



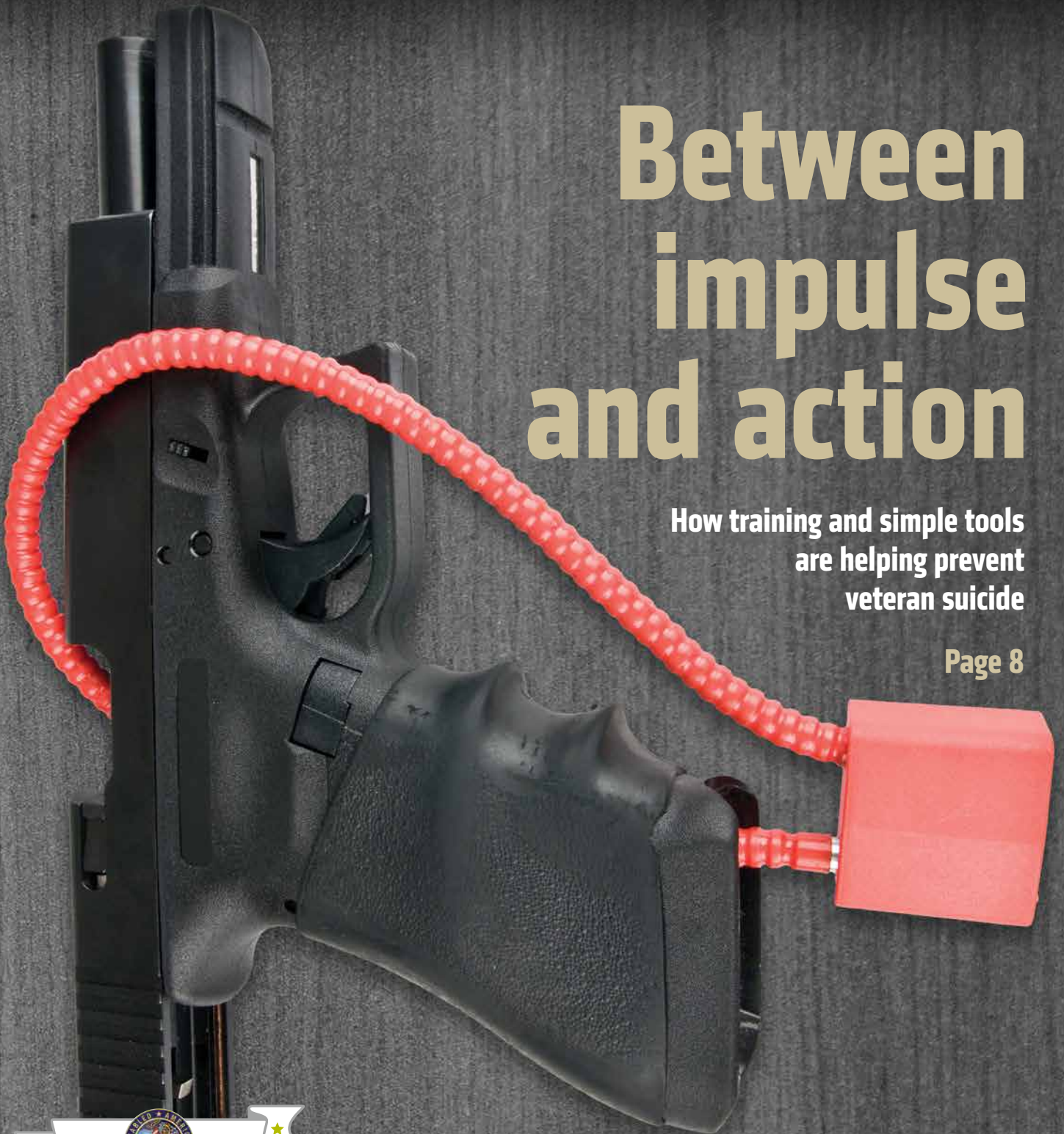
THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF DAV AND AUXILIARY
NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2020

MAGAZINE

Between impulse and action

How training and simple tools
are helping prevent
veteran suicide

Page 8



A Century of
Service to Veterans

DAV.ORG DAV @DAVHQ DAVHQ COMPANY/DAVHQ DISABLEDVETERANS



The Battle Never Ends

Documentary celebrates DAV's 100 years of service to America's disabled veterans

By M. Todd Hunter



Capt. Dale Dye, narrator

When to watch

All scheduled showtimes below are Eastern Standard Time (EST), but please check your local listings for exact times.



PREMIER

HISTORY Channel

- Saturday, Nov. 7, at 8 a.m.



Military HISTORY Channel

- Monday, Nov. 9, at 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 10, at midnight and noon
- Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 12, at midnight and noon
- Friday, Nov. 13, at 8 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 14, at midnight and noon

DAV has teamed up with the HISTORY Channel to showcase the organization's 100 years of advocacy on behalf of our nation's ill and injured veterans and highlight its dedication and commitment to serving past, present and future disabled American veterans.

"The Battle Never Ends," an hourlong documentary highlighting the origins of DAV and its accomplishments throughout the past century, is scheduled to premiere Nov. 7 on the HISTORY Channel and air throughout Veterans Day week on the Military HISTORY Channel. It is then planned to become available on demand beginning Nov. 20.

Partially filmed at the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C., the documentary—hosted and narrated by actor, Vietnam veteran and Hollywood military adviser Dale Dye—is a chronological look back at America's military engagements from World War I to today. The film focuses on how DAV responded to the emerging needs of disabled veterans and their families during each conflict.

"Dale Dye is an icon in his own right, and we're honored to have him as a DAV life member," said National Commander Butch Whitehead. "We're equally honored that he lent his time and voice to this project. There's a legitimacy in both of those that illustrates DAV's impact as we look back on 100 years of service."

"The honor is mine, actually," said Dye, a combat-wounded Marine Corps veteran. "Representing an organization that has done so much for so many for so long is an easy decision to make. My only hope is that this project adequately honors DAV's storied history and the personal sacrifices we have all made on behalf of this great country." ■

From the NATIONAL COMMANDER STEPHEN “BUTCH” WHITEHEAD



Looking forward

One year ago, many of us were excited for the year ahead. Planning and preparation for events like DAV's centennial celebration, national convention and National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic were in full force as the organization was hyperfocused on and dedicated to ensuring it properly celebrated 100 years of service to America's disabled veterans and their families. But then, seemingly as quickly as we turned the page into 2020, our country was blindsided by COVID-19.

At the time, we had no clue this pandemic would force us all to dramatically change how we interact for the foreseeable future. We had little idea that the cancellation of small local gatherings and events would spiral to schools and businesses closing their doors nationwide. And we certainly could not predict that more than 200,000 Americans would die and millions more would be unemployed as a result of the virus.

To say 2020 has been a challenging year for our nation is an understatement. Now, as we enter this holiday season and prepare for 2021, many of us are taking stock of all that was lost this past year.

But it's also important to remember what we've gained, and for me, that's plain to see:

Increased appreciation for the men and women who make DAV the nation's premier veterans service organization.

Appreciation for those who worked behind the scenes to set up and promote DAV's COVID-19 Unemployment Relief Fund so we could provide financial

assistance to disabled veterans who lost employment in the wake of the virus's outbreak.

Appreciation for the many generous Americans who donated to the COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Appreciation for our dedicated service officers who work on the front lines of our disaster relief efforts and continue to provide no-cost services to disabled veterans in need every day.

Appreciation for our many volunteers, including Transportation Network drivers, who remain dedicated to serving veterans in the midst of this pandemic.

Appreciation for an employment program that seamlessly converted our in-person career fairs to virtual events nationwide to keep veterans connected with employers.

Appreciation for corporate partners like Ford Motor Co., who donated more than 1 million face masks to be distributed to DAV's service offices, VA medical centers and our separate headquarters to protect veterans, their caregivers, volunteers and staff working to support the men and women who served.

The list goes on much longer than we have room to print on this page, but I want to leave you with what I'm most appreciative of: your effort and dedication.

Thank you for all that you do. Thank you for your service to this nation. And thank you for your service to each other.

May you all stay safe and healthy with your loved ones this holiday season. May God bless you all. And may God continue to bless America.

CONTENTS

- 1** While 2020 proved to be a trying year, National Commander Butch Whitehead notes that DAV and the Auxiliary rose to the occasion.
- 3** National Adjutant Marc Burgess reflects on an important victory for disabled veterans and family caregivers this year.
- 6** Facing cancer linked to toxic exposures in service, a Navy veteran—and VA employee—turns to DAV to help fight for the health care and benefits she earned.
- 10** Longtime supporter Ford Motor Co. is once again providing funds to drive the DAV Transportation Network—and donating face masks to help keep our veterans, volunteers and team safe.
- 12** With flu season approaching and COVID-19 still raising concerns, practicing safe disease prevention is more important than ever.
- 14** DAV members celebrated the kickoff of our centennial year by paying tribute to founder and working with state and local leaders to recognize “DAV Day” across the nation.
- 16** Veterans lacking access to banking have new fraud protection options available through the Veterans Benefits Banking Program.

FEATURES



8

As we work together to battle veteran suicide, there is a simple—yet effective—measure proving to make a meaningful impact in saving lives.



18

Remembering a life of service: Marine Corps veteran and Beirut bombing survivor John Chipura went on to serve in the NYPD and NYFD, ultimately losing his life in the Twin Towers on 9/11.



24

Banded together by national tragedy, the Bonus Army of 1932 set in motion a legacy of grassroots advocacy to ensure the government kept its promises to veterans.

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From the NATIONAL ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS



A hard-fought victory

If this past year has taught us anything, it's to expect the unexpected and stay prepared for anything that could come our way. This is not unlike the training we received in the military. We've ridden quite a turbulent wave this year, with concerns to our health, our economy and our politics, and I'm sure many of us will be all too glad to close out 2020 with eyes on a brighter tomorrow.

For all the negatives, however, there have been some bright spots throughout the past few months that give me hope. These victories should inspire all of us to continue

working hard, even when the cause may seem out of reach. One in particular, I think, shows that having tenacity and staying engaged in the fight will often yield some of the results you're seeking, if not the outright victory.

For those who have been following DAV's caregiver initiative—including our 2017 America's Unsung Heroes report and campaign—you know that we have been leading the charge to expand the VA's caregiver assistance program to veterans severely disabled prior to 9/11. On Oct. 1, we were extremely proud to see one of our critical advocacy goals come to fruition, as the first phase of

newly eligible veterans began to submit their applications for the caregiver program. And while the program to this point has only included injured veterans, those made severely ill through service are also now covered under the program's new eligibility criteria.

Older generations of disabled veterans and their caregivers have been forced to go it alone without the critical support services they needed for decades, causing physical, emotional and financial strain within many families. Though delayed by a full year from the intended start date, this expansion remains a decisive victory for veterans and caregivers.

We are **grateful to all those who have worked alongside us** and supported the cause with phone calls, emails and meetings with congressional leaders.

We are grateful to all those who have worked alongside us and supported the cause with phone calls, emails and meetings with congressional leaders. You, too, share in this success.

The work we do throughout DAV is about remaining nimble, staying the course and being prepared to face unanticipated challenges. This is as true of advocacy as it is of claims work, volunteering or even recruiting new members. Thank you all for your unwavering support and strength throughout this difficult year. Let's keep moving together toward the next victory.



VA services during COVID

My family members have not been able to seek mental health services due to the COVID-19 lockdown. My nephew had to go to a different state to receive in-patient services. My son, who left the service in December, was not able to adjust to civilian life. By the time he hit his breaking point, COVID-19 had caused the closure of all the clinics within a 100-mile radius. In April, he was told the earliest available appointment was in October. This is unacceptable. **Deborah Farabee-Shoop, Washington**

Recently, my main hearing aid stopped working. I went to my local VA for service, but they told me they were not allowed to see patients. After going to the patient advocate, I was finally able to be seen. I was told that I would be eligible for new aids; they took ear impressions and ordered them. Two weeks later, I received them in the mail and was told that I would have to set up a video conference in order to get them programmed. I explained that I have no one to help me and was then told that I must wait until the pandemic is over so that they can program them. I must wonder what the other veterans are doing for their necessary care during this pandemic. **Jack Duncan, Bells, Texas**

Orange presumptives

I am a 'Nam vet, boots on the ground. I served from December 1967 to December 1968, through the Tet Offensive. I have severe peripheral neuropathy due to Agent Orange. I now suffer from hypertension. I read the article on presumptive diseases linked to Agent Orange (July/August 2020). I once again scoffed in disgust at the delay tactics of the VA in regards

to adding four "new" diseases to the already established presumptive list of diseases for Agent Orange. It's plain to me, if the VA can delay 10 more years, most of us Vietnam veterans will be dead, which will make it too late for us to receive disability compensation and medical care. **Dewey C. Brown, via email**

State veterans benefits

In Massachusetts, they have something called Chapter 115 (state-level veterans benefits), but you cannot apply online. You must go in to the office to apply. I just don't agree with that, because that's where personal bias comes into play. I bet there are thousands of veterans not receiving benefits they are eligible for. You have homeless veterans in shelters waiting to get placed, but Chapter 115 could have them in hotels or other shelter while waiting to get housing. I would recommend DAV to call to get assistance during this pandemic. **Washington Alfred George, via Facebook**

Suicide prevention hotline

Please, reach out for help. You didn't have these problems before being a veteran. It's like any injury that you can physically see, only your injuries are invisible. They are just as debilitating, if not more so, if not given a chance to heal. You are at odds with things, sounds, smells, noise and life in general. There is help out there. Just ask for it. Don't make a permanent decision on a

treatable problem. It's not bigger than you. Reach out, please, and get help. God bless you and thank you for all the sacrifices you have made for our country. **Cynthia J. Crohan Payne, via Facebook**

Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act

As a widow and a mother of veterans, my son a Purple Heart recipient, it just makes me so upset to see what my husband went through and what my son might eventually go through when he retires. As a wife of a veteran for over 16 years, I had to fight the VA over my husband's death for eight years. I almost gave up, but thanks to DAV for helping me win my case and gain the benefits we deserve. Don't give up! **Nancy Hughes, Hampton, Va.**

IRS reopens deadline for veterans who missed coronavirus stimulus checks

I never realized how many veterans didn't make enough taxable income to be required to file a tax return until this year with the stimulus checks. In some cases, the IRS and VA don't even know where these veterans are. We have to do a better job rescuing the veterans in our communities and not leave them to the mercy of our government. The government isn't working that well anyway. I am pleased with the majority of what the VA has done for me, but it took 10 years. **Dennis M. Nelson, Piedmont, S.C.**

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

Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act

Legislation to protect veterans
exposed to burn pits moves forward

By Mary Dever

The Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Act of 2019—S.2950—is a bill based on an original DAV concept that would help veterans cut through red tape in the Department of Veterans Affairs disability claims process by conceding exposure to burn pits for certain locations. After passing the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs (SVAC) legislative markup hearing on Aug. 5, it is now one step closer to becoming law before the end of the year.

This time frame is critical, as it marks the end of the 116th Congress, meaning Congress has a limited window on getting bills on the Senate calendar and passed before having to start over with the 117th Congress in the new year.

"We've made tremendous strides on our critical legislative goals over the last two years, but we need your help getting pending legislation through the final stages and onto the president's desk for his signature before the clock runs out," said Deputy National Legislative Director Shane Liermann. "We ask all of you to support this legislation so that veterans suffering from conditions related to burn pit exposures do not have to wait any longer for justice."

This bill would concede exposure to burn pits to any veteran who served in the locations recognized by the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. It would also concede exposure to specific toxins that are currently accepted by the VA in their adjudication manual. If the evidence is not sufficient for the VA

to grant the claim, the bill requires the VA to request a medical opinion to address the association of the veteran's claimed disease to the known toxins.

This legislation would remove obstacles for veterans establishing claims based on burn pit exposure and ensure the VA conducts a medical exam and provides an opinion as to the association of the toxic exposures and the claimed disease. Concession of exposure—which is a part of all presumptive service-connected diseases, similar to Agent Orange exposure—will help countless veterans, now and in the future.

Originally introduced by Sens. Dan Sullivan and Joe Manchin in November 2019, S.2950 passed the Aug. 5 SVAC legislative markup with amendment. The amendment was favorable and includes additional burn pit locations: Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Yemen. The amendment also added reporting requirements from the VA.

"DAV is well aware—and has been for many years—of the adverse health effects of burn pits," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Randy Reese. "Veterans cannot afford to wait any longer while their conditions worsen. We must take action now to formally recognize exposure to burn pits."

DAV expects the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to introduce a companion bill soon. ■



Learn More Online

If you want to see the passage of this bill, take action now through DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) at davcan.org.

CONFRONTING TOXICITY

Navy veteran and VA employee facing asbestos poisoning turns to DAV for claims assistance

By Matt Saintsing

The earliest memories Myra Harwood has of the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center are of visiting her father, a Korean War veteran, when she was 5. When she went to work at that same hospital in 2015 as a nurse practitioner, it felt like a natural homecoming.

“My dad got his care from this VA for as long as I can remember,” she said. “He thought this was the best place on the planet.”

Despite her unwavering commitment to caring for veterans, day in and day out, Harwood was experiencing difficulty with her disability claim. After being exposed to asbestos while serving in the Navy, Harwood’s fight for compensation, health care and recognition was marked by misinformation and a glacially slow appeals process spanning nearly a decade.

She enlisted in the Navy in 1984 partly to break out of her hometown of McLouth, Kan., a tiny community of just 500 people. She couldn’t have foreseen that she would be slowly and steadily exposed to asbestos while assigned to a tugboat in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during her service.

Debilitating pain radiating from her abdomen coupled with menstrual complications were the first signs of asbestos poisoning. Receiving an accurate diagnosis, however, proved to be a challenge.

After a battery of exams and tests, Harwood’s



Myra Harwood can trace her cancer diagnosis to asbestos exposure while serving aboard a tugboat in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

gynecologist recommended exploratory surgery. Harwood went under the knife with the hopes of receiving a definitive answer. Eight hours later, she learned that doctors removed all of her reproductive organs, which were riddled with tumors.

Then doctors diagnosed her with a rare form of cancer, abdominal mesothelioma. More commonly found in the lungs, mesothelioma is caused by tiny bits of asbestos, a heat-resistant mineral that can be woven into everything from fabrics to pipe insulation, settling in either the chest or abdomen.

Shortly after that, Harwood says she attempted to file a VA claim but was told that she could not seek benefits because she was not undergoing chemotherapy. Harwood also claims she was told that chronic ringing in her ears was “strictly for the Army.”

Both statements are not only inaccurate but also, in Harwood’s eyes, sexist.

“I was completely discounted because I’m female,” she added. “One-hundred percent.”

She was cancer-free until 2004, when it came back more aggressively and with more-extensive tumors. Since doctors recommended chemotherapy, Harwood attempted to submit her claim again. However, this time, she was told she needed additional evidence that her asbestos exposure stemmed from her military service.

“I know now they can’t tell you not to file the claim,” she added.

When Harwood reached out to DAV in 2011, a claim was immediately submitted. However, her frustrations grew when the Department of Veterans Affairs rejected her claim on the basis that no evidence of lung abnormalities was in her records.

“I laughed at that,” said Harwood. “They were looking at the wrong body part, and they’re not looking at the right body part because I’m not a guy.”

As a medical professional, Harwood thought clarifying the correct type of cancer would be an easy fix, but she found the appeals process to be



“I just don’t think there would have been any positive resolution if it wasn’t for Ryan and DAV.”

—Myra Harwood, Navy veteran

excruciatingly laborious.

First, it went to the VA regional office. When she was denied again, Harwood opted to have her case heard at the Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

As years went by without any update, she thought it had been lost in the system, until she received notice of the hearing in spring 2018.

That’s when she met Ryan Kimble, a national service officer of the DAV office in Wichita, Kan., who explained the nuances of how the VA determines service connection.

“Each one of those processes can take a few years or longer,” he added.

To demonstrate Harwood’s exposure, Kimble researched to show she was aboard a ship that had asbestos.

“I found documentation online of the tugboat she was on that references asbestos being used,” said Kimble. “In her records, it shows she was on that ship at that time, so we were able to make that link during the hearing.”

The claim was finally approved this past May and backdated to 2011. When Kimble called to deliver the good news, Harwood broke out in tears.

“I was absolutely gobsmacked that the claim was found in my favor,” said Harwood. “I was stunned, and I just don’t think there would have been any positive resolution if it wasn’t for Ryan and DAV.”

“With Ryan’s preparation and guidance, it could not have gone better,” she added. ■



National Service Officer Ryan Kimble’s research and advocacy were instrumental in winning a nearly decadelong appeal for veterans benefits.



Preventing TRAGEDY

DAV responds to struggling Navy veteran in mental health crisis with lifesaving resources

By Matt Saintsing

Navy veteran Ed Bancroft was at his wit's end when he reached out to DAV in July. He felt that the VA health care system and others had left him on his own, and he eventually expressed suicidal thoughts to DAV employees.

A series of phone calls between Bancroft and DAV took place, including with National Service Officer Adam Barnes, who spoke to Bancroft for nearly two hours.

“We had recently received suicide prevention training where we were taught if we have someone who is suicidal, and if you're not with them, you need to call 911 to do a safety check,” said Barnes, the assistant supervisor of the DAV office in Los Angeles.

Barnes handed the call off to Robert Graves, the director of operations for the DAV Department of California, who remained on the line with Bancroft until authorities arrived. When police visited to check on Bancroft, they found several loaded guns.

“One thing we do here, and I try to preach to the team is, you have to assume this is the last person they're going to call,” added Graves. “You want to do everything you can do to make sure the person on the other end isn't up against a wall.”

Suicide is often spontaneous or impulsive, according to researchers. One recent study found that gun owners are four times more likely to die by suicide. Veterans are



Navy veteran Ed Bancroft reached out to DAV with thoughts of suicide. Since then, he's been receiving care for his mental health and claims assistance.

trained to operate firearms and, according to the 2015 National Firearms Survey, are twice as likely to own one, making them much more vulnerable to the most deadly method of suicide.

After speaking with the police, Bancroft was admitted to a mental health facility later that day, where he

was assessed and released. Since then, he's been receiving care for his mental health. Barnes connected him with local resources and is currently handling his VA claim.

“When he filed a claim for depression on his own, he never mentioned the stories he told me,” added Barnes. “They denied him, saying the depression was based on regular stress incurred in service at the work environment and that his depression was not service-connected.”

Earlier this year, President Donald Trump unveiled the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans to End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS)—a framework designed to curb the suicide rate among military members and veterans.

Suicide prevention is the VA's highest clinical priority, said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie when announcing PREVENTS. The plan encourages increased education on gun safety and voluntary safe storage of firearms.

Reducing access to lethal methods is one of the few broad-scale approaches that has been shown to decrease suicide rates. DAV has supported H.R. 8084, the Lethal Means Safety Training Act, which would require all VA employees who interact with veterans to undergo annual evidence-based training on safe storage—including not just medical staff but also those within the Veterans Benefits Administration, Community Care Network providers and caregivers.

“Lethal means safety is about creating time and space between the impulse to act and the means to harm oneself,” said National Legislative Director Joy Ilem. “This bill would create multiple touchpoints throughout the VA, helping to ensure all those who work directly with veterans are prepared to have these important, potentially lifesaving conversations about safe storage and suicide prevention.”

As for Bancroft, while the road remains long, he said he has full trust in Barnes.

“The wounds that I have are deep,” said Bancroft. “There are things I haven't shared with anybody in 30 years, but I'm starting to.” ■

Editor's note: In choosing to share his story, Mr. Bancroft hopes to help other veterans by shedding the stigma surrounding struggling with mental health.



Top: In addition to assisting Bancroft with his VA claim, National Service Officer Adam Barnes' recent suicide prevention training may have potentially saved Bancroft's life. **Bottom:** Robert Graves, director of operations for the Department of California, stayed on the line with the veteran until police arrived to do a safety check.

**Veterans
Crisis Line**



**1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1**

VA resources

Veterans in crisis can call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1), text 838255 or use the chat at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net.

In an effort to help protect veterans and their family members, the VA and Project ChildSafe provides cable gun locks, available at VA medical facilities across the country for no charge. Contact your nearest VA medical center, the facility's suicide prevention coordinator or your primary care team to obtain a free gun lock.



A driving FORCE

Ford employees Heather Taylor (left) and Hemiteus Gherardini unload boxes of masks. Through the Ford Project Apollo and Ford Fund PPE initiative, 10 million face masks are being delivered to communities across the U.S., more than 1 million of which have been donated to national service offices and VA facilities through DAV. (Courtesy of Ford Motor Co.)

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ford Motor Co. finds new ways to support America's veterans

By Tom Jenkins

As personal protective equipment is a necessary part of daily routines and a critical tool to stop the spread of illness, face masks became a hot commodity this year. For DAV, the need became especially great to help protect volunteers, staff and the veterans DAV assists, many of whom may be at particular risk of COVID-19.

On the heels of a \$200,000 donation helping support DAV's Transportation Network, longtime partner Ford Motor Co. also donated over 1 million masks in September for veterans, their caregivers, volunteers and DAV staff who interact with those who served.

The masks, produced by Ford and distributed by Ford Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Co., have helped national service officers, hospital service coordinators, VA medical centers and others continue to safely provide essential programs and services to veterans and their families.

"We have always been proud of our long-standing relationship with [DAV], where we donate so that you can transport our veterans," said Ford Fund President Mary Culler. "And of course, now the masks are just an additional component. Especially during this time, we know that they need to get to their medical appointments, and having the masks, we believe, and science is telling us, is a critical part of ensuring that we curtail this pandemic."

The donation is part of the Ford Project Apollo and Ford Fund PPE initiative, which the company launched in August.

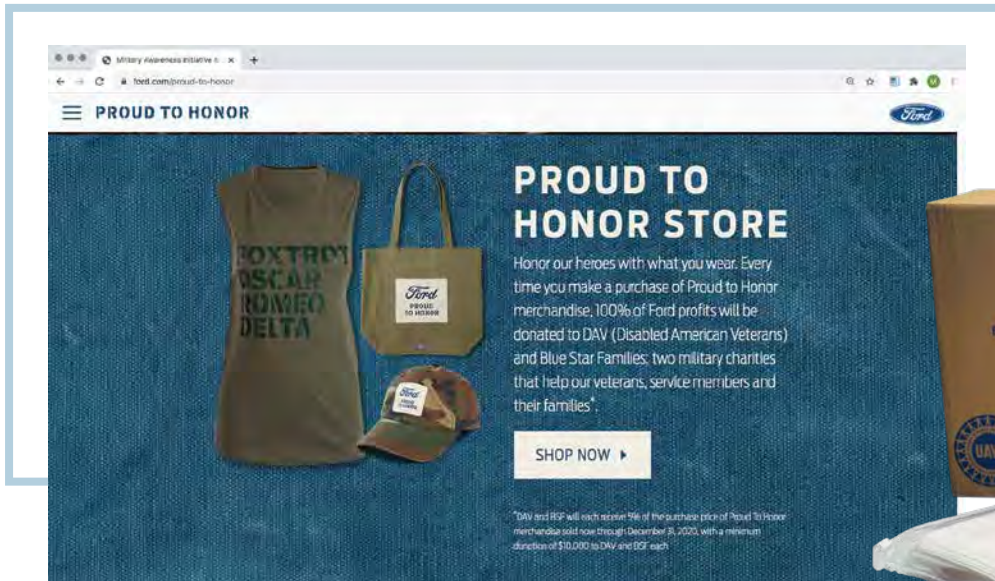
Proud to Honor—launched by Ford in November of last year—raises awareness, strengthens existing programs and creates meaningful connections with our servicemen and women.

Proceeds from Proud to Honor merchandise, sold at fordproudtohonor.com/store through the end of the year, will be donated to charities working to support and make a positive impact for military members, veterans, their families and caregivers.

DAV will receive 5% of the purchase price of merchandise sold through December 31, 2020, with a minimum donation of \$10,000 to DAV.

“You can never do too much to **honor the service of these brave men and women**, but you never stop trying.”

—Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. marketing, sales and service



“You can never do too much to honor the service of these brave men and women, but you never stop trying,” said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. marketing, sales and service. “And that’s what Proud to Honor does; it never stops trying. This online store is just one example of a year-round effort to support these families who so deserve it.”

Ford’s support of American veterans and DAV’s mission goes back to 1922, when Henry Ford organized a cross-country caravan of 50 Model Ts to take disabled veterans to San Francisco to attend the second national convention of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War.

“With the generosity of Ford’s donation this year, we’re able to add eight new Ford Transit Connects to our fleet,” said National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst. “This is going to allow more people access to the care that they’ve earned.”

To date, Ford has donated 239 vehicles to the DAV Transportation Network to help ensure veterans can get to and from medical appointments. That’s in addition to the 3,447 Ford vehicles purchased by DAV, its chapters and departments. In total, nearly \$85 million

has been dedicated to supporting this critical program.

“Our partnership with Ford has allowed us to keep the engine running with DAV’s Transportation Network, and for that, we are incredibly appreciative,” said National Commander Butch Whitehead. “Veterans across our nation rely on these Ford vehicles to access lifesaving care, and our volunteers, who are needed now as much as ever, count on them to accomplish our mission.”

Ford Fund also supports DAV by providing funding for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to young volunteers who demonstrate outstanding dedication and service to America’s veterans. Ford Fund is also proud to support DAV Night Out events for Walter Reed National Military Medical Center patients and their family members. ■



[Learn More Online](#)

To become a volunteer driver or volunteer in any other capacity, sign up at volunteerforveterans.org. To learn more about Ford Fund, visit fordfund.org.



A war on two fronts

VA prepares veterans for seasonal flu amid COVID outbreak

By Ashleigh Byrnes

Influenza and COVID-19—in many ways, the two viruses can seem similar. They're both spread from person to person through respiratory droplets. They cause many of the same symptoms, like fever and body aches. And both are known to be more dangerous for patients over the age of 65.

But in many ways, the two are also different. And while physicians have become well-versed in treating the flu from year to year, COVID-19 poses entirely new challenges for the medical community. As we enter the flu season, generally peaking from December to February, the trajectory of COVID-19 is still uncertain, leaving experts to wonder what will happen when the two viruses collide.

While social distancing practices and limited public gatherings have kept the flu season light during the Southern Hemisphere's peak flu season this year, that is no guarantee the virus will go easy on the U.S. Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has said it could be either one of the best—or the worst—flu seasons we've experienced.

“Whether people will get one or the other or both, nobody knows, but certainly none of those situations

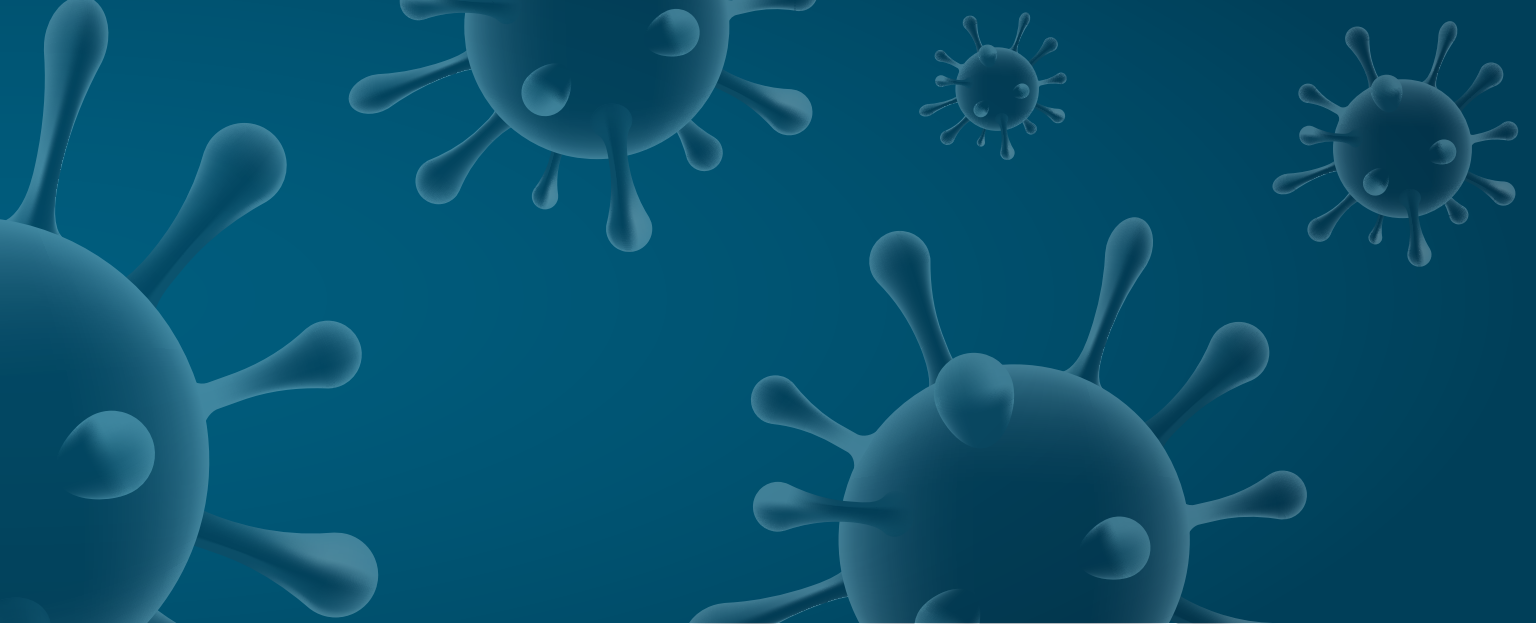
is a good one for anyone,” said Dr. Jane Kim, chief consultant for preventive medicine at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Part of Kim's role is to develop policies and programs for preventive medicine, including flu immunizations, for the whole of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Not surprisingly, her best advice—even in the days of social distancing—is to make getting the flu vaccine a priority this year.

“Hands down, there is no other intervention that we have that is as effective at preventing people from getting sick and dying as the flu vaccine,” said Kim. “I've been telling my veteran patients it is worth going out to get your flu vaccine the same way you have to get food and groceries.”

The VA offers free flu vaccinations at all VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs). Typically, all veterans need to do is ask their primary care provider for the flu shot when they visit. But with decreased foot traffic through its facilities due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the VA is taking a proactive approach to remind veterans to get vaccinated. Some facilities and even individual providers are calling veterans, sending emails and getting the word out on social media to stress the importance of the flu vaccine this year.

“Medical partners, the nursing community ... we all have the same message so that if we contact veterans, we should have the flu vaccine on our agenda, no matter



the reason for our contact with them. Whenever we make contact with the veteran, we also remind them about the options they have locally to get a flu vaccine,” said Kim, who noted that, in addition to VAMCs and CBOCs, community care partners and certain partnered pharmacies, some VA facilities may also be offering drive-through flu immunization services or specific appointment times.

The importance of vaccination is also being stressed among VA staff, according to Dr. Jacqueline Cook, medical adviser for occupational safety and health for the VHA.

“New this year is the seasonal influenza vaccination program for health care personnel, whereby it’s mandatory for healthcare personnel covered by the directive this year to receive the vaccination, short of having an exemption for medical or religious reasons,” said Cook.

“This is not a veteran concern or a [VA] employee concern; this is a community concern,” she added. “We’re all in this together in this prevention approach against two respiratory pathogens this season, and [COVID-19] is one we haven’t seen before. And so, while a lot of this is new to us, I think that it cannot be underscored enough that this is a VA community effort.”

“We’re all in this together in this prevention approach against two respiratory pathogens this season, and [COVID-19] is one we haven’t seen before.”

—Dr. Jacqueline Cook, VHA medical adviser

According to Kim, the VA has a stockpile of roughly 400,000 unused flu vaccines remaining from 2019, combined with this year’s order for 2.8 million doses available for veterans and staff. Together with the supply available through community partners,

urgent care facilities and participating pharmacies should help to ensure any veteran who wants the vaccine is able to get it.

“We know that some within the disabled veteran population have increased vulnerability to viruses like the flu

and COVID-19, so we are urging preventive measures like flu shots for those able to get them, along with continued hygiene practices like hand-washing and sanitizing, social distancing and wearing masks,” said National Legislative Director Joy Ilem.

“Let’s try to stay as safe and healthy as possible and share the message with other members and fellow veterans to help lower our collective risk for spreading either of these illnesses.” ■

 **Learn More Online**

For more information on where you can receive no-cost flu shots, visit va.gov/communitycare/flushot.asp.



Above: Department of Ohio Commander John Plahovinsak delivers remarks Sept. 8 during a special wreath-laying ceremony to honor DAV founder and Cincinnati Judge Robert S. Marx. **Right:** National Adjutant Marc Burgess joined the Department of Ohio and charity organization Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati in honoring Marx.

CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL



Mayor Eric Seidel (left) dedicated Sept. 25, 2020, as “Disabled American Veterans Day” for the City of Oldsmar, Fla. National 1st Junior Vice Commander Andy Marshall (center left) and Frank Chicollo (center right) accepted the honor on behalf of DAV, and thanked Seidel and City Council member Dan Saracki for recognizing the organization’s 100th anniversary.

Members of Chapter 3 in Rapid City, S.D., gathered in council chambers with Mayor Steve Allender for the mayor’s proclamation declaring Sept. 25, 2020, as “Disabled American Veterans Day” in Rapid City. Pictured, from left: Christine Speirs, Chapter Commander Dave Meltz, Allender and Chapter Treasurer H. G. Krosschell.



From the NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR JAMES T. MARSZALEK



Meeting our current moment

While no one could have predicted just how turbulent this year has been, we couldn't be prouder of everyone at DAV for adjusting, adapting and overcoming the string of challenges we've faced in the wake of this pandemic.

In March, many states began locking down their economies to help stop the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. And the worst public health crisis in more than a century was quickly entwined with the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

From the early days of the pandemic, it was clear that veterans are not immune to the financial hardships rattling our nation. In countless cases, veterans have lost jobs, had their hours cut or orders canceled, or otherwise lost wages.

That's why DAV launched the COVID-19 Unemployment Relief Fund. Veterans who are economically impacted by the pandemic can apply for free, one-time \$250 grants. All that's required is verification that the veteran has a service-connected disability and proof of lost employment or income as a result.

We've already processed over 9,500 applications and distributed funds to those in need. Keep in mind the applications are approved on a first-come, first-served basis while the funds remain available, and the grant is limited to one veteran per household.

We've also had to implement procedural changes to adjust to our new normal. First, all DAV offices remain closed to the public. However,

our dedicated staff and employees continue to work diligently to help our veterans fight for the benefits they've earned in service to our nation.

DAV national service officers are continuing to process claims for benefits. They're conducting virtual hearings—at times from home—fielding veterans' emails and phone calls. Veterans can always email directly with one of our national service officers by going to benefitsquestions.org.

We've also instituted a new temporary hotline that veterans can call to speak directly to a service officer about their claims. Veterans can call 888-604-0234 Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

Air Force veteran Richard Oliner called the hotline in July looking to increase his VA rating. On the other end of the phone was National Service Officer Nancy Casey at the DAV office in San Diego. One day after Oliner picked up the phone, his claim was approved, substantially increasing his rating.

Oliner was particularly delighted to hear that, with his new rating, his spouse would be taken care of should anything happen to him. That kind of peace of mind is just one example of what is possible, even in the uncertain age of COVID-19.

DAV is looking forward to a more healthy and prosperous year in 2021. But no matter what the future brings, we'll be there every step of the way, assisting veterans in navigating the often-murky waters of applying for VA benefits.



FINANCIAL FREEDOM

VA program to offer economic stability
and increased banking options to all veterans

By Matt Saintsing

Of the nearly 5 million veterans receiving compensation or pensions from the Department of Veterans Affairs, about 250,000 collect their benefits on prepaid debit cards or by paper checks, according to the VA. These methods leave veterans more vulnerable to scams, cause them to pay excessive check-cashing fees and make it harder to save.

To address these issues, the VA is teaming up with a consortium of military- and veteran-friendly financial institutions to offer veterans increased banking options, customer service and education. The Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP) offers VA beneficiaries the chance to deposit their funds directly into accounts provided by participating banks and credit unions.

While the VBBP aims to help veterans expand independence and build economic resiliency for those currently lacking banking services, all veterans and families who receive monetary benefits are welcome to participate in the initiative.

“Any veteran currently unhappy with their banking

situation can participate or explore this program,” said Joseph Gurney, senior adviser for fiscal stewardship for the Veterans Benefits Administration. “We have eight banks on board, and that gives veterans options to pick and choose what suits them best.”

All the institutions are part of the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA), which was “formed by bankers who had a common bond in providing financial services to the military, mostly on military installations,” said AMBA CEO Steve Lepper, an Air Force veteran. “They have extensive background in meeting the financial challenges many veteran families face.”

“VBBP offers another way to simplify banking choices to help eligible veterans select the right bank for themselves and their families,” VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a press release. “The VA and AMBA are proud to provide this opportunity to connect veterans with banks that understand their needs.”

Unbanked veterans cut across the entire demographic spectrum, said VA Under Secretary for Benefits Paul Lawrence.

“Perhaps you would have thought those are strictly homeless veterans, but they come from all 50 states,” Lawrence said. “They are men and women of all ages and eras.”

No fees are attached when opening a new checking account through this program when veterans sign up to receive their benefits via direct deposit.

Another advantage for veterans who choose to participate in the VBBP is the ability to bank in person, which reduces the likelihood of fraud. According to a 2017 AARP survey, 16% of veterans have lost some money to criminals looking to take advantage of their vulnerabilities, with more than 78% reporting scams aimed at exploiting their military service.

For couples, joint banking accounts are available. But according to Lepper, joint accounts may also be well-suited to caregivers and family members who help manage a loved one’s finances— something he’s personally experienced.

“We live in Florida, my wife’s mom lives in Utah, and she manages her finances,” he said. “Before we moved

her mom to an account that had branches in both states, we were faced with doing business over the phone.

“A joint account is not only possible but, in some cases, advisable,” Lepper added, noting that it can help reduce the risk of fraud.

Veteran families may also face challenges accessing credit. For those living paycheck to paycheck, a crisis may prevent them from making ends meet until their next payment. However, with banking access, they can apply for credit, which is much more burdensome and expensive without an account.

Another advantage of choosing to take part in this partnership between AMBA and the VA, said Lawrence, is the additional security associated with a debit or credit card from a bank, opposed to the prepaid cards some veterans currently receive. ■



Learn More Online

To start the process of choosing a bank, veterans can go to benefits.va.gov/banking. From there, they can find an AMBA bank or credit union that best fits their needs.

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 our promise to more ill and injured veterans. These are some of our valued partners.



You and your family can save up to 80% on brand and generic medications at over 68,000 pharmacies nationwide with this free prescription savings coupon!



This holiday season, we’re helping DAV members bring something special to the table with **25% off** truly original flowers, gourmet foods and gift baskets. Just use **Promo Code DAV25** at checkout.**



Medical Guardian offers DAV members and their families more than **\$100 in savings** on one-step access to 24/7 emergency help that could save your life. Call **1-800-836-7569** and use promo code **DAVMEMBERS2**.

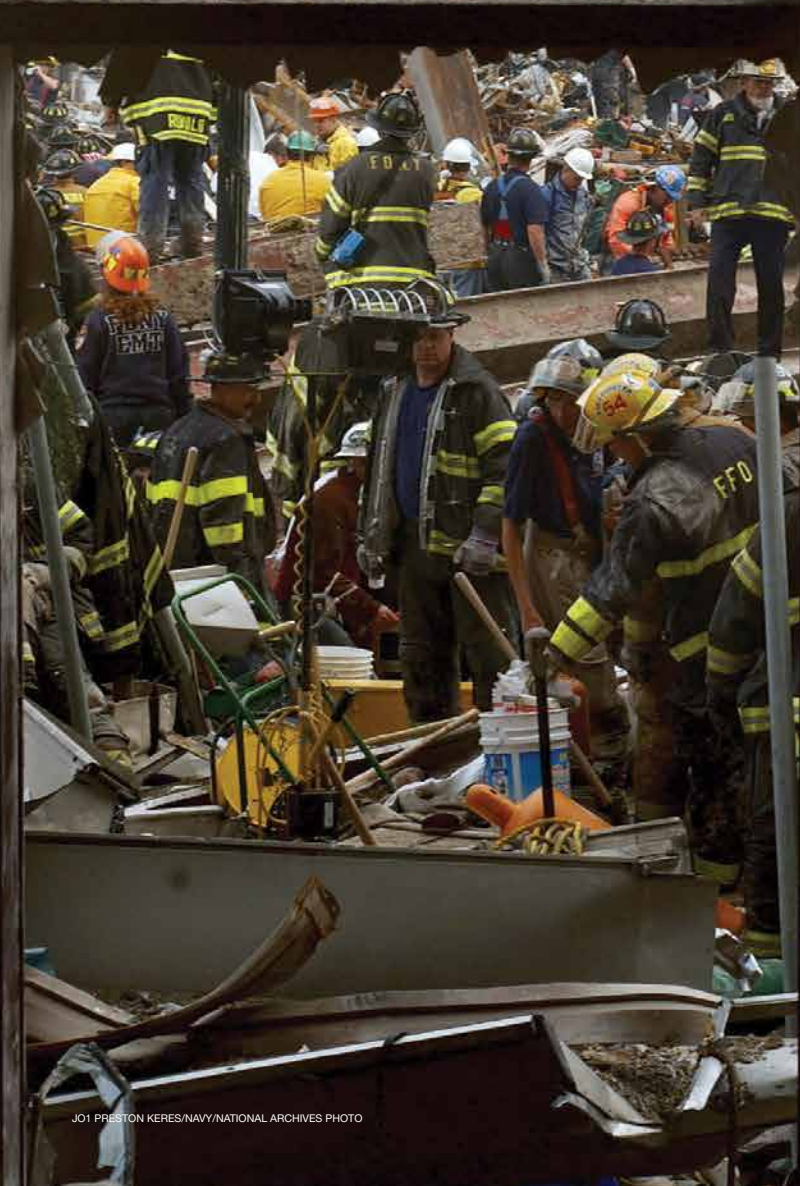


T-Mobile³ offers DAV members and their families a \$125 Visa Card and \$35 in additional benefits per line activated with new service. This is in addition to T-Mobile’s Magenta Military discounted program. Call 833-236-1769 and use **Promo Code DAV1**. Not available in store. This limited-time offer is valid through Dec. 31, 2020.

To take advantage of these special offers.
dav.org/membership/member-advantages



*\$1.50 is donated to DAV for every qualifying prescription filled. The prescription program is managed by United Networks of America, and DAV is not responsible for negotiating prescription rates. The agreement between DAV and UNA Rx Card runs through June 4, 2021. **DAV receives 3% of total Product Value of member purchases from 1-800-FLOWERS and their Family of Brands when using the promotional code provided. This offer between DAV and 1-800-FLOWERS renews on a month-to-month basis starting Feb. 22, 2019. †DAV receives \$225 up front for each eligible customer acquisition with a minimum total guaranteed annual royalty of \$5,000. The agreement between DAV and Medical Guardian runs through May 13, 2021. ‡DAV receives \$10 for every new service line activated with Business Mobility Partners. This agreement between DAV and Business Mobility Partners runs through Nov. 8, 2020.



Days remember

Family looks back on Marine's life of service

By Mary Dever

On the morning of Oct. 23, 1983, 21-year-old John Chipura was on his way to his shift as a radio operator at the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit headquarters in Beirut when a suicide bomber drove a truck packed with explosives into the barracks, killing 241 U.S. military personnel.

FBI investigators said that it was the largest non-nuclear explosion since World War II and the most powerful car bomb ever detonated at that time. And for three days following the deadly terrorist attack, Chipura's family waited for word of his fate, not

knowing whether he had made it out alive.

"He was missing to us for three days. For three days, we had no contact, no information, nothing," said John's brother, Gerard Chipura. "We thought he was lost, like so many others at that time."

The family's congressman, who was in Beirut to assess the scene, encountered his Staten Island constituent and delivered some comforting news to the Chipuras.

"I remember being in our kitchen when he called my mother," said Gerard. "He said, 'This is Guy Molinari, your congressman from

Washington. I'm in Beirut right now. I have your son here and he's safe.' It was a very dramatic moment for us."

Gerard said that after his brother assisted in recovery efforts and returned home from Beirut, his outlook on life had changed. John had told him he was talking to a friend moments before the bomb went off and had always wondered if he could have done anything differently.

"He always thought that if he talked to that guy for one more minute, maybe he would've changed his future," recalled Gerard. "It was tough for John. But, at the same time, it made him more personable to people, because if he was going to have a conversation with you, he took the time to spend with you and understand who you were."

Gerard believes John's experience in Beirut led to his life of service. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, John returned to Staten Island and joined the New York City Police Department. John worked for seven years in the 72nd Precinct and then three years in the Brooklyn South narcotics unit.

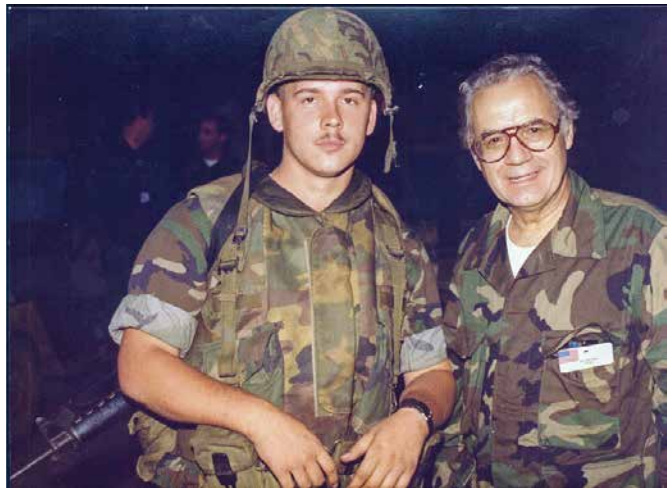
"John's family said he grew up idolizing John Wayne, and joining the Marine Corps was a natural fit," said National Commander Butch Whitehead. "What he experienced in Beirut was tragic, but he seemingly used that to fuel the fire for a life dedicated to service, something we only see in our nation's most dedicated heroes."

After 12 years with the NYPD, John decided to switch things up and follow in his father's and brother's footsteps by joining the New York City Fire Department.

"His experience in Beirut affected his world tremendously," said Gerard. "I think that's when he decided he wanted to see if he could affect people every day. That became his new normal after



Marine Corps veteran John Chipura transferred to the New York City Fire Department in the footsteps of his father and brother, after having spent 12 years as a New York City police officer.



John Chipura (left) helped with recovery and cleanup efforts in Beirut after the terrorist attack killed 241 U.S. service members. His family finally received word of his safety when Congressman Guy Molinari (right) arrived in Beirut to assess the damage.

experiencing such a horrible disaster.”

“The brave men who died in Beirut made a difference during their too-short but significant lives,” said Marine veteran and DAV National Service Officer Don Inns, a Chipura family friend. “Those of us who survived Beirut have a duty to honor their supreme sacrifice by making a difference. Anything less is to leave our fallen brothers behind.

“Chip’ became a beacon of light, leading the charge in this awe-inspiring mission of service,” added Inns. “He had everything to live for and even more that he was willing to die for. In the end, what matters most is the love in the hearts we leave behind.”

Soon, the brothers were assigned to separate firehouses in Brooklyn, only 3 miles apart. Gerard recalls working two shifts alongside his brother, a

rarity in a department that size.

“For two brothers to work together on the same shift and do the same job, it’s priceless,” he said.

On Sept. 11, 2001, John was detailed to Ladder 105 in downtown Brooklyn when news of the first World Trade Center attack reached the firehouse. John’s engine responded to the Trade Center at 8:54 a.m.

John and Gerard’s sister, Nancy, worked for the port authority on the 69th floor of Tower 1. Reportedly, John was last seen assisting in the evacuation of Tower 2 as his sister escaped from Tower 1.

“I know John was thinking about my sister in those buildings, knowing he was going to go help,” said Gerard. “His fiancée worked five blocks away, too. So if getting to downtown Manhattan was going to secure his world and the people he loved the most, he was going to get there. He was going to do everything he possibly could. And I thought it was kind of weird that I didn’t get a call from him saying, ‘Hey, come on. We’re going; we’ve got to go as brothers.’ There was none of that. So that’s when I really had a bad sinking feeling that he was going or he was there already.”

As the enormity of the disaster unfolded, the Chipura family started to realize the original list of missing persons contained thousands of police officers and firefighters.

Gerard had been called in as well to assist with the recovery. At 3 the next morning, his shift ended and he

headed home to see if he could get any new information about John and his other loved ones who had been in the city.

“When I got [to Staten Island], I found out my sister had escaped; she was home. My wife had been in Midtown Manhattan, she had come home,” he recalled. “John’s fiancée, Gina, she had made it out. So we all just made our way to my house and tried to make heads or tails and figure it out. It was a tremendous, gut-wrenching feeling for me.”

In spring 2002, the Chipura’s were notified of John’s recovery; two bone fragments, part of his hip and part of his calf.

“John was the only recovery from his whole company working that day,” Gerard said. “It was very traumatic for the other families. We still memorialize them all together every year.”

The hunt for identification of remains found at Ground Zero continues today, with more than 1,100 people still unidentified, according to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner in Kips Bay, N.Y.

“They say if you say somebody’s name over and over again every single day, they never really die,” Gerard said. “So that’s what we do. We have done a golf outing

for John as a memorial every year for 18 years. Every single year, we put 120 to 140 people on the golf course and think about John for the day.”

In honor of his life, John’s family established the John G. Chipura Foundation. Through the foundation, they are able to help support numerous causes that were important to John, including Boy Scouts, veterans camps and local children.

“We’re not changing the world, but we might just change one life, and that’s a very simple thing that John would do,” said Gerard. “So that’s kind of our mantra. We can’t change the world, but we can help you right now and change the way your life is and just make you smile for one minute.”

Gerard remembers seeing a “Never Forget” banner hanging near Ground Zero shortly after the attack. He said the message he wants for people to embrace isn’t “Never Forget” but “Always Remember.”

“It’s not about never forgetting for me. It’s about always remembering, because it’s always going to be there,” he said. “We have to remember things that have happened, even as tragic as they are.”

Gerard said after John returned from Beirut, he was much more affectionate to people and would stop and say “I love you” more—a lesson he believes fueled his brother’s legacy as a public servant.

“I think he realized that we’re only here for a short period of time, so make every moment count,” said Gerard. “I think John influenced me because he was so positive that it changed me. [After 9/11], I was digging for my fellow firefighters, just like my brother was digging for his fellow Marines 18 years earlier in Beirut. It was very humbling to realize that we had two similar experiences decades apart. I realized I had a purpose to continue serving people and with John’s memory inside of me.”

“We owe a debt of gratitude to the entire Chipura family for the selfless sacrifices they made in service to our country. Nor can we forget the heroism it inspired,” said Whitehead. “That day changed the world and altered the paths of so many lives. It took me to Iraq and led me to DAV. It’s hard to believe nearly 20 years have passed. We absolutely cannot forget the sacrifices made that day by people like John and his family or those who were called to serve after. An entire generation of veterans—many of whom became seriously ill or injured as a result of their post-9/11 service—has been relentlessly serving in various capacities ever since.” ■



Gerard Chipura (left) with his brother, John.

“They say if you **say somebody’s name over and over again** every single day, they never really die, so that’s what we do.”

—Gerard Chipura



A community

'elevates' veterans

DAV Chapter 19 of Lima, Ohio, repurposing used ramps donated by the VA and community members across the country to help veterans with mobility issues.

By Tom Jenkins

Lexville Harris is one of many veterans in the small city of Lima, Ohio. The 80-year-old Navy veteran has spent the latter half of his life in his one-story home. However, with growing health concerns—and several difficult incidents while getting himself up the steps to his front door—Harris and his wife began to worry about the accessibility of their home.

Naturally, a ramp would be the solution to their concerns. But a project like that could have cost the couple several hundred dollars, and many companies were not willing to work on the project due to precautions related to COVID-19.

Harris and his wife heard about a group of veterans who were recycling ramps free of charge. The couple reached out to DAV Chapter 19 in Lima, and shortly thereafter, a group of fellow veterans were outside the Harris' home, ready to begin construction on the ramp.

"They had reached out to other organizations before, who said they could put them on a waiting list for next year," said Steve Montgomery, senior vice commander of Chapter 19. "Well, they were to the point where they needed [a ramp] now."

Montgomery and the rest of his chapter had donated and installed several ramps before this and gathered what they could to complete the project.

"What we are doing is repurposing ramps that the VA has put in somewhere else," said Montgomery of the donated ramps that were no longer in use. "We are then taking those and repurposing them to people who need them right now and may not qualify for help in other cases."

Although perfectly functional and safe, the ramps the chapter is building are not necessarily meant to be a permanent solution but offer a needed fix until veterans can be approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs to have brand-new ramps built at their homes.

According to Montgomery, the process has been a true community effort. When word got out through a local news story about DAV building the ramp for Harris, Montgomery began receiving calls about other people throughout the community looking to donate their ramps.

"Since that story has come out, we've received five more ramps," said Montgomery.

"These generous donations are exactly what we, at DAV, are trying to highlight with our '100 Acts of Honor' initiative," said National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst. "We challenge all of our members and community members to give back to our servicemen and women through simple acts of kindness. The Lima community is a shining example of this initiative."

According to Montgomery, a disabled Vietnam War veteran, this effort is meant to serve as a safety net.

"We're trying to be a backup to veterans that have a need that can't be met at the time," said Montgomery. "We are in a position to where we can help them. As long as I can keep getting donations—and I'll accept them from anywhere—I'll continue building ramps." ■



Learn More Online

If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer or donate to DAV and assist veterans, please visit dav.org/help-dav/volunteer.

From the NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR DOUGLAS K. WELLS JR.



Warriors Club

As we celebrate DAV's centennial anniversary, we recognize that 100 years of service would not have been possible without the steadfast support of DAV members and their families. If I have said it once, I have said it a thousand times: As a member, YOU are the lifeblood of DAV.

One of the new benefits of being a fully paid DAV life member is eligibility to join our new DAV Warriors Club, an exclusive membership available only to fully paid life members.

With a monthly commitment of \$21 or more (\$250 annually), you can join the DAV Warriors Club, helping to strengthen the DAV Life Membership Fund and the legacy of the organization.

Right now, over 2,700 DAV members are donating \$21 or more each month, and we have a goal of adding an additional 1,000 members to our DAV Warriors Club by the end of the year.

The added contributions from DAV Warriors Club members will help ensure the fund remains strong and capable of supporting local programs and services for veterans and their families well into the future. For many chapters, if not most, these allocations are the primary or lone source of revenue.

As I am sure many of you are wondering, yes, there are unique benefits for every fully paid DAV life member who joins the DAV Warriors Club.

You will be provided a DAV Warriors Club Advisor at our national headquarters who will be ready and able to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the DAV Warriors Club.

DAV Warriors Club members will also be recognized during a business session at DAV's national convention.

You will also receive a personalized metal DAV Warriors Club membership card and certificate along with an opportunity to purchase exclusive DAV Warriors Club merchandise and a discount code for DAV branded items.

On top of all of that, we will also feature DAV Warriors Club members in our leadership e-newsletter, as well as in *DAV Magazine*.

The DAV Warriors Club is another way for you to express your support for our organization and to leave a lasting impact and legacy for DAV and your fellow veterans.

The significance of DAV's local programs and services cannot be overstated. This is just another chance for you to have a say in our future as we embark on our second century of serving veterans and their families.



Join Today

Join the DAV Warriors Club today by calling 833-829-7066 or sending an email to warriorsclub@dav.org.

The **BONUS ARMY MARCH** of 1932

How World War I veterans took the fight to Washington and lit the fuse for the future of advocacy

By Mary Dever

In 1924, four years after the founding of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War (DAVWW)—now DAV—and six years after the end of World War I, the U.S. government promised war veterans a bonus for their service. The catch, however, was that the bonuses would not be allocated for nearly two decades.

The law determined that any veteran who had served in the armed forces during the Great War was due compensation at the rate of \$1 a day for domestic service and \$1.25 for each day spent overseas. Those entitled to \$50 or less were to be paid immediately; the rest were to receive certificates they could redeem on their birthdays in 1945. If veterans passed away before they had the chance to redeem their certificate, the bonus would be awarded to their estate.

The Bonus Army "lays siege" to the Capitol, spending the night on the plaza lawn. (Photo by Underwood & Underwood/Library of Congress)



MARCH TO WASHINGTON

TO ARRIVE AT OPENING OF CONGRESS

DECEMBER 5th, 1932

TO DEMAND

CASH PAYMENT of BONUS



Unaware that Congress had adjourned for the holidays, members of the Bonus Army marched to the Capitol plaza and staged a monstrous demonstration on the steps of the empty Capitol. (Photo by Underwood & Underwood/Library of Congress)

But in 1929, disaster hit when the stock market crashed, causing a downward spiral of economic collapse that adversely affected the world economy. The Great Depression that followed left more than 15 million Americans jobless and desperate for income. By 1932, nearly a quarter of all Americans were out of a job, and the Depression was still dragging on with no end in sight. Many veterans, facing the same plight as the rest of the country—and many also living with wartime injuries and illnesses—began to call for the government to award the bonus certificates early to help ease some of the financial burden.

Walter Waters—who served in the Army during the war—began to rally his fellow veterans in Portland, Ore., with a plan to board a train and travel nearly 3,000 miles to the nation's capital to demand what they were promised. In May 1932, Waters and a number of unemployed World War I veterans organized a group they called the Bonus Expeditionary Forces—or Bonus Army—to march in Washington, D.C. Inspired by the Portland group, other Bonus Army units formed in communities across the country. Radio stations and local newspapers carried accounts of the growing army headed for the nation's capital.

“We had no money, but perhaps a group, whose only support was in its numbers, might go to Congress and make some impression,” Waters recalled in the book “B.E.F.: The Whole Story of the Bonus Army.”

“DAV was founded by this generation who saw firsthand what could be done when they **banded together** to demand the government **take care of its nation’s wartime disabled veterans.**”

—Randy Reese, Washington Headquarters Executive Director

By June, thousands of veterans set up camp in Washington within view of the Capitol. With few resources, they set up a shantytown on the Anacostia Flats—located across the Anacostia River from the Washington Navy Yard and a few short miles from where DAV’s National Service and Legislative Headquarters is today—vowing to stay until Congress passed a bill providing full and immediate payment of their bonus certificates.

“Outside of the Capitol was a new argument for immediate payment of the bonus—eight thousand men, sitting on the steps, the lawns, the curbstones,” Waters said in his account. “The Senators were experiencing a new type of lobbying, not that of being entertained in some swank hotel where the business at hand is nonchalantly mentioned after a few drinks have been served, but that of being shown something of the poverty that had prompted the demand for the immediate payment of the bonus.”

President Herbert Hoover refused to address the veterans, though a congressional delegation did agree to hear them out.

“The proposal is to authorize loans upon these certificates up to 50% of their face value,” Hoover wrote in a letter to Sen. Reed Smoot of Utah. “As the face value is about \$3,423,000,000, loans at 50% thus create a potential liability for the government of about \$1,712,000,000, and, less the loans made under the original Act, the total cash which might be required to be raised by the Treasury is about \$1,280,000,000 if all should apply.”



A veteran of World War I, Wright Patman of Texas served 24 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and chaired four committees. (Pictorial Directory of the 74th Congress)

Soon, a debate began in Congress over whether to meet the veterans’ demands.

Rep. Wright Patman—also a World War I veteran—took up the veterans’ cause and resurrected a bill he had introduced three years earlier that had fallen flat. The Patman bill would immediately provide bonus payments to eligible veterans.

By June 13, Patman’s cash-now bonus bill, authorizing an appropriation of \$2.4 billion, had made it out of committee and was headed toward a vote. On June 14, the legislation, which mandated the immediate exchange of bonus certificates for cash, came to the floor. The following day, the House of Representatives passed the bonus bill by a 211–176 vote.

More than 8,000 veterans—many of them members of the DAVWW—gathered in front of the Capitol on June 17 in anticipation of the Senate vote. Ultimately, the bill was defeated in the Senate, but many in the Bonus Army did not pack up and go home. About 10,000 people stayed in the shantytown, refusing to give up the fight. Seemingly, they maintained a peaceful and unarmed occupation.

However, there was a growing belief by Hoover that the veterans posed a threat to national security. On July 28, Attorney General William Mitchell ordered local police to remove the protesters. When police arrived to move them out, a riot erupted and police shot and killed two men. The Army—led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur—was called in to forcibly evict the Bonus Army from their makeshift camps.



Left: A group of encampment veterans erupted into cheers when news broke of the House’s favorable action on the Patman resolution, which aimed to authorize immediate payment of the World War I bonuses. **Right:** Gen. Douglas MacArthur (left), chief of staff of the Army, personally directed the dispersal of the Bonus Army after violence broke out between veterans and Washington police. (Photos by Underwood & Underwood/Library of Congress)

According to Smithsonian Magazine, “MacArthur ordered his men to clear the downtown of veterans, their numbers estimated at around 8,000, and spectators who had been drawn to the scene by radio reports.”

The people in the camp were driven off by the cavalry with tanks and tear gas. MacArthur ordered his troops to set fire to the shanty settlements and the veterans’ belongings. Hospitals were overwhelmed with the wounded.

“Flames rose high over the desolate Anacostia Flats at midnight tonight,” The New York Times reported. “A pitiful stream of refugee veterans of the World War walked out of their home of the past two months, going they knew not where.”

“These ex-servicemen could not know, as they felt the hard city streets through their thin-soled shoes, that there were to bring to a wearied Administration its most crucial problem in four years of dilemmas,” read Waters’ account.

Indeed, the incident reflected poorly on Hoover, who lost the 1932 election to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1933, three months into Roosevelt’s first term, a second, smaller Bonus March was defused with promises instead of military action. Roosevelt provided the marchers with a campsite and three meals a day. He

also offered them work in the Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal public works program, waiving the age limit set for civilians.

In 1936, Patman reintroduced the cash-now bonus act—the Adjusted Compensation Payment Act of 1936—which finally became law, authorizing the immediate payment of the World War I bonuses. The first veterans began cashing checks in June of that year.

“DAV was founded by this generation who saw firsthand what could be done when they banded together to demand the government take care of its nation’s wartime disabled veterans,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Randy Reese. “The Bonus Army March of 1932, which included approximately 20% disabled veterans, is a reminder to us all of the great sacrifice they made during the war—and continued to make in order to fight for veterans of all generations.

“We would not be here today as an organization, or with the services and benefits we’ve earned, without their sacrifice and determination. As we move into our second century of service to veterans, we must remember those who came before us and continue our advocacy on behalf of the men and women who served.” ■



Taking care of each other...

In Wichita Falls, Texas, Chapter 41 Commander Joel Jimenez (third from right) helps Marines stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base prepare and send care packages to troops deployed to Iraq. Local sponsors helped support the endeavor, which included specialty care packages for women serving overseas.



Memorial Day monuments in Mississippi...

Above: Veterans of Oxford, Miss., and members of local DAV Chapter 48 render salute after laying a wreath in honor of our nation's fallen heroes on Memorial Day. Pictured veterans in front row (from left) are Greg Lovelady, Dennis Bullard, and 96-year-old Past Department Commander H.C. Franklin.

Right: Department of Mississippi Commander and 8th District NEC Jerry Bratton renders salute, honoring our fallen heroes on Memorial Day in Oxford, Miss.



Share Your News!

Send your DAV or Auxiliary news to production@dav.org. Please provide a JPEG image and a description, including the names of those pictured. Submissions are subject to editing for space, clarity, accuracy and propriety.



Enhancing veterans' quality of life...

Marvin Triggs, Adjutant of DAV Chapter 8 in Syracuse, N.Y., (second from left) presents a check for \$15,000 to Dr. Asif Ali, the Syracuse VA Medical Center chief of staff (right). The donation will support the medical center's Quality of Life Program. From left: Acting Associate Medical Center Director Mike DeDuca, Triggs, Voluntary Services Manager Denis Fogg, Nurse Executive Cheryl Czajkowski and Ali.



Senator's award for support...

DAV Chapter 77 in Jasper, Ind., awarded Sen. Mike Braun of Indiana with DAV's centennial coin, which commemorates 100 years of service to veterans. Pictured from left: Chapter Commander Ken Schuetter, Braun, and Chapter Adjutant Charles Parker.



Memorial Day in Long Island...

Members of DAV Chapter 190 in Port Jefferson Station, N.Y., donned masks to safely place a wreath in honor of the fallen on Memorial Day. First Junior Vice Commander Dennis Sullivan played Taps on the bugle, while Senior Vice Commander John Mauro (left) and 2nd Junior Vice Commander James Burke saluted the wreath.



Donations "roll in" from the Department of Ohio...

Department of Ohio Commander John Plahovinsak removes the license plate from his vehicle prior to donating his 2014 Volkswagen Tiguan to the DAV Vehicle Donation Program. The Department of Ohio also provided \$5,000 to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, which was then matched dollar-for-dollar by GIGA Enterprises.

Giving at year-end can save you money

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We encourage you to speak with your financial adviser(s) if you have questions about giving to charity.



Judie List Sweeney
CFRE (Certified Fund Raising Executive)



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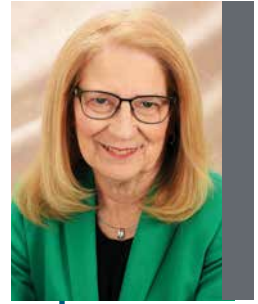
Are you at least 70½ years of age? A gift of a qualified charitable distribution through your IRA will reduce your taxable income for the current tax year. Disabled veterans then benefit from the full value of your gift. Make your IRA qualified charitable distribution online by visiting freewill.com/qcd/dav, or contact our experts for transfer instructions and to let us know that your gift is coming and from which financial institution. This ensures the gift is credited as you would like and that we can personally thank you for your gift. IRA providers normally do not provide the donor's name and address when sending these gifts, so be sure to contact us.

At the end of the year, if you find that you are updating your future plans for giving to DAV, you may gift part or all of your retirement plan by designating DAV as a beneficiary. Retirement assets left to nonspousal heirs are heavily taxed and, since the passage of the December 2019 SECURE Act, must be withdrawn in just 10 years. Consider leaving other, lesser-taxed assets to your loved ones. This type of gift to DAV is easy. Just request a change of beneficiary form from your retirement plan provider and add DAV (Disabled American Veterans), P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250; tax ID (EIN) 31-0263158 to the appropriate line. Then let us know so we can thank you. ■

To learn more about these and other ways to give to DAV, including through your will, trust or beneficiary designations, please contact one of our personal gift experts, including Judie List Sweeney, CFRE. We'd love to hear from you and express our gratitude for the significant impact you will have on veterans' lives!

From the AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER

DIANE J. FRANZ



Family is crucial this time of year

As the holiday season begins, I would be remiss if I were not to mention the uniquely strange time we are all experiencing. For the first time for many, we may be experiencing the holidays alone or with a much smaller number of family and friends at the dinner table.

However, for some, this year's isolation may have been closer to their normal, everyday lives. I ask you to keep in mind your neighbors who may not have family and loved ones, and especially hold your DAV and Auxiliary family members in your thoughts this holiday season. Especially this year, we should all be making efforts to support one another more than ever. We are all family, connected across time and space by a bond of commitment to honoring sacrifice. Don't let distance weaken this bond.

This year has also brought unique circumstances around our elections; the way we vote may forever be different. Regardless of how you cast your ballot this year, I urge our members and volunteers to make the decision that is best for you and your well-being.

I also want to mention to everyone that paying attention to your local politics is also important, now and in every election to come. It should be a priority for all of our members to know who we're voting for and why, if not because it's our civic duty, then because we should always remember the brave men and women who fought and continue to fight for our right to vote in a democracy. Many of our members today sacrificed so much for us to be able to vote, and we would be doing them a disservice by not becoming civically aware.

As we honor this sacrifice on Nov. 11, Veterans Day should carry a different weight. Again, many of us will not be able to be with our loved ones because of their service overseas, social distancing or a number of other reasons.

I implore you to take time to remember and keep those in mind who are fighting for our freedoms (including the right to vote) and who keep us safe in a country we all love so much.

I want to wish everyone a happy Veterans Day and happy holidays.



National Headquarters
3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076

Toll Free 877-426-2838, Opt. 5
davauxiliary.org
dava@dav.org

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VA caregiver expansion policy includes veterans with serious illnesses

■ The Department of Veterans Affairs officially published its final regulation to improve and expand the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to include veterans with serious illness—a long-standing DAV priority. The final regulation went into effect Oct. 1.

Now, eligible veterans, beginning with those from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War eras whose injuries or illnesses occurred on or before May 7, 1975, with a single or combined service-connected disability rating by the VA of 70% or higher, will qualify for the comprehensive package of caregiver benefits under the program if they meet certain care-based needs criteria established by the VA.

Only new applications received by the VA on or after the IT certification date, which the VA has indicated will be on or near Oct. 1, will be considered or approved based on the new expanded eligibility for World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War era veterans in Phase 1.

The VA's comprehensive caregiver support program was established in 2011 to provide family caregiver supports and services, such as education and training, health coverage and a monthly stipend to primary family caregivers of eligible veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

However, many seriously disabled veterans and their family caregivers have been ineligible for this life-changing support program because their disabilities were caused by illnesses—not injuries—during their military service.

“The expanded regulation addresses the complexity and expense of keeping veterans at home with their families who provide personalized care,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

Since 2010, DAV has fought to ensure family caregivers of all severely injured and ill veterans are eligible for the same comprehensive caregiver support and services. The VA is also standardizing operating procedures for its caregiver support program, providing new training for staff and caregivers and boosting operational capacity by hiring additional staff. With this expansion, eligible caregivers will also have access to financial planning and legal services.



Yvonne Riley made the decision two decades ago to dedicate herself to the well-being of her husband, Dave. The Coast Guard veteran contracted a bacterial infection that resulted in the loss of all four of his limbs.

“DAV has fought long and hard to ensure veterans with service-connected disabilities caused by serious illness were included in these life-changing benefits,” said National Commander Butch Whitehead. “Finally, there will no longer be an arbitrary exclusion based on illness or date of injury.”

VA debt relief to continue beyond 2020

■ Veterans and family members who have an overpayment—or debt—with the VA could be eligible for temporary debt relief due to the financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The VA is already suspending all actions on veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Treasury Department. This includes suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, whichever the veteran prefers. Now, those suspensions are extended until 2021.

“Veterans and their families should be focused on their health and safety during the pandemic,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibility during these challenging times.”



For more information

For benefit debts, veterans should contact the VA Debt Management Center at 800-827-0648.

From the NATIONAL CHAPLAIN MICHAEL P. DOVER



We are alone, together

As we enter the holiday season, I want to address the unique crisis we are all experiencing during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For many, the holiday season is usually a fun time of year filled with parties, celebrations and social gatherings with family and friends. For others, it is a time filled with sadness, self-reflection, loneliness and anxiety, whether or not they are in the midst of a pandemic. This year, it is essential we take the extra time to reach out to our friends and neighbors, check in on each other and seek help if we are struggling.

You might already feel isolated and alone. Many veterans, caregivers and family members struggle with mental health issues, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these conditions for people across the globe. The stress of social isolation; the worry about jobs, finances and health; as well as the profound feelings of loss can trigger depression or anxiety for the first time or aggravate existing conditions. The uncertainty and loneliness can weigh heavily on anyone and can make a difficult situation seem more dire.

Right now, we are told to stay home and practice social distancing, effectively removing some of the positive outlets we have grown accustomed to that help us manage our various mental health challenges. Mechanisms we once used to help stave off depression and

loneliness may not currently be available. During times of physical distancing, it is normal to have increased feelings of loneliness, sadness, fear or anxiety.

In times of crisis, DAV members come together to assist veterans and their families. This unprecedented time is no different. It's important to recognize that, while we may be physically separated, we are alone together. We need to continue to perform buddy checks, even if we have to get a little creative. You have to use social media to bring back that togetherness that our organization is known for. You can use video conferencing, like Zoom or Skype, to get "face to face" with your fellow veterans. Take advantage of texting or phone calls to remind our friends that we are all in this together. Send out holiday cards, check in on a neighbor or reconnect with an acquaintance through social media.

We may be alone together, but this does not have to be a more difficult time. Reach out to one another. Create new holiday traditions.

Remember to check in on yourself as well. Keep in mind that this, too, shall pass and will not last forever. Use your tactical patience to take appropriate steps to protect yourself so we can all come back together and do the things we love to do. You are loved, and there is hope.

Happy holidays to you all.
In His Service to You.



Leading the way locally...

National Commander Butch Whitehead presents a Certificate of Special Recognition to Department of Wisconsin's 1st Junior Vice Commander Greg Palo for extraordinary dedication and diligence. As Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) coordinator, Palo increased the number of volunteers from 364 in 2018 to 444 in 2019 and the number of volunteer hours from 47,123 in 2018 to 78,692 in 2019. He spent long hours with numerous chapters and organized the department's first LVAP webinar to educate members on the merits of LVAP.



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Auxiliary Past National Commander William “Craig” Johniken

■ DAV Auxiliary Past National Commander William “Craig” Johniken died Sept. 11, 2020.

Johniken was elected DAV Auxiliary national commander at the 2017 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans. He was the first man to serve in this capacity since the inception of the organization in 1922. Johniken was eligible for membership through his wife, Teresa, a service-connected Army veteran and adjutant for the DAV Department of Texas, and his son, Tim, a service-connected Air Force veteran.

A Texas native and life member of Unit 3 in Waco, Texas, Johniken became interested and involved in Auxiliary activities long before he was eligible to join the organization. Volunteering at DAV and Auxiliary functions with event setup, cooking and cleaning



Johniken

afforded him the opportunity to participate in events with his wife and family. When Auxiliary membership eligibility was changed in 2005 to welcome male family members, Johniken was one of the first to apply.

“Often claiming that DAV and the Auxiliary became a second family, he took his role in the organization very seriously, which was evident with each office and chairmanship he held on the local, state and national

levels,” said Auxiliary National Adjutant Pat Kemper. “Following his election as a national officer, Craig’s easygoing and friendly demeanor endeared him to many, and his circle of friends grew as he advanced through the national line. An effective leader, he was proud to be a part of DAV Auxiliary and very committed to the future of the organization.”

Johniken is survived by his wife, Teresa; son, Timothy; daughter, Ashley; granddaughters, Ashton and Emma; grandson, Will; and countless others in his DAV and Auxiliary family.

Michael O. Smith

■ Michael O. Smith, the assistant supervisor for DAV’s national service office in Montgomery, Ala., died Aug. 11, 2020.

Smith initially enlisted in the Army in 1978 and was honorably discharged in 1982. In 1990, he joined the Army Reserve, where he served until 1991. He rejoined the Army Reserve in 2003 and served until his retirement at the rank of master sergeant in 2007.

Smith, a life member of Chapter 12 in Montgomery, joined DAV’s staff as a national service officer apprentice in 2011. He was most recently promoted to assistant supervisor in 2019.

When tornadoes ripped through his state in 2018, Smith helped with the cleanup and sought out veterans who needed the support of DAV’s Disaster Relief Program.

“Mike was a very compassionate and understanding



Smith

person, very dependable and eager to help,” said NSO Supervisor Mary Stovall-Moore. “He was encouraging to the veterans he helped and to all of us in the office. He would never hesitate to go the extra mile in order to help veterans. We will truly miss him and his ability to make everyone laugh.”

“He served his country with honor and distinction. He twice went back into the military at a time of war to contribute to our national defense,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Randy Reese. “When it came to fighting for justice for his fellow veterans, he was always at the tip of the spear. He was beloved by his team. Veterans in Alabama lost a wonderful advocate, and supporters of our cause will remember his contributions.”

Smith is survived by his wife, Annie, three grown sons, two grandchildren, and a number of family and friends.

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REUNIONS

MARINES

MCRD—ARIZONA HONOR PLATOON 3019 (1967)
Nov. 7, Mesa, AZ, Contact: Keith Much, Email: marine.keith0351@gmail.com

NAVY

USS ARNOLD J. ISBELL (DD-869) Nov. 6–9, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Mickey Lawrence, Ph: 704-463-5967, Email: mickeylawrence869@gmail.com
USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVB/CVA/CV-42) AND AIR GROUPS Nov. 11–14, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Bill Solt, Ph: 321-362-5806, Email: sisbill@aol.com
USS THREADFIN (SS-410) ASSOCIATION Nov. 5–8, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Stephen Kolb, Ph: 904-646-3814, Email: snrkolb@comcast.net

AIR FORCE

307TH RED HORSE BARKSDALE/KELLY Dec. 12, Natchitoches, LA, Contact: Steve McCutcheon, Email: smccutcheon@att.net

INQUIRIES

- Searching for anyone who served in Adak, AK, from June 1966 to June 1967, who was an equipment operator in the Seabees and had any health issues related to radiation exposure. Contact: David W. Truesdale, Ph: 607-785-5407
- Searching for witnesses to an incident that happened in Fort Campbell, KY, around 1978 near Thanksgiving time. Contact: David Johnson, Ph: 865-577-2668 or 865-406-4603, Email: walterbrogdon2007@comcast.net
- Searching for Marines stationed at White Beach in Okinawa, 1956–1958. Contact: Tom Frayer, Email: tom054@comcast.net

- Searching for anyone who served in Operation New Life in 1975 at the ogee camps. U.S. Army medics from 440th Medical Detachment Field Ambulance or 702nd Medical Company who came from Fort Meade or anyone from 1st Medical Group, Tin City-Tent City. Contact: Doc Spate, Email: onl1975@aol.com
- Searching for anyone who served on the USS Noa (DD-841) from January 1957 to January 1959 who may have had prostate cancer caused by asbestos on the ship. Contact: Charles Henderson, mnh@maxxsouth.net
- Searching for anyone from the 66th Military Police Company who served in Vietnam during 1970. Central Highlands by Quy Nhon, Phú Thái, patrolled the An Khe Pass. Contact: Mitch Zychowski, Ph: 412-973-1120, Email: mitch@feedmysheepassociation.org
- Searching for anyone stationed at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, 1968–1970 when I served as the supply man for Motor Transport. Contact: Cpl. William Cook, Email: cook1010@aol.com
- Searching for Marines who were with me on Hill 749, Korea, Sept. 13–15, 1951, F Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. F Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, rescued us. Contact: Joseph P. Genduso, Email: semperfijig@charter.net
- Searching for CAP Unit Charlie/USMC Dai Lóc Village, Vietnam, between Hill 37 and Liberty Bridge. Including Cpl. Easy, Frenchy, machine gunner Tom from New Jersey, or anyone who remembers or was present for the firefight on April 8, 1969. Contact: Mark Kaye, Ph: 203-269-0161
- Searching for airmen who served at Osan Air Base, South Korea, during 1954, 5th Communications Group, APO 970, 1st Telephone and Carrier Squadron. Contact: Joseph Di Carlo, Ph: 631-653-9416, Email: JDC123@optionline.net
- Searching for anyone who went through the Marine Corps boot camp, Platoon 212, July–September 1953. Contact: Tom Atkinson, Ph: 570-253-6366 or 570-352-5696
- Searching for anyone who served in boot camp, Platoon 196, 1st Battalion, Parris Island, SC, from September–November 1975. The drill instructors were Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. Ramirez, Staff Sgt. Slate, Staff Sgt. Gordon and Sgt. Pitcher. Contact: Darrell Taylor, Ph: 910-346-5281

- Searching for crew members of the USS Conrad in the 1960s. Contact: Frank Darnell, Ph: 509-292-8284
- Searching for African American U.S. Army double amputee and Lt. Carol Sloyer, U.S. Army nurse, or any family member. We were together in the Army hospital on the island of Okinawa in 1965 from January to April. Contact: Lenny Thompson, Ph: 619-701-4820
- Searching for all persons who went to Fort McClellan at Anniston, AL. Contact: Raymond Richmond, Ph: 916-502-6236, Email: rayp2020@hotmail.com
- Searching for enlisted personnel stationed at the 36th Evacuation Hospital Central Material Section/Surgery, Vung Tau, Vietnam, from Feb. 2, 1969, to Jan. 23, 1969. Contact: Walter Quigley, Ph: 928-764-2639, Email: quigleyontop@gmail.com
- Searching for anyone who served with me at MCRD Parris Island, SC, July 1967, Platoon 3013. Contact: Harry Hopwood, Ph: 3524931392, Email: harryhopwood02@gmail.com
- Searching for anyone who was in Vietnam on the USS Jennings County (LST-846), 1968–71. Contact: Gordon Bush, Ph: 386-466-4466
- Searching for anyone who served in B Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry (Mechanized), 1st Infantry Division, in Vietnam from September 1969 to February 1970. Contact: Don Gill, Ph: 508-414-9020, Email: vietvet1970@msn.com
- Searching for Spc. Robert Groseclose, MP (95B), from the 374th Army Security Agency Company (1976–77), and USASA Field Station Augsburg, Support Battalion (1977–80). Contact: Joe Fraioli, Ph: 215-287-5837, Email: joefracioli@aol.com
- Searching for Marines who were in Maintenance Battalion, Force Logistics Command, Vietnam, 1969–70. Contact: Gary "Philly" Swanson, Ph: 207-542-4902, Email: gaswanson67@gmail.com
- Searching for anyone who served in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam, 1967–68, who may know my brother, Sgt. Ronald M. Currier from Maine. Contact: Robert Currier, Ph: 206-920-1232, Email: recurrier@msn.com
- Searching for USS Prairie (AD-15) S-1 Division crew, July 1958 to September 1960, who served with me. Contact: Terry Judd, Ph: 435-830-5800

35TH ANNUAL



NATIONAL DISABLED
VETERANS
WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

2021



VA | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



APPLY NOW

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic is scheduled to return to the mountains of Colorado next year, and interested veterans can now submit their application for the event.

Presented by DAV and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the clinic serves as a leader in adaptive winter sports instruction for disabled veterans, promoting world-class health care and rehabilitation. Known as “Miracles on a Mountainside,” the event allows veterans to experience opportunities for self-development and challenge through sports therapy and rehabilitative activities such as adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, rock climbing, sled hockey, scuba diving and other adaptive activities.

Participation is open to U.S. military veterans with qualifying disabilities such as spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputation, visual impairments, certain neurological problems and other disabilities. Veterans who currently have inpatient or outpatient status at VA medical facilities will have first priority.

The application can be downloaded at wintersportsclinic.org. Once completely filled out and properly signed, scan and email all applications and forms to Teresa.Parks@va.gov or mail them to:

VA Western Colorado HCS
Attn: Teresa Parks/WSC
2121 North Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81501

DAV and the VA are mindful of the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 and are committed to providing a safe environment for the event. Please check wintersportsclinic.org for any new updates as we work to keep everyone informed through our planning for the 2021 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

March 28–April 2, 2021

Application deadline Nov. 30 | wintersportsclinic.org

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