



NEWS RELEASE

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PRESIDENT OBAMA TO ADDRESS DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION **Veterans Organization Pushing for VA Claims Process Reform**

WASHINGTON -- DAV (Disabled American Veterans) will once again convene its national body to address the needs of America's injured and ill veterans and their families when the organization meets at the Hilton Orlando for its 92nd National Convention Aug. 10-13.

President Barack Obama is scheduled to deliver a major speech to more than 3,000 DAV delegates Aug. 10. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki is also expected to address the convention body.

DAV delegates from across the nation will review important legislative initiatives aimed at fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. The major issues to be addressed by the Convention include the continued process to eliminate lengthy delays veterans encounter when submitting disability claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the need to improve mental health care for the psychologically wounded and their families. A top DAV priority is its grassroots effort to guarantee sufficient, timely and predictable funding through advance appropriations for the VA. DAV led a successful campaign to have veterans health care funded a year in advance that has shielded VA medical care from the effects of budget delays and congressional gridlock.

"We look forward to hearing from the Administration on the issues disabled veterans now face," said DAV National Commander Larry Polzin. "We know the VA is implementing a new, direly needed system to adjudicate claims faster and more accurately in order to ensure veterans receive the help and care they have earned through service to our nation. It is vital for veterans to hear how the VA's mission to reform the process is progressing."

A distinctive moment will be the presentation of the DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Award to John Todd, whose remarkable accomplishments in service to veterans advances the causes of America's disabled veterans.

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About DAV:

DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. DAV does this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a non-profit organization with 1.2 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U. S. Congress in 1932. Learn more at www.dav.org.