Alternate*

Thomas J. Weber, Omro, Wisc.

**NEC 13th District**

Tom P. Bratcher, Indianapolis, Ind.

*Alternate*

Carlos Arambula, Valparaiso, Ind.

**NEC 14th District**

Joe Parsetich, Great Falls, Mont.

*Alternate*

Kevin R. Grantier, Lincoln, Mont.

**NEC 15th District**

Kimberly R. Tatham, Lebanon, Mo.

*Alternate*

Jim Shuey, Omaha, Neb.

**NEC 16th District**

Daniel Contreras, Santa Fe Springs, Calif.

*Alternate*

Michael Steinbaugh, Berkeley, Calif.

**NEC 17th District**

Frank Maughan, Ogden, Utah

*Alternate*

Richard Hogue, Littleton, Colo.

**NEC 18th District**

Johnny N. Stewart, Tucson, Ariz.

*Alternate*

Johnie "Bo" Treadway, Tucson, Ariz.

**NEC 19th District**

Sarah J. Royse, Tillamook, Ore.

*Alternate*

Harvey Dixon, Boise, Idaho

**NEC 20th District**

Teresa Johniken, Lufkin, Texas

*Alternate*

Percy Spence III, Selma, Texas

**NEC 21st District**

Charles D. Stake, Heber Springs, Ark.

*Alternate*

Grace Marilyn Smith, Fulton, Ark.



Front row, from left: LeeAnn B. Karg, Linda S. Stake, Frances J. Costa  
Back row, from left: Ellen L. Timmerman, Diane J. Franz, William Craig Johniken, Donna M. Adams, Lynn Helms Prosser, Aura-Lee Nicodemus

## National Commander

Linda S. Stake, Heber Springs, Ark.

## Sr. Vice Commander

Frances J. Costa, North Attleboro, Mass.

## 1st Jr. Vice Commander

William Craig Johniken, Lufkin, Texas

## 2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Ellen L. Timmerman, Farmington, N.M.

## 3rd Jr. Vice Commander

Diane J. Franz, Winter Springs, Fla.

## 4th Jr. Vice Commander

Lynn Helms Prosser, Surfside Beach, S.C.

## National Judge Advocate

Donna M. Adams, Glendale, Ariz.

## National Chaplain

Aura-Lee Nicodemus, Enfield, N.H.

## Past National Commander

LeeAnn B. Karg, Dassel, Minn.

## NEC 1st District

Lillian R. Halpin, Auburn, Mass.

### Alternate

Elizabeth Eldridge, Marshfield, Mass.

## NEC 2nd District

Josephine Rivera, Glendale, N.Y.

### Alternate

Theresa Grabowski, Middletown, N.Y.

## NEC 3rd District

Sylvia Heath, Mechanic Falls, Maine

### Alternate

Donna M. Folcarelli, Johnston, R.I.

## NEC 4th District

Sarah M. Kashner, Camden, Del.

### Alternate

Linda Applegate, Toms River, N.J.

## NEC 5th District

Loretta J. Nosko, Erie, Pa.

### Alternate

Diane M. Freeman, Chambersburg, Pa.

## NEC 6th District

Carol L. Simmons, Parkton, Md.

### Alternate

Grace M. James, Front Royal, Va.

## NEC 7th District

Delphia M. Bare, Brooksville, Fla.

### Alternate

Delores A. Roussey, Pt. Charlotte, Fla.

## NEC 8th District

Linda Bailey, Maryville, Tenn.

### Alternate

Dorothy Robinson, Munford, Tenn.

## NEC 9th District

Shirley Winstead Hill, Selma, N.C.

### Alternate

Evelyn D. Bryant, Cary, N.C.

## NEC 10th District

Carol J. Lee, Farwell, Mich.

### Alternate

Regina I. Fortner, Oscoda, Mich.

## NEC 11th District

Denise J. Proffitt, Louisville, Ohio

### Alternate

Judith Hezlep, Cincinnati, Ohio

## NEC 12th District

Rose Williams, Stevens Point, Wisc.

### Alternate

Patricia A. Davis, Oak Creek, Wisc.

## NEC 13th District

Linda S. Bratcher, West Lafayette, Ind.

### Alternate

Dorothy Fivecoate, Kokomo, Ind.

## NEC 14th District

Joyce Jefferson, Rapid City, S.D.

### Alternate

Nancy Worth, Piedmont, S.D.

## NEC 15th District

Breanne Chandler, Bee, Neb.

### Alternate

Veronica L. Bergquist, Wichita, Kan.

## NEC 16th District

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Berkeley, Calif.

### Alternate

Melissa Valdez, Highland, Calif.

## NEC 17th District

Beth V. Maughan, Ogden, Utah

### Alternate

Brenda C. Moore, Carlsbad, N.M.

## NEC 18th District

Rosie M. McDuffie, Las Vegas, Nev.

### Alternate

Carolyn J. Walker, Henderson, Nev.

## NEC 19th District

Delores D. Knapp, Meridian, Idaho

### Alternate

Sienna M. Stewart, Idaho Falls, Idaho

## NEC 20th District

Mary S. Bergeron, San Antonio, Texas

### Alternate

Christopher J. Easley, San Antonio, Texas

## NEC 21st District

Kimberly Stake, Heber Springs, Ark.

### Alternate

Mary E. Reese Roden, Eldorado, Texas





### **Voices of Montana...**

From left, members of DAV Chapter 10, Billings, Mont., Bob Scott, Treasurer; John Tiry, Commander; and Jimmy Kerr, Past Commander, get some air time with "Livin' Large Larry," host of a local Billings talk radio show. Chapter 10 leaders discussed the benefits of the DAV Transportation Network. "Our experience shows few media outlets in Montana will turn down veterans for veterans' outreach issues," said Ed Saunders, Chapter 10 Adjutant and Department of Montana Public Information Officer. (Photo courtesy of Ed Saunders)



### **Chapter honors local veterans...**

DAV Chapter 28, Rochester, Minn., distributed gifts in over 40 nursing homes to local veterans. The gift was a sweat suit with the American flag on the shirt with the words "Proud Veteran." Twenty one volunteers were involved in delivering over 500 sweat suits to veterans between Veterans Day and the holiday season. The suits included a personal card from the DAV Chapter thanking the veteran for their service.



### **Because they are proven...**

Cincinnati teen Connor Thomas recently received an Army Youth Commendation and an Ohio Gubernatorial Citation for his charitable work with local disabled veterans. The president of his high school class of 2017 has passed out food gift cards to local homeless veterans, organized a 5K to benefit homeless veterans in the Cincinnati area and organized another fundraiser, which raised more than \$1,300 which was donated to DAV. Thomas said he is familiar with the organization because one of his grandfathers, himself a veteran, had service-connected injuries and received free assistance. "My belief on charity work is you find those one or two things you care deeply about and pour yourself into the work to be done," Thomas said. "Since I have deep reverence for the military, all my work will be done for military charities and the 'old guard' or veterans or whatever endearing name you choose, because they are proven. They have walked their path and made our country the greatest on Earth. I owe them. We all owe them."



### **Mobilizing veterans...**

Bolstering DAV's Transportation Network, DAV Chapter 77 in Jasper, Ind., received a donation of more than \$3,600 from the St. Charles Health Campus toward the purchase of a new van for the Transportation Network. St. Charles Health Campus is an adult assisted living facility that supports local veterans.





### **DAV Green Bay Chapter wins on 'Gamblers'...**

Members of DAV Chapter 3, De Pere, Wisc., were presented with a \$20,000 check from the minor league hockey team Green Bay Gamblers following the Military Appreciation Night game. The donation was a combination of efforts from local sponsors and the auctioning of the Green Bay Gamblers military-themed jerseys and helmets. This is the largest amount of money the team has ever raised for a charity. Pictured (from left) Lyn Schuh, then-Commander Ron Knaus, Honor Guard Captain Bob Krausert, then-Senior Vice Commander Mike Schuenke, Past National Commander and Chapter Treasurer Richard Marbes, Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt and Jason Habeck of the Green Bay Gamblers.



### **Timing is everything...**

Immediately following VA Secretary Bob McDonald's address to the DAV National Convention, DAV Auxiliary member Jean Hogan of Unit 3 in Dorchester, Mass., stands below a quote from his speech running on the crawl outside the Denver Post building.



### **Recognized for distinguished service...**

The VA's Dr. Steven M. Herman (right) receives the first-ever DAV Department of Indiana's Distinguished Service Award presented by National Service Officer Supervisor Donald Inns at the DAV Department of Indiana convention in Indianapolis.



### **Department of Utah supports local VAMC...**

DAV Chapter 14, Layton, Utah, presented a portable twin bed and new vacuum cleaner to the Fisher House located on the grounds of the VA Salt Lake City Hospital. The Fisher House provides lodging to families of veterans being treated at the hospital. Pictured (from left) are: Chapter 14 Commander John Ott, Fisher House manager Quinn Kiger-Good and Chapter 14 Chaplain Ben Sims.



### **Paying respect to America's heroes...**

Retired Army Master Sgt. and DAV Chapter 33, Kent, Wash., life member Chriss R. Moen (left) and DAV Auxiliary Treasurer and Unit 33 life member Jeanette Severson (right) met at the flagpole in Tahoma National Cemetery before the start of the annual Memorial Day Ceremony. Severson's spouse was a DAV life member and is interred at the cemetery. Both came to represent the local DAV Chapter and DAV Auxiliary Unit and pay respect to all veterans interred at the cemetery.



### **DAV's airshow team fulfills World War II veteran's wish...**

DAV's primary airshow B-25 "Panchito" made a stop at the Auburn University Regional Airport on April 9 to fulfill the wish of a World War II veteran who wanted to see the type of aircraft he flew during World War II one more time. Pictured (from left); back row: Wilbert Payne, Treasurer, DAV Chapter 95, Opelika, Ala., pilot Jim Cook, Chapter 95 Commander Eugene Benford. Pictured (from left): front row: Buford Robinson and 5 year old Aliyah Benford.



### **W.Va. Chapter enjoys tight bonds with community...**

Summer Breeze Comfort Systems of Bruceton Mills, W.Va., partnered with DAV Chapter 45, Fairmont, W.Va., with a raffle for a whole-house heating and air conditioning system. Owners, Rick and Dan Henson, agreed to include a free installation of the system as well for the luck winner of the raffle. This year, the raffle raised more than \$4,600 and will go straight to the needs of disabled veterans and their families in north central West Virginia. Henson, a veteran himself, said supporting DAV is his way of giving back and showing his appreciation for the efforts of those who have served our nation. Pictured (from left) are: George P. Davis III, DAV Chapter 45 Adjutant and Treasurer as well as 1st Junior Vice Commander for Dept. of W.Va.; Rick Henson and Dan Henson, Summer Breeze owners; Don Hayhurst, Commander; Mark Krofek, Chaplain; and Wilbur England, Legislative Liaison.



### **Arizona holds open house for new office...**

DAV Chapter 27, Lake Havasu, Ariz., held an open house for their new office in Lake Havasu City. Pictured (from left) are: Bill Marks, Chapter Chaplain Sisto Sandoval, Chapter Commander Bud Watts, Senior Vice Commander Jack Howe, Junior Vice Commander Frank Blain, Sergeant-at-Arms Warren Jones and Chapter Treasurer Rick Foster. Chapter 27 is the busiest DAV transportation unit in Arizona. Chapter 27 was honored with the "Chapter of the Year" and "Commander of the Year" awards during the DAV Department of Arizona Convention in 2014.



### **Honor flight...**

DAV Chapter 108, Cape Coral, Fla., Past Commander Marion Burke (foreground) and Judge Advocate John Camp (background) are preparing to board an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. Honor Flights occur across the nation and are local efforts to bring America's "Greatest Generation" to the nation's capital to see the World War II Memorial dedicated to their service and sacrifice during the world's deadliest period of warfare.



## Paul E. Frederick Past National Commander (1957–1958)

■ Paul E. Frederick, who served as National Commander in 1957–1958, died in July at the age of 92. He was DAV's oldest surviving Past National Commander.

Frederick was an Army veteran, badly wounded while saving the life of a comrade near Heidelberg, Germany, at the end of World War II.

Elected to DAV's highest post at the 36th National Convention in Buffalo, N.Y., Frederick led DAV through a tumultuous time for the organization. Less than two years earlier, the Bradley Commission had found problems with the way veterans' benefits were handled. This led to bad publicity, declining membership and reduced donations to DAV.



*Frederick*

While most National Commander elections during the 1950s were not contested and featured unanimous elections, the 1957 convention saw fierce debates. Ultimately, Frederick was elected National Commander after the rival delegation agreed that solidarity was in the organization's best interest.

Well after his tenure as National Commander, Frederick frequently attended the annual DAV and Auxiliary National Convention and was a frequent visitor to National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Ky.

He was elected to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 1996.

"It's very rare that, when you meet someone for the first time, you feel you've somehow become a better person for it," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "That was Paul Frederick. He was a treasure for DAV and those in his life. People naturally looked to him for leadership, as he was not only a DAV Past National Commander but was also a renowned leader in his church and community."

# TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER.

## Milestones we reached in 2015



**1 Million** Likes  
on Facebook



**1 Million** powers  
of attorney for  
representation  
of claims



**30,000** followers  
on Twitter



**27,000**  
electronic claims  
filed

## REUNIONS

### ARMY

**1ST & 9TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS; 1ST BATTALION, 16TH INFANTRY REGIMENT; 5TH BATTALION, 60TH INFANTRY REGIMENT-VIETNAM (ALL YEARS)** Sept. 16-20, St. Louis, MO, Contact: Tony Sparaco, Ph: 516-293-6219, Email: tony\_sparaco@yahoo.com.

**3RD BRIGADE LRRP, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION** Mar. 15-18, 2017, Fort Benning, GA, Contact: Dr. Rick Shoup, Ph: 978-505-3253 or 978-371-7107, Email: rfs.concord@gmail.com.

**11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION** Sept. 14-18, Branson, MO, Contact: Kenneth D. Sly, Ph: 785-823-8352, Email: aksly@hotmail.com.

**26TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION-VIETNAM** Oct. 14-17, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Oscar Garza, Ph: 210-710-4368, Email: ossgar@sbcglobal.net.

**35TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSN.** Sept. 24-27, San Diego, CA, Contact: Don Johnson, Ph: 225-247-9321, Email: donjohnsonbtr@bellsouth.net, Web: www.cacti35th.org.

**36TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL (VIETNAM)** Sept. 11-13, Williamsburg, VA, Contact: Juliet Chamberlain, Email: chamberlainbrass@cox.net.

**65TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION VIETNAM** Oct. 12-16, Ft. Benning/Columbus, GA, Contact: Ken Dixon, Ph: 706-260-5661, Email: ken\_dixon49@yahoo.com.

**170TH AVIATION COMPANY, ASSAULT HELICOPTER** Oct. 23-25, St. Louis, MO, Contact: Henry Winther, Ph: 847-546-7186.

**919TH ENGINEER COMPANY & 919TH EAMC** Oct. 7-9, Gettysburg, PA, Contact: Kenneth Wood, Ph: 336-668-4531, Email: woodkp@hotmail.com.

**B COMPANY, 504TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION; PLEIKU MILITARY POLICE ASSN. (1965-72)** Sept. 29-Oct. 3, Providence, RI, Contact: Harry Yates, Ph: 505-865-7359.

**BATTLE OF THE BULGE VETERANS FLORIDA SOUTHEAST CHAPTER** Dec. 13, West Palm Beach, FL, Contact: George Fisher, Ph: 561-585-7086, Email: GeorgeFVBOB@aol.com.

**DELTA COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE-AIR ASSAULT), 12TH CAVALRY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)** Sept. 29-Oct. 2, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Col. Charles H. (Chuck) Rose, 27103 Trinity Heights, San Antonio, TX 78261, Ph: 210-854-4131, Email: Chuckrose@gvtc.com.

### MARINES

**1/3 MARINE CORPS** Sept. 24-27, Branson, MO, Contact: Roger, Email: pointman13@ctcn.net.

**2ND BATTALION, 3RD MARINES** Sept. 9-12, Las Vegas, NV, Contact: Art Ferguson, Ph: 623-780-1819, Email: clydesdadfergy@aol.com.

**3 & 4 PLATOON "A" COMPANY, 3RD AMTRACS - VIETNAM** Oct. 8-11, Nashville, TN, Contact: Jim or Bonnie Vinciquerra, Ph: 908-581-3848, Email: jbav21@yahoo.com.

**MARINES OF LONG AGO (ALL ERAS)** Oct. 13-16, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Joe Cullen, Ph: 203-877-0846, Email: aircooledmg7@aol.com.

### NAVY

**BEACHMASTER UNIT 1** Sept. 25-27, San Diego, CA, Contact: John (Jr.) Barnes, Ph: 916-212-2696, Email: juniorbarnesbmu1@gmail.com

**NMCB1/MCB1/MCB9/MCB10** Oct. 15-18, Port Hueneme, CA, Contact: Peter Dowd, Ph: 781-837-0393, Email: mcb1reunion@verizon.net, Web: www.MCB1-MCB9.org.

**SQUADRONS & SHIPMATES OF USS MIDWAY AND USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** Sept. 15-20, Seattle, WA, Contact: Al Wedemeyer, Ph: 859-689-7001, Email: squadronmates@aol.com, Web: www.squadrans-shipmates-of-the-fdr-midway.com.

**US NAVY ATTACK SQUADRON 106 (VA-106/VF-62)** Oct. 19-21, Nashville, TN, Contact: Robert McClean, Ph: 631-766-6387, Email: trekbob@aol.com.

**USS ANTIETAM (CV-36)** Sept. 15-20, Boise, ID,

Contact: Ed Booth, Ph: 253-752-6158.

**USS FRANK KNOX (DDR-742)** Sept. 23-26, Portland, ME, Contact: Orville Krieg, Ph: 207-724-1279, Email: orv.nancy@verizon.net.

**USS LEWIS & CLARK (SSBN-644) 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** Oct. 1-4, Charleston, SC, Contact: Rusty Pickett, Ph: 888-497-2227, Email: scruiises@wowway.com.

**USS MERRIMACK (AO-179)** Oct. 16-18, Charleston, SC, Contact: Robert Williams, Ph: 757-479-2733, Email: griswold5@verizon.net.

**USS MONROVIA (APA-31)** Oct. 21-25, Chelsea, MI, Contact: Thomas E Jester, Ph: 812-371-6914

**USS NORTHAMPTON (ECLC-1, CLC-1, CC-1, CC-26)** Sept. 9-13, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: John Gauthier, Email: thenorthampton@live.com.

**USS RANDOLPH (CVA/CVS-15) & USS TERROR (CM-5) & SQUADRONS** Sept. 20-27, Herndon, VA, Contact: Sal Rizza, Ph: 321-454-2344, Email: Kenmendelcva15@gmail.com.

**USS ROY O. HALE (DE/DER-336)** Oct. 8-10, Tampa, FL, Contact: Simona Robinson, Phone: 603-867-2023.

**USS SARATOGA (CV-3, CVA/CA-60)** Oct. 8-11, Norfolk, VA, Contact: Harvey Hirsch Jr., Ph: 877-360-7272.

### AIR FORCE

**4TH FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR WING, 334TH, 335TH, 336TH, FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL** Oct. 21-25, San Diego, CA, Contact: Carlo Romano, Ph: 301-593-2266.

**51ST FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR WING OF THE KOREAN WAR** Sept. 10-12, Omaha, NE, Contact: Gene & Shirley Zenk, Ph: 712-263-5051 or 712-263-4580, Email: heswszenk@frontiernet.net, Web: www.keithfannon51st.org.

**AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS ASSN. (AMTS-AITS-ASES)** Sept. 23-25, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Tom Joines, Ph: 423-263-9553, Web: www.amtassociation.org.

**GEEOA-MDA-EI** Oct. 1-4, Oklahoma City, OK, Contact: Darrell Getchell, Ph: 405-732-8789, Email: d\_getchell@cox.net.

**RED HORSE AND PRIME BEEF 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - PAST AND PRESENT** Oct. 12-16, Fort Walton Beach, FL, Contact: Dick Aldinger, Ph: 407-859-7436, Email: famdinger@aol.com, Web: www.rhassn.us.

**USAF COMBAT CAMERA REUNION** Oct. 15-18, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Frank Urben, Ph: 919-395-0001, Web: www.usafcombatcamera.org.

### ALL SERVICES

**ESCORT CARRIER SAILORS & AIRMEN ASSOCIATION INC.** Oct. 3-7, San Diego, CA, Contact: George Manik, Ph: 732-269-0866, Email: georgejmanik@gmail.com, Web: www.escortcarriers.com.

### INQUIRIES

- Searching for anyone who served with me in Company E, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Division, on Mar. 15, 1968. Wounded near My Tho, Vietnam. Lt. Christi was leading us. Contact Richard Bondreski, Email: emy511947@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who served in the 24th Infantry Division Company "D" in Korea during 1951-53. I was wounded by artillery trying to capture a Hill and I was on a Navy Hospital Ship off the Coast of Korea for six months. I am trying to locate the name of the ship. Please contact Dock C. Dodd, Ph: 336-833-5606, Email: rahs1960@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me at Bien Hoa Air Base during a work detail wherein I fell off the back of a truck. Please contact Edward A. Hanrahan, 155 Grenoble Lane, Florissant, MO 63033-5937, Ph: 314-932-8497.
- Searching for anyone who served with my brother in the Army 1966-68 at Camp Mercer, Korea. Trying to locate photos of the three generators stationed there. Please contact Marie Gibson, P.O. Box 557, Riddle, OR 97469, Ph: 541-670-7779, Email: meordale@gmail.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Basic Training, Eco. 1 Plt. 9 Bn, 2 Bde., with Drill Sgt. Cintron during March-April 1972 at Fort Jackson, SC. There was

a lighting storm. Please contact Sam Aguilar at 210-781-6959.

- Searching for names and photos of the Vietnam War casualties for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website. The VVMF still needs to collect over 17,000 photos to be sure that each casualty has been listed. Please contact David L. Hine, 132 E. McKenzie Road, Greenfield, IN 46140, Ph: 317-462-3860, Email: mrdavidhine@att.net.
- Searching for anyone who served with me on the USS Prairie (AD-15), home port San Diego, CA, from 1960-1963, specifically April 1961 when doing Pony Express (war games) in Jesselton, Borneo. Please contact David Tugman at 806-791-2056.
- Searching for the original Engineer on A111-4 in the Medong Delta, whose boat captain was Sam Fleming BM1 in 1967-1968. Contact Charles Larntz, Ph: 931-220-0138, Email: vplarntz@yahoo.com or charleslarntz@gmail.com.
- Searching for SP4 Paul Ridgeway or anyone who served with me in the 237th Engineer Battalion, HHC, 7th Corps Heilbronn, Germany, 1969-70. Contact John Dell, Email: jkdell@verizon.net.
- Searching for person who was with the 505th, had been with the 173rd AB. Contact Larry Padgett, 1102-A Hardin Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46241, Ph: 317-247-5680.
- Searching for anyone who served in Vietnam (1967-72) with the 101st AB. 2/319th Artillery, all batteries. Contact Jim Miller, 2904 Medinah Court, Palos Heights, IL 60463, Ph: 708-205-0548, Email: ssjimmy@comcast.net.
- Searching for Walter P. Best who served in the Air Force while stationed at RAF Upper Heyford, England, in the 1960s. He served with the 3918th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (SAC). Contact Jim Seymour, 16 Townsend Boulevard, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, Email: seymour116@msn.com.
- Searching for anyone who served at Korat AB in Thailand during 1966. In particular one of the two sergeants that worked in the services area. Please contact John Alumbaugh at jbalumbaugh@mediacommb.com.
- Searching for anyone who served in Phok Phen in 1969 to 1970 with the 31st Engineer Battalion and 557th Light Equipment Company. Please contact Bill Donna at 850-725-0811 or Email: boobarton24@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me from 1959-1960 in Kitzington, Germany (Co. C, 10th Engineer, 3rd Infantry Division). Please contact Tom Conti at 702-254-9123.
- Searching for anyone who served in the 141st Infantry, 36th Division, Company I, in September 1943 or 1944 at the Moselle River Crossing. Please contact Ina Zorn at 626-422-8969, after noon, PST.
- Searching for anyone who served with me at Fort Hood, TX, CSC 1/12, 1st Cavalry Division, i.e. Cleo Johnson, Paul Smith, James Earl Roberson, Emer Conley, Craig Sanders. Please contact Stanley Kempton at 347-894-1520 or 718-364-3219.
- Searching for anyone who served with me from August to November 1963 in Co. A, 1st BN, 6th Infantry, at Fort Hood, TX. Please contact Santana Colon, HC-01-Box 3671, Barranquitas, PR 00794.
- Searching for anyone who served with me from September 1966 to September 1968 at Lifeguard Company at Beachmaster Unit One, United States Amphibious Base at Coronado, CA. Also anyone who served with me on the USS Monticello (LSD-35) from September 1968 to July 1970. Please contact Lowell Don Colvin, #531628, Estelle Unit Geriatric Center #59, 264 FM 3478, Huntsville, TX 77320-3322.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Kilo Company, 3/5 An-Hoa (South Vietnam), 5th Marines. Please contact Dwight O. Johnson, Sr., 8857 Ebro Court, Cincinnati, OH 45231-4505, Phone: 513-873-7275 (H), or 513-557-8744 (C), Email: dwight.johnson@gmail.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in India Company, 3/7, 1st Marine Division, DaNang area, November 1967 to December 1968. Please contact James Freeman, P.O. Box 1751, Boerne, TX 78006, Ph: 210-360-9679.
- Searching for Clyde Robertson, A-1-7 Vietnam 1965 who was my tent buddy in Chu Lai, Vietnam. We both served in weapons platoon and later separated honorably at MCAS El Toro (Santa Anna) CA. Please contact Dean Winters, 51311 Blackhawk Lane, Macomb, MI 48042, Phone: 586-786-4970.





# Military Appreciation Night

Golden Corral and DAV are partnering for another great Military Appreciation Wednesday, **Nov. 11, 2015**, between 5 and 9 p.m. That's the day Golden Corral restaurants nationwide welcome our nation's veterans and active-duty military men and women to a free buffet dinner and drink and lots of camaraderie. Last year, DAV Departments and Chapters raised more than \$1.4 million in donations as a result of this decade-long annual tradition.

Military Appreciation Night is Golden Corral's way of saying "Thank You!" to our nation's veterans and active-duty military. Be sure to visit the DAV information table.

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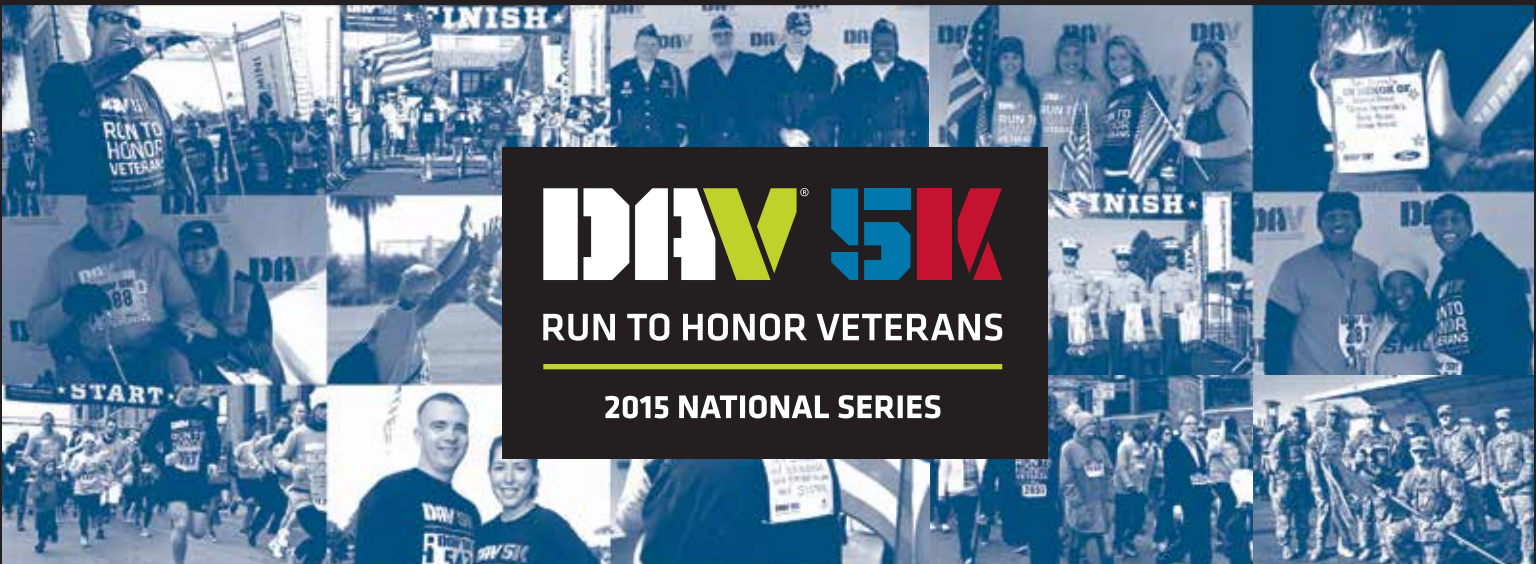


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