FEBRUARY 2009





2008 DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VAN GRANT PROGRAM

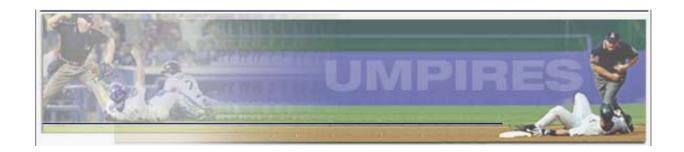
The 2009 DAV Transportation Network (TN) Van Grant Program van approval letters are being mailed to all DAV Departments participating in this year's program.

Delivery is expected this spring. When the vehicles are available, we will request VA Central Office to provide instructions to the VAMC directors for pick up by DAV VAVS volunteers at VA's expense.

Payment for the vehicles are now required. Grants for the 2009 Vehicle Grant Program are processed through The Columbia Trust, which is administered by the DAV National Service Foundation. Therefore, **checks should be made payable to The Columbia Trust and sent to the attention of the Foundation's Administrator:**

Ms. Nancy O'Brien DAV National Service Foundation 3725 Alexandria Pike Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076

Please indicate that the check represents a payment under the terms of the 2009 Transportation Network Vehicle Grant Program.



MAJOR LEAGUE UMPIRE VISITS VA MEDICAL CENTERS

Retired Major League Umpire Larry Barnett visited the following VA medical centers in January: Lake City, Gainesville, Orlando, Bay Pines and Tampa, Florida.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

Daytime actor and Emmy nominee James Reynolds is chairman of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 2009 National Salute to Veterans.

Mr. Reynolds, best known for his long running performance as police officer Abe Carver on the popular "Day's of Our Lives" led VA's annual patient recognition program inviting the public to visit and honor hospitalized veterans during National Salute Week, Feb. 8-14. He serves as the national spokesperson for more than 131,000 volunteers serving veterans at VA facilities across the nation.

Reynolds was born and raised in the small farming community of Oskaloosa, Kansas. During high school, he performed in many school plays and played football, basketball and track.

Following graduation, he joined the Marines and was assigned to an information service office in Hawaii as a reporter. He was sent to Vietnam and served for almost a year with a variety of units in and around Chu Lai, adding battlefield reporting to his combat duties. A wound ended his military service. Mr. Reynolds enrolled in Topeka's Washburn University, majoring in pre-law and journalism. Advised that the best place on campus to meet girls was the theatre department, he began auditioning and performing in plays – discovering a passion for acting.

He used his journalism background to land jobs with newspapers such as the Topeka Daily Capitol and the Colorado Springs Sun where he wrote about theatre, film and music. That allowed him to report on his passion while pursuing acting as a career.

In 1974, he landed his first television commercial and a featured role in "Mr. Majestyk," with Charles Bronson. He moved to Los Angeles, amassed an impressive list of primetime television and motion picture credits, and became one of the foundation blocks of "Days of our Lives." He has logged more hours on television than any other African-American actor in the U.S. – averaging over a 100 hours of airtime each year for 25 consecutive years.

Mr. Reynolds received an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for his role as Carver, as well as NAACP Image Award nominations for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Daytime Drama Series. He was also nominated for an NAACP Theatre Award for his work in the theatrical production "Buffalo Soldier."

Mr. Reynolds is deeply committed to charitable works such as the Ronald McDonald's House and touring with the USO. He has been to Cuba, the Mediterranean, Kuwait and Afghanistan to meet and show support for troops overseas. In 2007, he was honored by the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP Veteran Affairs and Armed Services Committee for his contributions to the Unites States Armed Forces.

The purpose of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program is to pay tribute and express appreciation to hospitalized veterans; increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center; encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and to become involved as volunteers.

The week of February 14 each year is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, more than 98,000 veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes

During the National Salute, VA invites individuals, veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of activities at the VA medical centers. The activities and events include special ward visits and valentine distributions; photo opportunities; school essay contests; special recreation activities and veteran recognition programs. The week provides an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within the medical center.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions about the information in this bulletin.

EDWARD E. HARTMAN
National Director of Voluntary Services

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