



MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

August 31, 2008

DIVISION	COMMANDER	DEPARTMENT	% OF GOAL
I	Francis Yestramski	Massachusetts	99.22
II	Dean R. Ascherman	Minnesota	99.29
III	Dennis G. Babcock	Connecticut	99.04
IV	Robert W. Hill	South Dakota	99.47
V	Gary A. Lucus	Wyoming	98.56

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A GENERATION CAN MAKE

As the Allies and Axis continued to battle, the Department of Labor at home was already estimating that there would be more than 15 million men and women returning from WWII to unemployment. To lessen the possibility of post war depression and a repeat of the Bonus March of 1932, the National Resources Planning Board, a White House agency, studied postwar manpower needs and recommended a series of programs for education and training in the summer of 1943.

The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 – better known as the G.I. Bill – provided a college education or vocational training for returning World War II veterans as well as one year of unemployment compensation. It also provided many different types of loans for returning veterans to buy homes and start businesses.

It is praised as one of the most significant pieces of social legislation of the twentieth century. Its redeeming effects on both the national economy and its beneficiaries shaped what we consider today to be the American Dream.

The success of this legislation rests squarely on the shoulders of World War I veterans who were willing to give all to get justice for their fellow veterans. The unity of purpose they shared with World War II and Korean War veterans entrenched the movement and created the momentum that Vietnam era veterans inherited and have built upon for more than three decades.

It would be an insult to the veterans who came before us if we failed to recognize the importance of our movement. The moment we sit back and ride the wave of momentum we inherited is the moment we will begin to lose ground for future veterans who are still serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our cause is as relevant today as it has ever been, and the fight for the future of veterans care and benefits is as critical now as ever. When our elected officials propose “credit cards” for veterans health care, the entire system that generations fought to establish is at risk for privatization.

The DAV’s mission is necessary and vital, and the legacy we continue is of critical importance to our community and future members. Membership in the DAV honors the veterans who came before us and served and sacrificed in our organization over the years.

Historically our organization has evolved, adapted and transformed to serve disabled veterans as society has changed. Today, with the convergence of technology and social diversity, DAV will continue to play a vital role.

Members of DAV don’t join our movement because of our status in popular culture. They join because they want to join their fellow disabled veterans and be a part of our substantive cause. They join because they feel a sense of obligation to the men and women with whom they served. They join because they know that their benefits are worth fighting for. They stay because the DAV is a band of brothers and sisters who look out for one another. They recruit because they want to see the organization remain relevant and vital for the next generation of veterans who already need our help.

One of the greatest contributions you can make to the DAV and its legacy is to invite eligible members to join. Nothing validates your commitment to the organization like your proven desire to strengthen our ranks and enhance our membership.

You never know who might be interested in joining the DAV until you ask. The one-on-one conversations that our members have with prospective members are at the heart of securing our legacy and continuing to build better lives for America’s disabled veterans and their families.

Congratulations New Chapters

Congratulations to two New England departments who have new chapters for our members. DAV Department of New York welcomes Thomas Poldino Chapter #213 in Lindenhurst. DAV Department of Maine welcomes the formation of Nicholes D. Golding Chapter #23 in Harrington. The national organization and all DAV members extend their best wishes to your members and your communities.

COMBAT ERAS: OPERATIONS EARNEST WILL PRIME CHANCE & PRAYING MANTIS

For decades the Persian Gulf has been a perilous locale for members of the U.S. military. On May 17, 1987, an Iraqi warplane fired two missiles at the USS Stark, killing 37 Sailors and wounding 21.

In the winter of 1986, the Kuwaiti government asked for help defending the Kuwaiti oil tankers from Iranian attacks. It was at the height of the war between Iraq and Iran and tensions in the region were palpable.

Operation Earnest Will began the largest naval convoy since World War II. Because U.S. law forbade the use of Navy ships to escort civilian vessels under foreign flag, the protected Kuwaiti ships were re-registered under the U.S. flag. Navy battleships with Marines escorted them, Air

Force AWACS provided overwatch, and Army special operations helicopters and troops searched for possible attackers.

On the first escort mission, July 24, 1987, a Kuwaiti tanker struck an Iranian mine. On Oct. 14, the tanker Sea Isle City was struck at anchor by an Iranian missile, wounding 18. The Navy responded by destroying two Iranian oil platforms.

Operation Earnest Will overlapped with Operation Prime Chance, a secretive effort to stop Iranian attacks on Gulf shipping. As part of that mission, the Iran Ajr, a converted military ship, was spotted laying mines by Army gunships using night vision on Sept. 21, 1987. Soldiers engaged the ship, and a SEAL team later boarded and seized the vessel.

In the spring of 1988, another frigate was struck by an Iranian mine. In response, U.S. Forces attacked Iranian military assets and oil platforms during a day-long mission called Operation Praying Mantis. The attack marked the largest engagement of surface ships since World War II. Two Iranian ships were destroyed and two American pilots died in a helicopter crash.

On July 3, 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iranian Airbus after mistaking it for an Iranian fighter, killing 290 passengers. These operations and the mistaken downing of the airliner are often credited for ending the war between Iraq and Iran.

Operation Earnest Will officially ended on Sept. 26, 1988, when the USS Vandegrift escorted the last tanker of the operation to Kuwait.

Cold War veterans sacrificed for their country and secured our national interests during a vital time in our nation's history. The majority of veterans who served during these operations are now between the ages of 40 and 50. They are reaching that point in their lives where they are becoming "empty nesters." They are more settled in life and are entering a period in their lives where they might be ready to get involved or even be groomed for chapter or department leadership.

RECRUITERS REMINDED TO OBTAIN ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION

As most veterans have learned from military service, when the going gets tough, attention to detail makes all the difference. As we push to build upon the legacy our past and aging veterans have so tirelessly built, it is important that they obtain and provide complete information on all applicants. Full dates of birth, dates of service, and complete information for applications is necessary and critical. Recruiters need to ensure that every piece of information required in the application is provided in full.

Ironically for recruiters, one of the most common gaps in the information provided on applicants is the sponsor code that gives recruiters credit for their prospective members. By ensuring that the Membership Department gets all the required information, you expedite your applicant's membership and ensure you get the credit for your efforts!

MEMBER BENEFIT: APPLE COMPUTERS

With so many of our children and grandchildren heading off to school, it's good to know that your membership in the DAV entitles you to discounts through the Apple Computer Member Purchase Program. Get 10% off on all Apple products, including the powerful and versatile PowerBook; the super fast Power Mac G5; the latest iBook and iMac; the world-famous iPod; and Apple software.

You save on these award-winning products, and become eligible for special quarterly promotions and free standard shipping on all orders over \$50.

Go to <http://www.apple.com/eppstore/DAV> to browse Apple's online store to see what products are available or dial toll-free: 1-800-MY-APPLE (692-7753).

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP: 'THE THREE PILLARS OF LEADERSHIP'

The following excerpt is based on remarks delivered by Army Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, at an award seminar on April 12, 1995. His comments about putting our fellow man ahead of our own needs and caring for one another are an inspiration:

The other week while a guest on Larry King's show, Larry asked me when I first thought of becoming a general and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs. The answer was very simple. I told him that when I was a private my ambition was to become a good one so someday I could become a good corporal. And when 36 years ago, in 1959, the year that Gen. Marshall died, I was commissioned a second lieutenant and shipped off to Fairbanks, Alaska, and became a platoon leader in the mortar battery of the 1st Battle Group of the 9th Infantry, my thoughts were certainly not on becoming a general or colonel or major or even a captain!

My thoughts were on becoming a good platoon leader, about being up to the challenge of leading my soldiers, about not making a fool of myself in front of Sgt. 1st Class Grice, the platoon sergeant of that first platoon of mine.

And I was right to concentrate on the job at hand, for the job of a lieutenant is a tough one -- in many ways, perhaps, the toughest one -- but it is without a doubt also the most important, and if you take to it, also the most rewarding.

I was very fortunate, because I had Sergeant Grice to guide me and to teach me. And teach and guide me he did, without ever making me feel inadequate and without ever permitting me to be ill-prepared, because he was the best!

And if there is one thing I wish for each and every one of you, it is a Sergeant Grice to teach you about soldiers, about leaders, and the responsibilities and joys of soldiering together. Not everyone is as blessed as I was; not everyone finds his Sergeant Grice, and many don't, not because he isn't there, but because unknowingly and foolishly they push him away. Don't do that. Look for your Sergeant Grice; NCOs have so very much to teach us.

Well, what did I learn from Sergeant Grice? Certainly more than I have time to tell you here, and also because many helpful hints have probably by now faded from my memory.

But what I learned then and what has been reinforced in the 36 years since is that good leadership, whether in the world of a lieutenant or in the world of a general, is based essentially on three pillars.

These three pillars he taught me are character, love and care for soldiers, and professional competence.

Oh, Sergeant Grice didn't exactly use these terms, but what he believed and what he taught me fit very neatly into these three pillars.

He used to say that if the platoon ever sensed that I wasn't up front with them, if they ever believed I did something so I would look good at their expense, I would very quickly lose them. How right he was.

Often he would say, "Look down. Worry about what your soldiers think. Don't worry about looking up, about what the captain thinks of you."

He never said it, that's not the kind of relationship that he and I had, but I knew that if I ever said something to the platoon or to him that wasn't the absolute truth, he would never trust me again and I would be finished as a platoon leader. I would be finished as a leader.

Someone once said that men of genius are admired, men of wealth are envied, men of power are feared, but only men of character are trusted. Without trust you cannot lead. I have never seen a good unit where the leaders weren't trusted. It's just that simple.

And it isn't enough that you say the right things. What counts in a platoon is not so much what you say, but what they see you do.

Gen. [Colin] Powell put it this way: "If you want them to work hard and endure hardship," he observed, "you must work even harder and endure even greater hardship." "They must see you sacrifice for them," he said. They must see you do the hard things, they must see you giving credit to the platoon for something good you did, and they must see you take the blame for something they hadn't gotten just right.

But Sergeant Grice also understood that hand in hand with character, with this inner strength that soldiers will want to see, they will also want to know and see that you really care for them, that you will sacrifice for them, that you simply enjoy being with them. Words won't get you through there, either. If you don't feel it in your heart, if you don't love your soldiers in your heart, they will know it.

How often Sergeant Grice would prod me to spend the extra time to get to know the members of the platoon better, to know who needed extra training and coaching so he could fire expert on the rifle range the next time around; to talk to Pvt. Taylor, who just received a "Dear John" letter; to visit Cpl. Vencler and his wife, who had a sick child. Every day you will have soldiers who will need your care, your concern and your help. They expect and, I tell you, they have the right to expect, 150 percent of your time and best effort.

And how well I remember those evenings in the field when Sergeant Grice and I would stand in the cold, with a cup of coffee in our hands trying to warm our frozen fingers, watching the platoon go through the chow line. Grice taught me that simple but long-standing tradition that officers go to the very end of the chow line, that the officer is the last one to eat, that the officer will take his or her first bite only after the last soldier has had a chance to eat.

This tradition, as you so well know, is founded in the understanding that leaders place the welfare of their people above their own, that the officer is responsible for the welfare of the

troops; that if mismanagement results in a shortage of food to feed the entire unit, that the officer will go without; that if the food gets cold while the unit is being served, that the officer will get the chilliest portion. It is a tradition that surprises many officers from other nations, but it goes to the core of the kind of leadership we provide our soldiers.

But caring for our soldiers does not stop at the chow line. Nor, for that matter, does it stop with the soldiers themselves, for you know that our units are families, and a soldier must have the trust that you will take care of his family, particularly when he's away from home.

But caring for soldiers actually starts with making them the best possible soldiers they can be. Their satisfaction with themselves, their confidence in themselves and in the end, their lives will depend upon how well you do that part. And that perhaps is your greatest challenge as a lieutenant. It is hard work, and make no mistake about it, there are no shortcuts.

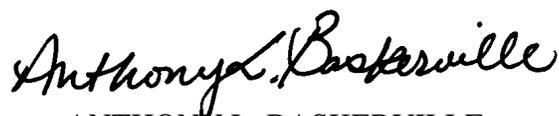
But what a joy it is to watch or to talk to young men and women in uniform, who know that they are the best because a Sergeant Grice and his or her lieutenant cared to teach them and to work with them and to make them reach for the highest standards.

Which brings me to the third pillar I spoke of, and that is your professional competence. As we look back on Marshall and on Patton and on MacArthur and all of the others, we realize that the skills and qualities and knowledge that made them great generals took decades of training, of experience and of evolution. For all of the differences between these leaders there is one thing that they had in common. Their careers were marked by a progression of difficult assignments and intense study. Always they were a snapshot of a masterpiece still in progress, still in motion.

From the beginning of their careers to the end, each of them was continually applying new brushstrokes to their knowledge and to their skills.

And Grice understood that very well, although he had different words for it. He knew that if our platoon was going to be good at occupying a position and firing our mortars, at hastily leaving our position should enemy artillery have found our location, at the countless things that would make us a finely honed war-fighting machine, then he had to show me, he had to teach me and to practice with me, so that when I walked that gun line the soldiers would know that I knew more than they; that if I asked them how to cut a mortar fuse, there was no doubt that I would know the answer, just as I would know if there was too much play in the sight mount on that mortar. And I had to feel confident that I knew before they would feel confident with me.

In every good leader I have met in my years of service there always was the evidence of these three qualities: character, love for soldiers and professional competence. And because they possessed these qualities, they managed to inspire their soldiers to have confidence in them.



ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE
National Membership Director



MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 08/31/2008

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
Division I - Over 35,000 Members					
1	MASSACHUSETTS	30,597	30,837	99.22%	-240
2	NEW YORK	49,117	49,606	99.01%	-489
3	CALIFORNIA	68,879	69,679	98.85%	-800
4	PENNSYLVANIA	33,783	34,263	98.60%	-480
5	MICHIGAN	25,481	25,854	98.56%	-373
6	OHIO	31,789	32,301	98.41%	-512
7	FLORIDA	55,793	56,919	98.02%	-1,126
8	VIRGINIA	22,835	23,433	97.45%	-598
9	TEXAS	53,758	55,293	97.22%	-1,535
10	NORTH CAROLINA	29,206	30,040	97.22%	-834
Division Totals		401,238	408,225	98.29%	-6,987
Division II - 18,000 To 34,999 Members					
1	MINNESOTA	16,351	16,468	99.29%	-117
2	COLORADO	16,311	16,461	99.09%	-150
3	WISCONSIN	14,987	15,183	98.71%	-196
4	NEW JERSEY	18,654	18,904	98.68%	-250
5	INDIANA	14,440	14,639	98.64%	-199
6	KENTUCKY	17,518	17,774	98.56%	-256
7	MARYLAND	13,250	13,468	98.38%	-218
8	MISSOURI	15,793	16,074	98.25%	-281
9	WASHINGTON	17,489	17,843	98.02%	-354
10	ARIZONA	16,382	16,742	97.85%	-360
11	ILLINOIS	17,063	17,461	97.72%	-398
12	OKLAHOMA	15,424	15,786	97.71%	-362
13	TENNESSEE	13,872	14,299	97.01%	-427
14	SOUTH CAROLINA	12,393	12,823	96.65%	-430
15	ALABAMA	14,399	14,935	96.41%	-536
16	GEORGIA	15,795	16,438	96.09%	-643
Division Totals		250,121	255,298	97.97%	-5,177
Division III - 10,000 To 17,999 Members					
1	CONNECTICUT	8,126	8,205	99.04%	-79
2	LOUISIANA	8,647	8,779	98.50%	-132
3	NEW MEXICO	9,685	9,864	98.19%	-179
4	ARKANSAS	11,129	11,387	97.73%	-258
5	WEST VIRGINIA	7,965	8,163	97.57%	-198
6	OREGON	7,856	8,069	97.36%	-213
7	PUERTO RICO	6,744	6,995	96.41%	-251
Division Totals		60,152	61,462	97.87%	-1,310



MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 08/31/2008

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
Division IV - 5,000 To 9,999 Members					
1	SOUTH DAKOTA	4,328	4,351	99.47%	-23
2	IOWA	6,821	6,885	99.07%	-64
3	RHODE ISLAND	4,686	4,749	98.67%	-63
4	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,222	5,300	98.53%	-78
5	HAWAII	4,568	4,638	98.49%	-70
6	MONTANA	3,803	3,864	98.42%	-61
7	KANSAS	6,726	6,837	98.38%	-111
8	MISSISSIPPI	5,916	6,020	98.27%	-104
9	MAINE	6,767	6,895	98.14%	-128
10	UTAH	4,468	4,553	98.13%	-85
11	NEBRASKA	6,017	6,141	97.98%	-124
12	NEVADA	5,184	5,297	97.87%	-113
13	NORTH DAKOTA	4,035	4,143	97.39%	-108
14	IDAHO	4,356	4,483	97.17%	-127
Division Totals		72,897	74,156	98.30%	-1,259
Division V - Less than 5,000 Members					
1	WYOMING	1,640	1,664	98.56%	-24
2	D C	1,936	1,972	98.17%	-36
3	DELAWARE	2,144	2,188	97.99%	-44
4	ALASKA	2,373	2,432	97.57%	-59
5	VERMONT	2,401	2,464	97.44%	-63
Division Totals		10,494	10,720	97.89%	-226
National Totals		852,286	867,118	98.29%	-14,832