



## MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

May 31, 2008

DIVISION	COMMANDER	DEPARTMENT	% OF GOAL
I	Daniel Contreras	California	100.61
II	Dean R. Ascheman	Minnesota	103.19
III	Billy R. Worley	Louisiana	100.61
IV	Robert Hill	South Dakota	102.38
V	Gary A. Lucus	Wyoming	99.64

### Augmenting Our Ranks

This July our membership numbers will change significantly when more than 211,000 deceased members are dropped from our roles. This comes following this year's comparison of our membership roles and the Social Security Death Index.

On an individual level, no one will truly feel the impact of this loss. After all, the members who have passed on weren't attending chapter meetings or going to department conventions. But that is not to say that we can afford to ignore this loss.

Based on our current numbers and our continued monthly death index comparisons, we project a trend that the DAV will lose approximately 2,900 World War II veterans a month for the foreseeable future.

These men and women represent the foundation upon which the modern DAV and veterans service movement was built. As well, their passing represents a new book in our history where the baton is being handed to a new generation.

You who recruit for the DAV and the Auxiliary are charged with a critical mission. As our demographics evolve, we will undoubtedly see many of the goals we've worked so hard to attain over the past decades fade.

Our task is to ensure that the loss of one generation does not mean the loss of all they worked and sacrificed to pass on. Our charge is to go out and replace those members with future leaders who have the potential to carry on the fraternal legacy that has endured more than eight decades.

As we replenish our numbers, it is incumbent on all of us to look at post-Vietnam era veterans who meet our eligibility requirements and can fulfill leadership roles in our chapters and departments. We must give them opportunities in our chapters and ensure they feel an ownership of the organization their generation will inherit.

### **Combat Eras: Invasion of Panama**

In December 1989, Operation Just Cause was launched to depose Panamanian military leader Manuel Noriega. More than 27,000 American service members took part in the incursion. Two dozen Americans died in action and 325 were wounded directly during the operation.

The operation was designed to safeguard U.S. citizens in Panama, defend democracy and human rights there, combat drug trafficking, and ensure the continued neutrality of the Panama Canal. What started on December 20 ended on January 3 of the following month, with Noriega surrendering to the U.S. military and being extradited to the U.S. He was charged and convicted of a number of crimes and is currently imprisoned in Miami.

A 19-year-old private in the 1138<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company of the Missouri Army National Guard would be moving into his late thirties today. While he or she may not have thought about membership in the DAV after their initial service-connected injury, that individual may now be interested in membership or increasing their involvement in the DAV.

Recruiters who talk to veterans of some of the smaller military engagements following Vietnam not only learn more about our military heritage, they make contact with a new demographic that need our services and whose leadership and participation we need.

### **SECOND LIFE A VEHICLE FOR RECRUITING**

If you are a visitor of Second Life and other Internet or social networking sites, you have the opportunity to advance the DAV's message of hope and service to our fellow disabled veterans and their families.

This is especially true for the technologically savvy veterans we meet who are on message boards and out there exploring the Second Life metaverse. When you bump into a veteran – say a young man or woman who served in Panama or some other wartime era – make sure you let them know that the DAV is a vital organization that helps veterans receive the benefits they've earned through their service.

Soon, the DAV will open its own real estate to DAV members and supporters in the virtual community. We'll ask all our members to get out there and spread the word about this sight when it comes online.

As technologies cultivate over the next several years, virtual worlds will be used for all types of purposes and DAV needs to be there on the cutting edge. For more information on Second Life, visit [www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com) .

## **THE RACE IS ON**

The Department of New York's own Prospero Sodano, a legendary recruiter, leads the national pack of recruiters with 116 members recruited as of last count. But the race is

neck-and-neck with the Department of Maine's Joseph Wafford running a tight second with 113 members.

Not far behind these New England veterans – and with enough time in the contest to make a difference – are a number of other recruiters who are pushing the envelope to bring more of our wartime service-connected veterans into the fold.

Keep up the good work!

## **NATIONAL CONVENTION CREDENTIALS PROCESS REVISED**

In an effort to make registration smoother, faster and more accurate, the credentials registration process is undergoing some key changes at this year's National Convention.

As usual, Chapter commanders and adjutants will designate delegates and alternates and provide full names and membership code numbers of participating representatives. The yellow 2008 National Convention delegate and alternate credentials should be returned to national headquarters as soon as possible.

Once these forms are received, delegates and alternates will be notified by letter of their status as delegates. That notification will serve as convention credentials for those key individuals.

Each delegate and alternative will be asked to bring that letter to convention and present it at the DAV Registration Desk. A bar code on the letter will be scanned to confirm the credentials and attendance will automatically be registered in the database as a convention badge is printed out for the delegate or alternate.

Blue delegate and pink alternate forms will no longer be required.

The goal of these changes is to speed up the registration process and make it more accurate through the use of available technology.

## **RECRUITERS REMINDED TO OBTAIN ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION**

As most veterans have learned from military service, when the going gets tough, attention to detail makes all the difference. As we push to build upon the legacy our past and aging veterans have so tirelessly built, it is important that they obtain and provide complete information on all applicants. Full dates of birth, dates of service, and complete information for applications is necessary and critical. Recruiters need to ensure that every piece of information required on the application is provided in full.

Ironically for recruiters, one of the most common gaps in the information provided on applicants is the sponsor code that gives recruiters credit for their prospective members.

By ensuring that the Membership Department gets all the required information, you expedite your applicant's membership and ensure you get the credit for your efforts!

### **NATIONAL CONVENTION SCOOTERS NO LONGER FREE**

Golden Technologies, supplier of more than 130 scooters for DAV conventions annually at no cost to the DAV members, will no longer provide the scooter free of charge. An \$80 fee will be charged for scooter use this year in Las Vegas.

Requests for scooter should be made in advance of the National Convention. If no reservation is made there is little likelihood of a scooter being available for use at the convention.

To request a scooter, forward the name, address, telephone number and DAV chapter or unit affiliation to Michael J. Walsh, DAV Deputy Inspector General, toll-free, at 877-426-2838, ext. 2065, or e-mail [mwalsh@davmail.org](mailto:mwalsh@davmail.org); requests may also be sent to Rojean Long, Membership Administrative Assistant, toll-free, at 877-426-2838, ext. 1342, or e-mail [rlong@davmail.org](mailto:rlong@davmail.org). The information will be forwarded to Golden Technologies who will contact individuals for confirmation and arrange for payment of fees.

This new fee-based service remains a reasonable accommodation for those who need it. However, members are welcome and encouraged to bring their own scooter to the National Convention.

Members who decide to purchase their reserved scooter may apply the \$80 fee toward the purchase price.

### **MEMBER BENEFIT: AMIGO MOBILITY PRODUCTS**

Made and assembled in the U.S., the Amigo brand product line is designed to provide comfortable safe walking solutions for people with mobility limitations.

The product line offered to DAV members is listed below with special pricing at 25% discount from standard retail & INCLUDES SHIPPING within the continental U.S.

**A Travel Model - light weight and transportable - occasional use □ Special DAV pricing \$1066**

**- an all purpose indoor outdoor model □ Special DAV pricing \$1676.00**

**- large and heavy duty for the larger person □ Special DAV pricing \$2876**

A toll-free Tech division for all service requirements/questions 1-800-248-9131 or e-mail

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For more information on the offer and photographs of the products, visit the Member Benefits section of the website and log in with your membership number.

## **Constitution Bylaws and Regulations**

From time to time DAV Chapters and Departments alike should set aside time to review their Constitution and Bylaws.

Our Constitution contains the important framework for this organization. It clarifies our purpose and provides a historical perspective of our organization. Bylaws outline specific procedures for the chapter/department functioning, helps you to conduct business in an orderly manner, provide further definition to the constitution and can easily be revised as procedures change.

During recent reviews of Chapter and Department Bylaws we've found that there are conflicting procedures for election and installation of chapter and department officers. Each chapter and department is required to operate in accordance with their Constitution and Bylaws. Any procedural changes require amending your Bylaws. If you do not have a copy of your Chapter/Department Constitution and Bylaws you can obtain one from your Department or National Headquarters, provided there is one on file.

### **LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP: 'IT WAS GOOD FOR CHESTY PULLER'**

Lieutenant General Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller, a combat-wounded veteran and the recipient of five Navy Crosses and one Distinguished Service Cross, was in a tight spot. It was during the Korean War and communist Chinese forces had poured over the Yalu River into Korea.

Chesty and his Marines were surrounded by ten divisions. According to lore, it was at that very moment that Chesty said, "Those poor bastards. They've got us right where we want them. We can fire in any direction now."

For Marines, Chesty Puller represents the pinnacle fighting spirit, and his legacy defines the fighting spirit and values inherent in America's men and women in uniform.

The lesson is equally applicable in our lives and our mission as an organization. We are at a great cross-roads as an organization. And though many of our brothers and sisters are fading from our lives, we who live on must carry on the fight.

Unlike Chesty, when we look at the gaps we need to fill in our membership, we're surrounded in a good way. We have veterans from numerous smaller conflicts to bring a diversity of demographics and experiences to our leadership.

Our attitude and drive in this time of adversity will determine our success in the coming years. We must pull our shoulders back like Chesty, roll up our sleeves, and find more quality veterans to become members of the DAV.

## **DAV NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION**

We are driven by the great mission to "build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families." Now, in a time of war, that mission takes on exceptional significance.

Even as we care for veterans from the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, we open our arms to a new generation of wartime-disabled veterans. Many wounds suffered in Iraq and Afghanistan would have killed troops in prior wars. And, with multiple tours of combat, these young Americans suffer an extremely high rate of disabling injuries.

Therefore, the importance of strengthening current DAV programs remains essential. That is the fundamental role of the National Service Foundation. It remains ever so important for us to continue to build a strong, vibrant DAV that will bring comfort, security and camaraderie into disabled veterans' lives as long as needed.

Like most successful endeavors, the DAV National Service Foundation represents a huge team effort. Many individuals within the DAV play a role in the success of the Foundation...from individual members to Department and Chapter leaders, and National and Transition Service Officers.

Once again, the President of the DAV National Service Foundation, Gary P. Burns, on behalf of the Foundation's board of directors extends congratulations and thanks to DAV and DAVA Department leaders, Chapters, Units and members for playing such an important role in the Foundation's success.

The Foundation's accomplishments are highlighted in its Annual Report, which is now available. The 2007 Report includes the Honor Roll of Benefactors that reflects the generosity of donors who provide financial support for our mission of service.

If you would like more information about the National Service Foundation or a copy of the 2007 Annual Report, contact the Foundation's business office at National Headquarters by writing to DAV National Service Foundation, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. You may call 877-426-2838, ext. 3293 (toll free) or send an e-mail to [nsf@dav.org](mailto:nsf@dav.org)

Copies will also be available during the National Convention in Las Vegas.

  
ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE  
National Membership Director



# MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 05/31/2008

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
<b>Division I - Over 35,000 Members</b>					
1	CALIFORNIA	81,654	81,160	100.61%	494
2	MASSACHUSETTS	37,171	37,055	100.31%	116
3	NEW YORK	62,483	62,459	100.04%	24
4	FLORIDA	68,991	69,138	99.79%	-147
5	PENNSYLVANIA	41,851	42,005	99.63%	-154
6	MICHIGAN	30,599	30,725	99.59%	-126
7	OHIO	38,691	38,977	99.27%	-286
8	VIRGINIA	26,058	26,256	99.25%	-198
9	TEXAS	62,805	63,299	99.22%	-494
10	NORTH CAROLINA	34,004	34,479	98.62%	-475
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>484,307</b>	<b>485,553</b>	<b>99.74%</b>	<b>-1,246</b>
<b>Division II - 18,000 To 34,999 Members</b>					
1	MINNESOTA	18,044	17,486	103.19%	558
2	COLORADO	18,657	18,489	100.91%	168
3	WISCONSIN	17,226	17,146	100.47%	80
4	MISSOURI	19,193	19,118	100.39%	75
5	OKLAHOMA	18,911	18,915	99.98%	-4
6	KENTUCKY	21,587	21,593	99.97%	-6
7	WASHINGTON	20,375	20,394	99.91%	-19
8	NEW JERSEY	23,331	23,366	99.85%	-35
9	ARIZONA	19,599	19,669	99.64%	-70
10	MARYLAND	15,636	15,692	99.64%	-56
11	INDIANA	17,347	17,419	99.59%	-72
12	TENNESSEE	16,500	16,634	99.19%	-134
13	SOUTH CAROLINA	13,725	13,848	99.11%	-123
14	ILLINOIS	21,161	21,387	98.94%	-226
15	ALABAMA	16,935	17,177	98.59%	-242
16	GEORGIA	18,627	19,126	97.39%	-499
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>296,854</b>	<b>297,459</b>	<b>99.80%</b>	<b>-605</b>
<b>Division III - 10,000 To 17,999 Members</b>					
1	LOUISIANA	10,809	10,743	100.61%	66
2	CONNECTICUT	9,959	9,931	100.28%	28
3	KANSAS	8,176	8,190	99.83%	-14
4	NEW MEXICO	11,225	11,249	99.79%	-24
5	ARKANSAS	13,528	13,621	99.32%	-93
6	OREGON	9,239	9,316	99.17%	-77
7	WEST VIRGINIA	9,770	9,879	98.90%	-109
8	PUERTO RICO	7,910	8,058	98.16%	-148
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>80,616</b>	<b>80,987</b>	<b>99.54%</b>	<b>-371</b>



# MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS

As of 05/31/2008

Present Standing	State	Life Member Population	Life Goal	% of Goal	Goal Variance
<b>Division IV - 5,000 To 9,999 Members</b>					
1	SOUTH DAKOTA	4,694	4,585	102.38%	109
2	IOWA	8,354	8,284	100.85%	70
3	NORTH DAKOTA	4,435	4,405	100.68%	30
4	MAINE	7,802	7,750	100.67%	52
5	NEBRASKA	6,724	6,690	100.51%	34
6	NEVADA	6,145	6,120	100.41%	25
7	RHODE ISLAND	5,726	5,706	100.35%	20
8	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,836	5,821	100.26%	15
9	HAWAII	4,927	4,928	99.98%	-1
10	UTAH	5,092	5,107	99.71%	-15
11	MONTANA	4,291	4,308	99.61%	-17
12	MISSISSIPPI	7,641	7,675	99.56%	-34
13	IDAHO	4,983	5,036	98.95%	-53
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>76,650</b>	<b>76,415</b>	<b>100.31%</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>Division V - Less than 5,000 Members</b>					
1	WYOMING	1,932	1,939	99.64%	-7
2	D C	2,324	2,335	99.53%	-11
3	VERMONT	2,769	2,787	99.35%	-18
4	DELAWARE	2,548	2,575	98.95%	-27
5	ALASKA	2,568	2,604	98.62%	-36
<b>Division Totals</b>		<b>12,141</b>	<b>12,240</b>	<b>99.19%</b>	<b>-99</b>
<b>National Totals</b>		<b>1,045,974</b>	<b>1,047,261</b>	<b>99.88%</b>	<b>-1,287</b>