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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2014

DAV Recognizes Outstanding VA Employees

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Three dedicated and talented Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees will receive the National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee awards from DAV National Commander Joseph W. Johnston at the organization's 93rd National Convention, Aug. 9-12.

The Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Employee Award will be presented to Sharon McGill, homeless veterans outreach coordinator and special projects manager in the Atlanta Regional Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs. McGill is responsible for identifying homeless veterans and educating them on services and benefits available to them. She has interviewed more than 4,000 homeless veterans since 2010.

"No one who served our country should be huddled under a bridge, in shelters or camped out in the woods," said Johnston. "Ms. McGill recognizes this injustice and goes to great lengths to support this underserved segment of the population. She is dedicated to standing up for the men and women who served, and I applaud her for putting veterans first."

Dr. David Tharp, a psychologist at the Mental Health Post-Traumatic Stress Residential Rehabilitation Program in Waco, Texas, and a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, will receive the Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee Award, for his commitment to doing whatever it takes to provide the best service and treatment to veterans returning from combat.

"Dr. Tharp simultaneously serves his country and his fellow veterans," said Johnston. "He works tirelessly to support veterans on their road to recovery, a path he knows from experience is not easy."

Alphaeus Richburg, Director of the Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Michigan, was selected to receive the Outstanding National Cemetery Administration Employee Award. An Army veteran, Richburg works diligently to ensure that families burying their loved ones know that this final resting place will honor their hero's service and sacrifice.

"Mr. Richburg recognizes that the final resting place for our nation's heroes is sacred," said Johnston. "He is dedicated to honoring his fallen comrades with respect, compassion and dignity."

"The recipients of these awards represent the best among the best of veterans' advocates," said Johnston. "They go above and beyond in serving the men and women who sacrificed for this nation."

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.