

NEWS RELEASE

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VA Secretary to Address 90th DAV National Convention in New Orleans Veterans Organization to Push for VA Claims Process Reform

NEW ORLEANS -- The Disabled American Veterans will once again convene its national body to address the needs of disabled veterans, including those who have served and sacrificed in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, when the organization meets at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside for its 90th National Convention Aug. 6-9.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki is scheduled to deliver a major speech to more than 3,000 DAV delegates the morning of Aug. 7.

The DAV is marking its 91st year of service by reviewing important legislative initiatives aimed at building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. The major issues to be addressed by the Convention include the need to eliminate lengthy delays veterans encounter when submitting disability claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the need to improve mental health care for the psychologically wounded and their families.

“We look forward to hearing from the Administration on the issues disabled veterans now face,” said DAV National Commander Wallace E. Tyson. “We know VA realizes its claims system is grossly outdated and inadequate to properly ensure veterans receive the help and care they have earned through service to our nation, so it is important to hear how its mission to reform the process is progressing.”

Also scheduled to appear at the convention is renowned actor, musician and veterans advocate Gary Sinise, who along with the Lt. Dan Band, will play a special show for DAV members and guests Aug. 7.

A distinctive moment will be the presentation of the DAV’s Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Award to Joseph I. Cassilly, a paralyzed Army veteran of the Vietnam War and Maryland State’s Attorney.

The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation’s wartime disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation’s disabled veterans and their families. For more information, visit the organization’s Web site www.dav.org.

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