



MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

February 28, 2009

DIVISION	COMMANDER	DEPARTMENT	% OF GOAL
I	Francis Yestramski	Massachusetts	100.30
II	Dean R. Ascheman	Minnesota	101.55
III	Al Grimmer	Louisiana	100.97
IV	James Robbins	Rhode Island	100.88
V	Gary A. Lucus	Wyoming	100.24

Reaching out

Recently, a young man named James J. Sabo e-mailed the DAV website to talk about his work on MySpace, the social networking site.

James is a life member and combat veteran of Iraq. As a Corpsman, he went to war with the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines.

He bravely spoke in his message to the DAV about the challenges he faced with post-traumatic stress disorder. Since 2007, he's been sharing his story with the world through a blog on MySpace and by reaching out to people on a website called "Together We Served."

He's done this work at the risk of his military career. He's connected with veterans who served in the current wars and the widows of the fallen. He's bravely journaled experiences and put himself on the line in search of a greater understanding and truth in our community.

It takes a lot of guts to put yourself out there like James has. His bravery is befitting of his military occupation. He's like a Corpsman putting himself out there to defend his fellow service members when they're in harm's way.

Those who have served in previous military conflicts will recognize the leadership this young man shows by his sense of truth and the way he addresses the thoughts and day-to-day impact he faces as a result of his time in combat.

For every young man like James who steps up as a mentor on a site like MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, TogetherWeServe, or SecondLife, there are hundreds of thousands of veterans who are online looking for our help and guidance.

For the people who need us most – those who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan facing a lifetime of need or living at the end of their ropes – these places on cyberspace are a true lifeline.

We all have something we can contribute to our great cause. While the gap that separates our generations may be great, the commonality we share and the sacrifices we've made bond us as a community. The key is to get our voice out on the grassroots and national level to remind our fellow citizens that the issues we face and continue to face are very real.

JOIN THE DAV SOCIAL NETWORK

Whether it's YouTube, MySpace, Facebook or Twitter, "Social Networking" has become a phenomenon in community creation, spreading news and staying in touch with everyone from your best friend to your favorite news network. DAV is now spreading its message of service and compassion to sick and disabled veterans on several Social Networking sites. Become a friend or fan of DAV by doing a "Group" search for "Disabled American Veterans" at Facebook or on MySpace at www.Myspace.com/disabledamericanveterans

For current updates on legislative issues, the latest news on your benefits and other DAV happenings, sign up at <http://twitter.com/disabledamericanveterans>

We encourage all members to sign up and use these networks. We also encourage DAV Chapters and Departments to create their own pages in any and all social networks and to link their members and friends to their own pages as well as those maintained by the National Organization.

And don't forget to check out the DAV Flight Team and Rich Franklin's "Real American Fighters" on both MySpace and Facebook!

COMBAT ERAS: THE GULF OF SIDRA INCIDENT

On August 19, 1981, two Libyan Sukhoi SU-22 fighters were shot down by U.S. F-14 Tomcats off the Libyan coast.

The incident was prompted by Libyan claims to a 12-mile extension of its territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra. To maintain U.S. and international interests, U.S. Naval Forces conducted "Freedom of Navigation" operations. In 1981, newly elected President Ronald Reagan sent the U.S.S. Forrester and Nimitz to deploy off the Libyan coast.

Libya responded by sending interceptors and fighter-bombers to probe the American naval force and determine its exact location. The Libyans sent a variety of fighters and U.S. pilots intercepted them one by one. This tense situation went back and forth without any outright violence until one of two Libyan SU-22s fired a missile at an American Tomcat on Aug. 19.

The offending SU-22 pilot missed the Navy fighter it fired upon and tried to escape by flying directly past the American aircraft with his wingman. Based on the Navy's rules of engagement, the American pilots were cleared to engage the Libyan jets. "Fast Eagle 102" and "Fast Eagle 107" engaged their enemies with Sidewinder missiles and downed the jets. The Libyan pilots ejected.

This tense period in history inspired movies like “Top Gun” and “Iron Eagle” stateside. But more importantly, it highlighted the integral contributions that veterans have made to defend and maintain our national interests during a tense period of international conflict.

The DAV’s eligibility requirement of wartime service is confusing to some veterans who didn’t serve during periods of major military conflicts. The vast majority of living veterans qualify as serving during a period of war because our military has been engaged time and again before, during and after wars fought in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The National Defense Service Medal was established to be a “blanket campaign medal” awarded to members of the military who served honorably during a designated period of which a “national emergency” had been declared. It doesn’t recognize the men and women who bravely deployed to the Gulf in the early 1980s to face down our nation’s enemies and defend our interests by showing our capabilities.

We recognize a broader definition of wartime service because of the inherent danger our military members have faced continuously during different eras of military service.

As you meet veterans who may have served during this period, remind them that their sacrifices were critical to our nation during a very challenging time in our nation’s history. Further, explain to them that they are a part of a community of disabled veterans and that their contributions to our cause are important to the veterans with whom they served and those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Even when a veteran wasn’t wounded as a direct result of enemy action, their service during a period of war was critical to our nation and their contributions to our organization can make a big difference in the lives of their fellow veterans of all ages.

CREDIT DUE WHERE CREDIT IS EARNED

It’s hard to believe that, when making one of the most critical contributions to our organization, many of our top recruiters neglect to provide the key information that ensures they get credit for a job well done.

Meeting a veteran and letting him or her know about the DAV is important and invaluable to the organization. But we need to focus on some of the little things to be truly successful as recruiters. We need to obtain and provide complete information on all applicants. Full dates of birth, dates of service, and complete information for processing applications is necessary and critical. Recruiters need to ensure that every piece of information required on 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 the recruiter credit for their efforts. 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!

STAY HEALTHY IN THE MILE HIGH CITY

Spring is here and this time of year our thoughts focus on summer events. The 2009 DAV National Convention, August 22-25, will be held in Denver, Colorado.

Denver is called the “Mile High” city for good reason. The elevation in Denver is approximately 5,280 feet above sea level. That means that visitors get just 83% of the air they’d get at sea level when they visit.

Humidity is also lower in Denver. That draws moisture out of the body and speeds up breathing. That can make travel physiologically stressful. People with weak hearts or pre-existing heart, lung or circulatory diseases are especially prone to altitude-related health issues.

According to HealthONE® Care Network, a leading healthcare organization in Denver, a sudden change to high altitude can cause headache, nausea, insomnia, diarrhea, restlessness and shortness of breath. Palpitations, sinus problems, coughing or fatigue is also more common in high altitudes.

Altitude illness or related symptoms are more common at altitudes above 6,000 feet and usually dissipate after a few days. However, if you have a health condition and are over the age of 35, it’s probably best to talk with your doctor before you schedule a 10K walk-run.

In fact, it’s best to talk with your health care provider if you fear in any way that Denver’s altitude could impact your health. If you require oxygen to maintain your health, it’s best that you make every arrangement to ensure you will maintain this critical airflow throughout the time you spend at convention.

Beyond making thoughtful preparations to function at altitudes, it’s important that you take a few key precautions in Colorado so you can have a good time and remain in top physical form.

First off, it’s dry up there. Drink 50% more water than you would at sea level in short amounts throughout the day. Avoid alcohol and cut back on the caffeine. Altitude intensifies the effects of alcohol and caffeine and both cause dehydration.

Wear sunscreen. After all, you’re closer to the sun. Seriously, there is less atmosphere in Denver to block the sun’s rays. The more sun you feel, the more water you need to drink. You won’t notice the moisture that leaves your body through your skin and increased breathing until it’s too late.

Slow down and pay attention to your body. Chest discomfort, pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain are definite danger signs. Listen to what your body tells you. Extreme shortness of breath, cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness are all signs that you are having a serious problem.

Sudden changes are warning signs. Sudden trouble speaking, thinking, seeing, walking, severe headache or vertigo are signs you could be in trouble.

Be a good wingman. You might find one of your fellow veterans suffering from symptoms that could signal an oncoming episode. Talk to your fellow veterans. If you see someone who doesn’t look right, ask them how they feel and get them help if they need it.

Beyond that, look at things you can do to prevent the onset of altitude- and stress-related symptoms. Eat light, hydrate, avoid alcohol, get plenty of rest, and don't overexert yourself — especially during your first couple of days at convention.

For more information on the 2009 DAV National Convention, stay tuned to www.dav.org.

MEMBER BENEFIT: SPRING TRAVEL

As a member of the DAV, you will receive an additional 10% off the "Best Available Rate" at participating locations every time you travel. Give the agent your special discount ID number 61725 at time of booking to receive discount.

Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, we have the right hotel for you... and at the right price. So start saving now. Call our special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today at one of these fine hotels:

AmeriHost Inn[®] Days Inn[®] Howard Johnson[®] Knights Inn[®] Ramada[®]
Super 8[®] Travelodge[®] Wingate[®] Baymont Inns[®]

Dial toll-free 1-877-670-7088 for all the hotels on the list. Call toll-free 1-866-854-1604 for deals at Wyndham Hotels & Resorts.

“Best Available Rate” is defined as the lowest rate publicly available to consumers on the Internet. To redeem this offer, call the hotel brand phone number above and give ID 61725 at the time of reservation.

Offer not valid if hotel is called directly, caller *must use the toll free numbers listed above*. Advanced reservations are required.

Offer is subject to availability at participating locations and some blackout dates may apply. Discount is 10% off the best available unrestricted rate and cannot be combined with any other discounts, offers, or special promotions. Discounts vary by location and time of year. Offer is void where prohibited by law and has no cash value.

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP: BOOTS ON THE GROUND

The punishing air campaign at the outset of Operation Desert Storm was one of the most awesome military feats of modern times. Starting on January 17, 1991, the attack pounded Iraqi forces with more than 1,000 sorties launched daily to attack enemy forces in Kuwait and deep into Iraq.

The precision firepower Americans watched on television changed the way we felt about war. But it didn't change the fact that airpower alone isn't enough to shape the destiny of a conflict. Even in Desert Storm, the United States would never have expelled Iraq from Kuwait without tanks making tracks and boots hauling packs.

We're relearning this lesson in Iraq. Unmanned aerial vehicles can save lives, but unfortunately we win wars by putting men and women in harm's way and putting our flesh on the line. This is not to denigrate our brave Airmen – many of whom are fighting alongside their fellow soldiers on the ground and who risk their lives by flying sorties to support the warfighter on the ground below.

Every accomplishment our military makes comes from the risks taken and courage shown by men and women who serve.

As leaders, we must recognize the courage it takes for our members to put themselves in the public light to support our cause. That recognition and your reinforcement to our members of the importance of their contributions inspire their participation.

At the national level, we can strategically barrage our fellow citizens with our message. But at the end of the day, it's the courage and selflessness of our members – our boots on the ground – who bring the reality of service connected disability to light to our patriotic neighbors.

The work you do on the frontlines is invaluable. As a leader, it is critical that you inspire our brave troops to continue their fight and encourage others to join our cause.

IN CLOSING

“While war is terribly destructive, monstrously cruel, and horrible beyond expressions, it nevertheless causes the divine spark in men to glow, to kindle, and to burst into a living flame, and enables them to attain heights of devotion to duty, sheer heroism, and sublime unselfishness that in all probability they would never have reached in the prosecution of peaceful pursuits.”

-- Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune


ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE
National Membership Director



MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 02/28/2009

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
Division I - Over 35,000 Members					
1	MASSACHUSETTS	30,928	30,837	100.30%	91
2	CALIFORNIA	69,807	69,679	100.18%	128
3	NEW YORK	49,513	49,606	99.81%	-93
4	PENNSYLVANIA	34,117	34,263	99.57%	-146
5	FLORIDA	56,653	56,919	99.53%	-266
6	MICHIGAN	25,701	25,854	99.41%	-153
7	OHIO	32,108	32,301	99.40%	-193
8	VIRGINIA	23,271	23,433	99.31%	-162
9	TEXAS	54,839	55,293	99.18%	-454
10	NORTH CAROLINA	29,688	30,040	98.83%	-352
Division Totals		406,625	408,225	99.61%	-1,600
Division II - 18,000 To 34,999 Members					
1	MINNESOTA	16,724	16,468	101.55%	256
2	COLORADO	16,576	16,461	100.70%	115
3	KENTUCKY	17,779	17,774	100.03%	5
4	MARYLAND	13,450	13,468	99.87%	-18
5	WISCONSIN	15,160	15,183	99.85%	-23
6	NEW JERSEY	18,863	18,904	99.78%	-41
7	OKLAHOMA	15,745	15,786	99.74%	-41
8	INDIANA	14,566	14,639	99.50%	-73
9	WASHINGTON	17,747	17,843	99.46%	-96
10	MISSOURI	15,988	16,074	99.46%	-86
11	ARIZONA	16,588	16,742	99.08%	-154
12	TENNESSEE	14,158	14,299	99.01%	-141
13	ILLINOIS	17,276	17,461	98.94%	-185
14	SOUTH CAROLINA	12,657	12,823	98.71%	-166
15	ALABAMA	14,693	14,935	98.38%	-242
16	GEORGIA	16,053	16,438	97.66%	-385
Division Totals		254,023	255,298	99.50%	-1,275
Division III - 10,000 To 17,999 Members					
1	LOUISIANA	8,864	8,779	100.97%	85
2	CONNECTICUT	8,238	8,205	100.40%	33
3	NEW MEXICO	9,858	9,864	99.94%	-6
4	ARKANSAS	11,299	11,387	99.23%	-88
5	WEST VIRGINIA	8,065	8,163	98.80%	-98
6	OREGON	7,966	8,069	98.72%	-103
7	PUERTO RICO	6,904	6,995	98.70%	-91
Division Totals		61,194	61,462	99.56%	-268



MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 02/28/2009

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
Division IV - 5,000 To 9,999 Members					
1	RHODE ISLAND	4,791	4,749	100.88%	42
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	4,382	4,351	100.71%	31
3	UTAH	4,574	4,553	100.46%	21
4	IOWA	6,909	6,885	100.35%	24
5	NEVADA	5,312	5,297	100.28%	15
6	HAWAII	4,647	4,638	100.19%	9
7	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,292	5,300	99.85%	-8
8	MONTANA	3,856	3,864	99.79%	-8
9	MAINE	6,871	6,895	99.65%	-24
10	NORTH DAKOTA	4,123	4,143	99.52%	-20
11	NEBRASKA	6,104	6,141	99.40%	-37
12	IDAHO	4,452	4,483	99.31%	-31
13	KANSAS	6,787	6,837	99.27%	-50
14	MISSISSIPPI	5,976	6,020	99.27%	-44
Division Totals		74,076	74,156	99.89%	-80
Division V - Less than 5,000 Members					
1	WYOMING	1,668	1,664	100.24%	4
2	D C	1,960	1,972	99.39%	-12
3	DELAWARE	2,173	2,188	99.31%	-15
4	ALASKA	2,406	2,432	98.93%	-26
5	VERMONT	2,434	2,464	98.78%	-30
Division Totals		10,641	10,720	99.26%	-79
National Totals		865,192	867,118	99.78%	-1,926