

CHAPTER 12

# CENTURY OF HOPE



AFTER 85 YEARS OF SERVICE, THE DAV FACES THE MANY CHALLENGES OF A NEW CENTURY, ITS HISTORY OF SERVICE TO DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE NOW BECOME A SOURCE OF NATIONAL PRIDE. MEMBERSHIP IS AT RECORD LEVELS, AND THE DAV'S MISSION OF SERVICE AND HOPE CONTINUES TO BE KEENLY RELEVANT TO THE TIMES.

Looking back at the decades of the DAV, Dale Adams expressed pleasure in what has been achieved by our many leaders. "I see a group of accomplishments," he said. "Our greatest accomplishment is the fact that we represented millions of veterans as attorneys-in-fact before the Veterans Administration and won compensation for them and for their widows. Another big accomplishment is the legislation that we have helped create down through the years to benefit veterans and their families."

Efforts by some in our government to restrict or eliminate veterans' programs will continue to be met with vigorous opposition, just as in the past. The DAV remains a vibrant, powerful leader in veterans' rights, services, and programs. The legacy of founder Judge Robert S. Marx was sustained throughout the 20th century and into the new millennium by leaders like Dale Adams and Art Wilson.

**RETIRED GENERAL NORMAN SCHWARZKOF, RIGHT, JOINS DAV NATIONAL ADJUTANT ARTHUR H. WILSON, LEFT, AND LOIS POPE, CHAIRMAN OF THE DISABLED VETERANS' LIFE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**





MEMORIAL SERVICE

“I’m proud of how the DAV has grown under Art Wilson’s leadership and it’s bigger and better than I ever expected it be,” said Dale Adams. “I’m certainly happy that I’ve been a part of it and I know that many people had a lot to do with it.”

During the DAV’s long history of leadership in service to our Nation’s disabled veterans, the organization has been blessed by truly capable leaders. “I have personally known most of them, and without question, the leadership and expertise brought to our organization by National Adjutant Art Wilson has been second to none,” said Fred Bristol. “Far into the 21st Century Art’s legacy of inspired leadership will be the standard that others will only hope to reach.”

Washington is a city filled with memorials to our Nation’s heroes. The World War II Memorial is the latest to grace our Nation’s capital. And soon the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial will join them.

RALLY, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



The DAV remembers those who served and sacrificed for our Nation. But in the halls of Congress, the memory of that sacrifice and the debt owed to disabled veterans is sometimes misplaced. It is, in the final analysis, up to the DAV to ensure elected leaders remember the price that must be paid for the defense of freedom.

Those injured coming home today will need the DAV's support 50 years from now. But it is what's done today that will mean the difference in health care, compensation, and veterans rights in the middle of the 21st century. This is the responsibility of the DAV.



DISABLED VETERANS RALLY, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, 2003

DAV DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA 1<sup>ST</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER GEORGE VAN BUSKIRT, LEFT, AND 2<sup>ND</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER DENNIS PARROTT INTERVIEW VETERANS DURING "PUSHING FOR VETERANS AWARENESS," AND EDUCATION AND INFORMATION EVENT HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH DAV MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE VISITS TO OKLAHOMA COMMUNITIES



The DAV faced many challenges and hardships during the 20th century, but it is a much stronger, greater organization that faces what lies ahead.

In the 21st century, the DAV remains steadfastly loyal to the men and women who sacrificed for our liberty, both in the past and in the future.

**DAV HEADQUARTERS IN COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY, 2005**

