



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF DAV AND AUXILIARY

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MAGAZINE



STANDING TALL

**Army veteran Delphine Metcalf-Foster
steps in as DAV's new national commander**

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2017 DAV & AUXILIARY
National Convention
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1

Below: "God Bless the Broken Road" stars Lindsay Pulsipher and Gary Grubbs address an audience of DAV and Auxiliary members following the film's screening at the National Convention in New Orleans.



Above: DAV Auxiliary members (from left) Bonnie White, Betty Waters and Ana Dunn, of Unit 6 in Chattanooga, Tenn., enjoy an A&W root beer float after the opening session.

From the NATIONAL COMMANDER DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER



Our mission continues

Hello comrades and families! I'm humbled and honored to serve as our organization's first national commander who is a woman veteran. When I became involved in DAV, this was not something I sought, but I think it shows what opportunities are available for disabled veterans who wish to serve fellow veterans and their families.

Our year was certainly busy, and as I look ahead, I think it's safe to say we know we're about to get busier. I'm humbly asking for your help as we continue our mission.

One of my areas of focus in our coming year will be the invisible wounds of post-traumatic stress disorder. About 8 percent of Americans will have PTSD for any number of reasons at any given time. That's about the total population of Texas. But for our nation's veterans, the numbers are proportionately much higher. For Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, PTSD rates range from 11 to 20 percent, Gulf War veterans are at 12 percent, and an astonishing 30 percent of our Vietnam veterans have experienced the symptoms of PTSD at some point in their lives.

The myths surrounding this illness are often perpetrated by Hollywood, the military-civilian gap in our country and popular culture. These stereotypes create barriers to employment and interpersonal relationships and can negatively impact a veteran's desire to seek treatment.

It is my intent to join you in combatting this stigma and encouraging veterans to get the help they need in order to thrive.

Additionally, we need to keep our eyes focused on the unique health issues of women veterans. Our female service members are shouldering the same risks as their brothers-in-arms, and we must ensure they receive the services and programs they have earned.

Women have been in every conflict since the birth of our country but have only recently begun to receive some much-deserved recognition. Immediately after World War I, President Woodrow Wilson said, "It goes without saying that the country depends upon women for a large part of the inspiration of its life. But it is now depending upon the women also for suggestions of service, which have been rendered in abundance and with the distinction of originality."

Our country's vernacular may have changed, but the distinct service of women veterans has been a constant. I ask that you please join me in continuing to advocate so the unique needs of our sisters-in-arms are fully met by our government.

We have many fights ahead of us, but like you, I'm not one to back away from a fight.

I invite you to join me through the DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) at davcan.org and tell your national elected representatives where you stand on veteran-related issues.

I look forward to working with you all this year. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your national commander, and I pledge to work tirelessly to ensure our voices are heard.

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In case you missed it, we're bringing you highlights from the 96th annual DAV National Convention in the Big Easy.

Cover photo by Emily Kask

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In the 1990s, as conflicts were heating up across the globe and the world was heading toward the dawn of a new century, DAV was also changing course and charting new beginnings.

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From the NATIONAL ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS



IU proposal 'dead'

Over the past few months, we have received a great deal of feedback regarding some important matters potentially impacting injured and ill veterans. I'm glad you are all staying up to date on the issues, and I know it has spurred many of you into action by engaging through our DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) and by becoming Benefits Protection Team leaders.

To illustrate the important work our team leaders undertake, I want to highlight a major win for disabled veterans that came to light during our national convention: defeat of proposed changes to Individual Unemployability—or IU.

During this year's Service and Legislative Seminar at the convention, House Veterans' Affairs Committee ranking member Rep. Tim Walz announced, to great applause, that the proposal to stop IU benefits for veterans at the age of 62 will not move forward.

"The [IU] piece is dead. That will not happen," Walz explained. "It's just not fair, and all of you in this room understand this."

He noted that outcry from the veterans community was largely to thank for the reversal of this proposal.

"Dr. Shulkin took some feedback, and this week he told me we're changing

course on that—we're not going to do it," Walz said.

I know many of you have expressed concern, and rightfully so, about the potential effects this would have had. A number of you also asked how you could get involved and help ensure this proposal did not become a reality.

Thanks to your ambitious efforts, nearly 26,000 messages were delivered through DAV CAN, voicing staunch opposition to this proposal.

Each year at our national convention, I am proud to share with you all what DAV has done throughout the year. And frankly, I am impressed at how much work your support makes possible for our fellow veterans and families. This is just one example of the incredible results your

work has accomplished.

If you are one of the many who lent your voice to help defeat this harmful proposal, thank you. If not, I would encourage you to join the fight with us to oppose laws and policies that would negatively affect veterans.

Get involved through davcan.org or through your local Benefits Protection Team. Across the country, these men and women have been actively leading the fight to protect what veterans have earned through service. Thank you all for your continued support, and congratulations on a big victory for veterans!

Thanks to your ambitious efforts, nearly **26,000** messages were delivered through DAV CAN, voicing staunch opposition to this proposal.



Unsung heroes

Kudos to DAV for your effort to fight for equal benefits for caregivers of veterans of all eras. As the caregiver of a Vietnam veteran who was paralyzed as a result of a combat injury, I applauded when caregiver benefits were awarded to post-9/11 veterans. We thought it would open the door for those of us who have dedicated our lives to our veterans injured in previous wars. It's been a long fight, but we're finally making some progress. We ultimately save taxpayers money, because if "unsung heroes" weren't there to ensure our veterans' quality of life, they would be institutionalized at great expense to the government.

Donna Barton, Tualitan, Ore.

Veteran of the Year

As someone who benefited from Dr. Kenneth Lee's participation in the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic and his adaptive program in Wisconsin, I was thrilled to see he had been named DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year. He is a great example to all of us of someone overcoming adversity and remaining dedicated to a cause.

Kyle Kienitz, Neenah, Wis.

Benefits for bad conduct discharges

I just received the May/June *DAV Magazine* and read the article on giving veterans benefits to veterans without an honorable discharge. If I, or we, see another attempt to give benefits to bad conduct and dishonorably discharged veterans, you can remove my name from your roles. **Antoine Roy, Jaffrey, N.H.**

Editor's note: On Page 31 of the May/June issue, we discussed VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin's directive to authorize benefits—specifically mental health care treatment—to veterans with other

than honorable discharges, not veterans with bad conduct or dishonorable discharges. These OTH veterans would have access to emergency mental health benefits for 90 days while staff determine if their conditions are service-connected. This is a critical step in the prevention of veteran suicide, especially as we know that 70 percent of the veterans who take their own lives are not receiving treatment through the VA. This measure aligns with Resolution No. 226 passed by DAV membership at the 2016 DAV National Convention in Atlanta.

VA Choice Program

I was told I had to have outpatient surgery and was referred to an outside doctor by the Choice Program. The day of surgery, I gave the card and the letter provided by the VA, and the hospital said I would be covered. Months later I began receiving bills from the other doctors, many of which had to go to collections. The VA and private doctors need to come to an agreement on the necessity that the veteran be covered. **Donald M. Del Gavio, New Freedom, Pa.**

Smoking

Steve Blythe asked why smoking-related health problems are not compensable [Letters, May/June 2017]. The military did not force this on them. How many nonsmokers received the cigarettes in C-rations yet never developed the habit? I'm sorry for your ills, but why

should already tight resources be spent for something that was self-inflicted? **Bob Slentz, Texas**

Vet Tix

It was great to read your article on how Vet Tix supports us veterans and active-duty members ["DAV and Vet Tix team up to deliver event tickets to veterans," May/June 2017]. In the nearly three years since I learned of Vet Tix, I have gone to over three dozen events—Arizona State games, Diamondbacks games, concerts, comedy shows, plays and NASCAR. I encourage all veterans and active-duty service members to look into joining.

Michael V. King, Gilbert, Ariz.

Facebook

Regarding VA employee removals

The culture of the VA is what needs to change. Veterans need to be put first, and that is that.

Lisa Dorris-Gudmundson

I am a Vietnam-era vet. The VA has helped me and has been very professional. I am not saying all vets got the treatment I did, but I must say they are good to me. **John Josten**

It is a start, but it has a long way to go. The VA has to make sure that the people who replace those fired are qualified and veteran-friendly. **Hanson Alvin Clarence**

Firing people is not the answer—better pay, modern facilities and modern equipment is the answer. Firing people only compounds the situation. **Mike Mattli**

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.

HELP FOR HEROES

DAV, PenFed Foundation partnership expands Military Heroes Fund to provide disabled veterans assistance

By Charity Edgar

After Air Force veteran Willie Edward Eddington passed away last year, his daughter Belinda Eddington was caught off guard when she received a bill for his nursing home care that had already been sent to collections. She had been scrambling to plan a funeral for the Korean War veteran when this new expense surfaced, creating an unexpected financial hardship.

Her father had secured VA benefits with DAV's assistance prior to his passing, so Belinda reached out for help. James Galliher, a Navy and Marine Corps veteran who leads DAV's service program in San Diego, suggested she apply for assistance through the PenFed Foundation Military Heroes Fund, which was recently expanded thanks to a DAV Charitable Service Trust grant.

For nearly a decade, the PenFed Foundation has supported post-9/11 veterans in time of need with emergency financial assistance. Through the new partnership with DAV, qualifying veterans of all eras who are working with a national service officer and have a VA or military disability rating, or have a pending claim for benefits, are now eligible for a one-time, need-based grant.

"We were able to help her and quickly. Once the bill was verified, the PenFed Foundation was able to process it and help her almost immediately," said Galliher.

The program provides honorably discharged veterans financial assistance through the direct payment to a third party. Mortgage, rent, auto loans, auto insurance and utilities are examples of costs that the program can potentially cover. Veterans who need assistance and believe they fulfill the program requirements can confirm eligibility with a DAV national service officer. Find your local DAV national service office at dav.org/veterans/find-your-local-office.

"If it wasn't for [Galliher] telling me about the [PenFed

Foundation] emergency fund being able to help me, I don't know what would have happened," said Eddington. "This program helped me help my dad. It's a blessing."

"DAV has directly supported veterans with our disaster relief efforts for many years, but there was nothing in place to assist with rough patches in personal finances," said DAV National Service Director

"Life happens. DAV and the PenFed Foundation are here to help."

—Jim Marszalek, DAV National Service Director

Jim Marszalek. "Veterans know too well that you can diligently plan for countless possible scenarios, but sometimes things happen outside of our control. That's where DAV and the PenFed Foundation Military Heroes Fund come in."

"The PenFed Foundation is honored to partner with DAV to support our veterans across the country who are experiencing a short-term financial hardship," said PenFed Foundation Programs Director Mark D. Smith. "Through this innovative partnership, the foundation provides timely financial counseling and assistance for past-due mortgage, rent, car payment, insurance or utility payments to veterans, referred by DAV national service officers across the country, who have a genuine financial need, preventing a short-term challenge from becoming a larger crisis."

Veterans must be willing to complete a complimentary, over-the-phone financial counseling session to take part in the program.

"This is not a bailout for significant debt but a lifeline for those who need a helping hand to get stable again," said Marszalek. "Life happens. DAV and the PenFed Foundation are here to help." ■



Paving the way in the Big Easy

2017 DAV National Convention sees first female national commander elected, first male elected to lead Auxiliary

By M. Todd Hunter

The 2017 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention made history, as members elected Delphine Metcalf-Foster the new DAV national commander—making her the first female veteran to assume the organization’s highest post and the first woman to command one of the nation’s big three veterans service organizations (VSOs).

Addressing the convention, which was held July 29 to Aug. 1 in New Orleans, the retired Army first sergeant from California said she is humbled to make history. “But as I do,” she said. “I want to say that I don’t feel I ever wanted to be treated differently because of my gender.”

During her acceptance speech, Metcalf-Foster noted the qualities of DAV paralleled the Army credo.

“We put serving our fellow veterans first. We will not accept defeat. We will not quit, and most importantly, we will never leave a fallen comrade,” she said.

This year also marked the election of the Auxiliary’s first male national commander, Craig Johniken.

“There is an evolution happening among the caregivers of ill and injured veterans in this nation—it’s no longer just wives and mothers. And I am proud to stand up for all caregivers and fight for what our veterans have earned,” said Johniken.

Addressing the audience, Metcalf-Foster laid out her priorities to ensure DAV continues providing a lifetime of support to veterans and their families. Her main concerns include fighting for equitable benefits for caregivers of veterans injured before 9/11 and remaining the leading voice for the unique transition issues concerning our sisters-in-arms, returning women veterans.

“When a man or woman raises their hand and says, ‘Send me,’ when our nation calls, no one knows better than us that they’re writing a blank check to our country,”

she said. “The ultimate payment could be their lives. For those who have sacrificed for our country and their survivors, we must insist on a strong VA and health care and benefits system to meet their needs.”

She also noted that the organization will march forward with new innovations surrounding the needs of returning veterans and their search for meaningful employment, and she intends to continue addressing subjects like access to quality health care, accurate and timely disposition of disability claims, and program improvements that strengthen the lives of veterans and their families.

Along with Metcalf-Foster’s election, convention delegates chose other senior leadership, including Senior Vice Commander Dennis Nixon, 1st Junior Vice Commander Stephen “Butch”

Whitehead, 2nd Junior Vice Commander Donald Day, 3rd Junior Vice Commander Andy Marshall and 4th Junior Vice Commander Joseph Parsetich. Delegates also re-elected National Judge Advocate Michael Dobmeier and National Chaplain Michael Dover.

Newly elected Auxiliary national officers include Senior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman, 1st Junior Vice Commander Diane Franz, 2nd Junior Vice Commander Lynn Prosser, 3rd Junior Vice Commander Carolyn Sensat, 4th Junior Vice Commander Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh and Judge Advocate Donna Adams.

Outgoing National Commander Dave Riley, in his final statements and report to the convention, 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.



“We really couldn’t do the work we’re doing without groups like you at DAV.”

—VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin

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

Riley 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 DAV volunteers.

“It has been my most profound honor and privilege to serve as your national commander. Thank you for placing this trust in me. In my mind, there is no finer group of men and women in our nation than

our veterans and their families,” he said.

Throughout the convention, attendees were treated to addresses by the secretary of veterans affairs and acting VA undersecretary for health; a forum featuring the ranking member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee; special screenings of newly released films and documentaries focusing on veterans’ issues; a performance by Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band; and gifts from A&W Restaurants.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin delivered remarks to DAV members during the joint opening session. The secretary spoke about the important role VSOs like DAV play.

“We really couldn’t do the work we’re doing without groups like you at DAV,” Shulkin said before noting the House of Representatives approved the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act by a vote of 414 to 0 the day prior.

The bill replenishes \$2.1 billion in funding for the Veterans Choice Program and invests in key VA



Top: (From left) National Service Director Jim Marszalek, Past National Commander and current Deputy Assistant Secretary for Disability Assistance at the Veterans Benefits Administration Rob Reynolds, Dr. Skye McDougall, Rep. Tim Walz, and National Legislative Director Joy Ilem participate in a moderated discussion during the Service and Legislative Seminar. (Photo by Emily Kask)



Left: National Adjutant Marc Burgess speaks during the joint opening session of the 2017 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans. (Photo by Emily Kask)

functions such as hiring medical center professionals more quickly; accurately tracking a growing number of vacancies; and authorizing leases for 28 major medical facilities, a long-awaited action that the department has asked Congress to address for years.

“It was really DAV and the other VSOs that made sure that we were doing the right things for veterans,” the secretary said. “DAV has always been there for us, and the work that you do is truly incredible.”

Shulkin then emphasized the VA’s efforts to become a more transparent department of government before laying out his top five priorities for the VA: providing veterans greater choice in health care, modernizing VA systems and infrastructure, improving timeliness of services, focusing VA’s resources more efficiently, and preventing suicides.

“I believe the way that we’re going to fix this system is by being honest and open about where our problems are,” he said. “Because if you don’t talk about where your problems are, then you can’t really begin to start finding the right solutions to solve those problems and work with groups like yours.”

Shulkin noted there has been a 46 percent increase in community care appointments since the beginning of the year and a 64 percent reduction in wait times since 2014—a statistic being published online for every VA facility in the nation in an effort to be more transparent and accountable to veterans and the American public. He also said that same-day primary care services are now available at every VA medical center, and urgent mental health services have been extended to veterans with other-than-honorable discharges.

Following the joint opening session, acting VA Undersecretary for Health Dr. Poonam Alaigh spoke during the VA Health Care Update Seminar about strengthening the Veterans Health Administration

(VHA) and rebuilding the nation's largest integrated health care system to improve access and quality of care for veterans. Alaigh has been a physician in the New Jersey VA system for more than a decade.

"That's where I have my true calling," she said. "It was and is with the veterans that I feel grounded. I feel gratified, and I feel so honored and privileged in terms of taking care of my veterans."

Alaigh echoed the secretary's comments from earlier in the day concerning DAV's involvement in the process of reforming the VA.

"As we move into different policy decisions or different kinds of discussions, we change what we do at the VA as a result of the input we get from you. DAV represents such a strong voice in terms of what veterans' needs are, in terms of what you care about, in terms of sometimes our not truly understanding the whole picture," she said. "You truly are a strong organization, and we need you to continue the strong collaboration that we have together."

Alaigh noted that suicide prevention is the VHA's top clinical priority.

"There is no veteran who should feel so lonely, so helpless, so hopeless that he or she resorts to taking his or her life," she implored. "That should never happen."

Part of the VHA's effort to eradicate veteran suicide is getting to veterans at key access points such as the Veterans Crisis Line, which now has a call rollover rate of less than 2 percent, with calls being answered within eight seconds on average. Alaigh credited these improvements to the VA's modernization efforts, which also include the VHA's merging of medical records with the Department of Defense's system in order for VA doctors to look at patients' medical histories from the dates they entered military service to present day.

Another VA modernization effort Alaigh touched on was telehealth, which allows patients to visit with their primary care physicians through the internet.

"We are a leader in telehealth," Alaigh said. "We were one of the first organizations that started rolling out telehealth as a means to be able to take care of the needs of our veterans."

The VA saw more than 2 million telehealth visits in 2016 and found that 70 percent of in-person visits could

FREE FLOATS!

A&W Restaurants surprised convention-goers with free root beer floats following the joint opening session on Saturday, July 29.



Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band play during Fun Night. A longtime DAV friend and supporter, the band continually brings high-energy performances to national conventions that are fan favorites of members. (Photo by Kevin Lajoie)



be eliminated through the program. As such, the VA is working to establish the secure VA Video Connect platform for patients to use in the future.

Ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee Rep. Tim Walz then took part in a moderated discussion that spanned many of the current issues surrounding veterans. The forum was led by National Legislative Director Joy Ilem and National Service Director Jim Marszalek and included a Q&A session.

Walz was joined by Past National Commander and current Deputy Assistant Secretary for Disability Assistance at the Veterans Benefits Administration Rob Reynolds, and Dr. Skye McDougall, director of the VHA's South Central VA Health Care Network. Discussion also touched on the importance of having DAV at the table when discussing the new Choice legislation.

"None of that would have happened without this organization coming to the table," Walz said. "We need to help educate those 93 percent of Americans who never served at all, and those 99 percent who haven't served in these current conflicts, that there's

not a simple fix to this. The idea that you're just going to give someone a card, and they're going to manage their own care and go wherever they want, seems like the exact right thing to do. And it seems like you're really supporting veterans when you say that. But most (veterans) know that creates incredible problems."

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.

Convention attendees were also invited to three film screenings that provided a cinematic look into issues impacting disabled veterans and their loved ones. "God Bless the Broken Road" premiered Friday evening, and attendees learned about the service and sacrifice of a young mom struggling to raise her daughter alone after losing her husband in Afghanistan. The movie weaves faith, country music and stock car racing on the big screen, while paying tribute to veterans and the difficult journey that many face. Two actors featured in the film, Lindsay Pulsipher and Gary Grubbs, attended the event

and stressed the importance of highlighting the veteran voice in film. DAV ambassadors Jordin Sparks, a singer and actress, and NFL Hall of Famer LaDanian Tomlinson were also featured in the movie. The film's producers and directors showcased DAV in the movie and made the organization a beneficiary of its success.

During Monday's Women Veterans Seminar, members took a look into the changing roles of females serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and their transition following deployment with "Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home." The documentary explores the psychological and social dynamics facing servicewomen, as well as their reintegration into civilian life. The Women Veterans Interim Committee discussed issues facing women veterans highlighted in the film with the filmmaker JulieHera DeStefano.

Monday evening, convention attendees had the opportunity to see the official unveiling of a film that profiled an issue of importance to DAV and DAV Auxiliary members—the silent sacrifices of caregivers. Filmed over five years, "The Weight of Honor" follows the lives of the caregivers of veterans who were severely wounded in Afghanistan. Yvonne Riley, wife of the outgoing national commander, joined her husband on stage while he introduced the film and outlined DAV's commitment to expanding benefits and resources that are currently only available to post-9/11 veteran caregivers. Stephanie Seldin Howard, the

film's director and producer, addressed questions from the group and recognized DAV's work in addressing the needs of caregivers through the Unsung Heroes Initiative.

A&W Restaurants also announced their new partnership with DAV, as Vice President of Marketing Sarah Blasi presented DAV a check for \$100,000. The company has been a supporter of veterans since serving their first root beer during a welcome-home parade for World War I veterans in 1919. A&W Restaurants collected donations nationwide, leading up to National Root Beer Float Day on Aug. 6, and convention participants were able to celebrate early with root beer floats courtesy of A&W following the opening business session.

DAV also presented a \$620,000 check to Camp Corral, a nonprofit organization that provides free, one-of-a-kind summer camp experiences for children of wounded, disabled or fallen military service members. The funds, which were raised by chapters, departments and the Auxiliary through DAV's Just B Kids Scholarship Program and then matched by the national organization, will allow 1,000 children to attend the camps.

The 97th DAV and Auxiliary National Convention will convene July 14–17, 2018, at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nev. ■



Learn More Online

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

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 2018 convention can be found at dav.org/events/2018-national-convention

National Convention Chairperson Eddie Figueron presents a replica of a Cajun cabin to then-National Commander Dave Riley as a gift on behalf of the Department of Louisiana. (Photo by Emily Kask)





Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year

Dr. Kenneth K. Lee (center), a combat-injured Army veteran of the Iraq War, receives the 2017 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Award. While deployed to Iraq in 2004 as a medical battalion commander, an explosion from a suicide car bomb left Lee with a severe traumatic brain injury, severe shrapnel wounds to his legs and post-traumatic stress disorder. A rehabilitation specialist who retired in 2013, Lee formed the Milwaukee Wheelchair Lacrosse team and is now the president of the Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association, which runs numerous adaptive sports programs. Lee is also a volunteer physician at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, co-hosted by the VA and DAV.

Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year

DAV Auxiliary Iowa State Adjutant **Melissa Pierce** (center) accepts the 2017 Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year Award. Pierce, who is the top Auxiliary recruiter in her state, is a lifetime member of Auxiliary Unit 20 in Des Moines and has spent more than 28 years in service to disabled veterans, families and caregivers.



Employers of the Year



Kenneth Stroud (center), CEO of **Professional Solutions Delivered, LLC**, based in Fredericksburg, Va., accepts the 2017 DAV **Small Employer of the Year** award. The company is a program management, logistics and information technology support services solutions provider for government and commercial customers. Forty-seven percent of their workforce is comprised of veterans, and the majority of the remaining employees have a spouse or relative who is a veteran.



Jan Jones (center), CEO of **The Elizabeth Hospice**, is named the 2017 DAV **Midsize Employer of the Year**. The company, based in Escondido, Calif., matches veteran hospice patients with veteran staff members and volunteers to bring comfort to veterans who are preparing to pass on.

*Note: **Bell Helicopter** was selected as the 2017 DAV **Large Employer of the Year** but was not able to attend the convention.*

Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative



DAV life member and Navy veteran **Reginald Parker** (center), of Houston, regularly conducts outreach to more than 400 people through a self-built network of employers and veterans service organizations, enabling him to pass on information about candidates and job openings not listed through normal posting channels. In 2016, his efforts led to 72 veterans being placed in meaningful careers.



Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist

Stephen Ezelle, of Hot Springs, Ark., is a Navy veteran and outreach specialist with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services. He has developed several programs to assist veterans in finding fulfilling employment and to combat veteran homelessness. The five counties he serves total 3,654 square miles and are home to nearly 17,000 veterans.

Membership Awards



Roland Paquette (left), from Chapter 42 in Grand Prairie, Texas, recruited 110 members into the Department of Texas during the 2016–2017 membership year. For his outstanding efforts, he earned the **Top Recruiter of the Year** award.



For the 11th straight year, the **Department of Texas** took top honors for ending the membership year with the largest increase in members. Department Commander **Robert Delgado** (center) accepts the **Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright Award** on behalf of his department.



On behalf of the **Department of Minnesota**, Past Department Commander **Michael Aguirre Jr.** accepted the **Judge Robert S. Marx Award**. The award is presented to the department with the highest percentage increase in fully paid life members.

Top Recruiting Awards (by Division)

Division I
35,000 or more members

Division II
18,000–34,999 members

Division III
10,000–17,999 members

Division IV
5,000–9,999 members

Division V
5,000 members or less



Division I: The **Department of New York** recruited 100.56 percent of their goal. The award was accepted by Past Department Commander Tony Lee (center).



Division II: The **Department of Minnesota** recruited 102.66 percent of their goal. The award was accepted by Past Department Commander Michael Aguirre Jr. (center).



DAV & Auxiliary National Convention Award Highlights

Top Recruiting Awards (by Division), continued



Division III: The **Department of Wisconsin** recruited 100.86 percent of their goal. The award was accepted by Past Department Commander John Polk (left).



Division IV: The **Department of Hawaii** recruited 102.33 percent of their goal. The award was accepted by Orlando Perez.



Division V: The **Department of South Dakota** recruited 102.6 percent of their goal. The award was accepted by Robert Hill on behalf of Past Department Commander Joseph Rice (left).

National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee Awards



Paul Roberts (center), director of the Cheyenne VA Medical Center in Wyoming, receives the 2017 **Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee of the Year** award. Since taking leadership of the facility in June 2016, Roberts has facilitated communication between the local VA compensation and pension clinic and the DAV service office, which has led to a more efficient fully developed claims process. A disabled veteran who served more than 20 years in the U.S. Army, Roberts has implemented a new transportation office to support the DAV Transportation Network in Cheyenne, expanding its coverage to provide rides for veterans in rural areas. In addition to providing quality service and putting veterans' well-being at the forefront, Roberts has reduced appointment wait times by 53 percent, reduced high-risk consults by 94 percent, and taken the Medical Support Specialist compliance rating from 51 percent to 85 percent.



Deborah Kamisato, of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Texas, is named the 2017 **Outstanding VA National Cemetery Administration Employee of the Year**. Kamisato has shown true dedication to our nation's veterans, particularly following a July 2016 attack on Dallas-Fort Worth area law enforcement that resulted in the deaths of five local police officers, three of whom were military veterans. Going against policy, Kamisato authorized weekend burials for the heroes—a time only allotted for military killed in action. She says she considered these veterans' acts of heroism to merit the same honors. Kamisato was also instrumental in the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery being selected as a national Shrine—a designation reserved for only the top 5 percent of all VA cemeteries.



Jamie Shuemaker (center), an intake analyst at the VA Regional Office in Togus, Maine, accepts the 2017 **Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Employee of the Year** award. The Navy veteran and DAV life member has been instrumental in implementing the VA paperless claims process by assisting VA and DAV employees with claims and troubleshooting the Stakeholders Enterprise Portal.



Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship

Jonathan Lee (center), of Milwaukee, received DAV's top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship, which is awarded annually to outstanding youth volunteers in DAV's Voluntary Services program. The 18-year-old earned the \$20,000 scholarship for spending more than 730 hours spanning a five-year period volunteering at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. Lee plans on using the scholarship toward his life dream of becoming a physician. Lee received his scholarship three years after his older sister, Leah Lee, won a \$10,000 scholarship for her volunteer work at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center and the same day his father, Kenneth Lee, received DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year award. With the continued support from the Ford Motor Co. Fund, DAV honors eight dedicated youth volunteers each year with \$75,000 in scholarships through the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program.

2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

\$20,000	Jonathan Lee, Milwaukee VA Medical Center
\$15,000	Sindhu Muppala, Washington D.C. VA Medical Center
\$10,000	Mee'Shaunda Roddy, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center (Illinois)
\$7,500	Makiyah Cheeks, Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center (Alabama)
\$7,500	Emily Hinton, San Diego VA Healthcare System
\$5,000	Kyle Breault, H. John Heinz III Progressive Care Center (Pennsylvania)
\$5,000	Caleb Campbell, St. Louis VA Health Care System
\$5,000	Ja'nya Nickerson, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center (Georgia)

Local Veterans Assistance Program Awards (by Division)

Division I

35,000 or more members

Division II

18,000–34,999 members

Division III

10,000–17,999 members

Division IV

5,000–9,999 members

Division V

5,000 members or less



Division I: **Department of Virginia**, with 205,598 hours, award accepted by Ron Cox (left) on behalf of Past Department Commander James Walton.



Division II: **Department of Oklahoma**, with 182,875 hours, award accepted by Past Department Commander Linda Miller (center left).

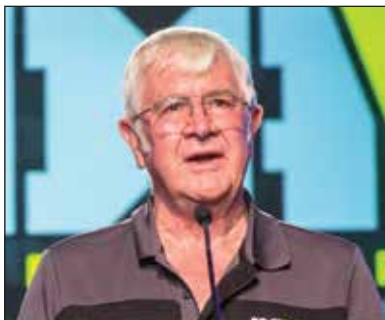


DAV & Auxiliary National Convention Award Highlights

Local Veterans Assistance Program Awards (by Division), continued



Division III: **Department of Arkansas**, with 26,663 hours, award accepted by Past Department Commander Richard T. Egan (center).



Division IV: **Department of Idaho**, with 28,157 hours, award accepted by Raymond Hinthorn on behalf of Past Department Commander Wilson Miller Jr.



Division V: **Department of South Dakota**, with 20,724 hours, award accepted by Robert Hill (center) on behalf of Past Department Commander Joseph Rice.

George H. Seal Memorial Awards



Top DAV Volunteer

Harlan F. Plummer, of Peebles, Ohio, receives the 2017 George H. Seal Memorial Trophy for being selected as DAV's top volunteer. The 97-year-old veteran of the Army Air Corps and Air Force is a life member of DAV Chapter 71 in West Union, Ohio, and has volunteered through the VA Voluntary Service Program for 32 years and dedicated more than 10,500 hours to his fellow veterans at the Chillicothe VA Medical Center. Plummer has volunteered in various capacities, including serving as a volunteer driver, which ensures veterans are able to access the health care they have earned.



Top DAV Auxiliary Volunteer

Dorothy Propst, of Virginia Beach, Va., accepts the 2017 George H. Seal Memorial Trophy for being selected as DAV Auxiliary's top volunteer. Propst has amassed more than 10,500 volunteer hours supporting veterans at the Hampton VA Medical Center in Virginia. She began volunteering with DAV in 2002, and routinely drove between 70 and 165 miles per day while volunteering as a driver with the DAV Transportation Network to ensure veterans were able to get to and from their needed medical appointments.



Ford Motor Company Fund

Ford, a longtime DAV supporter, donated \$200,000 for the purchase of eight new vehicles for the DAV Transportation Network, which provides rides for veterans to and from their medical appointments at no cost. Yisel Cabrera, community relations manager at Ford Motor Co. and the Ford Motor Company Fund presents the grant to then-National Commander Dave Riley (left) and National Adjutant Marc Burgess (right).

A&W Restaurants Inc.

Sarah Blasi, vice president of marketing for A&W Restaurants, presents a \$100,000 check to then-National Commander Dave Riley (left) and National Adjutant Marc Burgess. The check was presented in celebration of the new partnership between DAV and A&W Restaurants, which kicked off with a campaign that began in early July and culminated on Aug. 6, National Root Beer Float Day, during which guests were encouraged to support DAV.



Camp Corral

Then-DAV Auxiliary National Commander Fran Costa (2nd from left), then-National Commander Dave Riley (center) and National Adjutant Marc Burgess (far right) present a \$620,000 check to Camp Corral CEO Mary Beth Hernandez (far left) and Golden Corral Senior Manager of National Marketing and Media Amanda Brown. The funds are the result of support from the DAV Charitable Service Trust; contributions that were collected or donated by DAV chapters and departments and matched by DAV through DAV's Just B Kids scholarship program; and support from the DAV Auxiliary.



Knowledge is POWER



A member poses a question during the Social Networking Seminar, which is designed to help chapters and departments better engage their audience through social media platforms.

Convention seminars packed with valuable information

By Bryan Lett

DAV's national convention seminars offered members the unique ability to meet DAV's elected officers and staff face-to-face in an educational environment. The seminars delivered a wealth of knowledge, and members eagerly filled the rooms.

The **Service and Legislative Seminar** featured a discussion between Tim Walz, House Veterans' Affairs Committee ranking member; Past National Commander and current Deputy Assistant Secretary for Disability Assistance at the Veterans Benefits Administration Rob Reynolds; and Dr. Skye McDougall, director of the South Central VA Health Care Network for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The forum was led by National Legislative Director Joy Ilem and National Service

Director Jim Marszalek, who moderated the discussion that spanned many of the current issues surrounding veterans. To positive feedback from audience members, Walz announced that the proposal to cut Individual Unemployability benefits for veterans at age 62 would not

move forward. Walz, Reynolds and McDougall also touched on the importance of having DAV at the table when discussing the new Choice legislation.

Acting VA Undersecretary for Health Dr. Poonam Alaigh spoke at the **VA Health Care Update Seminar** about strengthening the VHA and rebuilding the nation's largest integrated health care system to

improve access and quality of care for veterans.

The **Benefits Protection Team Leader Seminar**, also led by Ilem, focused on the duties and responsibilities of Benefits Protection Team leaders. Included were tips

*"We are **indebted to our members** who attended these sessions and provided the feedback we needed to support our leaders in the field."*

—National Adjutant Marc Burgess

on how to grow a local grassroots network and how to effectively use the Benefits Protection Team toolkit and other online resources.

The **Women Veterans Seminar**, hosted by Assistant National Legislative Director Shurhonda Love, featured a screening of “Journey to Normal,” a documentary by director JulieHera DeStefano. Through a series of personal accounts, DeStefano explored the transition issues women veterans encounter. The seminar concluded with a moderated discussion about the film with the director.

At the **Membership Seminar**, National Membership Director Doug Wells and appointed members of the Interim Membership Committee discussed successful recruiting techniques and recruiting incentives, and provided instruction and orientation on both the DAV membership system and membership portals.

National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst provided a basic overview of the new voluntary services system—DAV360—at the **Voluntary Services Seminar**. Also covered were detailed instructions on how to report VA Voluntary Service Program, Transportation Network, service officer and Local Veterans Assistance Program hours to the Voluntary Service Department. The seminar concluded with a Q&A.

The **POW/MIA Seminar**, hosted by DAV POW/MIA Committee Chairman Vincent Darcangelo and Fern Sumpter Winbush, acting director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, reinforced DAV’s promise to never forget those taken prisoner, missing or unaccounted for—the brothers and sisters left behind—and their survivors.

The **Communications, Social Networking and Outreach 101** seminars, presented by members of the National Communications Department, discussed DAV’s efforts over the past year and upcoming efforts in communications, magazine contributions, media

relations support, toolkits 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, electronic newsletters, print, TV, radio and social media. They also covered techniques for writing a press release, media relations skills and community engagement. At the end of these sessions, seminar participants gained skills to effectively communicate DAV’s efforts.



During the Service and Legislative Seminar, members heard firsthand discussion from leaders in Congress and the VA about progress on critical veterans’ issues. (Photo by Emily Kask)

National Employment Director Jeff Hall provided an overview of DAV’s employment program during the **Employment Seminar**. He was joined by Assistant National Employment Director Rob Lougee in providing up-to-date information, 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



Above: As part of the Voluntary Services Seminar, Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst (left) discussed DAV360—DAV's new voluntary services network—and finished with a Q&A with those in attendance.



Left: Dr. Poonam Alaigh, the acting VA undersecretary for health, speaks during the VA Health Care Update Seminar. The seminar touched on strengthening the VHA and rebuilding the country's largest integrated health care system to improve access to care. (Photo by Emily Kask)

the department's mission, structure, reach and work.

National Chaplain Michael Dover discussed how to communicate with various generations of veterans and get them involved in local chapters during the **Chaplains Seminar**. A focal point was that each generation of veterans possesses certain strengths, and understanding them helps chaplains assist commanders in increasing membership and getting each generation actively involved in DAV's mission.

The **Inspector General Seminar** provided current and real-world information on matters related to the day-to-day activities and operations of departments and chapters. Also discussed were key DAV fundraising initiatives that benefit departments and local chapters. The seminar was designed to help new leaders learn the basics of the organization's National Constitution,

Bylaws and National Executive Committee regulations from Inspector General Ed Hartman and Chief Development Officer Brian Cowart.

"DAV's national convention is a unique opportunity for our members to completely immerse themselves in everything DAV has going on," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "It's an amazing week that is full of chances to learn and show our commitment to providing outstanding services for veterans while continuing our high standards in how we carry out our mission. We are indebted to our members who attended these sessions and provided the feedback we needed to support our leaders in the field." ■



Learn More Online

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



Carolina Country Music Fest and Visit Myrtle Beach partnered with DAV to honor the service of veterans from different eras and from all across the country. Honorees enjoyed three days of country music in scenic Myrtle Beach, S.C.



RECOGNIZING OUR HEROES

DAV members honored through partnership with Carolina Country Music Fest, Visit Myrtle Beach

By Steven Wilson

After graduating from high school, my plan was to have a lifelong career in the United States Navy,” said Navy veteran and DAV life member Jaci Tyes. “However, my military career was abruptly cut short due to an injury. I am a goal-oriented woman with very specific dreams. And being medically discharged from the military crushed a big dream of mine.”

However, Tyes said she heard about the services DAV offers veterans and went to see one of DAV’s veterans advocates in 1997. She was able to increase her earned disability compensation and access vocational rehabilitation so she could begin a new career.

In June, Tyes and nine other disabled veterans were honored at the Carolina Country Music Fest (CCMF), thanks to a partnership between the festival, Visit Myrtle Beach and DAV.

The veterans, who have overcome life-changing illnesses or injuries and continues to lead lives of service for fellow veterans, gathered on the main stage prior to the concerts the first evening of the festival to receive DAV’s Victories for Veterans Award—cheered on by a crowd of more than 20,000 people.

“My life membership with DAV has given me a sense of purpose,” said Tyes, who in 2016 was elected by fellow disabled veterans in her state as the first female commander of DAV Department of North Carolina. “It has helped me to cope with my new normal.”

“We’re glad Jaci and other members of DAV could join us here in beautiful Myrtle Beach for the Carolina

Country Music Fest,” said Mike Stephens, CCMF director. “It’s always an honor to host those who’ve sacrificed for the freedoms we all hold so dear.”

Other attendees representing DAV included Past National Commander Ron Hope, of Clemmons, N.C.; Daniel Priestley, of Valley City, Ohio; Brenda Lynn Cox, of Logan, Ohio; Edwin “Gene” Apgar, of Struthers, Ohio; Vince Dec, of Xenia, Ohio; Billy Helton, of Independence, Ky.; Adam Greathouse, of Kenna, W.Va.; Arlene Turner Magee, of Atlanta; and Rick Ard, of Columbia, S.C.

Festival organizers said that honoring the veteran community naturally fit with an event like CCMF, the East Coast’s largest three-day outdoor country music festival, which included headliners like Kenny Chesney, Jason Aldean, Darius Rucker and Montgomery Gentry.

“It was an honor for Carolina Country Music Fest to host these distinguished veterans on behalf of DAV,” said Bob Durkin, president of Full House Productions, the festival’s producer. “Giving back to and supporting the men and women of our armed forces is ingrained in CCMF as much as it is country music, and we’ll continue to recognize members of our military for years to come.”

“Jaci and the other attendees did a great job representing not only DAV but the millions of other disabled veterans who have overcome life’s challenges with some help from our organization,” said then-National Commander Dave Riley. “I’m glad we had a chance to share these veterans’ stories with the patriotic people attending CCMF.” ■



From the NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

JOY J. ILEM

Pushing toward victories on the horizon

Thanks to everyone who made it to the 96th annual DAV National Convention in New Orleans. With a number of crucial veterans' issues being front and center on Capitol Hill this year, it was great to see so many of our members enthusiastically preparing to take our legislative agenda back to their home states and communities.

Since the start of the year, we've been working closely with lawmakers, the administration and fellow veterans service organizations to ensure the collective voice of DAV's nearly 1.3 million members is heard. Already this year we successfully rallied our grass roots to block harmful budget proposals to cut disability compensation as well as getting Congress to enact legislation that will modernize and reform the appeals process for benefit claims.

Most recently we were able to successfully stop a Choice funding proposal that would have ignored the needs of veterans who choose to get care in the VA system. Instead, thanks to our strong grass-roots response, bipartisan legislation to continue Choice funding—and improve access to VA health care—was signed and enacted into law.

Together we've won some **crucial victories**, but we have **a lot more work to do** before the end of the year.

Together we've won some crucial victories, but we have a lot more work to do before the end of the year. We are still fighting to make caregiver benefits available to severely disabled veterans of all generations. In June, DAV launched our Unsung Heroes Initiative to highlight the unfairness of limiting the comprehensive caregiver program to veterans injured after 9/11. Our Unsung Heroes Capitol Hill kickoff event in June brought a great deal of attention to this issue, but we can't let up the pressure on Congress.

With our own national commander making headlines as the first woman to lead DAV, we are also continuing our fight to enhance services and benefits for women veterans. I look forward to working with the commander to achieve progress on that goal and other key legislative priorities.

I want to recognize all of our members who take up these important issues in their communities. Our grassroots advocates, and especially our Benefits Protection Team leaders and members, are leading the way and making a difference. You can join them in helping to be a voice for America's ill and injured veterans by getting involved at dav.org/dav-benefits-protection-team and through DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) at davcan.org.

Lawmakers pass emergency funding to extend Choice Program, strengthen VA

The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014—commonly referred to as the Choice Act—was passed as a temporary solution to the veterans health care access crisis that was negatively affecting veterans across the country. The Choice Program allowed veterans to see a local private provider if they were waiting more than 30 days for care or lived more than 40 miles from a VA facility.

The goal was to give lawmakers, the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans service organizations time to come up with a long-term, effective and sustainable solution to the access problems many veterans encountered when trying to get care through the VA.

Soon after taking office, President Trump signed a law that removed the Aug. 7, 2017, expiration date of the law and authorized the VA to use funding dedicated to the Veterans Choice Program until it was exhausted. But that came more quickly than the VA anticipated, and the program was set to run out of money before the August deadline.

Before the August recess, lawmakers scrambled to pass legislation that would provide additional resources for Choice services and prevent a disruption in care for veterans using the program. However, there was disagreement over the proposal that granted emergency resources for Choice but authorized no additional funding investment for the VA to address crucial employment and infrastructure needs.

In a joint letter sent to Congress from major veterans service organizations—DAV, AMVETS, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Wounded Warrior Project—advocates called on Congress not to

pass such “unacceptable funding legislation.”

“In order to ensure that veterans can receive necessary care without interruption, we call on House leaders to take the time necessary to work together with Senate leaders to develop acceptable ‘Choice’ funding legislation that not only fills the current funding gap but also addresses urgent VA infrastructure and resource needs that led to creation of the ‘Choice’ program in the first place,” says the letter.

The push back from DAV and fellow veterans service organizations, along with strong grassroots action, was successful, and a new bipartisan bill passed Congress on Aug. 2. The legislation signed by the president appropriates \$2.1 billion—without having to meet offset requirements—to continue funding the current Choice Program for approximately another six months. Equally important, this final compromise version of the bill authorizes 28 urgently needed, community-based VA outpatient facility leases to expand veterans’ access to health care, as well as provide the VA with new tools and authorities to recruit, hire and retain high-quality medical professionals.

“We are particularly appreciative that, in crafting the final agreement on this important legislation, they worked closely with DAV and other veterans service organizations who are accredited by VA to represent the interests of America’s 21 million veterans,” said DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. “We look forward to continuing our work with the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs to reform and modernize the VA health care system so that all veterans have timely access to high-quality, veteran-focused health care, regardless of where they live.” ■



DECADE of SERVICE 1990s

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 1990s.

Television anchorman Sam Donaldson reports during the Persian Gulf War. Due to enhanced satellite technology and the dawn of a 24-hour news cycle, the war was heavily televised, allowing viewers at home the chance to watch live weapons-mounted coverage of missiles hitting targets and fighter jets taking off from aircraft carriers.

In 1990, Americans were clamoring to theaters to see “Home Alone” and “Pretty Woman,” purchasing Madonna and MC Hammer albums, and tuning in to the first season of “The Simpsons.”

Seemingly a world away, Saddam Hussein, then the president of Iraq, invaded smaller, oil-rich neighbor Kuwait and set in motion a chain of events that would define the last decade of the 20th century and impact the United States—and the rest of the world—through the present day.

The United Nations placed economic sanctions against Iraq, and 34 partner nations joined forces to support Kuwait, forming the largest military alliance since World War II. U.S. involvement in the Gulf War began with the initial invasion Aug. 2, followed by a buildup of nearly 700,000 American military personnel, called Operation Desert Shield.

Less than a half-year later, in January 1991, Operation Desert Storm commenced. An air strike campaign began, followed by troops on the ground in February. Meanwhile, the American public followed the first heavily televised war with help of new technologies such as satellite broadcasting. From their living rooms, people all around the globe viewed missiles hitting targets and planes taking off from aircraft carriers.

A cease-fire was declared Feb. 28, the day after coalition troops reached Kuwait City. The conflict lasted less than two months.

“Tonight in Iraq, Saddam walks amidst ruin. His war machine is crushed. His ability to threaten mass destruction is itself destroyed,” said then-President George H.W. Bush, a World War II veteran, in an address to Congress.

The campaign was considered an overall success, but there were still the physical costs of war: 147 combat deaths, 145 noncombat deaths and one service member reported missing in action. Another 467 were wounded in action, and thousands since then have been diagnosed with Gulf War illness, a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders and memory problems. Following the conclusion of the Gulf War, DAV pressed for the VA to expand the list of illnesses that would enable Gulf War veterans to receive health care and benefits.

Despite the costs associated with caring for the recently ill and injured Gulf War veterans, along with an aging veteran population in general, Congress and the administration constrained VA spending in the 1990s. DAV fought for adequate funding of VA health care and

benefits, ensuring the nation was keeping its promise to the men and women who served.

“[Disabled veterans] may be the consequences of war, but they are also now the pride of America,” said then-Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown, who previously served as DAV Washington Headquarters executive director. “And the DAV will not let them down.”

“The men and women who served during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield answered the call to service during tumultuous times without hesitation,” said DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess, a Gulf War veteran. “Although the conflict ended 26 years ago, the impact of service can last long after leaving the battlefield. Just as we did as they first returned in 1991, DAV will continue to support the brave men and women who served and sacrificed during the Gulf War.”

In 1993, as DAV membership grew, concerns with leadership and the direction of the organization surfaced. With DAV’s reputation on the decline following a scandal and financial mismanagement, DAV staff and members were at a crossroads. At the 1993 national convention, Dick Marbes of Wisconsin was elected national commander. He appointed Denvel “Dale” Adams, who had served as national adjutant before the decline, back to his previous post. By the end of the decade, Art Wilson had assumed the reigns, and DAV returned to the upward trajectory that has continued through today. ■

Military women in the '90s

Newly elected National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster served during the Gulf War. An Army-trained combat medic, Metcalf-Foster was assigned to the graves registration unit in Saudi Arabia.

Like many reservists serving at that time, Metcalf-Foster was recalled to active duty. She was one of more than 40,000 servicewomen deployed to Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1990, women only made up 11 percent of active-duty military personnel, 13 percent of the Reserve forces and had limited job opportunities based on gender. But that was about to change. Media covered women at war working side by side with their male colleagues, often in command roles. The Gulf War proved that servicewomen risked their lives just as their male counterparts did, regardless of being assigned to noncombat positions. Thirteen servicewomen were killed and two became prisoners of war.

As a result of the Gulf War, women made strides in breaking down the gender barriers in the military. Combat aviation opened to women in 1991, and two years later, women could serve aboard combat ships.



Honoring Secretary Jesse Brown

From 1993 to 1997, former DAV Executive Director Jesse Brown (right) served as the second secretary of veterans affairs. During his tenure, Brown expanded VA services offered to female veterans, homeless veterans and veterans who became ill due to chemical exposures in Vietnam or the Gulf War. A Marine Corps veteran, Brown was committed to giving back to his brothers- and sisters-in-arms.

“No one has ever been placed at the helm of the VA who knew more about the programs he was asked to manage than Jesse Brown. And no one has ever brought to the job a greater sense of compassion for the men and women who have served in our armed forces. I view Jesse Brown’s appointment as a watershed moment in the history of veterans affairs,” said Arthur H. Wilson (left), who was DAV’s national service director at the time of Brown’s appointment. Wilson was appointed DAV national adjutant in 1994 and served in that role until his retirement in 2013.





From the AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER WILLIAM CRAIG JOHNIKEN

Focus on caregivers, junior members

I'm honored to have been elected in New Orleans as your DAV Auxiliary National Commander. I'm very grateful and humbled at the trust you've placed in me.

Our organization has a rich history and has changed with the ebb and flow of time alongside our parent organization. We were founded in 1922 at the Disabled American Veterans of the World War's second national convention in San Francisco.

At the time, members of our organization were limited to wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of disabled veterans.

For 95 years, our DAV Auxiliary indeed had a wife, mother, sister or daughter at the helm.

Continuing wars, carried on the shoulders of the relative few who serve, affect the entire family. Now more than any other time in our history, wives, mothers, sisters and daughters wear the uniform and often find themselves in harm's way. When these heroes return home seriously injured, we see husbands, fathers, brothers and sons thrust into the role of caregiver. The sacrifices all caregivers make on behalf of the veterans they love

are tremendous. It's my intent to continue our fight beside DAV to ensure our government enacts legislation for caregivers of all generations.

I also believe it's paramount to the continued success of the DAV Auxiliary to bring junior members into our ranks. These young men and women are often at the forefront of volunteer efforts at nursing homes, VA medical centers,

Forget-Me-Not drives, Honor Flight events, Local Veterans Assistance Program efforts and much more. I've found that they get very enthusiastic with the right leadership and encouragement, and their positivity is simply contagious. I encourage everyone to look for these young patriots in their communities and tell them about what we do.

And once we get young people involved,

their parents tend to follow. This is a potential way to fuel our work on behalf of veterans and their families.

It's an honor to be your DAV Auxiliary National Commander and the first male to hold this position. I look forward to working with and meeting all of you as I represent our organization and continue our work.

It's paramount to the continued success of the DAV Auxiliary to bring junior members into our ranks. ... I've found that they get very enthusiastic with the right leadership and encouragement, and **their positivity is simply contagious.**

HONORING A *passion for service*

Iowa native named 2017's top DAV Auxiliary member

By Steven Wilson

Each year, one of the thousands of DAV Auxiliary members is singled out for recognition for his or her outstanding efforts to better the lives of disabled veterans and their families. This year, 28-year member Melissa Pierce—described by her peers as someone who “truly believes in and loves the things that she does for veterans”—has earned that honor.

Pierce, of Unit 20, Des Moines, Iowa, was presented the 2017 Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Member of the Year award at the 96th annual DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans. The daughter of a Marine father and Navy mother, she was recently appointed state adjutant after having served five consecutive years as state commander.

“Melissa was instrumental in encouraging Council Bluffs to re-establish their unit,” said Judy McLaskey, of Unit 10 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where Pierce previously served as adjutant. “She drove the eight-hour round trip on weeknights at least twice to attend their meetings and personally talk to them, in addition to the many phone calls and email conversations. Her efforts paid off [in] July 2016 when Unit 5 finally became official.”

Pierce has taken on multiple projects to benefit veterans and their families within her community. For instance, she schedules and coordinates the volunteer

When Pierce began volunteering at the National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament held in Riverside, Iowa, she was a golf buddy to first-time participant and blind veteran Jeffrey Frank of Minnesota (left). She now serves on the event's local organizing committee.



shifts for an annual Labor Day rest area event, during which refreshments are served to highway travelers in return for donations to benefit the local DAV Transportation Network.

“She has also volunteered to work many shifts over the years, mostly the overnights that no one else wants,” said McLaskey. “It was her hope to get the DAV name out into the public to increase awareness of the DAV Transportation [Network].”

Pierce recently became involved with the DAV- and VA-sponsored TEE (Training, Exposure, Experience) Tournament, in Riverside, Iowa, which is one of the VA's six national adaptive sports events.

She had to request the rest of the week off because she met a blind veteran who wanted her to be his golf buddy, said McLaskey.

“Not only was Melissa [the veteran's] golf buddy, but she also assisted with some of the other events available for the veterans such as disc golf, horseshoes and horseback riding,” McLaskey said.

Pierce's efforts include attending Eastern Iowa Honor Flight homecomings, assisting with Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day in Des Moines, and developing a DAV Auxiliary Department of Iowa social media presence to better network with members across her state.

“Melissa is always championing causes for veterans and their families,” said DAV Auxiliary National Adjutant Pat Kemper. “She's very active in DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) and has vigorously advocated for things like the CHAMPVA Children's Protection Act, Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, Legislation on Concurrent Receipt, Veterans Emergency Treatment Act and several others.”

“I just kind of do what I do,” said Pierce after learning of the recognition. “It's a tremendous honor, and I hope we can spread the word about how rewarding it is to serve the veteran community.” ■



Meeting of the minds

Commanders and Adjutants Association offers networking, information sharing for DAV leaders

By Steven Wilson

The annual DAV Commanders and Adjutants Association meeting was held July 10 and 11 at DAV National Headquarters and was attended by 134 state- and national-level leaders.

“Department commanders and adjutants are mission critical to ensure we can continue to serve veterans and their families,” said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. “These men and women are doing the work where it matters most, which is right in their own backyards.”

One of the objectives for this year’s meeting was to show DAV leaders the myriad issues the organization is tackling.

“We covered a ton of topics with our department commanders and adjutants this year,” said National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. “Plus, the networking opportunities alone and exchange of ideas by our leaders make DAV stronger at all levels.”

Seminars included updates on DAV’s public service announcement campaigns, new developments made by the National Employment Department and an overview of DAV’s volunteer efforts and specifically the DAV Transportation Network.

“This was a great opportunity to re-emphasize how vital our Transportation Network is to veterans across the country,” said Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst. “It continues to be the gold standard for veteran transportation, but we absolutely need to inject new life into the program. These state leaders are the right people for the job.”

“I attended last year as senior vice [commander] for Minnesota, where I started to build networks that helped prepare me when I became commander,” said Department of Minnesota Commander Robert Saddoris. “For me, this year’s orientation was better than last year. The presenters were very knowledgeable, thus I filled my book with notes from each of them. I learned a great deal, which I will share with chapters and others in our state.”

“What’s most important about this annual meeting is the free-flowing information and exchange of ideas,” said current Commanders and Adjutants Association President Danny Oliver. “Any opportunity we have to put all of our leaders in the same room is a good day, and it always strengthens DAV.” ■



Registration set to open

By Bryan Lett

The participant application process for the 32nd National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic will be open Nov. 1–30, 2017.

The event, co-hosted by DAV and the Department of Veterans Affairs, has changed the lives of more than 10,000 of America's most severely injured and ill veterans since its inception. The clinic—which is the largest adaptive rehabilitative sporting event of its kind in the world—will again take place in Snowmass Village, Colo., (near Aspen) and run April 1–6, 2018.

“We strive to make this the best rehabilitative event in the world. We want veterans to achieve their highest possible potential, and that’s a little bit different for everyone who attends,” said Teresa Parks, the VA’s director for the event. “If a veteran can stand, even if he or she has a severe injury, we have frames that can hold them up. If they want to ski, we have equipment for them. If they want to snowboard, we can accommodate that. The purpose of the event is to remove any obstacle that stands in their way.”

Often referred to as “Miracles on a Mountainside,” the clinic helps injured veterans rebuild confidence by regaining balance in their lives and by making connections with other veterans who have had similar experiences.

“One thing that has always stood out to me is seeing

the participants feed off of each other’s energy and sharing their secrets of perseverance and success,” said National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst. “Perhaps, most importantly, they enjoy the camaraderie this week offers, but they also know it doesn’t have to end when they leave the mountain. I’ve never seen an expiration date on camaraderie.”

The clinic is open to U.S. military veterans with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, certain neurological problems and other disabilities who receive care at a VA medical facility or military treatment center. Some active-duty military members are also eligible to participate.

Studies show adaptive sports alleviate stress, reduce reliance on pain and depression medication, and result in higher achievement in education and employment while also leading to greater independence.

“Seeing the profound impact this clinic has had on so many thousands of veterans and their family members over the years has been a great honor for DAV,” said Barry Jesinoski, national headquarters executive director. “We certainly hope to be a part of this for many more years—and many more veterans—to come.” ■



Learn More Online

To learn more about the clinic and to register for participation, please visit wintersportsclinic.org.



givingresults

Have you considered making an appreciated stock gift to DAV? It may be better for you than giving cash. For every \$1 you give, \$35 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. To learn more, you may want to talk with your certified public accountant and investment adviser.

3 simple steps to support DAV with a gift of stock

1. Contact our Personal Philanthropy Programs department, and we will provide the stock gift instructions you will need to facilitate the transfer.
2. Contact your financial adviser or the stockholder to initiate the transfer process.
3. 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.
- Return the attached **postcard**.



The gift that keeps givingresults

THROUGH YOUR GIFT OF STOCK

DAV is a charitable organization. We rely greatly upon the love, generosity and compassion of our loyal friends and members who stand beside us to support disabled veterans across the United States. Many are surprised to learn that we receive no government funding, making it even more impressive that we offer all of our life-changing services to our country's bravest heroes at no cost to them. This couldn't be done without the support of our donors!

Donating stock is a great way to help DAV serve America's disabled veterans. Gifts of stock ensure that you are optimizing your own financial situation by avoiding capital gains and taking a charitable deduction for the full market value of your gift.

Consider the following scenario:

Many people own appreciated stock—stock that has risen in value over time. For example, Jane has a stock account with a well-known brokerage company. One of her stocks has grown from \$15 a share to \$75 a share over the past few years. If she asked her broker to sell the stock, she would owe tax on the \$60 of appreciation for each share that was sold.

However, if Jane gave the stock to DAV, she would avoid this tax. Instead, she'd get an income tax charitable deduction on the full value of the stock. A win for Jane; a win for DAV and the veterans we serve.

Historically, many thoughtful donors take the time at year-end to review their stock portfolio and select those stocks that have appreciated the most and that have been held for more than a year. These donors give stock instead of cash because they have discovered the value and enjoyment of stretching their giving power by giving the appreciation. And, after all, the more they can prudently give to help the worthy efforts of DAV, the better they feel. ■

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 NATIONAL CHAPLAIN MICHAEL P. DOVER



Words are connectors

The Panama Canal was opened in 1914. Prior to its construction, sailing from New York to San Francisco meant a journey of 13,000 miles around treacherous Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America. The canal itself lopped off 8,100 miles, reduced the danger from that journey and connected the Atlantic with the Pacific, making the entire world a more accessible place. So what does a lesson of the Panama Canal have to do with words?

Words are connectors. Words have the capacity to build bridges, span chasms and shorten long distances between you and others. Words not only connect you with other people, I believe they also connect us with our creator. We are the only species that can communicate our hearts, feelings, dreams, hopes and plans. Animals can send signals to one another that are understood at some level, but they can't communicate the deep things in their hearts. My faith teaches me that words are key elements in connecting a person to God and with one another; they can also permanently alienate.

Have you ever been lied to? How did it make you feel? How do you feel now, even years after the incident? If you're human and you have lived any length of time, more than likely you have had hateful words thrown at you. Did you

know that married couples who have stayed together and did not split up have spoken something derogatory to one another 5 out of every 100 comments made? Whereas those couples who did split up spoke twice as many insults—10 in 100—to one another.

It is a sobering thought that success or failure in marriage isn't predicted

by how much affection a couple displays, how many common interests they share or what kind of economic background they sprang from; it is the number of hurtful words they speak.

Words not only connect us to our creator, but they also connect us to each other. Words build bridges

to strangers and keep existing relationships fresh. For good or ill, what we say determines the character and quality of those friendships.

A lot of the time, people speak to fill "uncomfortable silences" or because they believe that saying something, anything, is better than staying quiet. I myself have had to "slow my speech" down to become more effective. But more importantly, by speaking deliberately and kindly, we can ensure that what we have to say connects with those we are with. And in return, when someone else is speaking, listen—don't simply wait to speak your piece. Instead, take time to listen.

In His Service for You.

By **speaking deliberately and kindly**, we can ensure that what we have to say connects with those we are with.



DAV National Officers 2017-2018

National Commander

Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Vallejo, CA

Senior Vice Commander

Dennis R. Nixon, China Spring, TX

1st Junior Vice Commander

Stephen Whitehead, Rosemount, MN

2nd Junior Vice Commander

Donald Day, Brooklyn, NY

3rd Junior Vice Commander

Andrew Marshall, Palm Harbor, FL

4th Junior Vice Commander

Joseph Parsetich, Great Falls, MT

National Judge Advocate

Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, ND

National Chaplain

Michael Dover, Ellerslie, GA

Past National Commander

David W. Riley, Semmes, AL



Front row, from left: Joseph Parsetich, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Dennis R. Nixon
Back row, from left: Michael E. Dobmeier, Donald Day, David W. Riley, Michael Dover, Andrew Marshall, Stephen Whitehead

NEC 1st District

Coleman Francis Nee, Boston, MA

Alternate

Helen Bennett, West Bridgewater, MA

NEC 2nd District

Chester Wisnesky Jr., Constable, NY

Alternate

Keith A. Robinson, Rochester, NY

NEC 3rd District

Robert A. Nicodemus, Enfield, NH

Alternate

Ernest S. Boisvert, Woonsocket, RI

NEC 4th District

James M. Kopley, Princeton, NJ

Alternate

Abraham Velez, Dover, DE

NEC 5th District

Samuel Blow Jr., Melrose Park, PA

Alternate

Michael T. Iacavazzi, Scranton, PA

NEC 6th District

Idalis M. Marquez, Toa Baja, PR

Alternate

Robert D. Cox, Roanoke, VA

NEC 7th District

John C. Raber, Bradenton, FL

Alternate

Jack L. Johnson, The Villages, FL

NEC 8th District

Johnnie Carver, Sevierville, TN

Alternate

Donald L. Samuels, Gallatin, TN

NEC 9th District

Tincie M. Lynch, Marietta, GA

Alternate

Robert L. Bledsoe, Hephzibah, GA

NEC 10th District

James R. Dempsey, Dexter, MI

Alternate

Albert L. Hughes Jr., Redford, MI

NEC 11th District

David C. Uetterling, Defiance, OH

Alternate

Michael R. Stith, Akron, OH

NEC 12th District

Alfred C. Reynolds, Mount Zion, IL

Alternate

Eric Huckaby, Pawnee, IL

NEC 13th District

George Hall, Harold, KY

Alternate

Randy Bunting, La Grange, KY

NEC 14th District

David P. Valtinson, Grand Rapids, MN

Alternate

Gregory D. Remus, Park Rapids, MN

NEC 15th District

Jim Shuey, Omaha, NE

Alternate

David R. Thornburg Jr., Waukegan, IA

NEC 16th District

Michael Steinbaugh, Berkeley, CA

Alternate

Kirk H. Johnson, Marina, CA

NEC 17th District

Paul W. Jackson, Colorado Springs, CO

Alternate

Timothy J. Talley, Bovina, TX

NEC 18th District

Richard Walker Jr., Henderson, NV

Alternate

Jeffrey K. Carson, North Las Vegas, NV

NEC 19th District

Harvey E. Dixon, Boise, ID

Alternate

Robert Sellers, Blackfoot, ID

NEC 20th District

Percy Spence III, Selma, TX

Alternate

Thomas Parker, Lorena, TX

NEC 21st District

Danny Oliver, Coweta, OK

Alternate

John F. Donovan, Conway, AR



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

National Commander

William Craig Johniken, Lufkin, TX

Sr. Vice Commander

Ellen L. Timmerman, Farmington, NM

1st Junior Vice Commander

Diane J. Franz, Winter Springs, FL

2nd Junior Vice Commander

Lynn Helms Prosser, Surfside Beach, SC

3rd Junior Vice Commander

Carolyn A. Sensat, Sulphur, LA

4th Junior Vice Commander

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Berkeley, CA

National Judge Advocate

Donna M. Adams, Glendale, AZ

National Chaplain

Aura-Lee Nicodemus, Enfield, NH

Past National Commander

Frances J. Costa, North Attleboro, MA

NEC 1st District

Elizabeth Eldridge, Marshfield, MA

Alternate

Sharon A. Dufault, North Attleboro, MA

NEC 2nd District

Terry Grabowski, Middletown, NY

Alternate

Cheryl Connors, Flushing, NY

NEC 3rd District

Karen Rediker, South Royalton, VT

Alternate

Donna M. Folcarelli, Johnston, RI

NEC 4th District

Linda S. Applegate, Toms River, NJ

Alternate

Sarah M. Kashner, Camden, DE

NEC 5th District

Loretta J. Nosko, Erie, PA

Alternate

N/A

NEC 6th District

Grace M. James, Front Royal, VA

Alternate

Maria H. Torres, Fajardo, PR

NEC 7th District

Delores A. Roussey, Port Charlotte, FL

Alternate

Irene H. Stevens, Melbourne, FL

NEC 8th District

Charlene Williams, Diamondhead, MS

Alternate

Janett E. Reece, Meridian, MS

NEC 9th District

JoAnn Atkinson, Marietta, GA

Alternate

Byrdyne W. Bell, Augusta, GA

NEC 10th District

Teresita Morey, Holland, MI

Alternate

Regina I. Fortner, Oscoda, MI

NEC 11th District

Judith C. Hezlep, Cincinnati, OH

Alternate

Deborah Hall, Alliance, OH

NEC 12th District

Carla L. Reynolds, Mount Zion, IL

Alternate

Sandra B. Black, Bloomington, IL

NEC 13th District

Douglas W. Noel, Smithfield, KY

Alternate

April Roush, New Richmond, OH

NEC 14th District

Laurie A. Pekarik, Blaine, MN

Alternate

LeeAnn B. Karg, Dassel, MN

NEC 15th District

Velma Steinman, Jefferson City, MO

Alternate

Melissa Pierce, Cedar Rapids, IA

NEC 16th District

Melissa Valdez, Highland, CA

Alternate

Adrienne Frazier Mack, San Francisco, CA

NEC 17th District

Marilyn Hogue, Littleton, CO

Alternate

Victoria J. Salazar, Questa, NM

NEC 18th District

Carol A. Rundell, Tucson, AZ

Alternate

Carolyn J. Walker, Henderson, NV

NEC 19th District

Jenny Clark, Vancouver, WA

Alternate

Jerald A. Royse Sr., Tillamook, OR

NEC 20th District

Christopher J. Easley, San Antonio, TX

Alternate

Darlene Spence, Selma, TX

NEC 21st District

Linda Oliver, Coweta, OK

Alternate

Kimberly Stake, Heber Springs, AR

Adjutant announces staff changes



“It’s a tremendous honor to promote some extremely talented veterans who will contribute to our mission in their new capacities. We look forward to their leadership and efforts to enhance our great organization’s capabilities.”

— Marc Burgess, National Adjutant

At the National Executive Committee meeting following the national convention’s final business session, National Adjutant Marc Burgess announced some important staff changes at DAV National Headquarters and National Service and Legislative Headquarters.



Liermann

Assistant National Legislative Director

Shane Liermann was appointed assistant national legislative director, responsible for advancing DAV’s legislative priorities and advocating for veterans and their families before Congress.

Liermann served in the Marine

Corps from 1993 to 1996, prior to joining 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. After serving in the same capacity in Cleveland, he supervised offices in Fort Snelling, Minn., and Nashville. In 2011, Liermann relocated to Washington, D.C., to assist in supervising the National Appeals Office at the Board of Veterans’ Appeals. In 2016, he was appointed assistant national service director, a position in which he served until his current appointment. Liermann is a life member and adjutant of Chapter 10 in Fairfax, Va.

Assistant National Service Director

Appointed assistant national service director, Jon Retzer provides coordination and logistical support for national service offices across the United States and in Puerto Rico to help veterans get the benefits they

earned. Retzer served in the U.S. Army from 1991 to 1995 and continued his service with the Army National Guard until his medical separation in 1999. He joined DAV as a national service officer trainee in 2003. He was first promoted to assistant supervisor and then to supervisor of the Fort Snelling National Service Office, where he served until his current appointment. Retzer is a life member of Chapter 39 in Anoka, Minn.



Retzer

Assistant National Communications Director

As assistant national communications director, James Killen is primarily responsible for managing and maintaining DAV’s digital and social media presence from DAV National Headquarters in Cold Spring,



Killen

Ky. He joined DAV's national staff in 2016 when he was appointed associate national communications director. Killen brings nearly a decade of experience in social media management, including a year with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Digital Media Engagement Team. 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 19 in Cold Spring.



Wiehoff

Information Technology Director

In addition to the appointments, Brian Wiehoff was named information technology director, effective Aug. 7. In his new position, Wiehoff will provide vision and leadership

for developing and implementing information technology initiatives through DAV National Headquarters. He'll provide overall leadership and direct the organization's technology efforts, supporting and monitoring all IT business operations to improve cost effectiveness, monitor organizational efficiency, provide real-time data and communications to executive management, and manage IT risk.

Wiehoff has more than 25 years of leadership experience. An Army veteran of the Cold War and Persian Gulf War eras, he served in the intelligence field, supporting information systems to support intelligence production and information maintenance. After 13 years of service, he left the military as a chief warrant officer 2 and began his civilian career in information technology. A graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, he holds bachelor's and master's degrees in management in addition to his accreditation as a project management professional. For more than three years, he's served as a consultant for DAV. He is a life member of Chapter 19 in Cold Spring.



'Forever' GI Bill passes for future veterans

Recipients of the Post-9/11 GI Bill—Chapter 33—currently have a 15-year time frame in which to

use their benefits. Legislation to eliminate the current limit on using those benefits, and to improve the overall benefit for veterans discharged after Jan. 1, 2013, was signed into law by the President Aug. 16, 2017. While the, Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, (Public Law 115-48) also known as the Forever GI Bill, removes the time eligibility restriction for service members and veterans discharged after Jan. 1, 2013, the 15-year time restriction still applies to veterans separated from military service before 2013.

The Forever GI Bill also allows Guard and Reserve members who spent time recovering from battlefield injuries to have that recovery time counted toward GI Bill eligibility. Future National Guard veterans called to active duty by their governor for federal assistance

will qualify for Forever GI Bill benefits effective Aug. 1, 2018. Prior to this new law, National Guard veterans were only entitled if called to active duty by presidential order as a result of a national emergency.

Effective immediately, Guard and Reserve veterans who are receiving Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits will now be allowed to "pause" their eligibility so their time under the VR&E program is not negatively affected while called up on active-duty orders.

Through this new law, Purple Heart recipients will be awarded full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, no matter how long they served and without time restraints. This allows those veterans who were injured prior to the minimum service requirement to utilize the full program, effective Aug. 1, 2018.

The legislation also increases Dependents' Educational Assistance monthly payments by about 40 percent. However, the maximum number of months a dependent can now receive that benefit decreases from 45 to 36, effective Aug. 1, 2018.

You can find out more about what the Forever GI Bill means for you by visiting benefits.va.gov/gibill.



DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess (fourth from left) was among those present when President Donald J. Trump signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 during the 99th American Legion National Convention in Reno, Nev., on Wednesday, August 23. (Photo by Clay Lomneth/The American Legion)

Appeals legislation a win for veterans

On August 23, President Trump signed into law a long-awaited piece of legislation designed to create a more timely and accurate system for processing veterans' appeals for disability claims.

Veterans have faced unnecessary and unacceptable delays within the current VA disability appeals system, on average taking between three to five years—sometimes longer—to complete. The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 will overhaul the system by creating three paths for veterans to appeal an unfavorable decision: taking their appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals; requesting a higher-level VA adjudicator to decide their case; or file a supplemental claim with new evidence.

"We have long advocated for appeals reform because we believe this law will help minimize the frustration and undue burdens that veterans and their families experience when caught in a lengthy appeals process,"

said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. "This critical legislation will ensure that the new appeals system provides veterans with multiple options to challenge unfavorable decisions, ultimately leading to quicker and more favorable outcomes while also protecting veterans' due process rights."

While the claims backlog has come down significantly over the past five years, the number of pending appeals has risen dramatically—to over 450,000.

Since March of 2016, DAV has worked alongside Congress, VA, the Board of Veterans Appeals and many other stakeholders to develop and refine this framework.

"This legislation is a testament to how vital collaborative partnerships between VA, Congress and veterans organizations are in crafting reform measures that meet the needs of all parties involved—most especially the needs of disabled veterans," said Augustine. ■

Fred R. Bristol

■ On June 27th, 2017 longtime DAV leader and mentor, Fred R. Bristol, passed away at the age of 90. Dedicated to a life of service, Fred joined the U.S. Army in 1944 following graduation from Texas Military Institute. After studying Japanese language at Yale University, he was assigned to Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Pacific, as an interpreter under General Douglas MacArthur.

While serving in Tokyo and Hiroshima, Fred suffered radiation exposure that left him with a severe, chronic skin disorder.

Following his separation from military service, Fred attended the University of Illinois, earning a Bachelor of Arts and a Law degree, and serving as editor of the law review there in 1951. After a year of private legal practice, he joined DAV's professional staff as General Counsel in 1952.

In 1961, he was promoted to Assistant National Adjutant for Charitable Contributions and led DAV fundraising activities for the next 11 years. Fred was largely responsible for the development of new direct-mail fundraising efforts, which directly increased



Bristol

the financial well-being of the organization. He retired from DAV in 1972.

In 1993, Fred returned to the DAV staff to help reorganize operations at National Headquarters. Fred was more than willing to step up to the challenge, until ultimately retiring a second time in August 1994 as DAV's assistant national adjutant at the National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Ky.

Following his second retirement from the DAV professional staff, Fred served as advisor to the DAV Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee where he led the first complete revision of the organization's National Bylaws in more than two decades.

"Fred was a man of vision and compassion, and he truly lived a life of service," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "Fred's dedication to this organization has helped ensure DAV will be there to serve future generations of veterans. We will miss Fred greatly but will continue to honor his legacy through the work we do."

Fred is survived by his spouse Aylor Rogers Gallagher, and will be lovingly remembered by family and his many friends.

Frank C. Krolczyk

■ Frank Krolczyk, 72, a retired national service officer, died on July 20.

"We cannot begin to quantify the number of lives Frank touched throughout his service in DAV," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "He was well traveled, having visited nearly every state doing the good work of the organization. He will truly be missed, but there are many veterans and family members out there today whose lives will forever be bettered by Frank's efforts."

Born in 1945 in Manistee, Mich., Krolczyk joined the U.S. Army in 1967.

Krolczyk was seriously injured in Vietnam where he was awarded multiple Purple Hearts and various



Krolczyk

military honors for heroism.

After his military service, Krolczyk moved to Milwaukee in 1971, where he began his lifelong career working for DAV. As a national service officer, he travelled the country helping veterans and their families obtain their benefits.

A life member of Chapter 127 in Centerline, Mich., Krolczyk continued his dedication to veterans for decades.

He retired as national service officer in 2005—after 34 years—and continued to volunteer to help his fellow veterans and their families long after.

Krolczyk is survived by his wife of 45 years, Jane; three sons; one daughter; one granddaughter and numerous friends.

Korean War veteran receives medals from service...

New Hampshire DAV state officers were on hand at the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) to honor some life members of the organization. Korean War veteran Bernard "Bill" Meaney (center) was presented with decorations he earned during service, including the National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal and Combat Infantryman Badge. Making the presentation are (from left) Ernie Sulloway, state senior vice commander; Bob Guldner, state commander; Marilyn Walsh, Chapter 19 senior vice commander; Elizabeth Meaney; Jerilyn Maynard, DAV Auxiliary state commander; and Ben Saxon, Chapter 19 treasurer. Seated next to Bill is fellow DAV member David Clark, chaplain of the NHVH Resident Council.



Life member receives highest state award...

Army veteran and DAV life member Rodney Cress (center) received the highest civilian award for the state of North Carolina for his work with veterans. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society states the award is given to those who demonstrate exemplary service that's above and beyond the call of duty. Congressman Richard Hudson (left) nominated Cress for the award because of his 31 years of tireless veteran advocacy work.

Donate Your Car Today
and make a difference for a veteran.

DAV

An illustration of a soldier in a green camouflage uniform and cap, saluting with his right hand. Next to him is a red car. The background features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

DAV.org/cars
or call toll-free
877-999-8322



Florida veterans take care of needy families...

DAV members from Chapter 16 in Orlando, Fla., presented \$75 Publix grocery gift cards to Lake Nona VA Medical Center to aid needy families. This year, members distributed \$3,750 in gift cards. From left: DAV National Executive Committee District 7 representative Richard Tolfa; DAV Auxiliary Unit 16 Chaplain Gloria Bouters; Chief of Voluntary Services Adelina Sowell; Lake Nona VAMC Director Tim Liezert; DAV Department of Florida Vice Commander Brad Bouters; DAV Auxiliary National 1st Junior Vice Commander Diane Franz; Hospital Service Coordinator Jonathan Turk; and Lake Nona VAMC Voluntary Services Coordinator Fred Holmes.



Honoring the wounded...

From left: DAV National Executive Committee District 11 representative Robert Bertschy and members Jim Jenkins and Marlin Talbott of Chapter 47 in East Liverpool, Ohio, dedicated their new memorial in honor of all disabled American veterans wounded in the nation's wars and conflicts.



Share Your News!

Send your DAV or Auxiliary news to feedback@dav.org. Please provide a JPEG image (minimum 300 dpi), a description of the photo and the names of those pictured. Submissions are subject to editing for clarity, style, accuracy, space and propriety.

DAV 5K

RUN TO HONOR VETERANS

2017 NATIONAL SERIES



SAN ANTONIO
SAT., NOV. 4



TULSA
SAT., NOV. 4



NEWPORT NEWS
SUN., NOV. 5

ATLANTA
SAT., NOV. 11



BOSTON
SAT., NOV. 11



CINCINNATI
SAT., NOV. 11

PRESENTED BY DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS)

NATIONAL SERIES SPONSOR 

Cheers to tervis

Over 4th of July weekend, Tervis employees and customers helped raise **OVER \$34K FOR DAV.**

This generous gift will have a potential impact of **over \$1 million in direct benefits and services for veterans and their families.**

DAV



REUNIONS

ARMY

87TH INFANTRY DIVISION LEGACY ASSOCIATION

Oct. 19–22, Columbia, SC, Contact: Dennis Lennon, Ph: 336-816-2551, Email: dlennon@triad.rr.com

299TH COMBAT ENGINEERS DAK TO DEFENDERS

Oct. 1–5, Kansas City, MO, Contact: Dave Swanson, Ph: 206-878-0806, Email: abodkes17@comcast.net

2017 NCOC REUNION

Sept. 28–Oct. 4, Fort Benning/Columbus, GA, Contact: Scott Guptill, Ph: 503-464-8554, Email: scott.guptill@pgn.com

2018 ARMY OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL (OCS)

REUNION March 25–29, Columbus, GA, Contact Nancy Ionoff, Ph: 813-917-4309, Web: ocsalumni.org

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Dec. 17, West Palm Beach, FL, Contact: George Fisher, Ph: 561-585-7086, Email: GeorgeFVBOB@aol.com

INFANTRY OCS CLASS 9–70 (55TH CO.)

April 16–18, Fort Benning, GA, Contact: Bob Cole, Ph: 803-865-8304, Email: robertpcole@aol.com

SOCIETY OF THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION

Sept. 28–Oct. 1, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Toby Knight, Ph: 210-885-2137, Email: president@society3rdid.org, Web: society3rdid.org

MARINES

1ST BATTALION, 27TH MARINE REGIMENT (ALL 27TH BATTALIONS & SUPPORTING UNITS WELCOME)

July 18–22, Alexandria, VA, Contact: Felix Salmeron, Ph: 469-583-0191, Email: mar463@aol.com, Web: 127marines.org

3RD MARINE REGIMENT, HQ CO., SCOUT/SNIPER PLT. (VIETNAM)

Feb. 9–11, Las Vegas, NV, Contact: Jim O'Neill, Ph: 928-684-2309, Email: taranial@gmail.com

GROUND SURVEILLANCE UNIT/SCAMP ASSIGNED TO 3RD MARINE DIVISION AND 1ST MARINE DIVISION VIETNAM

Oct. 25–29, Houston, TX, Contact: Benny Rains, Ph: 713-875-4102, Email: brainso8@comcast.net

KILO 3/7 MARINE CORPS VIETNAM VETERANS

Oct. 4–9, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Bill Gerke, Ph: 631-433-8575, Email: msggerke@aol.com

MARINE AIR GROUPS REUNION, WWII TO PRESENT

Oct. 11–14, Branson, MO, Contact: Jerry Giipe, Ph: 660-909-4144, Email: jgiipe@hotmail.com

NAVY

ASR/ARS ASSOCIATION

Oct. 16–21, Baton Rouge, LA, Contact: Mary Neal, Ph: 502-477-0876, Email: mbneal@TWC.com

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Sept. 18–22, Las Vegas, NV, Contact: Bill Solt, Ph: 757-714-9344, Email: sisbill@aol.com, Web: navyphoto.net

NATIONAL CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Oct. 11–15, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Bob McCauley, Email: bobmccauley2@cox.net, Web: ncpoa.club

NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA ISLAND X-1

Sept. 9–10, Davisville, RI, Contact: John Hughes, Ph: 401-294-9718, Email: jiv3hughes@aol.com

USS ALTAIR (AK-257/AKS-32)

Oct. 11–15, Myrtle Beach, SC, Contact: Dan Douglas, Ph: 203-219-7509, Email: ddouglas@aol.com, Web: ussalthair-aks32.org

USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343)

Nov. 12–15, Charleston, SC, Contact: Jim Griffin, Ph: 850-683-1612, Email: realbiggem@cox.net

USS HARRY E. HUBBARD (DD-748)

Oct. 4–7, Oklahoma City, OK, Contact: Steve Gann, 4301 Rankin Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73120, Ph: 405-840-0941 or 405-203-0664

USS LAPON (SSN-661)

Oct. 6–8, Virginia Beach, VA, Contact: Tim Richard, Ph: 757-617-3498, Email: trichard@fermionllc.com, Web: www.facebook.com/groups/49527217997?ref=bookmarks

USS LITCHFIELD COUNTY (LST-901)

Nov. 8–11, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Don Lerche, Ph: 309-928-3395, Email: donlerche@yahoo.com

USS LLOYD THOMAS (DD/DDE-764) March 14–17, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Scott Sheffer, Ph: 814-797-5458, Email: lloydthomas@atlanticbb.net, Web: DD764.org

USS PARK COUNTY (LST-1077)

Nov. 8–11, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Mike Kempf, Ph: 317-490-4229, Email: m.w.kempf@sbcglobal.net

USS STEINAKER (DD-863)

April 26–29, Virginia Beach, VA, Contact: Ken Kohnen, Ph: 904-654-7321,

Email: ken.kohnen@yahoo.com, Web: usssteinaker.org

USS SUTTER COUNTY (LST-1150)

Nov. 8–11, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Guy Simmons, Ph: 978-476-3895, Email: guysimmons@aol.com

AIR FORCE

553RD RECON WING

Sept. 28–Oct. 1, Oklahoma City, OK, Contact: The Reunion BRAT, Ph: 360-663-2521, Email: thereunionbrat@hotmail.com, Web: thereunionbrat.com

613 TFS "SQUIDS" ASSOCIATION TORREJON AB

SPAIN: THE PHANTOM YEARS Nov. 2–5, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Jim McCormick, Email: Jimccor@Tampabay.rr.com, Web: 613tfs.com

MAXWELL-GUNTER AFB REUNION (1975–85)

Nov. 16–19, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, AL, Contact: Elnora Seabrooks-Fuellen, Email: elnorafuellen@gmail.com

COAST GUARD

USCGC WESTWIND (WAGB-281)

Sept. 8–11, Mobile, AL, Contact: Alex Mavica, Ph: 845-352-7040, Email: amavica@optonline.net

INQUIRIES

- Searching for anyone who can confirm Toxic Exposure to the elements in Stack Gas, namely Nitrous Oxide, Sulphur Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide. I was exposed to these elements as Quartermaster on the bridge of USS Barton DD722 during Hunter Killer duty in Korea, and on USS Robert A. Owens. Contact Robert Bentivenga at 914-522-0135, Email: Rbentii@aol.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me aboard the YMS 419, a minesweeper from 10/1945 to 07/1946. I have been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Has anyone else gone through this same illness? Contact Phil Hochman, 525 Randolph Road, Plainfield, NJ 07060, Ph: 908-922-7986, Email: phochq2@gmail.com.
- Searching for anyone who served at Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana and witnessed the B58A Bomber crash that was carrying nuclear bombs and warheads, "The Broken Arrow Incident" on Dec. 8, 1964 and knew Dennis Robert Foht, a B58 mechanic and Reclamation Team Member stationed at Bunker Hill AFB. Contact Paula J. Foht at 574-870-5209.
- Searching for anyone who served on the USS Cooper DD-695. I was the TMM 2C on the number 2 torpedo mount. We were sunk Dec. 3, 1944 in Ormac Bay. Contact James Villiers at jamesvilliers@yahoo.com.
- Searching for the combat medic assigned to the 2nd/8th Inf., 3rd BDE, 1st Air Cav Div. Vietnam in 1972 who treated a scout dog handler's leg wound received during an ambush encounter. Contact Peter Nauta via email at pete_nauta@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Hokkaido, Japan who volunteered for combat when they asked for volunteers in 1951. I need help in confirming that I volunteered for combat in Korea. I was with HQ Co, 2nd Bn, 279th Inf. Division. Contact Ray Raymond, 515-393-9321, Email: korev2822@yahoo.com or Facebook.
- Searching for 363 TAC Recon Group stationed at Shaw AFB, Sumpter, SC, anyone who was ground support from 1969–1971. Contact Roger Larose, 810 Eubank Boulevard, NE, Albuquerque, NJ 87123, Ph: 505-203-1443.
- Searching for all brothers-in-arms who served with the USS Boston CAG-1 from Sept. 1965 through April 1968. Contact D. L. Marshall, 6012 Highland Avenue, Apt. 11, Kansas City, MO 64110, Ph: 816-206-6132.
- Searching for shipmates of Co. 714 Great Lakes NRTC, winter 1968–69. Contact Jim Bryant, 270-776-2614, Email: jim.bryant2614@gmail.com.
- Searching for anybody who served with me in Soc Trang, 221st RAC, Shotguns, 68/69. I was a crew chief for Shotgun 39, Captain Werner. Contact Doug Williams, Ph: 734-231-2239.
- Searching for anyone who can help me locate Leon McLemore or a family member. Leon is a double amputee who was in the Army hospital on Okinawa with me from January through April 1965. Contact Lenny Thompson, P.O. Box 81, Solana Beach, CA 92075, Ph: 619-701-4820.
- Searching for anyone who served with 18th Engineer Battalion 589th A CO. Phan Rang Air Base for upcoming reunion. Contact William A. Moore, 5128 Alberta Avenue, Nottingham, MD 21236, Ph: 410-916-4573.
- Searching for anyone who served with B-7 Infantry from 1998–2004. I was HHC and Charlie Company. I worked in the motor pool as a 63T (Bradley Mechanic). Also, anyone who worked contracts in Iraq or Kuwait from 2004 to 2010, on Camps Arifjan, Ali Al Salem, Virginia, Liberty, Striker, Slayer, Balad (Mortarville). Contact Kenzie Nelson, 1807451, 9055 Spur 591, Amarillo, TX 79107.
- Searching for anyone who served with me at the Naval Ammunition Depot in 1970 to 1972 in Oahu, HI, to see if interested in getting a reunion together. Contact Harold Adams at 773-785-0316 or 973-264-0680.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Delta Co., 1st Bn, 26th Marines, Camp Pendleton, on the Special Landing Force aboard the USS Lwo Jima and in Vietnam from May 1966 to January 1967. I was a Section Leader in Weapons Platoon (M60s, 60mm mortars). Contact Wilbur Gary Nelson, Email: onetoucan70@icloud.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in G CO. 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, 1st Marine Brigade FMT at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, HI from Nov. 1963 to Nov. 1965 (May 1965–Nov. 1965 in Chu Lai, Vietnam). Contact Wilbur Gary Nelson, Email: onetoucan70@icloud.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in H&S Co., 2nd ITR, MCB, Camp Pendleton from Jan. 1966 to May 1966. I was a Weapons Instructor. Contact Wilbur Gary Nelson, Email: onetoucan70@icloud.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in MP Co., HqBn, 3rd Marine Div. (Rein), FMF at Phu Bai, Vietnam from January 1967 to May 1967. Contact Wilbur Gary Nelson at Email: onetoucan70@icloud.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in the Auditor General's Office, Officers or Enlisted at Wiesbaden Air Base (Germany) "Camp Lindsey" from approximately Nov. 1962 to May 1966 or Vandenberg AFB, CA from June 1968 to 1970. Contact Harry Lee Mitchell, 653 Sawmill Road, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, Ph: 360-679-1280.
- Searching for anyone who served with Terry Bond in Vietnam between 1966–68, 82nd Airborne, 6th Rangers, 212 Air Mobile. Contact Terry Bond, 1302 W. Broadway, Bolivar, MO 65613, Ph: 417-770-3925.
- Searching for Bob Bowers and Ruth Stanley Hynish who served with me in the 17th DSES, Malmstrom AFB, MT in 1977 to its closing in 1978/1979. Also searching for others who were there at this time especially those in ECM. Contact Lisa Roberts, Email: lisahortmeister@yahoo.com. (Please place in the subject line: Regarding DAV Inquiry.)
- Searching for CDR Timothy R. Jackson, USN (Ret) with whom I served on the USS Richard E. Byrd (DDG-23) from 1983 to 1985. He was a LCDR at that time and was Executive Officer under Cdr. M. Bordy. He left the ship in England for assignment to EPMAK, New Orleans, LA. Contact Lorne M. Lister, PNC, USN (Ret), Ocklawaha, FL at 352-625-3348 or Email: navy85@hotmail.com.
- Searching for Clarence Carlie Combs MSG US Army (Ret) aka HAPPY. Last known address Lawton, OK. Contact Kenneth Puckett, 9406 SW 94th Loop, Ocala, FL 34481, Email: captpuckett@gmail.com.
- Searching for Danny Breckinridge aka Big Red HHC, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea. Contact Jerry Williams, 480 Upper Dry Fork Road, McKee, KY 410447, Ph: 606-493-8242.
- Searching for Donald Lawrence. He was at LZ Sally with the 101st D CO. 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brag. 502nd Div. from 11/1968 to 11/1969. He has AO related medical issues. Contact R. Ernest Ledtje at Email: dav_ledtje@hotmail.com.
- Searching for information about Sgt. John I. Williams, 2 Blt 7 Mar 81 Pit Vietnam, 1967. Anyone with information, Contact Victor Tynes at 928-292-8429 or 661-670-7641.



Military Appreciation Night



DAV and Golden Corral are once again teaming up for Military Appreciation Night, **Monday, Nov. 13, 2017**, between 5 and 9 p.m.

Nationwide, Golden Corral restaurants will welcome our nation's veterans and active-duty military men and women by treating them to a free buffet dinner, beverage and camaraderie.

Last year, DAV departments and chapters raised more than \$1.4 million in donations and Golden Corral served more than 300,000 free meals to veterans. Additionally, DAV and Golden Corral work together to support Camp Corral, a nonprofit organization that provides one-of-a-kind summer camp experiences for children of wounded, injured, ill or fallen military service members.

Since the start of the 16-year tradition, DAV has raised more than \$12.9 million and Golden Corral has served up nearly 5.1 million free "thank-you" meals.

Military Appreciation Night is Golden Corral's way of thanking our nation's veterans and active-duty personnel. Be sure to stop by to enjoy your free meal, chat with fellow veterans and find more information from the local DAV representatives at each participating location.



Share Your News! Send photos of your chapter or department at a Military Appreciation Night event to feedback@dav.org by Nov. 20 for consideration in the January/February issue.

Thank you for your service.



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

FRESH for Fall

Clique Jacket | \$44

High-performance polyester/
spandex softshell.

Men's S-5X | Ladies' S-3X



Picnic Blanket | \$35

Water-resistant, durable ripstop
and fleece interior, 60" x 70."



30-quart Pelican™ Elite Cooler | \$440

Keeps ice for up to seven days.

Made in the U.S.A.

*Allow 4 weeks for delivery

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orders@halo.com



800-468-4332



M-F, 8 AM-5 PM CT

Did you know that DAV members have access to great discounts on products and services?



When you take advantage of these offers, our partners will donate back to DAV, helping us keep the promise to more ill and injured veterans.

These are some of our valued member benefit partners:



Have peace of mind through emergency and paratransit services for mobility challenged people, their passengers, vehicle and equipment.



Special discounts on professional interstate moving services, storage in-transit, personal property protection coverage plans and moving supplies.



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

To take advantage of these special offers and more, visit:

dav.org/membership/membership-benefits