



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF DAV AND AUXILIARY
SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2016

MAGAZINE

HISTORY MADE HERE

David Riley becomes
first quadruple amputee,
Coast Guard veteran to lead DAV

Page 7



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Left: Hall County Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Jackson sings the national anthem, to begin the joint opening session of the 95th DAV & Auxiliary National Convention.



Above: Dr. Tincie Lynch served as this year's Convention Chairperson. The Army veteran and DAV Chapter 91 Commander in Decatur, Ga., is the first woman to hold this position.

Center: Sergeant-at-Arms Karla Schwartz (center) paused for a photo with Auxiliary junior members. The juniors served as pages during the convention in Atlanta.



From the NATIONAL COMMANDER

DAVID W. RILEY



It's time to get to work

It's very important to me to say I'm grateful and humbled by the responsibility you've granted me. You have my sacred promise that I will devote every bit of energy I have to represent all of you during the course of the next year.

I want you to know I will never take for granted the privilege of working for our members and all of our country's veterans.

DAV is leading from the front within the veteran community. This is very good for us and something I intend to continue. But I can't do it alone and will need your help.

During every election cycle, veterans are part of the conversation, and we're tossed around like a political football until the elections are over.

Veterans and families should not be treated like bargaining chips.

When an organization with 1.3 million members speaks—trust me—elected leaders listen.

I'm asking you to join me in being a vocal advocate for veterans and their families to ensure we get the care and benefits we've earned.

You can easily do this by accessing DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) online at davcan.org. With a few simple clicks of a button, you can add your voice to our cause and get up-to-the-minute updates on the issues we face.

World events continue to demonstrate the need for DAV. Those engaged in the profession of arms continue to become a smaller community, yet the burden America places on these men and women has increased during 15 years of constant battle.

Like many of us, DAV was there for me when I didn't know where to turn. Now, we have an obligation to ensure we

do not leave behind our brothers and sisters in need.

Since the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, generations of the finest men and women our nation has produced have established an unbroken commitment to freedom. DAV continues to ensure the promises made to those who secure that freedom are kept, and it's my greatest honor to continue to serve beside you.

Like many of us,
DAV was there
for me when
I didn't know
where to turn.
Now, we have
an obligation
to ensure we **do**
not leave behind
our brothers and
sisters in need.

CONTENTS

1 In his first address as National Commander, Coast Guard veteran and quadruple amputee David Riley tells members it's time to get down to business.

3 National Adjutant Marc Burgess reflects on the success of the 95th National Convention and the path members have set forth for DAV.

16 DAV honors those dedicated to serving veterans on the National Convention stage.

22 As the presidential election cycle heats up, nominees Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump present their views exclusively for DAV members on key veterans' issues.

26 A new study explores the unique aspects of providing health care for older women veterans.

28 Best practices: DAV state-level leaders from across the nation share valuable lessons and initiatives with peers at the 19th DAV Commanders and Adjutants Association Orientation.



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FEATURES

5



DAV helps provide peace of mind for a veteran facing a critical illness.

7



Catch all the news and highlights from the 95th National Convention in Atlanta.
(Photos by Branden Camp/Getty Images)

24



A look back at DAV through the 1980s: bombings in Beirut, a million-member milestone, and a decade of service to veterans and their families.

David W. Riley National Commander
J. Marc Burgess National Adjutant/Publisher

Daniel J. Clare National Communications Director
Ashleigh Byrnes Deputy National Communications Director
Steven Wilson Assistant National Communications Director
Charity A. Edgar Assistant National Communications Director
M. Todd Hunter Assistant National Communications Director
Mary Dever Assistant National Communications Director
Bryan Lett Assistant National Communications Director
James W. Killen Associate National Communications Director
Doreen Briones Production Manager
Shannan Archer Senior Graphic Designer

From the NATIONAL ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS



Celebrating history, focused on future

Recently, National Commander David Riley and I were honored to take a weekend to celebrate and recognize our nation's very first Veterans Home borne of the Civil War.

We were proud to be in Maine over the weekend of Sept. 16 to experience the 150th anniversary celebration of the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta.

In 1865 and near the conclusion of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed an act creating the National Asylum (later changed to Home) for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The eastern branch at Togus was the first of the new homes to open its doors in November 1866.

The first veteran was admitted to Togus on Nov. 10, 1866. The veteran population there expanded from 400 to 3,000 by 1868.

Togus became an official VA facility when DAV, then known as Disabled American Veterans of the World War (DAVWW), supported the Consolidation Act of July 1930, and in the words of then Vice Commander Edward J. Folsom at our 10th National Convention, it was "a bill which would establish an administration of veterans' affairs, the purpose being for the head of this organization to gradually consolidate and coordinate all activities of the Federal Government having to do with relief of veterans of all wars."

Today, the Togus VA campus is a medical center, regional office and national cemetery. The medical center has a staff of over 1,050 personnel representing various disciplines. It has 67

in-patient beds and 100 beds in the nursing home care units for long-term care. In 2000, the Beals House opened on the campus to provide temporary, no-cost housing for families of in-patient Togus veterans and has served more than 1,800 families since.

The Togus VA Medical Center serves as an active hospital, historical landmark and also a good example of what positive changes can mean to our VA health care system.

Throughout the events of the weekend, I couldn't help but think of all the men and women who have come before us and who had walked on those grounds. I thought about the sacrifices that were surely made over the last 150 years and the lessons that were certainly learned.

As an organization, DAV remembers a time before there was a centralized system of care to keep our promises to our veterans, their families and survivors. The battle to protect and improve our VA health care system is a vital one. It's important we take advantage of all the experience in facilities like Togus and not allow them to fall by the wayside.

It should serve as an inspiration and an encouraging sign of our ability to improve what is in place. If Togus can last 150 years and counting, while serving both veterans and their families, I am confident we can make the changes necessary to afford veterans the care they have earned and deserve through the VA system for generations to come.



Preventing veteran suicide

I appreciate the value of a study by the VA about suicides. Suicides are caused 90 percent of the time by depression. We should also look at ways of reducing the depression that veterans feel. While there are some initiatives that will be costly, they may also be highly effective, such as providing jobs for veterans, even if it means retaining them on active duty for a two-year extension to cross-train into a more marketable skill. **John Gavel, Melbourne, Fla.**

Don't forget us

What will it take to change the rules so we can have some kind of a COLA increase yearly? As a wounded Vietnam veteran, I wonder if anyone cares about us anymore? Give us something for risking our lives for this country. **Tony Annunziata, Charlotte, N.C.**

Commissary privileges

I believe if a veteran became disabled while in the military, they should be entitled to the privileges of commissary and post exchange. I received a 20-percent disability from a wound in Vietnam. Over the years, my injury became worse. Finally, I was granted 100 percent. That is when I began to receive the commissary privileges. Every veteran who lives with the pain of a service-connected injury is more than deserving. H.R. 1292 should be passed for all who gave for the freedom of this country. **Richard L. Cross, New Castle, Ind.**

Veterans belong at VA

I read a comment in the magazine (Letters, May/June issue) where a veteran said he uses Medicare and TRICARE for Life, and that's adequate enough to take care of his needs. He said he does not take up space at the VA and that it should be reserved for veterans

without Medicare/TRICARE access. I don't agree with him. As an Army retiree, when we call an Army base hospital or clinic, they point us to the VA. That's good if the author feels that he should not burden the VA with his disability, but he does not speak for all retired Army veterans. **Gary J. Cross, U.S. Army (Ret.)**

VHA is improving, VBA needs help

I am a Vietnam veteran who served in-country in 1964 as a medic. I am also a Life Member of DAV with a 40-percent disability due to Agent Orange-related cancer. I also believe that the VA health care system is the best in the world. On the other hand, I believe Veterans Benefits Administration needs to change. They hire civilians with no military experience at all, and leadership listens to their opinions rather than the actual veterans. **Michael Grady, Windsor Locks, Conn.**

I would strongly emphasize that VA health care is much better than many perceive. Once a veteran is qualified and in the system, there typically is no complex paperwork or hassles with outside parties. Many of the proposals would bring back these paperwork nightmares, and veterans would have to deal with a mountain of paperwork to get payments covered. **Roger Wells, St. Louis, Mo.**

Thank you, DAV

A friend told me to see DAV in Westminster, S.C. It was one of the greatest things I ever did. Not only are

they well-informed, professional and personable, they got me all that I was legally entitled to. I tell everyone I see who is going through what I had to go through to see DAV. They will get them the help they need. **Lauretta B. Aiken, Westminster, S.C.**

DAV on social media facebook.com/DAV

PTSD is a complex thing, and every person that has it, has it differently. Yes, some meds can help, yes some counseling can help; but it is up to us vets to find more ways to help ourselves. **Gretchen Rieck**

A friend of mine introduced me to DAV a long time ago. They remain one of the better organizations for our disabled veterans with more of your donation getting to the vets. **Darrell Wilson**

Adaptive sports helps us to find ways to live again when we wonder what's left. I truly believe that it saves lives. **Amy Dotson**

We are losing things we feel we earned at an alarming rate. This [veterans preference for federal jobs] is just one more thing politicians want to take away. We need to stick together. **Daniel Young**

@DAVHQ on twitter.com

@VeteransHealth @DAVHQ Some days it [PTSD] kicks me down, and other days are better. Hard to find time [for counseling] now that I'm working full time!" **@BlueDogPatriot**

WRITE TO US We welcome letters from our readers. Please mail them to **DAV Magazine, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076**, or submit them via email to feedback@dav.org. We regret we are unable to acknowledge every letter due to the volume received. We also welcome feedback on our Facebook (facebook.com/DAV) and Twitter (twitter.com/davhq) pages. Letters used are subject to editing for clarity, style, accuracy, space and propriety. Messages involving individual claims are referred to the DAV Service Department.

Dying veteran, family get earned benefits

Former Marine with terminal cancer finds peace of mind with help from DAV

By Charity Edgar

In 1971, a young Marine named Melvin Gausling left Vietnam with the belief that his experience with war was over. But nearly a half-century later, he found that the war had followed him home. The real fight—to ensure the financial security of his family—had just begun.

“I was coughing up blood and had no energy,” said Gausling. “It turned out to be lung cancer. When the doctor told me it was terminal, my wife, Jody, ran out of the room crying.

“I was so worried about her,” he continued. “I couldn’t sleep at all. Every night I just lay awake worrying what would happen to her when I died.”

Gausling’s doctor, familiar with his military service, suggested he visit DAV to determine if his illness



After a terminal lung cancer diagnosis, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Melvin Gausling wanted to ensure his wife, Jody, would be taken care of after he passed. Gausling worked with the DAV National Service Office Supervisor in Las Vegas, Josh Rondini, and within 72 hours had his VA rating.

was related to Agent Orange exposure from his time overseas.

The former sergeant did not expect to receive a disability rating. He had tumors in the past that were not found to be service-connected. But the veteran was willing to try anything in order to secure long-term support for his wife.

“Melvin came in to see me after his stage 4 diagnosis, and it was clear he wanted to ensure that his wife would be taken care of the rest of her life,” said Josh Rondini, National Service Officer Supervisor in Las Vegas.

Rondini, an Army veteran, collected background from Gausling on his military career and determined that the time and location of his service meant the cancer was, in fact, service-connected.

Rondini then hand-carried the claim to the VA. The VA understood the urgency, and Gausling had his rating within 72 hours. Not only would the rating allow him to care for his family for the rest of his days, he learned

In 1971, Melvin Gausling left Vietnam thinking his experience with war was over. But nearly a half-century later, he found himself fighting a new battle—to ensure his family would be cared for after a terminal diagnosis of service-connected cancer.



“[NSOs] work tirelessly to help their fellow veterans receive the benefits they have earned through service, and when there is an absolute emergency ... they can ensure the claim is processed expeditiously.”

—Jim Marszalek, National Service Director

that his wife would be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.

“I was so thankful,” said Gausling. “My prayers were answered. I finally have peace of mind.”

Gausling urges fellow veterans to seek the help they need and see what services are available to them.

“Definitely go to DAV,” said Gausling. “They are there to help.”

“Each NSO has been on the other side of the table going through the claims process themselves,” said

National Service Director Jim Marszalek. “They work tirelessly to help their fellow veterans receive the benefits they have earned through service, and when there is an absolute emergency—like cases with extenuating circumstances like Melvin’s—they can ensure the claim is processed expeditiously.”

DAV assists with more than 300,000 benefit claims annually. In 2015, DAV helped attain more than \$4 billion in new and retroactive benefits to care for veterans, their families and survivors.

“I do this job for situations like this,” said Rondini. “Knowing that a veteran’s life will be a bit easier, and I helped make that possible, means everything.” ■



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One for the record books

Riley makes history with election as National Commander, President Obama delivers special address to convention

This year's DAV and DAV Auxiliary National Convention in Atlanta saw record-setting attendance and featured an impeccable lineup including appearances from actors Mel Gibson and Vince Vaughn; musical entertainment by Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band and Lee Greenwood; forums with the Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and VA Undersecretary for Health as well as the final major address to the veterans' community by the President of the United States.

"This year, we had 2,781 members and supporters attend our National Convention," said National Membership Director Douglas K. Wells Jr. "That's a record and clearly shows that DAV's members and supporters are some of the most dedicated veterans' advocates our great nation has."

Beyond the record-setting attendance, there was another notable first.

In accepting the nomination as DAV's new National

Commander, Army veteran and medically retired Coast Guard rescue swimmer David W. Riley, of Alabama, became the first quadruple amputee and the first Coast Guard veteran to assume the organization's highest post.

During his acceptance speech, Riley laid out his priorities to ensure DAV continues providing a lifetime of support to veterans and their families. His main concerns, he said, include safeguarding veterans' care and benefits, assisting veterans in finding meaningful employment and continuing efforts to provide fair, equal treatment for caregivers and women veterans.

"We must continue to use the voices of our 1.3 million members to plainly tell lawmakers that we expect them to fully fund the VA to provide health care and benefits veterans have earned," Riley said. "When our nation's bravest return changed from military service, DAV is here to help shoulder the load."

Other national officers elected by convention delegates were Senior Vice Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 1st Junior Vice Commander Dennis



From left: DAV National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst, DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess, former Major League Umpire Larry Barnett and DAV National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski.

Former umpire, DAV volunteer recognized

Former Major League Baseball umpire Larry Barnett received a DAV lifetime achievement award and a standing ovation at the 2016 DAV and DAV Auxiliary National Convention in Atlanta for his 40 years of unwavering commitment to our nation's veterans.

Since 1976, Barnett has visited every single VA hospital in the country—most of them on numerous occasions—and made well over 3,000 visits to lift the spirits of ill and injured veterans and their families while carrying DAV's message of hope.

"Larry's heartfelt dedication on behalf of our nation's heroes as a celebrity entertainer for our organization has positively impacted the lives of countless veterans and provided them with a sense of inclusion and hope when they needed it most," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "Whether it was discussing different aspects of baseball or simply lending an ear to a veteran in need, Larry's time, energy and compassionate nature to our cause over the past 40 years have humbled us all. DAV is truly grateful for people like Larry Barnett."

Humble as ever, Barnett deflected the praise.

"People always said that I was with superstars my whole career, and I'll tell you, they were right," Barnett reminisced.

"Most of them are sitting in this room," he continued, gesturing to the DAV members in attendance. "Our veterans are our superstars of this country."

Nixon, 2nd Junior Vice Commander Stephen "Butch" Whitehead, 3rd Junior Vice Commander Donald Day and 4th Junior Vice Commander Andrew Marshall. Delegates also re-elected Michael Dobmeier as National Judge Advocate and Michael Dover as National Chaplain.

Additionally, the DAV Auxiliary elected Frances J. Costa, of Massachusetts, as its National Commander. The other Auxiliary national officers elected were Senior Vice Commander Craig Johniken, 1st Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman, 2nd Junior Vice Commander Diane Franz, 3rd Junior Vice Commander Lynn Prosser, 4th Junior Vice Commander Dorothy Reese, National Judge Advocate Donna Adams and National Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus.

Costa stepped in on behalf of National Commander Linda Stake, who passed away just days before the convention began.

"Last year, Linda said her vision for the DAV Auxiliary was to make a concentrated effort to keep the spotlight on military families and caregivers," Costa said. "No one knows better than those of us in this room that service members do not deploy in harm's way alone."

She then affirmed her own commitment to the Auxiliary and promised to lead with the same passion and dedication as her predecessor.

As part of his report to the convention, outgoing National Commander Moses A. McIntosh Jr. reminisced on working alongside DAV members during Operation: Keep the Promise at this year's Mid-Winter Conference in February. He noted the tremendous work done by members and supporters on behalf of caregivers and women veterans during his time leading the organization.

"Thanks to you, DAV has a lot to be proud of. But there is still much more work to do," said McIntosh. "It is incumbent on each of us to ensure DAV continues the mission and remains the thought leader on Capitol Hill."

McIntosh also commended the efforts of those in the field working each day to ensure veterans receive their earned benefits. He took time during his remarks to praise the efforts of DAV's Chapter, Department, Transition and National Service Officers, as well as the Chapter and Department leaders, DAV Transportation Network drivers and all of DAV volunteers.



In his final address to a major veterans organization, President Barack Obama commented on the strength and perseverance of disabled veterans and their caregivers. "This organization shows us, shows this nation, what it means to be strong. But as strong as you are—and nobody is stronger than our disabled vets—I know you didn't make this journey alone. You're here because of the love and support of your families and your caregivers and your neighbors and your communities and your fellow veterans."

"It has been my most profound honor and privilege to serve as your National Commander. Thank you for placing this trust in me," he said. "In my mind, there is no finer group of men and women in our nation than our veterans and their families."

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Bob McDonald also delivered remarks to DAV members during the joint opening session. The secretary spoke about his work at the VA and the important role played by veterans' service organizations like DAV.

"I need to hear what you have to say. I want to use your ideas in transforming the VA. I need to know how VA looks from your perspective," McDonald said.

The secretary went on to tell DAV members that the VA transformation that began two years ago is well underway, and results are already being seen through the department's MyVA initiative.

"Last year, veterans had nearly 5 million more appointments than the previous year," McDonald explained. "Almost 57 million were in VA facilities, and over 21 million were VA care in community."

The following day, Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine presented his annual report to distinguished guests and delegates at DAV's first business session of the convention. He recognized the huge strides DAV has made over the last year to improve services for veterans with the strength and tenacity of the Service Department and to ensure

veterans' voices are heard on Capitol Hill through the hard work of the legislative staff.

"We will not rest until all veterans receive the benefits they have earned through their service," said Augustine.

Augustine reported that in more than 100 offices across the country, DAV provided representation for well over 300,000 claims in the last year alone.

"To put it simply," he said, "when it comes to helping veterans get their benefits, no one does more than DAV."

Additional legislative priorities and milestones Augustine acknowledged included forward strides to help pass a comprehensive caregiver support program. Currently, the program is limited to caregivers of veterans injured on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Augustine told attendees that the Senate VA Committee passed the Veterans First Act that would phase in full caregiver assistance benefits for veterans of all eras.

"While the current program has helped thousands of families," Augustine said, "all caregivers deserve the same support, regardless of when their loved ones served."

According to Augustine, the most critical veterans' issue being debated in Congress today involves the future of the VA health care system.

"There are still hurdles and unforeseen obstacles to overcome—including political uncertainty over the upcoming elections," he said. "However, I am fully confident that with the strength and resolve of our members and Auxiliary behind us, we can,



we must and we will continue to fulfill our promises to all the men and women who served.”

National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski highlighted the accomplishments of the national staff in Cold Spring, Ky. He started with lauding DAV’s Employment Department for hosting 71 job fairs in 2015. He added they’ve also partnered with Veteran Recruiting to expand into virtual fairs that will enable veterans who otherwise wouldn’t be able to attend face-to-face job fairs in person.

“We’ve challenged our nation’s employers to hire 10,000 service-connected disabled veterans,” Jesinoski told attendees. “In just over two years of existence, DAV’s Employment Department has become an absolute force in terms of connecting veterans with employers.”

Jesinoski went on to announce that DAV’s membership ranks have grown to include 1.3 million members across the country, a significant milestone reached by the national Membership Department.

“We should be proud of the progress we’ve made achieving 1.3 million members,” he said, “but we must also see the value in building on that success, engaging our communities and enhancing the relationship between veterans and the American public.”

DAV remains the most prolific veterans service organization in terms of volunteerism, according to Jesinoski. He pointed out that since 1987, DAV volunteers have driven more than 642 million miles. Last year alone, volunteers donated 1.6 million hours of their time to honor the service and sacrifices of our heroes and their families.

“It’s important that each of you understand that we at national headquarters are in awe of your efforts,” he concluded. “I want everyone here to know that we are doing our utmost to honor your service to this organization and working to establish tools and resources that empower your efforts in your communities.”

Perhaps the most anticipated event came that afternoon when President Barack Obama delivered his final



Grammy Award-winning artist Lee Greenwood performed “God Bless the USA” for members at the closing ceremonies of the DAV National Convention, marking the start of Greenwood’s official partnership with DAV.

major address as President to a major veterans group. The President, who leaves office in January, made note of his previous experiences with the organization.

“I came to your convention in my first term and my second term,” he said. “So it is fitting that my final major address to our nation’s veterans, as President, is here at the DAV.”

Obama also mentioned that some of the most unforgettable experiences he’s had have been moments spent with members of DAV.

“This organization shows us—shows this nation—what it means to be strong,” he said.

The President went on to recap his Administration’s efforts in improving the lives of veterans, noting that the country has made significant progress in some key areas, while also conceding that there’s more work to be done in others.

Specifically, the President noted that the VA has hired more doctors and clinicians since the wait-time scandal and said services are reaching more veterans who live in rural areas through telemedicine. He also touted progress in extending services to female veterans.

Obama also announced that overall veteran homelessness has been cut nearly in half, by 47 percent. He credited first lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden for using their Joining Forces initiative to challenge mayors

2016 DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship recipients named



From left: Shane Mathew, DAV National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst, Ford Motor Co. Fund Manager for International Expansion Benna Logan and then-National Commander Moses A. McIntosh Jr.

With the continued support of the Ford Motor Co. Fund, DAV honors dedicated volunteers each year through the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program, with scholarships for higher education in recognition and appreciation of their voluntary service to our nation's veterans.

Shane Mathew First-Place Scholar

This year's top recipient of the \$20,000 award is Shane Mathew, of Coral Springs, Fla.

Mathew has spent the past four years volunteering at the Miami VA Healthcare System, accumulating more than 667 volunteer hours serving veterans.

"Looking back at my days as a student volunteer in south Florida," Mathew said upon receiving the award, "I would have never imagined that all those experiences at the VA could lead to this moment. But I'm confident in saying that all those moments and memories I gained these past four years were truly worth it. And I would do it all over again in a heartbeat."

Eight youth scholarships were awarded in all, totaling \$75,000. Since its inception, the program has awarded 171 scholarships for a total of \$1,268,000.

|||||

Other Youth Scholarship Recipients

Maria Bower, Tampa, Fla.	\$15,000
Jack You, Pittsburgh	\$10,000
Ally Jacobs, Ann Arbor, Mich.	\$7,500
Brandon Bemis, Little Rock, Ark.	\$7,500
Olivia Schomer, St. Cloud, Minn.	\$5,000
Sydney Long, Lincoln, Neb.	\$5,000
Kaylee Leeman, Boston	\$5,000

and county officials nationwide to end the epidemic.

The President lamented that there are still too many suicides among veterans and expressed the need for Congress to provide more funds for mental health care. He also said the VA claims processing backlog must be further reduced and that organizations like DAV will play an integral role in accomplishing that goal.

"Disabled American Veterans knows what it means to be one team. We draw inspiration from you. I am grateful for everything that you have done for this country. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with you," he said in closing. "We honor and appreciate you. God bless our veterans and God bless the United States of America."

As part of the convention's evening activities, members were once again treated to the entertainment of longtime DAV friend Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band during Fun Night. A favorite among members, the band did not disappoint, filling the ballroom with their high-energy style and classic rock 'n' roll music selections.

The convention closed with a surprise performance by Grammy Award-winning country music artist Lee Greenwood, who performed his famous "God Bless the USA" after DAV's newest national leaders were introduced. The appearance marked the official beginning of a new partnership with Greenwood that will help DAV expand awareness of its services and generate support for the organization's mission.

The 96th DAV and Auxiliary National Convention will convene July 29–Aug. 1, 2017, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans. ■



Learn More Online

Download speeches, reports and other information from this year's convention at

dav.org/events/2016-national-convention

View all videos on DAV's YouTube Channel

youtube.com/user/DisabledVeterans/videos

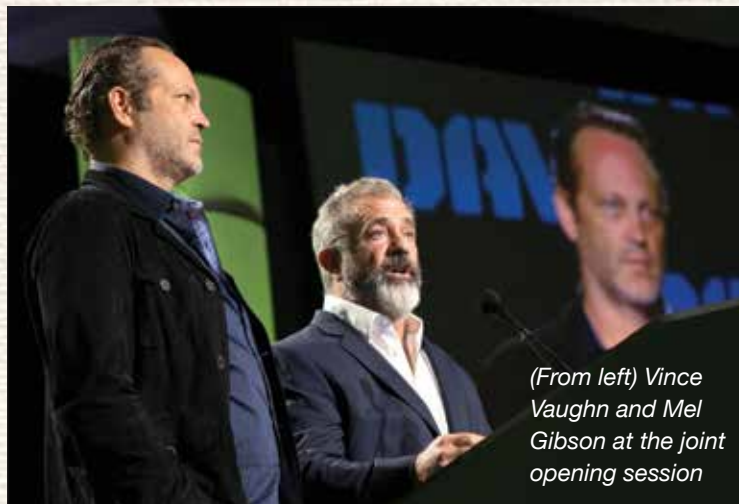
Photos are available for download at

flickr.com/theDAV

Information on the 2017 convention can be found at

dav.org/events/2017-national-convention

DAV hits the SILVER SCREEN



(From left) Vince Vaughn and Mel Gibson at the joint opening session

Hacksaw Ridge

A small audience enjoyed a private screening of “Hacksaw Ridge,” a Mel Gibson-directed film based on the actions of the late Desmond T. Doss—a DAV Life Member and the first conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor. Andrew Garfield plays the role of Doss in the film, which is scheduled for release in November.

DAV Past National Chaplain Ron Ringo is one of the individuals leading the film’s “mission.” This team is working to ensure the film sparks a discussion with the public about the service and sacrifices of veterans and

their families. They are committed to making sure opportunities to support veterans are known to those who’ve served and those who want to support them. DAV is working with the film to promote the free services and volunteer opportunities the organization provides.

After the screening, Gibson and Vince Vaughn, who plays the role of Doss’ drill sergeant, came out for a Q&A with the audience. They addressed the convention the following morning.

“It’s my hope that this film will bring awareness to the plight of veterans,” Gibson said.

“I was thrilled to be included in this, with such a great director as Mel bringing attention to these stories,” added Vaughn. “Hopefully, in a small

way, this will bring awareness. It’ll be a celebration of all the great sacrifice and all the great things that all of you have given to us.”

Ringo reiterated Gibson’s remarks that the producers and cast of “Hacksaw Ridge” are committed to using the movie to make communities aware of the issues veterans face after surviving the horrors of war.

The film opens Nov. 4, with special engagements Nov. 2 and 3 to honor veterans. Learn more at hacksawridgeresources.com.

God Bless the Broken Road

Members were also treated to a sneak peek of another upcoming film, “God Bless the Broken Road.” DAV as an organization is on display in the film and even part of the storyline, which focuses on a young widow’s journey as she struggles to raise a daughter after losing her husband, who was serving in Afghanistan.

“The director wanted to ensure that the piece not only told an inspiring story, but that it would ultimately contribute to an effort to help veterans, their families and—of course—their survivors,” said then-DAV National Commander Moses McIntosh. “We’re grateful for the partnership with DAV. We’re all looking forward to seeing the movie.”

“It is my sincere hope that ‘God Bless the Broken Road’ will remind our fellow Americans of the needs

of our soldiers and their families, as well as shine a light on the amazing work DAV is doing,” said Harold Cronk, the film’s director. “There is not a more perfect example of people who put their love into action every day than DAV.”

Cronk went on to announce that 5 percent of the film’s total profits will go to military charities—with the largest portion going to DAV. The film is set to be released in early 2017.



Film Director Harold Cronk



USAA...

Army veteran and USAA Assistant Vice President Eric Engquist (center-left) presents then-National Commander Moses A. McIntosh Jr. (center-right) a check for \$500,000 alongside National Adjutant Marc Burgess (left) and USAA CEO and DAV Life Member Stuart Parker (right). To date, USAA has contributed more than \$1 million to help support DAV's services to veterans and their families.

Ford Motor Co. Fund...

Ford Motor Co. Fund Manager for International Expansion Benna Logan (left) presented two checks to National Adjutant Marc Burgess (center) and then-National Commander Moses A. McIntosh Jr. The first was a \$200,000 donation to support the DAV Transportation Network program. The second was a \$45,000 check to fund the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship.



Camp Corral...

As part of an ongoing partnership to benefit the children of veterans and service members, DAV and the DAV Auxiliary present a check to support Camp Corral. From left: Auxiliary Senior Vice Commander Fran Costa, DAV Charitable Service Trust President Dick Marbes, Golden Corral Manager of National Marketing and Media Amanda Brown, Camp Corral CEO Mary Beth Hernandez, National Adjutant Marc Burgess and then-National Commander Moses A. McIntosh Jr.



Packing a *PUNCH*

Convention seminars loaded with valuable information

DAV's National Convention provides members a multitude of opportunities for enrichment and growth. One vital benefit is the chance to engage in educational seminars hosted by DAV's elected officers and staff. This year was no different.

The **Service and Legislative Seminar** featured Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson, who presented their visions for the future of VA health care and benefits systems. National Service Director Jim Marszalek and National Legislative Director Joy Ilem moderated the seminar. The **Benefits Protection Team Seminar**, led by Ilem, included remarks by Department of Veterans Affairs Undersecretary for Health Dr. David Shulkin about the current state of VA health care and reforms that are underway. Ilem touched on how DAV plans to protect and improve benefits and health care services for injured and ill veterans. And the **Benefits Protection Team Leader Seminar**, also led by Ilem and former National Legislative Director Joseph Violante, introduced members to DAV's revitalized grassroots advocacy efforts.

The **Women Veterans Seminar**, hosted by Assistant

National Legislative Director Shurhonda Love, featured a presentation by Kayla Williams, an Army veteran and newly appointed director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans, to discuss the center's priorities and new initiatives essential to women veterans. Dr. Nancy Glowacki, an Army veteran and women veterans program manager for the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service, spoke about employment trends of women veterans and the need to support the employment and economic security of women veterans.

At the **Membership Seminar**, National Membership Director Douglas K. Wells Jr. and appointed members to the Interim Membership Committee discussed successful recruiting techniques, recruiting incentives, and provided instruction and orientation on both the DAV membership system and membership portals. National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst gave a basic overview of resources at the **Voluntary Services Seminar** and hosted a Q&A period from members regarding the Local Veterans Assistance Program, the Jesse Brown Youth Memorial Scholarship and more.

The **POW/MIA Seminar**, hosted by DAV POW/MIA Committee Chairman Vincent Darcangelo, reinforced DAV's promise to never forget those taken prisoner, missing or unaccounted for, or the brothers and sisters left behind and their survivors. Darcangelo



led a discussion on efforts to ensure that all who serve receive a homecoming and are treated with honor and dignity.

The **Communications, Social Networking and Outreach 101** seminars, presented by members of DAV's National Communications team, discussed DAV's upcoming efforts in the Communications Department, magazine contributions, media relations support and more to spread the word about DAV in the community. Members learned how Chapters and Departments can best use social media to most effectively engage existing and potential members, local media, officials and other valuable stakeholders in their communities. Additionally, the seminars illustrated how Chapters can expand and further develop their community-outreach efforts through a variety of vehicles, including public service announcements, print, TV, radio and social media. They also covered interview techniques while engaging media outlets, basics of press releases, media relations skills and community engagement. At the end of these sessions, seminar participants gained skills to effectively communicate DAV's efforts.

National Employment Director Jeff Hall provided an



In the standing-room-only Women Veterans Seminar, attendees heard from representatives at the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor concerning the state of gender specific programs and services.

overview of DAV's employment program and the road ahead during the **Employment Seminar**. He was joined by Assistant National Employment Director Rob Lougee to provide up-to-date information on DAV's employment program, including job fair activities, website tools and the road ahead. Participants gained a greater understanding of the many career paths and developmental programs available through the department's mission, structure, reach and work.

Dr. Ricky Thrasher, a state missionary with the Georgia

Baptist Mission Board currently serving as the state director of chaplaincy, discussed life's hardships and their effects and implications on beliefs about life, death and human purpose during the **Chaplains Seminar** with National Chaplain Michael Dover.

The **Inspector General Seminar** provided current and practical information on matters related to the day-to-day activities and operations of Departments and Chapters. ■



Learn More Online

Education and training seminars can be found online at youtube.com/user/disabledveterans/featured.



VA Secretary Bob McDonald (center left) and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (center right) take part in a discussion moderated by National Service Director Jim Marszalek (left) and National Legislative Director Joy Ilem (right).

Discussion on VA future

During the Service and Legislative Seminar forum, VA Secretary Bob McDonald noted his belief that the system can and must be overhauled.

"Transformation is well underway, and we're already seeing results," said McDonald.

Chairman Johnny Isakson noted the need to pass the Veterans First Act, a comprehensive DAV-backed bill that will improve health care and benefits and increase accountability at the VA.

"There's got to be reform at the VA. Veterans services have to be more accessible and seamless, and the Veterans First Act does that," said Isakson.



National Convention DAV & Auxiliary Award Highlights

Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year



Accompanied by wife, Terri (left), Army veteran **Bobby Body** accepted the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year award. The combat-injured, single-amputee veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom has excelled and set world records in powerlifting since his injury.

Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year



Matilda Brooks (center), of New York, was named Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year for her continued contributions and dedication in support of our nation's ill and injured veterans and their families through her leadership and support of community events.

National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee Awards



Dr. Murray Altose (left), chief of staff at the Cleveland VA Medical Center, accepts his **Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee** award from DAV National Legislative Director Joy Ilem (right) and VA Undersecretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin.



Bobby Hall (center left) receives his **Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Employee** award in Atlanta. Hall serves Kentucky and southern Indiana's terminally ill veterans at the Louisville VA Regional Office.



The award for **Outstanding National Cemetery Administration Employee** was presented to Army veteran **Srey Austin** (center right) for her work as director of the Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, S.D., where she is responsible for all burial and administrative operations.

Top Recruiter of the Year



William Baker (left), from Chapter 9 in Enterprise, Ala., recruited 121 new members into the Department of Alabama during the 2015–16 membership year, and therefore, earning the Top Recruiter of the Year award.

Robert S. Marx Award



Gregory Remus accepted the Robert S. Marx Award on behalf of the **Department of Minnesota**. The award is presented to the Department with the highest percentage increase in fully paid life members.

Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright Award



For the 10th straight year, the **Department of Texas** took top honors for closing the membership year with the largest increase in members. Department Commander **Charles W. Edwards** (center) accepted the award on behalf of his Department.



Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist



Robert Singer (center right) is an outreach specialist with the Virginia Employment Commission. Singer, a Marine Corps veteran, developed several unique programs designed to assist veterans in finding meaningful employment, including a resume training aid for veteran job seekers.

Top Venture Impacting Veterans



Marine veteran **Ryan Ottosen** (left) and his wife, **Traci**, founded the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (VASH) Network in January 2013. VASH is comprised of real estate and mortgage specialists dedicated to preventing and ending veteran homelessness.

Large Employer of the Year



Atlanta-based **First Data**, a financial technology and merchant services company, has made it a regular business practice to hire veterans. In 2015, they hired 29 ill or injured veterans and 99 female veterans. **Tom Higgins**, executive vice president and chief administrative officer accepted the award.

Medium Employer of the Year



Z Systems Corp., a Killeen, Texas, company that specializes in logistics engineering, received the Medium Employer of the Year award. According to the company, 63 percent of their workforce is comprised of veterans. CEO **Mike McCoy** received the award.

Small Employer of the Year



Veteran Energy, a Houston-based electrical company, was selected as this year's Small Employer of the Year, with more than 90 percent of their workforce comprised of veterans. **Kevin Barber**, president and founder, (center right) accepted the award on behalf of the company.

Top Department Recruiting Awards

Division I (35,000 or more members)

Department of California

Division II (18,000–34,000 members)

Department of Minnesota

Division III (10,000–17,000 members)

Department of Wisconsin

Division IV (5,000–9,999 members)

Department of Nevada

Division V (5,000 members or less)

Department of South Dakota

Local Veterans Assistance Program Awards

Division I (35,000 or more members)

Department of Virginia — 165,982 hours

Division II (18,000–34,000 members)

Department of Oklahoma — 94,720 hours

Division III (10,000–17,000 members)

Department of Missouri — 21,514 hours

Division IV (5,000–9,999 members)

Department of Nebraska — 11,603 hours

Division V (5,000 members or less)

Department of South Dakota — 16,982 hours





1

Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act approved

On June 30, the Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act was approved by the president as Public Law 114-188. Women veterans are six times as likely as nonveteran women to commit suicide, according to VA researchers. Women veterans ages 18-29, many of whom have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, are 12 times as likely to die by suicide.

The Department of Defense has been working for years to develop and implement programs that can increase resilience and prevent mental health conditions resulting from wartime exposures. Most of these programs are focused on individual-level interventions to address various aspects of resilience and psychological health.

Women veterans are especially vulnerable and have higher rates of suicide than male veterans, according to research released in July by the VA, which collected data

from 55 million records from 1979 to 2014. The data show women veterans are almost twice as likely as men to commit suicide.

According to DAV's report *Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home*, a comprehensive study of the many challenges women face when they leave military service, suicidal behavior is often associated with mental health problems including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance-use disorder.

The new law will initiate a complete re-evaluation of how women veterans are screened and treated when they enter VA health care. It will require the VA to evaluate suicide prevention and mental health programs with women-specific metrics.

"All veterans deserve thorough research and dedication to ending the suicide epidemic," said DAV Assistant National Service Director Shurhonda Love. "We must ensure health care providers have effective treatment options to lower the risk for chronic mental health conditions and prevent suicide for our women veterans as well."

Commission on Care releases final report

In July, the Commission on Care submitted its final report to the president, offering sweeping recommendations for transforming veterans health care.

As part of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, Congress established the Commission on Care to examine veterans' access to Department of Veterans Affairs health care and to examine strategically how best to organize the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), locate health resources and deliver health care to veterans over the next 20 years.

During a 10-month examination of access to health care and how to best deliver it over the next two decades, the commission reviewed the 4,000-page Independent Assessment Report chartered by Congress, met with stakeholders, visited VHA facilities and exchanged ideas with VA leaders and employees, members of Congress and other health care experts.

"We will continue to work with veterans, Congress and our partners in the veteran advocacy community to further our ongoing transformation of the veterans

health care system," said President Barack Obama in a statement. "Our veterans deserve nothing less for their sacrifices and their service."

Leading veterans service organizations—including DAV—support many aspects of the commission's report but have reservations regarding some recommendations, particularly one to create an independent board to run the VHA health care system separate from the rest of the VA.

"We have serious concerns about taking control of the VHA away from the Secretary and giving it to an unelected, independent board that is less accountable to the president, Congress and veterans," said DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. "Separating veterans health care services from other veterans benefits would result in less coordinated support for veterans."

"We agree with the commission's intentions of providing greater stability and continuity of leadership," Augustine added. "However, there are better ways to accomplish these goals without undercutting VA's integrated system of services and benefits."

2

House, Senate agree on 2017 funding

In June, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees reached an agreement on the Fiscal Year 2017 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill. However, unrelated amendments delayed final approval.

Under the conference committee agreement, funding for veterans medical care next year would increase by almost 8 percent to \$75.4 billion, although the rising use of non-VA care driven by the Choice Program will almost certainly require supplemental funding next year.

The Veterans Benefits Administration would get a 5.5-percent increase to complete its claims processing transformation, and the Board of Veterans' Appeals budget would rise more than 40 percent to address the rising backlog of pending appeals.

The agreement matched the Administration's extremely low \$1 billion funding request for VA construction programs, down more than 40 percent from this year and less than half the minimum funding recommended by the Independent Budget.

"Overall, this will be a strong budget to meet the needs of the men and women who served," said DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. "However, we remain very concerned about the failure of Congress and the Administration to provide sufficient funding to maintain and replace aging VA health care facilities."

Additionally, the advance appropriation for FY 2018 medical care and related VA accounts would also be significantly less than what will be needed—just \$66.4 billion—a 12-percent cut if no additional funding is approved.

3



From the NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

JOY J. ILEM

Ensuring candidates think of veterans

Election season is in full swing, and we will soon exercise perhaps the most precious right granted by our Constitution: the right to vote. Millions of veterans have suffered and died to give us this right. While DAV is a nonpartisan organization and does not advocate for or against candidates for office, we are committed to ensuring that our members and their families are well-informed about where candidates stand on issues critical to veterans as they prepare to vote.

In the months ahead, candidates for federal offices, beginning with the president and vice president and including one-third of U.S. Senators and the entire House of Representatives, must know that the votes of DAV members, other veterans and those who support us cannot be taken for granted. We must be certain they know we will hold them accountable for fulfilling our nation's sacred promises to the men and women who served. It's our duty to educate them about the challenges facing ill and injured veterans and to advocate for policies that empower veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

We expect that VA health care reform will be a prominent issue in both congressional and presidential elections this year. We will continue to promote policies to strengthen, reform and sustain the VA health care system that so many ill and injured veterans choose and rely on. However, there are some individuals and organizations proposing to dismantle or abolish the VA health care system. If they had their way, all veterans would be

pushed out of the VA and into private-sector health care, with providers who have little experience treating the unique medical needs of veterans—especially service-disabled veterans.

In Washington, D.C., we are engaged with congressional leaders to educate them on our unique needs, and it is critical that DAV members and grassroots supporters bring these same messages to candidates and elected officials across the country.

To aid in this team effort, DAV has launched a renewed effort centered around our Benefits Protection Team. Its leaders will be organizing and harnessing DAV members to bring our message and our top legislative priorities and policies to the attention of all candidates for federal office. I urge all of you to learn about the issues and become involved at your Chapter and Department levels as a part of the DAV benefits protection effort.

Please join us in this fight to reform and strengthen the VA without weakening or dismantling it. Participate in the Benefits Protection Team effort, and most importantly, reach out to candidates for federal office in your area to ensure they know what veterans want, need and have earned. Working together, we can ensure the VA can provide high-quality health care and benefits not just to us, but to future generations of America's veterans.



Learn More Online

Find out how you can help advocate for veterans at dav.org/dav-benefits-protection-team.



An A-10 Thunderbolt, or "Warthog," is parked beside the DAV Flight Team booth at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisc.

DAV Flight Team touches down at Oshkosh

By Steven Wilson

The DAV Flight Team landed at the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisc., July 25 in what was another record-setting year for America's largest airshow.

"This is the third consecutive year the event has outpaced the prior year's attendance," said National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. "It gives our airshow team a chance to connect with patriotic supporters through a very unique platform."

The DAV Flight Team Ford truck was placed in the center show area in Warbird Alley, the space that profiles several of the rare and unique World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War warbirds, and was flanked by the venerable A-10 Thunderbolt (or "Warthog") and the iconic F-4 Phantom.

DAV Past Department of Wisconsin Commander K.C. Johnson was a special guest at the event, along with the last surviving member of World War II's Doolittle Raid, Lt. Col. Dick Cole, who was Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot during the 1945 reprisal raid on Tokyo after the Pearl Harbor attack.

Johnson said meeting Cole was an honor, and he was proud of Wisconsin's support of DAV's flight team.

"We had volunteers from Chapters 17, Oshkosh; 19, West Allis; and 44 in Milwaukee helping out," Johnson said. "The [DAV] Auxiliary was represented as well."

EAA and Warbirds of America partnered with DAV for the Honor Flight for Vietnam veterans and the Salute to Veterans Parade, which was led by Johnson.

"The Oshkosh AirVenture experience is unequalled as an aviation event and is likely unsurpassed in patriotism," said President of Warbirds of America Connie Bowlin. "This year, EAA Warbirds of America and DAV continued their longstanding partnership to recognize and support our veterans. It was a pleasure to have DAV occupy a prominent spot in the Warbird area of AirVenture and to share in the veterans' activities, including an evening concert sponsored by DAV and Warbirds."

The veteran-themed day of events culminated with a performance by swing band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

"Airshows are a great vehicle to tell our nation about DAV's mission of a lifetime of support to veterans and families," National Commander David Riley said. "We have found tremendous support for veterans among the airshow crowds, and I'm grateful to our friends at EAA for their continued partnership with DAV." ■



Learn More Online

The next Oshkosh event is scheduled for July 24-30, 2017. More information on DAV's Flight Team and photos of the Oshkosh Airshow can be found at [Facebook.com/davflightteam](https://www.facebook.com/davflightteam).

Presidential Candidates

Present views on DAV priority issues



EDITOR'S NOTE

DAV—which is a non-partisan organization—believes its members deserve to know where Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump stand on key veterans issues in time for the general elections on November 8th. DAV asked both candidates to discuss specific policies they would propose regarding particular issues. Their responses are presented below as a way for our members to compare the candidates' positions on issues affecting America's veterans and their families. The responses have been edited by DAV for brevity, however, you can read their complete responses to all of our questions at dav.org/learn-more/news/2016/presidential-candidates-qa. The cooperation of the candidates and their campaign staffs is much appreciated.

Top Veterans Priorities

DAV: *What are your top priorities for addressing the many challenges facing veterans, particularly those who are injured or ill from their service?*

Clinton: I firmly believe that caring for our veterans is a sacred responsibility. That belief has helped guide my life in public service, and it will be a core tenet of my presidency. Upon returning home, no veteran should have to fight for a job or struggle to find adequate health care. That is why I have put forward a comprehensive plan to support veterans and their families.

I will create a new framework for VHA health care delivery by refocusing, reorganizing and streamlining the VHA to best serve

veterans in the 21st century. I also will oppose the privatization of the VA health care system, which would throw the brave men and women who served us out into the health care marketplace. Choice should be a part of the solution, but the VA must maintain the ultimate responsibility of ensuring quality health care for every veteran, and delivering the specialized services they need and deserve. Studies have repeatedly shown that VA health care outperforms that of the civilian sector, and veterans are very satisfied with the care they receive once they are in the system.

Trump: VA reform will be at the top of my priority list when I become President of the United States. Along with growing a strong

economy, restoring national sovereignty and recapitalizing our armed forces, making sure our veterans get the care they deserve will be at the forefront of my agenda as we move to restore government to the people. My ten-point plan to reform the VA can be viewed at: donaldjtrump.com/press-releases/icymi-trumps-ten-point-plan-to-reform-the-va.

The Trump administration will ensure that our service members are taken care of from the time they raise their hands to take their oaths until they give that last full measure for their country. Much of the focus has been on healthcare for our veterans, but my administration will address the totality of veterans' issues.

Strengthen, Reform and Sustain the VA Health Care System

DAV: *As President, how would you reform veterans health care in order to ensure that veterans have timely access to high-quality, veteran-focused health care?*

Clinton: Veterans must have access to a system that puts their needs first. It is unacceptable that in the 21st century, our veterans still face long wait times and inconsistent care. As president, I will work to build a system that is fully prepared for their unique and growing needs. But I also know that we cannot simply throw money at these problems, as the VA's implementation of the Veterans' Choice Act has shown. We also cannot put our veterans at the mercy of the private insurance system without any care coordination, or leave them to fend for themselves with health care providers who have no expertise in the unique challenges facing veterans.

Under my plan, we will reform the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to create a fully networked organization dedicated to best practices and continuous improvement. That means refocusing, reorganizing, and streamlining the care process. And it must have the health care providers necessary to ensure it is able to provide quality and timely care. I would refocus the VHA as a veteran-centric provider of service-connected care.

Trump: Every veteran, from the moment of taking their oath of office, should become part of the robust, comprehensive veterans healthcare system. When these individuals leave the service and need access to the VA system, they should be able to get care where and when they need it. This means veterans should be placed in a system where with a single ID card, they can go to whatever facility or caregiver they wish. This will force the VA system to compete with the private sector and will relieve pressure on the VA system.

What is most critical is not that we get veterans off ghost lists or that we see a veteran in a specified time. We should be concentrating on outcomes for our veterans and not just on outputs of a scheduling system. The totality of care is what is critical for our veterans, and that is what we will focus on in the Trump-Pence administration.

Claims and Appeals Processing Reform

DAV: *As President, how would you reform the claims and appeals process to ensure that all veterans get fair, timely and accurate decisions on benefit claims?*

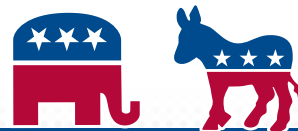
Clinton: My veterans plan recognizes that it is time for change, and it proposes concrete steps to get us there—ending the benefits and appeals backlog through overtime work, productivity improvements, and brand new initiatives.

The VA and DOD must work together to better anticipate claims

and compile resources before backlogs spiral out of control. To streamline and simplify that process, we should integrate their medical evaluations, using “fully developed claims” from private providers, allowing rules-based automatic adjudication for the simplest of applications, and ensuring veterans have an effective appeals process that ensures the VA gets it right. I also will direct DoD and VA administrators to eliminate bureaucratic barriers that inhibit seamless coordination and information sharing, including through new linkages with the private sector.

Trump: The claims process must be reformed if we are to provide timely care to our veterans, regardless of their situation. In order to clear the backlog and to deal with the ever-increasing claims load, a more streamlined system must be put in place that takes advantage of technology and a change in priorities for the VA.

We should focus on further regionalizing the process; taking the claims process to the veteran rather than having a mountainous bureaucracy impede adjudication. Veterans with claims should have an expectation of adjudication within 30 days and an appeal, if required, in a similar time window. If evaluations take longer, the veteran should be fully apprised of the steps along the way and should be involved in the process. ■



DECADE of SERVICE

1980s



Every year leading up to DAV's 100th anniversary in 2020, the September/October issue of *DAV Magazine* will chronicle a decade in our organization's history. This year's installment provides some historical background and highlights of important issues and events that affected disabled veterans and their families during the 1980s.

DAV reaches million-member milestone, drives legislative changes for Agent Orange sufferers and POWs

In 1980, a gallon of gas averaged \$1.25, a postage stamp was 15 cents, and Ronald Reagan was preparing to move into the Oval Office.

Relations between the United States and the Soviet Union were tense as the new decade dawned. The world watched and waited for the two biggest kids on the block to have an inevitable showdown; fear of nuclear horror gripped the planet.

"It was definitely a scary time," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "The concept of terrorism wasn't as prolific then as it is now. The country's focus was mainly on economics and the Soviet threat."

Despite combat operations throughout the decade in places like Grenada, Beirut and Panama, DAV's senior leadership knew the American people's attention span could quickly be lost.

"The public largely equated war to something that was fought on a grand scale on the battlefields of Europe or in the jungles of Vietnam," said National Commander David Riley. "But what we saw in Beirut, when the Marine barracks were bombed, was a horrific omen for the threats we continue to face against terrorism."

Something had to be done to ensure our nation didn't forget about sacrifices made by those in uniform—in

1981

POW bill passes

Thanks in part to DAV's advocacy efforts, the Former Prisoner of War Benefits Act becomes law.

1984

Agent Orange

An out-of-court settlement is reached with several of the companies who had produced the toxic substance.

1985

1 million members

This major milestone is reached on April 22.

particular those who returned from Vietnam the previous decade.

DAV made a concentrated effort to recruit the new and younger generation of veterans into the ranks. The organization also tirelessly continued its mission of service and advocacy for veterans.

DAV fought a long battle to increase benefits for former prisoners of war. In 1981, this piece of legislation was signed into law and was the first improvement in POW benefits in almost 40 years.

The national legislative staff had, for several years, extensively advocated on behalf of Vietnam veterans suffering from exposure to Agent Orange. An out-of-court settlement was reached in 1984 with several of the chemical companies who had produced the toxic substance.

The same year, the courts found the U.S. government negligent in nuclear weapons testing held in Nevada from 1951 to 1962, which opened the doors for “atomic veterans” to access much-needed health care.

DAV reached a milestone in 1985 when, on April 22, membership officially numbered 1 million veterans. This effort was largely credited to the vision and tenacity of then-National Adjutant Dale Adams. When Adams had first taken the helm of the organization in 1962, there were only 200,000 members.

The inaugural “Miracles on a Mountainside,” the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, began in 1986. This is the largest rehabilitative program of its kind in the world today and directly aids in the rehabilitation of severely disabled veterans.

“DAV came on board as an event sponsor within the first few years of the program and, in partnership with the VA, the seeds we planted back then went on to produce the finest rehabilitative event of its kind in the world,” said National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst. “Since its start three decades ago, thousands of our most profoundly disabled veterans



The 1980s marked DAV's first involvement with the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic--an event that has since helped thousands of injured and ill veterans engage in adaptive sports.

have seen their lives forever changed through the clinic.”

A year later, DAV established its nationwide Volunteer Transportation Network, which was a direct response to a need in the veteran community when the government eliminated the stipend many veterans depended on to defray the cost of getting to and from medical appointments.

The decade closed with the establishment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

“The story history tells is that we were first opposed to the court. We were concerned that bringing in private attorneys could lead to veterans losing as much as a third of the benefits they earned,” said Jim Marszalek, National Service Director. “But ultimately, the court was defined by a DAV proposal that allowed veterans to be represented pro bono by accredited Service Officers.

“Because of that, we’ve been able to right many wrongs and develop some key precedents that have brought many veterans the justice that would otherwise have been lost to them.”

As the 1980s closed, war clouds again began to loom on America’s horizon, this time amid tensions in the Middle East. ■

1986

Miracles on a Mountainside

The inaugural National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic is held. DAV has partnered with the VA to host this life-changing event every year since.

1987

Transporting veterans

DAV's nationwide volunteer Transportation Network is established to transport veterans to/from medical appointments at VA facilities.

1988

Claims appeals

Defined by a DAV proposal that allowed veterans to be represented by accredited service officers, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is established.



WOMEN VETERANS **Challenges in care**

Caring for older women veterans presents unique challenges, study aims to find out why



“We’ve known for a long time how different the medical needs are of women veterans compared to the general population of women. Now we have the data to back it up and ideally **drive real change** for the future of women veterans’ health care.”

—Shurhonda Love,
DAV Assistant National Legislative Director

By Mary Dever

As women veterans who served in the World Wars, Korea and Vietnam eras are requiring more medical care, researchers are finding a wide discrepancy in needs between aging women veterans and nonveteran women.

Data from the Women’s Health Initiative (WHI)—a long-term study that began in 1991 and is funded by the National Institutes of Health’s National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute—shows women veterans 80 years of age and older reported significantly lower-scale scores in perceived health, physical function, life satisfaction, social support, quality of life and purpose in life compared with nonveterans of the same age.

WHI researchers followed more than 160,000 postmenopausal women—3,700 of whom were veterans—from 40 medical centers across the United States for 20 years, collecting data on health status, disease, health behaviors, and social and psychological factors.

“The women veterans in WHI have taught us that prior military service identifies a group of women who face special challenges as they grow older,” said Dr. Andrea LaCroix, a senior investigator at the WHI Clinical Coordinating Center. “With women choosing

to serve our country in greater numbers and expanded roles, including combat, it is essential to learn about their health care needs after leaving service, now and in the future.”

Why is there such a difference?

Belinda Hill, a DAV National Service Officer in New Orleans, said she sees women veterans who need medical care and benefits but who don’t have the service records to prove their health issues are service-connected.

“As an NSO, I see a lot of older women can’t get service-connection because they never went to the doctor when they were on active duty,” said Hill. “We do what we can and look hard at their records to see if there’s any way we can get them service-connected. At the very least, we direct them to resources so they can get the treatment they need.”

Hill, who spent 30 years in the Army, said it was a different time for women in the military, and she can understand why there’s such a discrepancy in the research.

“Most of the time, we didn’t get the proper care,” Hill said of her own military experience. “Going to medical was not one of the things you did if you planned on having a career in the military.”

She said if women veterans had some medical needs addressed while in the military, they would have had treatment or been more proactive before their golden years.

“We didn’t have the proper tests while we were in,” she said. “They have them now. We only got seen [at sick call] when we got sick. It could be two to three years between doctor visits.”

It’s not just physical health where women veterans seem to be at a disadvantage; it’s cognitive as well.

According to some of the WHI research data, veteran status was associated with higher prevalence of protective factors that may have helped initially preserve cognitive functioning.

“However, findings ultimately revealed more pronounced cognitive decline among veteran relative

to nonveteran participants,” according to the study. “This likely suggests the presence of risks that may impact neuropathology and the effects of which were initially masked by veterans’ greater cognitive reserve.”

DAV Assistant National Legislative Director Shurhonda Love said the research into women veterans’ health is essential to see how we can help now and prepare for future generations.

“We’ve known for a long time how different the medical needs are of women veterans compared to the general population of women,” said Love. “Now we have the data to back it up and ideally drive real change for the future of women veterans’ health care.”

In both veteran and non-veteran women, healthy survival was associated with not smoking, higher physical activity, healthy body weight and fewer depressive symptoms. ■

Women veterans 80 years of age and older reported **significantly lower-scale** scores in perceived health, physical function, life satisfaction, social support, quality of life and purpose in life compared with nonveterans of the same age.

—Women’s Health Initiative

Knowledge is POWER

DAV National Headquarters host state leaders at 19th Annual Commanders and Adjutants Association Orientation



By Bryan Lett

The 19th Annual DAV State Commanders and Adjutants Association Orientation was held at DAV National Headquarters in July, affording state-level leaders a chance to learn more about DAV's mission of service to veterans and families while providing an opportunity to share their own best practices.

"We take a two-pronged approach," said Dave Tannenbaum, secretary-treasurer of the Commanders and Adjutants Association. "First, there is a transfer of knowledge by the national staff through detailed briefings. These briefings cover all aspects of the DAV mission to serve our ill and injured veterans. Second, we provide an environment by which the Department leaders can develop networks with their peers to help their effectiveness as leaders."

"The single most personal takeaway from the orientation is the networking," said Department of Oklahoma Adjutant Danny Oliver. "We're all focused on delivering the best possible services for our fellow veterans. Exchanging ideas on best practices and things that are working makes us all more effective in conducting DAV's business in our states."

Part of the direction for this year's meeting was aimed at bringing DAV leaders up to speed on the numerous issues the organization is addressing.

"DAV is constantly evolving, and Department Commanders and Adjutants are critical to our service and outreach efforts to veterans in their communities," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "The networking, information and exchange of ideas that took place show the innovation and dedication we're seeing nationwide from our state leaders."

"The success of this program is due in large measure

to the teamwork of all involved," said Tannenbaum.

"The enthusiasm for the orientation is contagious, and the staff, the Commanders and Adjutants Association, and the Departments share it. With that as the catalyst, success is ensured."

"The more our leaders know and understand about our core functions, the better we are at serving veterans at the grassroots level," said National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. "It is our hope they will take what they have learned, implement what they can but—most importantly—continue the learning process by sharing the information with others who impact DAV's mission."

Sessions were designed to answer questions about functions within the organization, such as membership, voluntary services, fundraising, public service announcements and employment services.

"For the more seasoned attendees, it reminds us that in order to grow our team, we must always be open to listen and learn, as well as advise," said Oliver. "With different Departments sharing their best practices, the atmosphere allows for questions and answers in a team environment where everyone is not only equal but also genuinely eager to share. It has not only provided some great food for thought but also really opens the flood gates for ideas and questions."

"It's not easy to run a Department, but the members who've assumed state-level leadership are dedicated to the good of veterans in their communities and the long-term good health of DAV," added Tannenbaum. "We want to give them a running start to the year, and we're grateful for the support of our national staff who make this event so valuable." ■

Fullest possible accounting

Bringing closure to the families of the missing

By Steven Wilson

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), 82,701 service members spanning from World War II to now are still missing or unaccounted for.

DAV is diligently working with the Department of Defense and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) to eliminate that number, with the goal of giving survivors of these men and women some long-awaited closure.

One example of those efforts involves the remains of servicemen who died during the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack.

“During a conference call last year, the DPAA polled the participating VSOs on a decision to disinter or not to disinter the 388 remains of Marines and sailors from the USS *Oklahoma*,” said Vincent Darcangelo, DAV Interim POW/MIA Committee Chairperson. “In the interest of ‘fullest possible accounting,’ I voted to disinter.”

In April 2015, the Pentagon announced these remains associated with the ship would be exhumed from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and sent to the DPAA laboratory for forensic, DNA and genetic testing in the hope of identifying the fallen.

The remains associated with the *Oklahoma* are not the only work DPAA is doing regarding POW/MIA service members. The agency has teams all over the world looking for the final resting places of missing military personnel.

Darcangelo said that, so far in 2016, DPAA has announced positive identification of 46 military members previously listed as missing in action—25 from World War II, 18 from Korea and three from Vietnam.

But many more families are still waiting.

“There are still 1,618 missing in Vietnam,” said Cindy Stonebraker, board member of the National League of POW/MIA Families. “My father is one of them.”

Air Force Lt. Col. Kenneth Stonebraker was shot down over North Vietnam on Oct. 28, 1968.

“He was a navigator on a nighttime recon mission in an RF-4C,” Stonebraker said. “It gives you hope knowing there are people on the ground over there actively working on finding him and others.”

Darcangelo agreed and called the POW/MIA subject one of importance and passion.

“DAV demonstrates its unyielding commitment of bringing each of our missing brothers and sisters home to family and loved ones waiting decades for answers,” he said.

The DPAA said VSOs are an integral part of accounting for the missing.

“Partnering with the veterans service organizations is extremely important to DPAA and our mission of accounting for Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom,” said Johnnie E. Webb Jr., DPAA deputy director of outreach and



“DAV demonstrates its unyielding commitment of **bringing each of our missing brothers and sisters home.**”

—Vincent Darcangelo,
DAV Interim POW/MIA
Committee Chairperson

communications. “The VSOs play a major role in keeping the POW/MIA issue before the American public and the members of Congress to continue support for the issue. Their members remember the military creed, ‘I will never leave a fallen comrade,’ and pledge to do all they can to assist us in never leaving a fallen comrade.”

Stonebraker’s family will continue their vigil for her father.

“Last Wednesday, I attended the funeral of someone who was a recovery,” she said. “It gave me hope. I thought, ‘Here’s a family member who has lived a life like I have.’ I saw closure, and it gives you hope.” ■



givingresults

Did you know for every \$1 you give, \$34 in direct benefits are realized by your fellow disabled veterans? Your gift of stock can make a huge impact on the lives of your brothers and sisters who have served.

3 simple steps to support DAV with a gift of stock

1. Contact our planned giving office, and we will provide the stock gift instructions you will need to facilitate the transfer.
2. Once you've received our instructions, you should then contact your financial advisor or the stockholder to initiate the transfer process.
3. Your final step is to provide us with the name and the approximate value of the stock gift after the transfer so that we can track and acknowledge your gift accordingly.

TO LEARN MORE

- Call Stephanie Vorhees at **1-800-216-9802**, ext. 1,
- Email giftplanning@dav.org,
or
- Return the attached **postcard**.

givingpride givingrespect givingbenefits givingresults

THROUGH YOUR GIFT OF STOCK

Supporting DAV through gifts that take planning is essential to the continued success of the programs and services that we offer. It is because of the compassion and generosity of our donors, who are members and nonmembers alike, that we're able to continuously meet the growing demand of veterans who need our support.

Over the years, DAV has had the privilege of working with hundreds of generous and caring individuals as they've sought out and found the best way to support the programs and services tailored to their personal financial situations. Through these gifts, DAV is able to continue to support the growing number of veterans who need assistance.

One of the easiest ways to make a planned gift to DAV is with a gift of appreciated stock. Making a gift via stock is truly a win-win. By donating a stock directly to DAV, you can take a tax deduction for the full market value of the stock, avoiding capital gains taxes and offsetting additional income.

This year alone, DAV has already received a record number of stock gifts, which have had a tremendous impact on the number of veterans we've been able to serve. One generous supporter reiterated on several occasions that she just wanted to "take care of our boys." By giving stock, she was able to maintain her liquid assets and still make a substantial gift that will help countless deserving men and women. It is with the support of many that we are able to continue to meet the growing needs of yesterday's soldiers. ■

THE BENEFIT OF GIVING A GIFT OF STOCK

	Sell stock, donate proceeds to DAV	Donate stock directly to DAV
Current stock value	\$10,000	\$10,000
Capital gains tax paid by donor 15% of \$5,000	\$750	\$0
Amount received by DAV	\$9,250	\$10,000 DAV receives additional \$750
Income tax savings to donor 35% bracket	\$3,238	\$3,500
"Cost" of donation to donor	\$6,762	\$6,500 You save \$262

From the AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER

FRANCES J. COSTA



Family first

I want to thank everyone who supported me over the years as I weaved my way in and out of the DAV Auxiliary's leadership ranks.

I've had numerous friends, mentors and trusted advisors along the way, and I hope to repay your kindness by charting a course this year that we can all be proud of.

I want to talk to you about something I call "family first."

The veteran family is very important to me. My connection to DAV is first and foremost through the long tradition of service to

our nation within my own family. My husband, a two-time Purple Heart recipient who served as an Army tunnel rat in Vietnam, is a DAV Life Member and Past Department Commander for our home state of Massachusetts. My father is a DAV Life Member who is a veteran of World War II. Both of our sons are veterans, the oldest of the Persian Gulf War and the youngest—also a Life Member of DAV—is an Iraq War and Afghanistan War veteran.

It's imperative that our Auxiliary remains active within our communities. I encourage all of us to seek out veterans and their families who may not know about DAV or the Auxiliary. Tell them about what we do for the veteran community, how they can get involved and why they should join our cause.

Tell them how we put family first.

The story history tells us very clear: If we don't have members speaking to elected leaders with a unified voice concerning veteran-related issues, we simply will not be able to influence lawmakers to keep veterans and their families in mind.

We must keep our membership ranks vibrant and growing if we're to influence leaders at the local and national levels to put veterans and their families first.

This is why we exist and is something I

know we can get behind.

For those of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, rest assured that we likely will. You will often hear me say I'm a "grassroots-type person," and I sincerely mean that. I believe we can transform the lives of veterans' families and our communities by coming together at the local level. This begins by meeting one another and ensuring we are speaking with the same voice on behalf of veterans' families.

It's my honor to represent you on my journey this year as your Auxiliary Commander, and it's my hope to connect with all of you. I'll see you out there.

Let's get to work! We need the passion in our hearts to move our hands forward to get the job done.

I believe we can **transform the lives of veterans' families** and our communities by coming together at the local level.



National Commander

David W. Riley, Semmes, Ala.

Sr. Vice Commander

Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Vallejo, Calif.

1st Jr. Vice Commander

Dennis R. Nixon, China Spring, Texas

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Stephen Whitehead, Rosemount, Minn.

3rd Jr. Vice Commander

Donald Day, Brooklyn, N.Y.

4th Jr. Vice Commander

Andrew Marshall, Palm Harbor, Fla.

National Judge Advocate

Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, N.D.

National Chaplain

Michael P. Dover, Ellerslie, Ga.

Past National Commander

Moses A. McIntosh Jr., Hephzibah, Ga.



Front row, from left: Stephen Whitehead, Dennis R. Nixon, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, David W. Riley. **Back row, from left:** Michael P. Dover, Donald Day, Andrew Marshall, Michael E. Dobmeier, Moses A. McIntosh Jr.

NEC 1st District

Daniel P. Stack, Uxbridge, Mass.

Alternate

Raymond Richards, Bellingham, Mass.

NEC 2nd District

Chester Wisnesky Jr., Constable, N.Y.

Alternate

Keith A. Robinson, Rochester, N.Y.

NEC 3rd District

Richard Fournier, Windsor, Maine

Alternate

Robert Nicodemus, Enfield, N.H.

NEC 4th District

James M. Kopley, Princeton, N.J.

Alternate

Abraham Velez, Dover, Del.

NEC 5th District

Lawrence F. Kelly, Beaver Meadows, Pa.

Alternate

Samuel Blow Jr., Melrose Park, Pa.

NEC 6th District

Idalis M. Marquez, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico

Alternate

Robert D. Cox, Roanoke, Va.

NEC 7th District

Richard L. Tolfa, Winter Springs, Fla.

Alternate

John Raber, Bradenton, Fla.

NEC 8th District

Johnnie Carver, Sevierville, Tenn.

Alternate

Donald L. Samuels, Gallatin, Tenn.

NEC 9th District

Cleveland Bryant Jr., Cary, N.C.

Alternate

Rodney Tucker, Lexington, N.C.

NEC 10th District

James R. Dempsey, Dexter, Mich.

Alternate

Albert L. Hughes Jr., Redford, Mich.

NEC 11th District

Robert Bertschy, East Liverpool, Ohio

Alternate

David Uetterling, Defiance, Ohio

NEC 12th District

Alfred C. Reynolds, Mount Zion, Ill.

Alternate

Eric Huckaby, Pawnee, Ill.

NEC 13th District

Tom P. Bratcher, Indianapolis, Ind.

Alternate

Carlos Arambula, Valparaiso, Ind.

NEC 14th District

David P. Valtinson, Grand Rapids, Minn.

Alternate

Gregory D. Remus, Park Rapids, Minn.

NEC 15th District

Kimberly R. Tatham, Lebanon, Mo.

Alternate

Jim Shuey, Omaha, Neb.

NEC 16th District

Michael Steinbaugh, Berkeley, Calif.

Alternate

Kirk H. Johnson, Marina, Calif.

NEC 17th District

Frank Maughan, Ogden, Utah

Alternate

Richard Hogue, Littleton, Colo.

NEC 18th District

Richard Walker, Henderson, Nev.

Alternate

Jeffrey K. Carson, N. Las Vegas, Nev.

NEC 19th District

Sarah J. Royse, Tillamook, Ore.

Alternate

Harvey Dixon, Boise, Idaho

NEC 20th District

Percy Spence III, Selma, Texas

Alternate

Thomas Parker, Lorena, Texas

NEC 21st District

Charles D. Stake, Heber Springs, Ark.

Alternate

Vacant until 2017 National Convention



Front row, from left: Diane J. Franz, Ellen L. Timmerman, William Craig Johniken, Frances J. Costa. **Back row, from left:** Aura-Lee Nicodemus, Lynn Helms Prosser, Donna M. Adams, Dorothy Reese

National Commander

Frances J. Costa, North Attleboro, Mass.

Sr. Vice Commander

William Craig Johniken, Lufkin, Texas

1st Jr. Vice Commander

Ellen L. Timmerman, Farmington, N.M.

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Diane J. Franz, Winter Springs, Fla.

3rd Jr. Vice Commander

Lynn Helms Prosser, Surfside Beach, S.C.

4th Jr. Vice Commander

Dorothy Reese, Kathleen, Ga.

National Judge Advocate

Donna M. Adams, Glendale, Ariz.

National Chaplain

Aura-Lee Nicodemus, Enfield, N.H.

NEC 1st District

Lillian R. Halpin, Auburn, Mass.

Alternate

Elizabeth Eldridge, Marshfield, Mass.

NEC 2nd District

Terry Grabowski, Middletown, N.Y.

Alternate

Cheryl Connors, Flushing, N.Y.

NEC 3rd District

Sylvia Heath, Mechanic Falls, Maine

Alternate

Donna M. Folcarelli, Johnston, R.I.

NEC 4th District

Linda S. Applegate, Toms River, N.J.

Alternate

Sarah M. Kashner, Camden, Del.

NEC 5th District

Loretta J. Nosko, Erie, Pa.

Alternate

Diane M. Freeman, Chambersburg, Pa.

NEC 6th District

Grace M. James, Front Royal, Va.

Alternate

Maria H. Torres, Fajardo, Puerto Rico

NEC 7th District

Delphia M. Bare, Brooksville, Fla.

Alternate

Delores A. Roussey, Port Charlotte, Fla.

NEC 8th District

Charlene Williams, Diamondhead, Miss.

Alternate

Juanita H. Upton, Mendenhall, Miss.

NEC 9th District

Shirley Hill, Selma, N.C.

Alternate

Evelyn D. Bryant, Cary, N.C.

NEC 10th District

Teresita Morey, Holland, Mich.

Alternate

Regina I. Fortner, Oscoda, Mich.

NEC 11th District

Denise J. Proffitt, Louisville, Ohio

Alternate

Judith Hezlep, Cincinnati, Ohio

NEC 12th District

Carla L. Reynolds, Mount Zion, Ill.

Alternate

Sandra B. Black, Bloomington, Ill.

NEC 13th District

Linda S. Bratcher, West Lafayette, Ind.

Alternate

Dorothy Fivecoate, Kokomo, Ind.

NEC 14th District

Laurie A. Pekarik, Blaine, Minn.

Alternate

LeeAnn B. Karg, Dassel, Minn.

NEC 15th District

Breanne Chandler, Bee, Neb.

Alternate

Veronica L. Bergquist, Wichita, Kan.

NEC 16th District

Melissa Valdez, Highland, Calif.

Alternate

Adrienne Frazier Mack, San Francisco, Calif.

NEC 17th District

Beth V. Maughan, Pleasant View, Utah

Alternate

Brenda C. Moore, Carlsbad, N.M.

NEC 18th District

Carol A. Rundell, Tucson, Ariz.

Alternate

Carolyn J. Walker, Henderson, Nev.

NEC 19th District

Delores D. Knapp, Meridian, Idaho

Alternate

Sienna M. Stewart, Idaho Falls, Idaho

NEC 20th District

Christopher J. Easley, San Antonio, Texas

Alternate

Darlene Spence, Selma, Texas

NEC 21st District

Kimberly Stake, Heber Springs, Ark.

Alternate

Mary E. Reese Roden, Eldorado, Texas

New staff appointments announced

National Adjutant Marc Burgess recently announced new appointments for DAV national staff.

"I take the work requirements of our professional ranks very seriously," said Burgess. "When it comes time to consider individuals for appointments, I look for those who exemplify DAV's commitment to serving veterans and show the highest professional and personal standards."

National Commander David Riley echoed Burgess' faith in the new appointments.

"Adjutant Burgess has high expectations of each and every member of the DAV staff," Riley said. "I'm fully confident in the ability of these individuals to perform the duties asked of them to further serve our nation's veterans with the skills and quality that the public has come to expect from DAV."

The new appointments include Scott Hope as Deputy National Service Director for Training, Shane Liermann as Assistant National Service Director, Mary Dever and Bryan Lett as Assistant National Communications Directors, and James Killen as Associate National Communications Director.



Hope

Deputy National Service Director for Training

In his new role, Scott Hope will play a key part in carrying out essential operations and oversight for the National Service Program and will ensure state-of-the-art training is implemented across DAV.

A veteran of the war in Iraq, Hope served in the Army from 1997 to 2005. His DAV career began in 2007 as a trainee and National Service Officer in Pittsburgh. In 2009, he was promoted to Assistant Supervisor and subsequently advanced to Supervisor in 2011. He was promoted to National Area Supervisor for Area 3 in 2014, serving in Pittsburgh until his appointment to Assistant National Service Director in 2015. He is a Life Member of Chapter 76 in Pittsburgh.

Assistant National Service Director

As Assistant National Service Director, Shane Liermann's responsibilities include providing coordination and logistical support for National Service Offices across the United States and in Puerto Rico.

A Marine Corps veteran, Liermann joined DAV's professional staff as a National Service Officer Trainee in 1998. In 2003, he was promoted to Assistant Supervisor of the Denver National Service Office. Liermann served as Assistant Supervisor in Cleveland before receiving a promotion to Supervisor of the National Service Office in Fort Snelling, Minn. He also served as a Supervisor in Nashville, Tenn. In 2011, Liermann relocated to Washington, D.C., to accept the role of Assistant Supervisor of the National Appeals Office at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, where he served until his current appointment. Liermann is a Life Member and Adjutant of Chapter 10 in Arlington, Va.



Liermann

Assistant National Communications Director

Mary Dever, an Air Force veteran, served as a broadcast journalist and public affairs specialist for 10 years until separation in August 2015. Her service includes deployments in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dever's responsibilities as Assistant National Communications Director include producing a wide variety of written and multimedia projects for DAV's internal and external communications. She joined the DAV national staff when she was appointed Associate National Director of Communications in 2015. She works at DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and is a Life Member of Chapter 33 in Odenton, Md.



Dever



Lett

Assistant National Communications Director

As Assistant National Communications Director, Bryan Lett, a combat-disabled Marine Corps veteran of the war in Afghanistan, continues to broaden the reach of DAV's mission and services through internal and

external communications.

Lett joined DAV when he was appointed Associate National Director of Communications in 2015. He works at DAV National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Ky.

Lett served as a broadcast journalist and public affairs specialist for nine years before his medical retirement, which resulted from a combat injury, in April 2015. Among numerous multimedia awards, he was named Marine Corps Photojournalist of the Year in 2009. He is a Life Member of Chapter 144 in Grove City, Ohio.

Associate National Communications Director

James Killen joined the DAV national communications staff in June, taking on the role of social media manager. He is responsible for advising leaders about and managing DAV's social networking efforts, where he brings more than eight years of experience.

Killen is a Marine Corps veteran whose service includes deployments to Iraq and Liberia, as well as support of humanitarian efforts following Hurricane Katrina. He continues his military service in the Kentucky Air National Guard, where he serves as a public affairs officer. Killen is a graduate of the University of Louisville and lives in his home state of Kentucky, where he is a Life Member of Chapter 3 in Elizabethtown. ■



Killen



Four decades of volunteerism...

The VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System recently recognized Norman Dan Smith, a member of DAV Chapter 7 in Leavenworth, Kan., for his 40 years of volunteer service and more than 15,400 volunteer hours in support of veterans. Pictured (left to right) are Kevin T. Arnhold, assistant director of the VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System; Charles Ramey, VAVS coordinator; Norman Dan Smith; and A. Rudy Klopfer, director of the VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System.



Operation: Cabin Fever...

Fred Hamel (left), Commander of DAV Chapter 17 in Oshkosh, Wisc., presents a check for more than \$7,000 to Joe Aulik, director of Veterans Services of Winnebago County, at their recent county board supervisor meeting. The money raised was a result of a community event, "Operation: Cabin Fever." The money will support the Veterans Emergency Situation Fund for veterans in need.



Share Your News! Send your latest DAV or Auxiliary news and photos to feedback@dav.org for consideration.



From the NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

MICHAEL P. DOVER

The application of law and religion



Greetings everyone. In recent months, we've borne witness to numerous tragedies in this country. These events have shattered many lives and left many Americans feeling vulnerable, angry and understandably heartbroken. In the wake of these terrible events and in the spirit of unity, I have decided to dedicate my next few commentaries to understanding how the basic concepts of religion apply to our daily lives, whether or not we are people of faith.

I want to begin at the intersection of religion and law, and how it applies to what we do within the organization.

My faith teaches that the Ten Commandments are considered the divine laws of the Creator, and all laws should derive from these rules. In other words, if something is not mentioned explicitly, it must be there implicitly. For instance, "Thou shalt not steal your neighbor's Sunday newspaper" is not a commandment outright, but it's certainly covered by one of the 10.

These laws can be summed up generally by the notions of reverence and respect—reverence for the Creator, his name, his day and respect for parents, life, truth, property and our neighbors. Even if you don't believe in a higher power, these moral imperatives serve as good guideposts for living in peace and harmony, and they are well within the bounds of man-made laws.

So how does this apply to our mem-

bership and DAV as a whole?

Well, the Ten Commandments are a set of broad principles that individuals can take, interpret and apply to situations within their own lives. The same can be said for how the DAV Constitution and Bylaws serve as a guide for our organization.

The Ten Commandments, and those that govern DAV, are about higher standards of living. The DAV Constitution and Bylaws, approved by the members, are the framework from which we operate. These rules set the standard for how we conduct our business, and it is well worth taking the time to become more familiar with them. If we do not read and carry out those standards, what's the point?

There are many who try to accomplish their own agenda without first consulting the appropriate documentation to ensure that what they do represents the best interests of the organization or, as it happens, their faith.

So, what is truly important when it comes to the laws intended to govern our lives, actions and ultimately our organization? It's not just giving lip service about what we believe, but rather carrying out our mission according to the tenets we are built upon. In doing so, people will see the genuineness of who we are and what we represent as we work together to ensure better lives for veterans and their families.

In His Service for You.



TO ALL WHO DARED TO...

raise your hand and take the oath
deploy... and deploy again
watch your children grow from afar
re-enlist
take that gas mask off
work longer and harder than you
ever had, or ever will
march a rainbow flight
eat that veggie omelet MRE
finish The Crucible
leave the wire
join a dustoff crew
dig a fighting hole
join the Caterpillar Club
ride the highline chair
serve in the Eleven Bravo
learn what a shellback is
ship out on an icebreaker
protect and defend the Constitution

...THANK YOU



Mobility restored...

The capability to use power mobility can be life-changing. Motorized scooters have been shown to improve mobility and energy conservation, leading to greater independence in daily living, work and recreational activities. Chapter 55 in Covington, Ga., gave the gift of power mobility to disabled veteran Rick Sampson (center). The keys to the motorized scooter were presented by Chapter Commander David Norman (left) and Bobby Huggins (right).



Georgia Chapters send kids to camp...

DAV Chapter 18 and Auxiliary Unit 18 of Augusta, Ga., joined forces with their local Golden Corral to raise funds for Camp Corral, which was founded by Golden Corral as an extension of their long history of honoring service members and their families. The program's mission is to transform the lives of the children of wounded, disabled and fallen military heroes by providing a unique summer camp experience. The Augusta DAV and Auxiliary members raised more than \$6,000 for Camp Corral.

70th annual VAVS Convention...

The 70th Annual VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference was held in Albuquerque, N.M., May 2-7. The committee advises the Undersecretary for Health on matters pertaining to the participation of volunteers in VA medical facilities, assists in recruitment and orientation of volunteers and keeps the officers and members of participating organizations informed of volunteer needs and accomplishments. Pictured (from left) are DAV National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst, DAV National Deputy VAVS Representative William "Bill" Baumann, prior American Veterans National Commander John "J.P." Brown and DAV Department of California VAVS Representative Kirk Johnson.



DAV family mourns passing of Auxiliary National Commander

■ DAV Auxiliary National Commander Linda Stake passed away July 26, surrounded by family and loved ones in her home state of Arkansas.

Stake was a steadfast and devoted advocate for veterans and their families for many decades. She was elected National Commander of the Auxiliary at DAV's 94th National Convention in Denver last summer and spent her tenure highlighting the need to support military families and caregivers.

Just prior to her passing, Stake had issued her farewell as Auxiliary Commander, stating, "It has been an absolute privilege to serve our members. ... I will forever cherish the stories, trials and tribulations you shared with me."

Stake's life membership in the Auxiliary began in 1998, and she was a charter member of Auxiliary Unit 57 in Heber Springs, Ark.

She was, however, an advocate for injured and ill veterans long before her Auxiliary membership began. Stake fought tirelessly to ensure her husband Charles, a



Stake

veteran of Operation Desert Storm, received the care and benefits he had earned after he was injured in service.

Linda brought extensive leadership experience to the Auxiliary. In her Unit, she served in all elected positions. She also contributed at the state and national levels, assisting as a leader with Community Service, Americanism, Legislative and as Membership Chairman.

Linda is survived by her husband Charles (DAV National Executive Committee Representative for District 21); daughters Kim, Carol and Penny; grandchildren Casey, Austin and Macy; and great-grandsons Jaden and Tyler. Linda encouraged her children and grandchildren to do work for injured and ill veterans, and all remain active members of the DAV Auxiliary and DAV Auxiliary Juniors.

"We are grateful to Linda for her many years of selfless sacrifice and service to our nation's veterans and their families," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "Her legacy will live on through all the lives she touched with her compassion and tireless hard work. She will be greatly missed."

DAV Past National Chaplain Rev. Carl E. Bergstrom

■ The Reverend Carl E. Bergstrom, a combat-disabled veteran of the Korean War, served 12 terms as National Chaplain of DAV, from 1971 to 1997.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1952 and deployed to Korea the following year with the 3rd Infantry Division, 7th Regiment. In the closing weeks of the war, his unit was engaged in combat in the Kumwha Valley. As a result of wounds incurred by a mortar round explosion, the young private 1st class lost his left leg below the knee. His military decorations included the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Korean Service Medal with two service stars.

Bergstrom earned a bachelor's degree from Butler University in Indianapolis in 1952 and a Master of Divinity



Bergstrom

degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va., in 1958. He was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in December of that year. Bergstrom decided to devote his career to serving his fellow veterans, joining the staff of the VA medical center in Boston in 1964 and becoming chief of chaplains there in 1981. He retired from this position in 1993.

Father Bergstrom joined DAV shortly after his 1954 medical retirement from the Army.

He was a Life Member of DAV Chapter 89 in Boston and the National Amputee Chapter. After serving Chapter 89 in a variety of capacities, including Chaplain from 1964 to 1989, he was elected Chapter Commander for 1982-83. He also served as DAV Department of Massachusetts Chaplain for many years, was elected Department Commander for the 1984-85 year and served two terms as District 1 National Executive Committee member.

REUNIONS

ARMY

1ST TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, 106TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION Oct. 6-9, 2017, Fort Eustis, VA, Contact: SSG Alfred K. Austin, Ph: 910-564-3259, Email: alfred.austin59@yahoo.com.

14TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION ASSOCIATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS Oct. 26-29, 2016, Hampton, VA, Contact: Frank G. Ferry, Ph: 203-241-2632, Email: frankgferry@yahoo.com, Web: www.14thtransbnamgs.org.

15TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (6/15TH & 7/15TH BNS) VIETNAM VETERANS Sept. 15-17, 2016, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Chuck Alexander, Ph: 956-342-1624, Email: csalexander4446@gmail.com.

2ND BATTALION, 75TH FIELD ARTILLERY/3RD BATTALION, 20TH FIELD ARTILLERY June 9-11, 2017, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Kory James, Ph: 580-284-9719, Email: kjames4172@aol.com.

299TH COMBAT ENGINEERS, DAK TO DEFENDERS Oct. 2-6, 2016, Nashville, TN, Contact: Dave Swanson, Ph: 206-249-8301, Email: abdokes@comcast.net.

3RD US INFANTRY REGIMENT (THE OLD GUARD) ALL BATTALIONS Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2016, Arlington, VA, Contact: Martin Cassidy, Ph: 914-738-7205, Email: mjcpatch@aol.com

65TH COMBAT ENGINEER REUNION Oct. 3, 2016, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, Contact: Ken Dixon, Ph: 706-625-4696.

630TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY Oct. 6-9, 2016, New Orleans, LA, Contact: Roger Petersen, Ph: 925-209-9500, Email: rogerapetersen@comcast.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/630thmp.

8TH BATTALION, 4TH ARTILLERY (VIETNAM 1967-71) Oct. 19-23, 2016, Albuquerque, NM, Contact: Joe Talley, Ph: 580-695-6346, Email: joearta@swbell.net.

ASA OKINAWA Sept. 14-18, 2016, Buffalo, NY, Contact: Gary Duenow, Ph: 319-393-2234, Email: thedue60@yahoo.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/asaokinawa.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE VETERANS Dec. 18, 2016, West Palm Beach, FL, Contact: George Fisher, Ph: 561-585-7086, Email: georgefbob@aol.com.

COMBAT INFANTRYMENS ASSOCIATION Oct. 20-23, 2016, Albuquerque, NM, Contact: Vince Arfuso, Ph: 828-490-9303, Email: ciamemberapps@gmail.com, Web: www.cibassoc.com.

SIGNAL CORPS, OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL Oct. 7-10, 2016, Charleston, SC, Contact: Richard Kerns, Ph: 615-391-0867, Email: rkerns99@bellsouth.net.

MARINES

HMM-165/VMM-165, ALL HANDS/ALL YEARS June 8-11, 2017, Washington, DC, Contact: Al Dickerson, Ph: 317-462-0733, Email: dickerson@hrtc.net, Web: www.hmm165whiteknights.com.

F-2-7 AND UTTER'S BATTALION 1965-66 Sept. 19-22, 2016, Asheville, NC, Contact: Bob Gallaher, Ph: 615-360-7927, Email: GAL2001@comcast.net.

MORTARS 2/12 WHISKEY BATTERY VIETNAM 1965-1969 Oct. 3-6, 2016, St. Augustine, FL, Contact: Henry Ortiz, Ph: 949-874-3636, Email: ortizwood@yahoo.com.

NATIONAL ASSOC. OF NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHY Sept. 28-Oct. 2, 2016, Norfolk, VA, Contact: Bill Solt, Ph: 757-427-5766, Email: sisbill@aol.com, Web: www.navyphoto.net.

USMC REUNION GROUP C-1-7 KOREA 50-53 Oct. 6-9, 2016, Chicago, IL, Contact: Sam Badger, Email: sbadger20@aol.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/c17marines.

NAVY

ATTACK SQUADRON 106 1945-69 (VA-106/VF-62) Oct. 14-17, 2016, Washington, DC, Contact: Bob McClean, Ph: 631-766-6387, Email: trekbob@aol.com.

USS BEXAR (APA-237) Sept. 13-16, 2016, Reno, NV, Contact: Steve Malloy, Ph: 360-373-1093, Email: ussbexar@comcast.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/bexar.

USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14) Oct. 20-23, 2016, Washington, DC, Contact: Robin Browning, Ph: 408-348-5761, Email: stg1navy@earthlink.net.

USS COLUMBUS (CA-74/CG-12/SSN-762) Oct. 12-16, 2016, Rapid City, SD, Contact: Al Hope, Ph: 260-341-3615, Email: hope4391@frontier.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/columbus.

USS FRANK KNOX (DDR-742) Sept. 21-24, 2016, Portland, OR, Contact: Vaughan Kruger, Ph: 206-466-6094, Email: vaughankruger@yahoo.com.

USS HOUSTON (CL-81) Oct. 19-23, 2016, Myrtle Beach, SC, Contact: Donna Rogers, Ph: 717-792-9113, Email: dlr7110@yahoo.com.

USS HUNTINGTON (CL-107) Oct. 13-16, 2016, Hickory, NC, Contact: Gene Volcik, Ph: 512-926-7008, Email: evolcik@aol.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/huntington.

USS JONAS INGRAM (DD-938) Oct. 2-5, 2016, Warwick, RI, Contact: Pete Ventola, Ph: 973-627-7491, Email: prpenn@rcn.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/jonasingram.

USS KENNETH D. BAILEY (DD/DDR-713) May 4-7, 2017, Nashville, TN, Contact: Ernie Pina, Ph: 401-333-1964, Email: cpopina@cox.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/kdb.

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN ASSOCIATION INC. Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2016, Chicago, IL, Contact: James Brown, Ph: 732-928-8355, Email: goat1964@aol.com, Web: www.usslca.org.

USS MISSISSIPPI (EAG-128) Oct. 13-16, 2016, Hickory, NC, Contact: Paul Shepley, Ph: 910-256-6173, Email: eag128reunion@yahoo.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/eag128.

USS OAK HILL (LSD-7) Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2016, Savannah, GA, Contact: Raylah Holm, Ph: 509-607-9021, Email: raylah@aol.com, Web: www.ussoakhillsd7.myevent.com.

USS PAWCATUCK (AO-108) April 27-30, 2017, Washington, DC, Contact: Randy Mosley, Ph: 803-279-0692, Email: rmosley@comcast.net, Web: www.ussspawcatuck.org.

USS RAMSEY (DEG/FFG-2) June 2-4, 2017, Branson, MO, Contact: Sara Green-Hord, Ph: 800-848-5432, Email: Sara@ozarkskirkwood.com.

USS SARATOGA (CV-3/CVA/CA-60) Oct. 19-23, 2016, Branson, MO, Contact: Ed McCready, Email: ursupersara60@gmail.com/emc0853@yahoo.com.

USS SCHOFIELD (DEG/FFG-3) Sept. 22-25, 2016, Bremerton, WA, Contact: Mark Fletcher, Ph: 413-773-3211, Email: gunnerfletch@hotmail.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/schofield.

USS STEINAKER (DD/DDR-863) April 20-23, 2017, Nashville, TN, Contact: Russ Noble, Ph: 231-944-2148, Email: steinaker@charter.net.

USS TERREBONNE PARISH (LST-1156) Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2016, San Diego, CA, Contact: David Bader, Ph: 614-296-8380, Email: redab36@wowway.com.

USS THREADFIN (SS-410) Oct. 13-16, 2016, Charleston, SC, Contact: Steve Kolb, Ph: 904-646-3814, Email: srkolb@comcast.net.

USS WEXFORD COUNTY (LST-1168) Oct. 27-30, 2016, Charleston, SC, Contact: Larry Condra, Ph: 314-994-1187, Email: wexford.county.reunion@aol.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/wexford.

AIR FORCE

26 BOMB SQUADRON (B-52) ALTUS, OK 1957-68

Oct. 26-29, 2016, Kerrville, TX, Contact: Bob Eure, Ph: 830-367-2327, Email: bfe1952@gmail.com.

45TH MISSILE SECURITY SQUADRON (SECURITY POLICE) June 13-16, 2017, Rapid City, SD, Contact: Steve Sehl, Ph: 402-310-4326, Email: hsolo44@hotmail.com.

774TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT SQUADRON Sept. 16-17, 2016, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Van Hammack, Ph: 210-381-4426, Email: vantexwv@gmail.com, Web: www.774tas.net.

B-57 BUMMERS ASSN. BLMF AIR CRAFT WEAPONS Oct. 12-16, 2016, Pigeon Forge, TN, Contact: Howard Taylor, Ph: 256-353-7269, Email: howard_taylor@att.net.

ALL SERVICES

ANNUAL RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY Sept. 24, 2016, Camp Lejeune, NC, Contact: Luis "Lou" Alers, Ph: 910-451-0287, Email: luis.alers@usmc.mil.

DRRI GRADS/INSTRUCTORS Oct. 14-15, 2016, Fairfield, IA, Contact: John Miller, Ph: 641-209-1039, Email: jcmiller69@msn.com.

EARLY VIETNAM VETERANS Oct. 20-23, 2016, Washington, DC, Contact: Bill Pratt, Ph: 740-962-2666, Email: maag16-411@embarqmail.com.

INQUIRIES

- Searching for Ron Swaeble, who served with me in the 82nd Airborne MPs around late 1964 to early 1965. He was from New Jersey. I was a specialist when Ron knew me, and my name was then Peter C. Kroner. I have since changed my name. Contact Rex. S. Gunther, 1010 W. Columbia St., Farmington, MO 63640-2902, Ph: 573-218-6997 or 573-218-6994.
- Searching for anyone who was in Charlie Co. during 1967 at Fort Bragg, NC, after PT test. We went in gas chamber. Also searching for Carlisle, who was in the Navy, going to be assigned to Army HHC PT Training. Contact James Lee Goodwin, 519 McGrath St., Eastover, SC 29044, Ph: 803-800-8340.
- Searching for anyone stationed in Kirksville, MO, ACW out of Air Force Guard, Minneapolis, MN. Contact Gene Hertzog, 5800 Chestnut Trace, Hoover, AL 35244, Ph: 205-444-0006.
- Searching for anyone who served in the Ground Observer Squadron Filter Centers in Omaha, NE, or Brentwood, MO, in 1957-58, also Material Supply personnel stationed at Osan, Korea, 1959-60. Contact Larry Sorenson, Email: larryloanne@gmail.com.
- Searching for anyone who served in boot camp from Jan. 15 to April 12, 1973, 3rd Battalion, Platoon 306, at Parris Island, SC. Contact D. Sexton, P.O. Box 1107, Monticello, KY 42633, Ph: 606-278-2658.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Charlie Co. 1st of the 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, in Vietnam, 1970. Contact Gary Richter, Email: gjrichter@aol.com, Ph: 386-423-8517.
- Searching for anyone who served with me on the USS Oriskany (CVA-34), 1960-61, 2nd Division Gun Crew, Mount 52 and 54 General Quarters and Air Defense. Contact: Chuck Wood, 7016 87th St. N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98332, Ph: 253-858-6982.
- Searching for Cpls. Rosado, Carrasquillo and Santiago who worked in the supply room at the Reception Center, Fort Dix, NJ, from 1966-68. Contact Leonard Guzman, P.O. Box 260696, Hartford, CT 06126, Ph: 860-899-4291.
- Searching for what happened to the "TONKA toy" F-111 aircraft crane from RAF Upper Heyford, England, in the mid-1970s. Contact Bob Balick, Ph: 315-336-0485.
- Searching for HM1 Thomas Carl Lee who was serving with the USMC at Camp Pendleton about 1974-75. Anyone who has an address for him please contact Chaplain Mel Willard, Ph: 619-501-8907, Email: mwillard@cox.net.
- Searching for Lt. Carol Slayer, a US Army nurse who I believe was from Topeka, KS. Lt. Slayer took care of Leon McLemore and me in the hospital on the island of Okinawa from January to April of 1965. Contact Leonard Thompson, P.O. Box 81, Solana Beach, CA 92075, Ph: 619-701-4820.
- Searching for Sgt. Tepper who served with me in the Plain of Reeds, Jan. 25, 1969. I was in C Company 5th and 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Contact Johnny N. Trussell, P.O. Box 292, Estill Springs, TN 37330, Ph: 931-808-7942.
- Searching for anyone who served in the 599th F.A. Battalion, Battery A, Fort Bragg, NC, December 1950 to December 1951. Contact Moses Moore, 242 Western Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139, Ph: 617-491-7714.
- Searching for anyone who knew Frankie Fontanez, PFC or Spec. 4, stationed in Korea, killed in training accident on Nov. 15, 1984. Contact SSG Denis Flynn, Email: b105fa@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who served aboard the USS Gridley DLG/CG-21 during the period of July 1973 thru March 1975. Contact Gerald F. Forbes, URB Country Club, PB 31, Calle 220, Carolina, PR 00982, Ph: 787-212-4152.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Vietnam, Big Red Infantry I or 2/28th Black Lions 1967-1968, LAI KHE. Contact Jay Gurry, 16 Swan Pond Road, North Reading, MA 01864.
- Searching for SSGT Laurie J. Connelly, stationed in Holland from 1966 to 1970, AFROT DET NR 775, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. Contact Dave Naylor, 2116 North Ave., Sacramento, CA 95838.
- Searching for all airmen of the 1st mob. unit, out of Clark AFB, Philippines; all ground radio operators that served from November 1961 to October 1963. Contact Harold Kauffman, Ph: 863-397-0369.



Military Appreciation Night



DAV and Golden Corral are once again partnering for Military Appreciation Night. On Monday, Nov. 14, 2016, between 5 and 9 p.m., Golden Corral will thank America's veterans and active-duty military men and woman with a free buffet dinner and drink at restaurants nationwide.

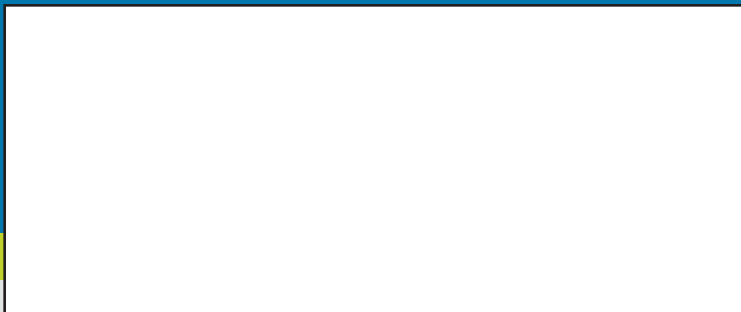
Since the start of the 15-year tradition, Golden Corral has served more than 4.7 million complimentary meals and generated more than \$11.5 million in guest contributions for DAV to support community-based service initiatives for veterans.

Military Appreciation Night is Golden Corral's way of saying "Thank you!" to our nation's veterans and active-duty personnel. Be sure to visit the DAV information table at your local Golden Corral.



Share Your News! Send photos of your Chapter or Department at a Military Appreciation Night event to feedback@dav.org by November 21 for consideration in the January/February issue.

Thank you for your service.



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