



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF DAV AND AUXILIARY

JULY | AUGUST 2013

MAGAZINE

**Marc Burgess
Becomes 7th
National Adjutant**

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**DAV Leads
Tornado Relief**
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PG. 3 | FROM THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT

PG. 5 | DISABLED VETERAN OF THE YEAR JOHN TODD



Tornados Rip Through Oklahoma



DAV Provides Relief to Victims



For too many Moore residents near the tornado's center, all that remained of their homes in the wake of the storm was a pile of rubble. Damages for the heavily veteran-populated town are estimated at more than \$2 billion. DAV Department of Oklahoma was first on scene following the storm, with members and volunteers turning out immediately to help process emergency grant applications for veterans affected by the tornados. DAV volunteers aided ill and injured veterans not only by securing financial aid, but also by distributing supplies and healthcare equipment, helping to clear debris from homes and offering much-needed emotional support.



From the NATIONAL COMMANDER

LARRY A. POLZIN



Service Officer Certification

DAV's most intense focus will always be on service to our fellow veterans.

Our unparalleled service program is the backbone of DAV, extending from the Chapters through the Departments to the national level. For those of you who make it your mission to serve, I sincerely thank you.

Today, we have 270 National Service Officers (NSOs)—likely the most in DAV's 92 years. That is commensurate with the constantly growing demand for our services as more veterans hang up their uniforms and longtime veterans realize they have unattained earned benefits.

So many veterans are coming into the system for the first time, and the VA is working feverishly to install a new, paperless claims system. These circumstances make it even more imperative that every service officer, regardless of at what level they work, be well-informed, trained and equipped to provide top-notch representation.

Our Transition Service Officers and National, Department and Chapter Service Officers (CSOs) are out front, carrying our colors. They are meticulous, ensuring that every earned benefit is received. I am particularly proud of the jobs they do, and they are most deserving of our support.

As a retired NSO myself, I certainly am aware of the dedication and deep knowledge it takes to properly provide the level of service that we, as the premier veterans service organization, pledge to deliver.

Our service officers will not waver in their commitment to ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors. No one has

more impact on DAV's ability to meet our primary mission and stellar reputation.

Accordingly, no one has a tougher task than those of you representing veterans and their families with claims. On top of long hours, occasionally frustrating situations and numerous tasks, a service officer must have a solid understanding of the claims process in its complex entirety.

Our Chapter and Department service programs are crucial to fulfilling DAV's overall mission of service to veterans. With that in mind, DAV offers a highly acclaimed Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification Program. Currently there are 1,965 certified CSOs across the country.

I feel strongly that every single service officer should complete this program, which is carefully designed to enhance the knowledge and professionalism of Department and Chapter Service Officers.

Claims work is covered in detail, explaining the adjudication process from start to finish, to provide the knowledge necessary to create a successful claim. It also covers benefits, entitlements, compensation, pensions and several other imperative topics. It will make you a more effective service officer and an asset to your community.

Your service is needed now more than ever. Working together, on the same page, we can fulfill the promises we've made to those men and women who have served and do so with efficiency, accuracy and speed never seen before.

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Cover photo: Brett Deering/Getty Images

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From the NATIONAL ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS



Something Bigger Than Yourself

My heroes have always been veterans. My great-uncles Ralph and Roger Elfert served in the Army and Navy during World War II. My great-uncle Dudley Slay flew combat missions in the Korean War. Uncles Robert and Jimmie Burgess retired from the Navy as master and senior chief petty officers.

At 21, I enlisted in the Navy and intended to make that my career.

But, like many people reading this, the option to continue my service was taken away from me as a result of an injury. I went from having a clear path in life to being forced to reimagine a future that seemed completely displaced from what I wanted. For a time, I felt rudderless and unfulfilled.

As my time in uniform was coming to an end, I visited a Vet Center in Philadelphia. A World War II veteran and DAV volunteer named Irv Meadows greeted me and offered assistance with my claim for benefits. I was grateful when he asked if I wanted to join DAV, because it gave me the sense that I could maintain that connection with my fellow veterans. I became a member. I once again belonged to something bigger than myself. I was on a team.

A couple years passed before I read an article in *DAV Magazine* encouraging me to recruit my fellow veterans into the DAV family. At the time, I worked at the VA as an insurance specialist and was going to school at night. I went to talk to someone at the DAV regional office to get more information on recruiting. Before I knew it, I was filling out an employment application.

I never would have imagined at that

stage in my life that, someday, I would have the good fortune of leading the professional side of the organization that gave me a sense of hope when it was desperately needed. From the start, I felt welcomed into the fold. World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans taught me how to serve and represent veterans and DAV. They introduced me to the culture of DAV—a culture centered foremost on service.

I am extremely honored by the opportunity Commander Polzin has given me to serve as your National Adjutant. I am grateful for the mentorship of Art Wilson, whose dynamism and leadership make this appointment particularly humbling. And I thank and remember Irv Meadows and all the veterans from eras preceding mine for welcoming me into our beloved institution and nurturing my growth during the better part of the last two decades.

I will continue to rely on your support and feedback as we build upon the legacy our forbearers handed down. I will do my utmost to honor your service through the decisions we make that impact the lives of so many.

And if I may be so bold as to issue a challenge to each of you, I encourage you to make it a point to engage a fellow veteran who is not a member and bring that individual into the fold the way you did for me 20 years ago. You never know how significant your influence can be until you take that extra step and ask someone to become involved in our cause.

I look forward to serving as your National Adjutant and thank you for the faith and confidence you have shown me.

■ LETTERS

Helping Hands

We survived the EF-5 tornado on May 20, 2013. It was by God's grace and mercy He spared our lives. I also thank my mother and all the people who have prayed for my family. I want to thank all the DAV people, family and the organization that helped us clean my property, gave us gifts and a vehicle to drive until we get a car of our own. May God continue to bless DAV, family members and the organization. I want to thank the DAV representative who helped my wife find the dolls that were given to her by her mother, who passed. God bless you and thanks again for everything. Have a blessed day, and we will continue to pray for all the DAV family and organization. **Lewis & Janie F. Haywood, Moore, Okla.**

Thanks for Service

I am writing to thank my St. Petersburg, Fla., National Service Officer and his staff. Since 1968, I have had to fight the VA for a total and permanent service-connected rating. Due to their knowledge and

DAV Magazine welcomes letters. However, due to the volume of mail, we are unable to acknowledge every letter. Letters can be sent to DAV Magazine, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. Readers can also comment via email through feedback@dav.org. Letters are subject to editing for clarity, style, accuracy, space and propriety. Letters involving individual claims are referred to the DAV Service Department.

dedicated work, I have prevailed. **Richard Maragni, West Palm Beach, Fla.**

Shooting Therapy

Mr. Chenelly's excellent article in the January/February issue ("Opening Outdoors for Therapy") was filled with parental love, eternal hope and the glorious healing ability found in nature. Mr. and Mrs. White's incredible generosity may have to be contagious to meet the need. **Joseph C. McGuire, Boston, Ky.**

I read the article "Opening Outdoors for Therapy." As a mental health nurse, and in light of the recent military tragedy that made the news, I couldn't disagree more with the philosophy that killing animals "heals" servicemen and women. **Marilyn W., Waterford, Mich.**

Vital Issues

The January/February issue of DAV Magazine sums up what we are up against regarding most every aspect of veterans' issues, such as health care and new medical facilities, PTSD, education and readjusting to civilian life after discharge from military service. Work together and good things will happen. **David Slattery, Fort Myers, Fla.**

DAV Commander's Action Network

I am glad to see DAV going proactive online. As a life member, I try to promote the benefits and assistance one can accrue as a DAV member. I served in the USAF from Nov. 21, 1956, through May 31, 1984. I was a combat aircrew member for more than 20 years, flying peripheral airborne

reconnaissance missions off the shores and perimeters of hostile nations around the world. I have seen the effectiveness of DAV teams in assisting our veterans filing their claims, ensuring that our veterans know their entitlements and get the medical care that they earned. DAV helped me. Please keep me in the loop. **Senior Master Sgt. John H. "Jack" Riedel, USAF (Ret.)**

Our Mistake

The photo of the Veterans Day parade in the March/April issue (page 31) states that the Honor Guard of Betsy Lane Chapter 169 present a 21-gun salute. A 21-gun salute, however, is for presidents and other heads of state. It is fired by saluting batteries or field artillery with a three-second interval. The ceremonial salute for veterans' funerals and Veterans Day is three rifle volleys. **Leonard J. Porto Jr., Victorville, Calif.**

Corrections

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) was omitted from, and Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) was incorrectly added to, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee roster in the March/April magazine. We regret the error.

The caption for a photograph on page 32 of the May/June issue incorrectly stated that Chapter 152 is in Miami. The Chapter is in Delray Beach, Fla. We regret the error.

A photograph on the inside front cover of the May/June issue incorrectly identified U.S. Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) as Rep. Angus King. We regret the error.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
February 1, 1973

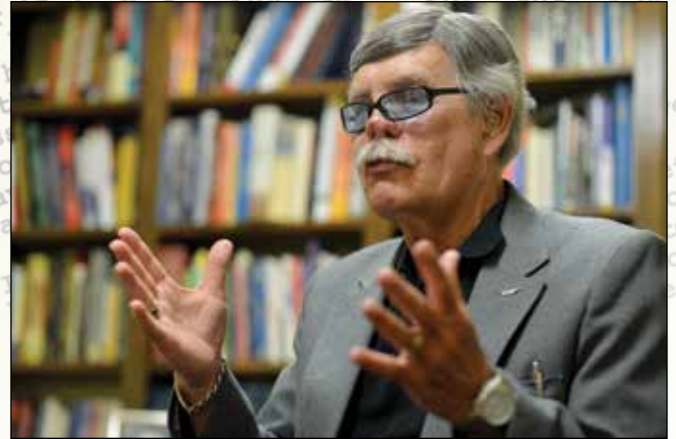
Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year 2013 John Todd

By Ashleigh Bryant

DAV is pleased to announce that Vietnam veteran John Todd has been named the 2013 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year. Todd was drafted into the Army in July 1967, then served in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969 as an attack helicopter pilot. He was shot down twice and, because of his combat injuries, was left blind. Todd earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor, 17 Combat Air Medals, the Purple Heart and the RVN Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star.

Following a year's recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1970, he moved to New York City to be closer to a renowned eye surgeon. Todd became the national coordinator for Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace, going to work for President Nixon and his staff writing television and radio editorials and appearing as a spokesman for the President. His work earned him a Freedoms Foundation award in 1971 and 1972 for Excellence in Political Communication.

After graduating in 1976 from the University of



John Todd, an accomplished professor of American legal studies and business law, speaks with students in his office at Rochester College in Rochester Hills, Mich.

Michigan, Todd went on to attend the Georgetown University Law Center, graduating with a Juris Doctor. He later served as the national legislative director of the Blinded Veterans Association, where he authored legislation that provided for a rebuttable presumption of service-connection for permanently and totally disabled veterans so their spouses and dependents could qualify for death and indemnity compensation. This bill was passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by President Carter.

Later, Todd moved to Michigan and served as the chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP). In 1984, he was invited to the White House and met with President Reagan to take part in a ceremony devoted to the VVLP.

"Mr. Todd's contributions to the veterans' community are immeasurable," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. "Despite his injuries, he has lived a full life, marked with great success and dedication. His life's work has no doubt made lasting

(Continued on pg. 33)

John Todd, a former Cobra pilot, holds a shadow box containing his military service medals. Todd served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 at age 22, and was awarded the Purple Heart, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor and 17 combat air medals, one with "V" device.



Oklahoma and National DAV Join Forces in Tornado Relief

By Thom Wilborn

Charles Early, a 17-year Air Force veteran, watched the approaching storm from the porch of his Newalla, Okla., home when an eerie calm descended. “There was no breeze and no wind,” Early said. “Then I saw flocks of thousands of birds flying away from the storm. It was then that I became real concerned.”

In the town of Moore, Okla., Lewis Haywood, a 25-year Army veteran, and his wife, Janie were at home watching the weather report when the tornado approached. “It was reported on the other side of town,” Haywood said. “But when it was too late to escape, it suddenly turned and started coming down my street. The last thing I heard, it was seven or eight houses from where I lived.” They both huddled in a closet as an outside wall collapsed over them, then an inside wall.

Alissa Thompson, an Army veteran of the Iraq War, huddled in her father’s storm shelter with her husband, Corey, 17-month-old daughter, Zaria, and five-year-old son, Jaycen, as the deadly EF5 tornado ripped through. “The kids were scared and crying, and we could hear the popping as electric transformers exploded. The closer it got, the less you could hear because it was like sitting next to a jet engine,” she said.

The tornadoes hit the Oklahoma City area on May 19 and 20, killing 24 people and destroying or damaging 4,000 homes and businesses. Eleven days later, on May 31, a 2.6-mile-wide EF5 tornado—the largest ever recorded—hit El Reno, west of Oklahoma City, killing at least 21 people.

“DAV was in the eye of those storms,” said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. “The Department of Oklahoma Mobile Service Unit was set up near Shawnee and New Bethel to assist veterans on May 19. It was moved to Moore immediately after that storm.”



Photos by Brett Deering/Getty Images

DAV Volunteers packed up supplies that were later distributed to veterans and others affected by May’s devastating tornadoes in Moore, Okla.

In the following days, DAV provided ill and injured veterans with disaster assistance vouchers for food, shelter and clothing. “DAV was among the first disaster assistance to arrive in Moore,” said Department of Oklahoma Adjutant Danny Oliver. “We established a command post at Home Depot and were distributing supplies as victims and survivors were still being pulled from the debris.”

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs then joined DAV to create a multi-agency disaster center for veterans, and the American Legion later joined the combined team, resulting in a one-stop location, which maximized relief assistance for veterans.

“When I heard that a tornado had struck Lake Thunderbird—just a mile away from us—my son Weston, my mother and I headed south in my truck,” said Early. “Trees were falling around us as I floored the truck to get away. Weston was scared and praying quietly in the rear seat, but after going two miles, the weather turned beautiful and peaceful,” he said.

Early and his family returned home soon after. “As we approached our home, I began seeing the damage,” he said. “When I couldn’t see the top floor of my log house,

“I was amazed that DAV stopped the world to help me.”

Charles Early, Air Force veteran

I knew we got hit.” Early found his roof in the yard next door. One of his log walls had penetrated a neighbor’s brick house. “Debris was piled high,” he said. “It was one of those devastating moments, but I said, ‘We’re OK. It was just a house.’”

The Haywoods were trapped under the rubble of their home. “The closet door and ceiling had fallen on us, but it’s only because we were trapped that we survived,” he said. “The tornado passed in seconds. We listened for the wind and storm to roar by, and then we saw a clear sky. I climbed out and dug rubble away to free my wife. We surveyed the damage and saw everything was gone,” he said. “We checked on our neighbors, but no one was home, so we joined other people looking for their neighbors and then we just wandered around for a while.”

Alissa Thompson first planned to leave her husband and daughter at home while she picked up her son from school, but changed her mind at the last minute. So the family of four drove to her father’s house in time to get into his storm shelter.

“When we climbed out, we saw a lot of debris, but my dad’s house was still standing,” said Thompson. “There were reports a school had been hit, so I went to find my brother, Shawn, at his high school.” The Thompsons’ car

was heavily damaged so she set out on foot.

“On the way, I saw houses down on both sides of the street,” she said. “The whole neighborhood was gone. Water was pouring into the streets, and downed power lines and debris were preventing firemen from getting through. People were covered with dirt and mud as they were being pulled out of the debris.”

“When I heard my brother’s school was not hit, my instincts kicked in and I began to help pull people from their houses,” Thompson said. “The service-connected injuries to my feet, back and wrist made it very painful. I wasn’t really prepared to search debris for people.”

When she went home, she saw her own house was gone. “It took my breath away,” Thompson said. “I went numb, I guess. It was the shock.”

“We had a two-story, five-bedroom house that collapsed on itself. Cars were flipped over. One vehicle was smashed into the ground where my doorway used to stand. The two cars we left behind were destroyed.”

“I really didn’t pay any attention to the stuff I had lost,” she remembered. “My focus was on my dogs.” Luckily, the animals were found unharmed beneath the second floor in a fiberglass bathtub and shower. “The firemen had to use axes to cut them out.”

In Moore, the Oklahoma Mobile Service Unit and Fred White, Jr., Assistant Supervisor of the Muskogee National Service Office, began to spread the word that DAV was offering assistance to injured and ill veterans. “We organized foot patrols to go into ravaged neighborhoods to locate veterans, and truck loads of supplies were distributed to the rescue workers.”

“We were looking for veterans, but we helped anyone,” said Oliver. “We distributed gloves, trash bags, first aid gear and protective masks, and we assigned chainsaw volunteers to help with the cleanup.”

“Our foot patrols helped prevent looting, so veterans could leave their property to come to us for help,” he said. Ultimately, DAV ran two command centers in Moore



Army veteran Lewis Haywood and his wife, Janie, pick up some personal belongings after a massive tornado destroyed their Moore, Okla., home.

Army veteran Alissa Thompson, her husband, Corey, 17-month-old daughter, Zaria, and five-year-old son, Jaycen, survey the remains of their Moore, Okla., home.



and two others in Shawnee. More than two dozen staff members and nearly 200 volunteers helped storm victims. “It’s an amazing outpouring of support from our membership,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski.

“Our National Service Officers proved DAV’s expertise and skill in being the first line of relief for the victims of these disasters,” said National Service Director Garry Augustine. “Our Muskogee National Service Office was the closest to the storm scenes and they brought comfort and compassion to the veterans there. The losses were great, but our NSOs handled their needs quickly and with great efficiency—well above and beyond what the veterans there even expected.”

A motorcycle group named “The Horsemen” and other volunteers helped distribute flyers with DAV’s message of assistance. “The Red Cross and others came to us asking how everyone knew where DAV was,” Oliver said. “The VA relief effort joined up with us, followed by FEMA and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. We were all at the same site.”

Department Commander Cougar Hammons said that without power, vehicles or communication, it was difficult to tell victims where to find help. “But the motorcycle group must have put the flyers on every pole left standing,” he said. “We did it the old-fashioned way, boots on the ground.”

To respond to the spiritual needs of tornado victims, Department Chaplain Dan Capri provided counseling and religious services in the disaster area. “Chaplain Capri was there every day for three weeks,” said Oliver. “He brought comfort and relief through grief counseling and prayer. He also provided denominational and nondenominational religious items to those who lost them during the tornadoes.”

“I saw Dan provide prayer and hugs to those who desperately needed them” Oliver said. “He was there to provide their physical and spiritual needs with blessings and religious services.”

Meanwhile, offers of assistance came pouring in from coast to coast from entities within the organization and other patriotic causes through DAV. The VFW in Pennsylvania shipped a truckload of water to DAV volunteers to hand out in Moore. Volunteers from the Fire Department of New York Disaster Assistance Response Team helped distribute supplies. “We delivered everything to the veterans,” Oliver said. “We didn’t wait for them to come to us.”

Other groups helped DAV’s Disaster Assistance team. Neighbors-helping-Neighbors USA, for instance, provided help for veterans identified by DAV who needed demolition and restoration work. The DAV Chapter in

“I’m joining DAV. I’m so overjoyed that I want to be part of the organization to help pay it back.”

Alissa Thompson, Army veteran

(Continued on pg. 34)

George H. Seal Awards

Honor Dedicated DAV Volunteers

By Thom Wilborn

If a search was launched to find motivated, dedicated and energetic volunteers, it need go no further than the 2013 George H. Seal Award recipients. With such busy schedules, their dedication to serve injured and ill veterans commands the attention and praise of all who see them go about their work.

Dennis Krulder is the hospital service coordinator at the Northport, N.Y., VA medical center, coordinating 135 DAV volunteer drivers and staff. He has accumulated more than

44,000 volunteer hours during the past 21 years. Auxiliary Seal Award recipient Melody Angelini has volunteered more than 15,000 hours in the past 32 years. She serves as a front-desk receptionist and provides extensive support to the Blind Rehabilitation Center at the Hines, Ill., VA medical center.

"This year's Seal Award recipients are dedicated volunteers," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "They are always ready to do whatever is needed for injured and ill veterans."

"These top volunteers represent the finest DAV has to offer

in serving veterans," said National Director of Voluntary Services Ron Minter. "Both Dennis and Melody deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments."

The Seal Awards are conferred each year in memory of George H. Seal, who was DAV's Director of Membership and Voluntary Services and a leading organizer and administrator of the VA Volunteer Service (VAVS) program from 1952 until his death in 1977. The presentations will be made at the 92nd National Convention Aug. 10-13 in Orlando, Fla.

AUXILIARY SEAL AWARD RECIPIENT

Melody Angelini

Melody Angelini, a member of the At-Large Unit of the Department of Illinois Auxiliary, is a dynamo, encouraging blind veterans to achieve all they can despite their loss of sight. "I like to see that they are reorienting themselves back into society," she said. "They can find out they can do the things they did before, but they have to do them just a little differently."

"I'm thrilled when someone says that they haven't done something for 20 years and now they can," Angelini said. "These blind veterans are very happy they can get into sports that they thought they'd never do again."

"Much of what Melody does involves providing the opportunity for veterans to practice the skills they learn in the Blind Rehabilitation Center social events," Minter said. "She coordinates and escorts patients to outings to zoos, museums, concerts and theaters."

"I try to find things for blind veterans to do, and I see what kinds of recreation facilities are available in Chicago," said Angelini. "We get them out in Chicago so they can



Auxiliary George H. Seal Award recipient Melody Angelini welcomes patients to the Hines VA medical center in Chicago.

enjoy a bit of the city. It's good rehabilitation.

"The Blind Rehabilitation Center is very enthusiastic about what we can do for the veterans," she said. "They do what they can do; and what they can't do, I do in the background for them."

Helping blind veterans has a personal aspect for Angelini, since her late husband, Lou, was a blind veteran. They both founded the Hines Blind Center Alumni Association as a supporting network for blind and visually impaired veterans who have completed training at the Hines VA center.

"Melody continues to advance her life goal of assisting and supporting blind and visually impaired veterans," Adjutant Burgess said. "She's an exemplary volunteer who's dedicated her life to the veteran patients she so dearly loves."

SEAL AWARD RECIPIENT
Dennis Krulder

Krulder, a member of Chapter 125 in Malverne, N.Y., directs 15 to 19 Transportation Network vans each day, taking veterans to their VA medical appointments and returning them home. He also serves as the Department of New York Treasurer.

“A decorated Vietnam War veteran, Krulder provides needed transportation to 170 veterans each day to the Northport VA medical center,” said National Director of Voluntary Services Ron Minter. “He also regularly takes veterans to other VA medical centers for their care. He has an admirable, can-do spirit.”

“Our Transportation Network vans run close to capacity every day,” Krulder said.

Krulder is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the veterans who need him. “We try to be as active as possible in the hospital,” he said. “We’re here nights and weekends doing what I think DAV does best: taking care of our own—our veterans.”

Not satisfied just to run such a large transportation program, Krulder looks for ways to fill veterans’ needs, such as creating programs for amputees and blind veterans. “I’m proud of the people I work with,” he said. “Most go the extra mile to do the things that we do without hesitation. It makes me very proud of DAV.”

“Krulder set up transportation for women veterans



DAV George H. Seal Award recipient Dennis Krulder, right, joins Gold Star and Blue Star Mother Cynthia Ventura at the Laying of the Wreaths ceremony to honor veterans buried in Calverton National Cemetery in Calverton, N.Y.

needing mammograms and patients needing radiation therapy to other VA medical facilities when Northport lost its accreditation for such treatment,” Minter said. “And he created a new program taking veterans to a nearby horse farm for nonconventional therapy.”

At the end of his long days, Krulder feels a great sense of satisfaction caring for veterans. “I know I did my job,” he said, “when [veterans] say ‘Thank you’ for what you did,’ it’s worth a million dollars to hear those two words.”

“Dennis devotes a great deal of his life to ensure that the promises are fulfilled to the men and women who served,” said Minter. “It’s comforting to know that his wife of 45 years is among his greatest supporters.”

Volunteering: Not Just for Adults

DAV Auxiliary Juniors Help Tornado Victims

Made up of children and grandchildren of veterans, DAV Auxiliary Juniors, organized themselves through social media and text messaging to help clear debris and distribute supplies in Moore, Okla., in the wake of the deadly tornadoes that struck May 20 and 21. They joined OK DAV volunteers and staff on the ground providing disaster relief in the Sooner State. When asked why they were there, Junior member Victoria Wheeling said, “because we are DAV kids; that’s what we do.”



VA Budget Plan Falls Short in Meeting Needs

By Dave Autry



For the fifth consecutive year, the President has proposed an increase in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. DAV and other veterans service organizations, however, find the proposal falls short in meeting veterans' health care needs.

"The President's budget proposal contains some positive aspects, particularly the continuing commitment to fixing the VA's broken claims process by converting to a modern, paperless system," said National Commander Larry A. Polzin. "While we also applaud efforts to bolster programs for women veterans, homeless veterans and mental health care, the overall direction of funding for medical services and health care infrastructure raises serious questions about whether the VA will be able to meet the needs of America's wounded heroes in the future."

Included in the nearly \$153 billion VA budget is \$66.4 billion in discretionary funding. While that is 8.5 percent above the current enacted level, it is below the \$68.4

billion DAV recommended to sufficiently meet veterans' health care and benefits needs.

"While DAV was pleased to see increased funding for areas such as the operations of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and for information technology, a reduction in funding for major construction is cause for concern. The Administration proposed just \$342 million, well below the \$1.1 billion recommended in *The Independent Budget*," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. "Also of concern is the advance appropriation request of \$55.6 billion for fiscal year 2015, which is approximately \$2.8 billion less than our recommended level of \$61.6 billion."

"The VA's critical medical infrastructure must not be allowed to deteriorate even further," said Jesinoski. "It is vital that medical facilities be well-maintained and modernized to provide a safe environment for our veterans' care and well-being."

In support of the VA's goal of breaking the claims backlog and improving the overall accuracy and timeliness of decisions, the President's budget asks for \$2.5 billion for the VBA. That is a 13.6-percent increase from the current level.

"Despite having to overcome major hurdles, the VBA has made real headway in modernizing the veterans' claims system," said National Service Director Garry Augustine. "After three years of planning and testing, the

Service, particularly as the transformation is completed in 2013, so that staffing levels can be adjusted annually to reflect such changes," Augustine said.

The VA budget request provides \$54.6 billion for health care, plus \$3.1 billion in expected collections from veterans health insurance. *The Independent Budget* recommends \$58.8 billion total for health care for fiscal year 2014.

"Time and again, those third-party collections have fallen short of expectations," said National Legislative Director Joseph Violante, "and that has put added strain on veterans' access to VA health care."

Another concern is that the President's budget proposes \$586 million for medical and prosthetic research, and just \$799 million for all construction programs. DAV and other groups have recommended \$611 million for medical and prosthetic research and \$2.25 billion for all construction programs.

"America's injured and ill veterans must remain a national priority and have all the resources necessary to meet their medical and benefits needs," said Violante. "As Congress continues its work on the budget and appropriations processes, DAV will closely monitor those activities and will intervene as needed to see to it that our nation honors its promises to the men and women who served." ■

"It is vital that medical facilities be well-maintained and modernized to provide a safe environment for our veterans' care and well-being."

Barry Jesinoski, Washington
Headquarters Executive Director



VBA will complete the national rollout of a new claims-processing system in 2013. The new Veterans Benefits Management System will undergo refinements before it is operating effectively, and Congress must provide the VA with the resources, support and oversight required to ensure its success.

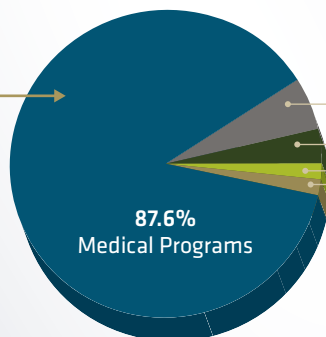
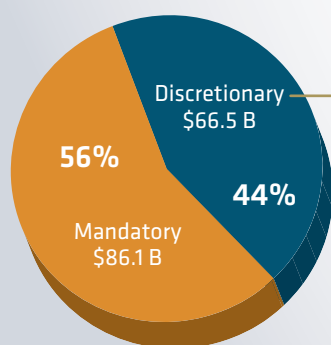
"The VBA and Congress must carefully monitor both workload and productivity in the VBA's Compensation



Budget Appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs, FY14

President's Budget
including collections

\$152,667,000,000



5.5% Information Technology
3.7% Benefits Programs
1.8% Construction
1.4% Other

**\$4.6
BILLION**

amount of additional discretionary funds recommended by DAV to sufficiently meet veterans' health care and benefits needs

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, APRIL 10, 2013

Commander's Awards Honor Outstanding VA Employees

By Thom Wilborn

“Our award recipients this year are **remarkable**, as are the jobs they do for veterans.”

—Barry Jesinoski, Washington Headquarters Executive Director

DAV will recognize three remarkable individuals for their extraordinary service to veterans with Outstanding VA Employee Awards during the 92nd National Convention, Aug. 10–13 in Orlando, Fla.

The Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Employee Award will be presented to Christopher “Buzz” Buchan, VA rating veterans service representative in the Chicago VA regional office, who works directly with DAV to ensure quality and timely decisions for veterans’ claims.

“I do my job the best way I can,” Buchan said. “I have a sense of pride in seeing how the VA helps veterans, from something simple to veterans in dire need. At the end of the day, I’m very proud of what the VA has done.”

Nobel Laureate Dr. Andrew Schally, a medical research scientist at the Miami VA medical center, will receive the Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee Award for his remarkable 50-year career in research and development of new methods for treatment of veteran cancer patients.

“I am very proud to serve in the VA health care system,” Schally said. “Veterans have been treated for prostate cancer with methods I discovered over 30 years ago. I am very proud to receive this award for saving thousands of lives.”



VA Rating Veterans Service Representative Christopher “Buzz” Buchan, foreground, reviews a claim with Army veteran Daniel Pearson, right, and DAV National Service Officer Carlo Melone during a review at the Chicago VA regional office. (Photo by Mayowa Famakinwa/VA)

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Col. Gene Castagnetti was selected to receive the Outstanding National Cemetery Administration Employee Award for his 23 years as director of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

“This award is not about me; it’s recognition of the dedicated employees I have,” said Castagnetti. “This award is the result of the commitment shown every day as they deal with people at different levels of grief. It can’t

be an assembly-line approach. We have to do it right the first time because we never get a second chance. It is a great indication of the professional commitment and courtesy of the employees at this national shrine.”

“Our Outstanding VA Employee Awards honor the best of the best among VA workers,” National Adjutant Marc Burgess said. “They work hard for veterans, but our award winners take the extra steps to ensure that veterans get the very best in claims service, health care and earned honors and respect in our national cemetery system.”

“More than 30 percent of VA employees are veterans,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry

feel that each and every veteran deserves a just case and timely decision for their service.”

“Buchan’s close communication with DAV has spread throughout the Chicago regional office,” said Jesinoski. “His enthusiasm for the FDC has made it into a program that works.” Fully 25 percent of FDCs are completed in 69 days, 36 percent in 90 days and 50 percent in 115 days.

“In one particular case, his assistance led to a decision that took less than one day,” Jesinoski said. “Even though it was a rare case, it is representative of his daily service and commitment to do all he can for a veteran.”

“I love DAV,” Buchan said. “The National Service Officers I’ve worked with in Chicago and while I was in Phoenix deeply care about the veterans they serve. They want to help every single veteran.”

The 86-year-old Schally, a native of Poland, received the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1977 for his research, which created his field of modern endocrinology and still assists in the fight against cancer.

“Dr. Schally came to the United States in 1957 after receiving training in medical research in England and Canada and went to work for the VA in 1962,” Jesinoski said. “He has continued working to help veterans ever since.”

“We have developed methods of treatment for various cancers, and now we can treat women veterans for ovarian and endometrial cancer,” Schally said. His discoveries are also leading to possible new treatments for diabetes and heart disease. The compounds he has developed could also accelerate wound

healing, greatly benefiting veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. “I’m hopeful that my discoveries can be implemented for the healing of many other diseases that veterans or their families suffer from,” he said.

“Dr. Schally says he wants to repay veterans who have sacrificed so much,” Jesinoski said. “He has saved many veterans’ lives with his research on cancer treatments.”

“I deeply respect veterans, though I never served in the military,” Schally said. “My father was a member of the Polish forces serving at Allied Headquarters under Gen. Eisenhower in Europe during World War II. My work is a small compensation for not serving. I always



Nobel Laureate Dr. Andrew Schally at work in the laboratory at the Miami VA medical center. (Photo by Larry Gilstad/VA)

Jesinoski. “And nearly all are dedicated to ensuring that veterans obtain their earned benefits for their service to our nation. Our award recipients this year are remarkable, as are the jobs they do for veterans.”

Buchan displays unwavering support of DAV whenever he’s approached by a National Service Officer about a veteran’s claim. He’s been a leader in the promotion of fully developed claims (FDC) and has had remarkable success in getting claims decided in a timely manner.

“I consider every case folder as a veteran in need,” Buchan said. “I want to do everything possible to make certain that everything is correct. As a fellow veteran, I

greatly admired and respected American veterans.”

With more than 33 awards and 30 honorary degrees to his credit, Schally has authored or co-authored 2,400 publications and holds the position of Distinguished Medical Research Scientist at the VA. He also was awarded the French Legion of Honor in 2004 for saving the lives of many patients by his discoveries.

“I wanted to work for VA,” he said. “It was a lot of hard work to discover the brain’s control of endocrine glands. I am very proud to have been here with VA for 50 years and working on these discoveries, including the applications for women veterans.”

Gene Castagnetti’s leadership at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific involves honoring our nation’s veterans in one of the most beautiful burial grounds in the world. He’s overseen the burial of Medal of Honor recipient and U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye and directs the care given to the graves and memorials of Medal of Honor recipients and hundreds of Korean War unknowns buried at what is commonly called the “Punchbowl.”

Each year, there are more than 1,000 interments at the cemetery, with 30 or more ceremonial events. “To bury our veterans and eligible family members with honor and dignity is our primary mission,” Castagnetti said. “The secondary mission is to create a venue that evokes a sense of history and patriotism through ceremonies.

“I have been given a gift and an opportunity to serve my nation in a manner that few ever have been given,” he said. “Day after day, I get the satisfaction of knowing that we maintain this place of honor. I am humbled by being honored and selected for this award.”

Castagnetti served nearly 30 years in the U.S. Marine Corps before retiring as the commanding officer of Camp Smith in Honolulu. “He is the bridge to dignity for his fellow veterans,” Jesinoski said. “He is charged with the care of thousands of veterans interred there, and he fulfills the promise to the families who come to honor their beloved veteran.”

“Being here gives me a great amount of personal satisfaction—serving my nation, my community and my comrades in arms—just as much as serving as a rifle



National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific Director Gene Castagnetti meets with former U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) to discuss urns used at the Honolulu cemetery. (Photo by Duane Vachon/VA)

company commander of Marines in combat,” Castagnetti said. “We try to ensure the ceremonies here are a celebration of the life, service and sacrifice of our veterans.

“It does bring a tear to my eye when I hear a rifle salute and the playing of Taps,” he said. “It means that a loved one served honorably for their nation. Families walk away knowing their loved one’s final resting place and service will never be forgotten.”

“Castagnetti ensures that families of veterans being interred at the Punchbowl are respected and have as much information as possible about their benefits,” Jesinoski said. “He’s a friend to DAV and an ally for the organization whenever it needs his assistance.”

“These VA employees certainly deserve this recognition from DAV,” Jesinoski said. “They have exhibited the best the VA can provide for our nation’s veterans, and they work closely with our organization to ensure they have the tools to do their best.

“It is important for veterans to understand that the VA has thousands and thousands of employees doing their absolute best to honor the promises made to the men and women who served. These awards from DAV will recognize three truly dedicated individuals who have always put veterans first.” ■

The Event of the Summer DAV National Convention

DAV and Auxiliary members from every state will converge on one of the nation's most visited cities for the 92nd DAV and Auxiliary National Convention, Aug. 10–13.

Orlando is a perfect convention location to bring the whole family, so please consider coming a few days early or staying after the convention to enjoy all it has to offer. The convention itself features a full agenda, as members will elect national officers and adopt resolutions, setting DAV's legislative agenda for the coming year.

The annual meeting will be held at the Hilton Orlando, an upscale, resort-style hotel. The venue and the city have the perfect mixture of world-class amenities and unique leisure opportunities.

The hotel offers seven dining establishments on the property, and it is convenient to everything the city has to offer, including world-class art, theater, museums, shopping and dining. Pointe Orlando, Sand Lake Road, SeaWorld Orlando, Universal Orlando and the

Walt Disney World Resort theme parks are all just minutes away.

The hotel boasts a magnificent resort pool, a giant waterslide, fountain, quiet pool and whirlpool, plus a winding lazy river. There are basketball, tennis, volleyball and bocce ball courts.

Run the quarter-mile jogging track. Rejuvenate in the fitness center. Then, take advantage of a full-service spa.

A free excursion to a casino in Tampa is being offered. The bus will depart from the hotel at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 12. For info on how to sign up, email Mary Ann Keckler, maryannkeck@aol.com, or Rich Tolf, rltolfa@aol.com.

The special National Convention rate for the Hilton Orlando is \$124 single/double. You can reserve your room today by calling 407-313-4300. The hotel is located at 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, Fla.

For more information about the convention or to make hotel reservations online, visit www.dav.org/events. ■



DAV Auxiliary Holding Fall Conference Oct. 3-5

The 2013 DAV Auxiliary Fall Conference is scheduled for Oct. 3-5 at Cincinnati's Hilton Netherland Plaza.

The annual conference opens with a National Executive Committee meeting at 4 p.m. on Oct. 3, followed by an opening session that evening. Informative business sessions will be held Oct. 4 and 5. A banquet is slated for that Friday evening. The conference will conclude with a reception Saturday night.

Hotel room reservations must be made by Sept. 11 in order to take advantage of the special conference rates of \$119 per night for single/double, \$144 for triple and \$169 for quads. Reservations can be made by calling 800-445-8667 or online at www.bit.ly/11YI0cr. The hotel

is located at 35 W. Fifth St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Daily parking is available at the hotel for \$15 self-parking with no in-out privileges and \$25 for valet with in-out privileges.

Airport shuttle service is available through Executive Transportation at a rate of \$20 one way or \$40 round trip. Advance shuttle reservations can be made by calling 800-990-8841 or at the Airport Executive Shuttle Desk in the baggage claim area at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG). Taxi service is available at an approximate cost of \$30 each way.

Conference registration is \$25, and the banquet costs \$40. We hope to see you there! ■

From the NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

RON MINTER



Opportunities to Serve

DAV and Auxiliary volunteers are simply amazing with their generosity and dedication, providing a broad array of services to veterans in our nation's VA health care facilities. Last year, well more than 12,000 volunteers donated more than two million hours. I greatly appreciate each and every one of our volunteers and what they do for the veterans and families we serve.

With so many volunteers performing many important assignments, the management effort is massive at the local and national levels within the VA and DAV. My office works closely with the VA every day to ensure that veterans in need receive assistance and that volunteers are efficiently employed. My office and my counterparts in the VA must work well together.

The VA's Voluntary Services Department is one of the largest centralized volunteer programs in the federal government. It is represented in all VA medical centers, providing about 12.2 million hours of service and an estimated \$87 million in gifts and donations in support of veterans under VA care.

For the past eight years, Laura Balun directed that department with exceptional dedication, and will be missed as she has retired this year. She has been serving veterans for about 32 years, starting her VA career in 1981 as

a recreational therapist in North Chicago, Ill., and Hampton, Va., before leading voluntary services in Grand Junction, Colo., and Washington, D.C. We wish her and her family the very best.

Many of you may have met her at a number of our events such as National Conventions, Mid-Winter Conferences and the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

I am grateful for Ms. Balun's support, leadership, dedication and immense knowledge. She is truly devoted to helping veterans and their families.

If you are passionate about working with people, giving back to your community or are excited about new and meaningful experiences, volunteering through the VA Voluntary Service Program or the Local Veterans Assistance Program may be for you.

DAV is here to provide even more opportunities for members of the public and the veterans we serve. If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, please have them contact the DAV Voluntary Services Department toll free at 877-426-2838, or by email at VAVS@dav.org.

Those of you who selflessly give of yourselves to honor our injured veterans and their families deserve our utmost respect. Thank you for what you do.



Commanders and Adjutants Association

A Vital Link to Membership and Service

By Thom Wilborn

DAV's State Commanders and Adjutants Association (C&A) is a vital link between Chapter and Department officers and our professional staff. Though often behind the scenes, it plays an active role in developing and implementing our crucial legislative goals.

"I think it's a service to DAV," said C&A President Floyd Watson. "Our help with the Mid-Winter Conference is our greatest asset. That, followed by the C&A Orientation Conference at National Headquarters each year, gives new leaders from our Departments the opportunity to get acquainted with our national staff and to understand the essentials of DAV—and that is service."

"With new Department Commanders every year or two, we have a large group of state leaders who are eager for a deeper level of understanding about DAV's mission and goals," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "The C&A provides that opportunity here at National Headquarters.

And its sponsorship of our Mid-Winter Conference gives those Department leaders the opportunity to communicate our legislative priorities directly to their elected representatives."

"We act as a conduit for information," said Secretary-Treasurer David Tannenbaum, who's been a C&A officer for more than 21 years. "Additionally, we look at DAV financial reports, support the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, National Service Foundation and other service programs."

"We helped develop the centralized Chapter Service Program by being the catalyst in working out the necessary insurance coverage needed by the National Organization," Tannenbaum said. "It has been a landmark service program."

"Every member of DAV and millions of veterans benefit from the good work of the C&A," said National Membership Director Tony Baskerville. "By educating our new leaders and providing them with the forum

to advance our most important legislative issues, all veterans benefit.”

“It is the glue that holds Departments together,” said Tannenbaum. “The Department leaders keep our Chapters focused on our primary goal: fulfilling the promises made to the men and women who served.”

Every C&A member is either a current or past Department Commander or Adjutant who brings their expertise and skills together to serve veterans. In existence for 50 years, C&A membership has grown to about 1,200 members, all of whom are experienced DAV leaders.

“We are always prepared to support the National Organization any way we can,” Tannenbaum said. “We work closely with the National Adjutant wherever and whenever we are needed.”

Tannenbaum credits the sponsorship of the annual C&A Orientation at National Headquarters as one of the group’s most influential accomplishments. “Department leaders can communicate with the national staff, National Commander and each other,” he said. “It is a gathering that helps our organization remain cohesive and true to our single mission of service.”

The C&A is recognized as one of the great organizations within DAV and is “a mechanism that

puts emphasis on accomplishing things that will support the National Organization and makes achieving our goals a reality,” Tannenbaum said. “We’re one of many contributors toward the success of our mission, and we are a significant part of that equation.”

“The State Commanders and Adjutants Association sometimes does not get the credit it is due because it works mostly behind the scenes within the membership.”

Marc Burgess, National Adjutant



Watson said the C&A enhances DAV by being proactive. “We’re another avenue for DAV to do what it does,” he said. “We carry information back to our Departments and Chapters, and we are an important liaison with our state organizations.”

“The State Commanders and Adjutants Association sometimes does not get the credit it is due,” said Adjutant Burgess. “But it provides valuable services to DAV. It helps develop top-notch leaders and gives us the opportunity to show our strength to elected leaders.”

“Each year at our Mid-Winter Conference, it is the C&A that provides the massive power of DAV in our meetings with congressional and Administration leaders,” he said. “They attend numerous seminars supported by the C&A and then take those issues to Capitol Hill, including providing unequalled support for our National Commander during his legislative presentation to the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committees. It is something that is both exciting and heartwarming to experience, and it’s all in support of our ill and injured veterans.” ■

Secretary-Treasurer David Tannenbaum believes the Chapter Service Program is one of the group’s most influential accomplishments.



National Adjutant Appointed



J. Marc Burgess

By Thom Wilborn

“I am encouraged about the future with Marc at the helm.”

*Don Sioss,
Past National Commander and
Department of New York Adjutant*

National Headquarters Executive Director Marc Burgess has been appointed National Adjutant, effective June 1, by National Commander Larry A. Polzin, and approved by the National Executive Committee. Burgess, a veteran of the Gulf War, becomes only the seventh National Adjutant in the history of DAV and follows the inspired leadership of National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson, who retired May 31 after 47 years of service.

“I am firmly convinced, as is Art, that the person for the job is John ‘Marc’ Burgess,” Polzin said. “He has brought to his current and previous assignments a level of intelligence and aptitude, common sense and judgment that qualify him completely for this assignment.”

Past National Commander and Department of Florida Adjutant Al Linden expressed strong confidence in Burgess, citing his business acumen and deep knowledge of the organization. “Marc will do an outstanding job,” said Linden. “He’s a very knowledgeable individual.

“Marc has an outstanding background with DAV at the national level, and he has a thorough knowledge of DAV and fundraising,” he said.

“He’s a very charismatic person. I think Mr. Wilson has trained him well to step into his shoes,” said Linden. “His in-depth knowledge of DAV and operational matters is unequaled, and he has a superb background in service. He’s a good man for the job.”

Past National Commander and Department of New York Adjutant Don Sioss said that Burgess is well-suited to become DAV’s National Adjutant. “He has an abundance of National Headquarters experience and has done an excellent job,” Sioss said. “We in the Department look forward to working with Marc in the years to come.

“Marc is a strong manager who possesses outstanding financial expertise,” he said. “All those traits will serve DAV well. I am encouraged about the future with Marc at the helm.”

"I think Marc is a great guy, and he will do great things for DAV," said Department of Minnesota Adjutant Stephen Whitehead. "He's well-rounded and perfect to become National Adjutant.

"Marc understands the direction the organization is going, and he has been part of the decision-making process for some time," Whitehead said. "He's a great guy, listens well, and when it comes to making decisions, he is a take-charge leader."

Burgess was appointed Executive Director at National Headquarters in August 2010, overseeing voluntary services, fundraising, accounting, administration, information technology, communications, logistics and plant operations.

A life member of Chapter 19 in Cold Spring, Ky., Burgess began his DAV career as a National Service Officer in DAV's Baltimore and Washington, D.C.,

National Service Offices. His career includes service as:

- National Appeals Officer in DAV's Board of Veterans Appeals Office;
- Supervisor of DAV's National Service Office in Atlanta;
- Appellate Counsel before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;
- Associate and Assistant National Service Director at National Service and Legislative Headquarters;
- Director of Human Resources at National Headquarters; and
- Assistant Executive Director and Executive Director at National Headquarters.

A native of Hattiesburg, Miss., he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1996, a Bachelor of Science in paralegal studies from Stevenson University in 1998 and a Master

Carrying on DAV's Legacy

As Marc Burgess takes the reins as National Adjutant, some of those most familiar with him caution members not to expect drastic changes.

When Art Wilson, a legend among DAV leaders, announced his retirement from the post this spring, National Commander Larry A. Polzin's selection and appointment of Burgess was met with unanimous approval by the National Executive Committee. According to the Commander, he expects an equally warm greeting from members, to whom Burgess' style of leadership is a known quantity.

"To be honest, it was really one of the easier decisions I've made as National Commander," said Polzin. "Marc is the right person at the right time to build on the foundation that Art and leaders throughout DAV have established over these many years."

Unlike the appointment of Wilson in 1994, which came at a time when the organization's finances and structure were in turmoil, today's DAV is on solid footing. Featuring the most robust service initiative in the veterans community, DAV boasts some 270 of the best-trained National Service Officers in the nation and nearly 2,000 Department and Chapter Service Officers.

The grassroots work of members, volunteers and service officers has ensured a steady membership in the organization, while other member-based groups are declining. Under his direct purview as National Headquarters

Executive Director, Burgess ensured DAV's finances remained on track, even as the nation's economy and other charitable institutions suffered under the recession.

"I wouldn't expect any breakneck turns or sudden surprises," said Fred Bristol, retired Assistant National Adjutant and former National Headquarters Executive Director. "Marc is a careful and methodical leader. He's not going to rush the gradual changes that Art Wilson initiated or make any rash decisions."

The evolution to a "New Century of Service and Advocacy" that Wilson called for at our 90th anniversary will continue. Gains being made in the development of corporate partnerships and outreach will move forward.

The implementation of technological solutions to enhance our mission remains under way. But DAV's core values, key voices and culture will be as valued by Burgess as they were by his predecessors, Bristol said.

"A lot of people are wary of change, but Marc has a great reputation, and I would say people know what he is about and respect him," said Bristol. "I've been around DAV and worked with its senior leaders since 1952, and I can honestly say that I feel the organization and its members are going to look back on this occasion as an overwhelmingly positive, historic moment in the years ahead."

What to Expect

of Arts in human resources from the University of Cincinnati in 2010.

Burgess served in the U.S. Navy from October 1987 through October 1992, when he was medically discharged. His service included duty aboard USS *Normandy*.

Department of Oklahoma Adjutant Danny Oliver said he was excited about Burgess' appointment. "We look forward to working with him as DAV continues its mission," he said. "Marc has an uncanny ability to blend our organization's illustrious history with a vibrant vision for leading our team forward. As we fight to overcome the many challenges that face veterans today, Marc will ensure that DAV remains the premier veterans service organization."

"He is a well-respected and recognized leader, not

only in Washington, D.C., and in veterans service organizations, but throughout corporate America as well," Oliver said.

Department of Massachusetts Adjutant and retired NSO Dan Stack said Burgess will be ushering in a new era of responsiveness. "Marc was on the National Service Department staff when I was a National Area Supervisor, and I found him responsive and dedicated to service," said Stack. "He's the right guy to take over."

Stack said Burgess' business knowledge and skills will continue to maintain DAV's leadership in serving veterans. "He'll lead our rebranding program and assist us in raising funds," Stack said. "We will have challenges to face in the future, and Marc's expertise and knowledge will serve us well." ■

Leadership Philosophy

At heart, Marc Burgess said he identifies with his experiences as a National Service Officer and member as much as he does with his service as a senior executive of a national institution. After joining DAV while still in the Navy pending a medical discharge, he applied to become an NSO the day he visited the Philadelphia National Service Office to ask about membership recruiting. The prospect of advocating directly for veterans drew him to DAV from employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs early in his professional life.

"Since I began as an NSO, it's been easy to describe the difference between DAV and other patriotic organizations, because we're so clearly focused on service," Burgess said. "People who are active in the organization either benefited from our free assistance or are drawn to us because they want to make a direct impact in the lives of our nation's heroes. That's our culture—that's who we are."

Burgess is known for his work ethic and focus on DAV's mission. "He is also known for his humility," said Rick Patterson, retired National Headquarters Executive Director.

"You're not going to see any pretense [in Burgess]. There's no big ego there; he puts DAV first. He's going to hear you out. Then he'll get all the information and feedback that is available before he makes a decision," said Patterson. "He's reasoned in his approach, and he's focused on impact. If you're interested in doing the right thing for DAV and for veterans, you're going to find a friend in Marc."

"He's open to new ideas, but he understands the importance of DAV's reputation," said Richard Marbes, past National Commander and Chairman of the DAV Charitable Service Trust. "He does his homework. He understands that DAV is both a fraternity and a business. Based on the way he handles business, I know Marc is going to make a lot of friends among our fraternal leaders and DAV's rank and file."

According to retired National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson, who recommended the appointment to National Commander Larry A. Polzin, Burgess will keep DAV at the forefront in terms of its mission.

"Marc is his own person, so if there's any perception that he'll be starting in my shadow, it won't last for long. He leads by example. He's going to make different decisions, but ultimately he's going to find consensus among our members and earn the respect and admiration of the people DAV serves," said Wilson.

"With Marc Burgess, what you see is exactly what you get. He's a very thoughtful person. In time, he's going to make a very positive mark on the organization. He recognizes and respects the hard work of volunteers. He brings people together and inspires them," Wilson said. "DAV members are going to enjoy their interactions with Marc, and DAV is going to be a better organization through his participatory management style."

What to Expect



The Columbia Trust

By Joseph R. Chenelly

The DAV National Service Foundation's Columbia Trust began in 1996 as an initiative by the Department of Colorado, encouraging outside-the-box thinking and unique projects to better provide service.

Departments and Chapters from around the country contribute to and benefit from the Trust. Funds are restricted so that they may only be used through grants specifically for service.

"The Columbia Trust is about creative generosity and providing the means to help others," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "It helps where the need is greatest, assisting with the services DAV Chapters and Departments provide for injured and ill veterans and their families."

Commanders and Adjutants are encouraged to identify unmet needs and develop projects to serve ill and injured veterans in their communities. If a grant from the Trust is needed to initiate or maintain programs, Chapters and Departments should apply.

Applications are reviewed by members of an advisory committee that includes one member from each of DAV's national Districts, providing equal representation in deciding how to employ the Trust's funds.

The Committee reviews grant requests and provides specific spending recommendations. The National Service Foundation's Board of Directors is the final arbiter of the grant and acts to affirm, reject or modify the advisory committee's recommendations.

Only service projects directly aimed at assisting ill and injured veterans and their families will be considered. "Common sense prevails," Adjutant Burgess said. "Experienced DAV members should be able to recognize



The Transportation Network vehicles are getting revamped to showcase the new DAV brand.

service to injured and ill veterans when they see it."

Grants are not awarded to those Chapters and Departments demonstrating an ongoing ability to meet their proposed service obligations without the grants, ensuring the funds only go where they are most needed.

"The Columbia Trust allows us to share who we are and what we have," Adjutant Burgess said. "It enables us to both give and receive. It provides the means to fulfill our promises to America's ill and injured veterans and their families."

More information about the Trust, a grant application and steps to contribute are available online at www.nsf.dav.org/trust/. ■

Winter Sports Clinic Inspires Injured Veterans and Others



By Ashleigh Bryant

“I don’t know why I’m motivated,” said Freedom Award recipient Army Sgt. Kristian “Deno” Cedeño. The infantryman suffered multiple life-changing injuries, including the amputation of his right leg, when he took a direct hit from an improvised explosive device while on a foot patrol in Afghanistan in 2012. He racked up a laundry list of shattered and dislocated bones, along with vast muscle and artery damage.

To say he was on death’s door would understate the seriousness of his injuries. In any other war in our nation’s history, these wounds would likely have sealed a soldier’s fate.

The day he received his prosthetic device, he was up and walking around for eight straight hours. When it came to his recovery, Cedeño made a habit of pushing boundaries and breaking records.

Eight short months after his injuries, he became one of the nearly 400 military veterans to attend the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, co-sponsored by DAV and the VA, in Snowmass Village, Colo. For 27 years, this clinic has given injured and ill military



Army Staff Sgt. Kristian “Deno” Cedeño, center, his wife, Gwen, and Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski, following the presentation of the 2013 DAV Freedom Award.

veterans the chance to challenge their physical and mental strength.

And it was there that Cedeño, a one-time avid snowboarder, made unthinkable strides out on the slopes.

“Is it because someone tried to decommission me?” Cedeño pondered. “Because I owe it to my family and friends? Because I owe it to my prothesist who got me back on my feet? Because I owe it to my friends who



“Just because I’m in a wheelchair doesn’t mean I’m not a Marine anymore.”

Marshall Abbott, Marine veteran

pieced me back together?”

The Queens, N.Y., native remains on active duty, stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga., with his wife, Gwen.

“My family fueled me. My wife fueled me. And I was given a second chance. So why slow down?” Cedeño said. “I owe it to the men and women on my left and right who gave me strength when I didn’t have it. So how dare I put that to waste?”

It’s a sentiment that inspired his fellow participants and earned Cedeño the event’s top honor when he was named the DAV Freedom Award recipient. The same spirit runs deep among many others at the clinic.

“I felt like a deserter,” said Army veteran Pam Kelly, speaking about her career-ending injuries. “I didn’t get to go with my unit.”

After 17 years in the Army, Kelly was injured in July 2002 in a training accident leading up to her unit’s deployment to Iraq. She suffered damage to her spine and her shoulders, uses a wheelchair and still battles the emotional challenges.

“I’m still new to trying to get out and do things, so these types of sport activities are something I just love to do,” said Kelly. “The whole week out here is like being back out in the field. It’s just gung-ho and telling everybody, ‘Let’s go; you can do it.’ It’s amazing.”

National Adjutant Marc Burgess, who visited the clinic for his fourth year, agrees the benefits of this event are unparalleled. For returning participants, the clinic is a chance to reconnect with fellow veterans and build on the successes.

“The whole week out here is like being back out in the field. It’s just gung-ho and telling everybody, ‘Let’s go; you can do it.’ It’s amazing.”

Pam Kelly, Army veteran

“Jarod ‘Superman’ Behee generally comes back year after year, and every year he has a brighter outlook on life,” said Burgess, referring to an Army veteran and past participant who was shot in the head by a sniper in Iraq. “Since coming to the clinic, he has become a DAV member and an active member of our community. I believe this clinic has truly changed his life. In fact, he only missed the clinic this year because of his own wedding. I think that’s a testament to how far he has come since being injured.”

For many new veterans, it’s about breaking through their shells and rediscovering their own strengths and abilities.

This was the first clinic for Marshall Abbott, a Marine veteran who suffered a spinal cord injury and spent years in bed, being told about the things he would no longer be able to do. But on the mountain, he put all the “can’t” behind him.

“Just because I’m in a wheelchair doesn’t mean I’m not a Marine anymore, and I’m still going to live life,” said Abbott. “I don’t want anybody to tell me what I can’t do. I want them to say, ‘What do you want to do and how can we assist you?’ And that’s what DAV and the VA have done here this week.”

Few other annual events bring together such a wide array of people linked by the commonality of their injuries and illnesses. Few other places host so many individuals who have scraped rock bottom, only to surge back toward the top, stronger than before. And certainly few other programs have a proven record of completely transforming the lives and mentalities of veterans as does the Winter Sports Clinic. ■



Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year



Rosa Lee Knox

By Joseph R. Chenelly

Caring for veterans' final resting places and putting her all into helping veterans and their families—this year's DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year exemplifies what the organization is all about.

Rosa Lee Knox of Grand Strand Unit 30, Department of South Carolina, is the 2013 honoree. The lifetime member of 22 years is Adjutant of her unit and 1st Junior Vice Commander of the Department. Knox can be found doing something for someone at any given moment.

"Rosa is selfless, dedicated and has shown through her unfaltering service that she is among the Auxiliary's greatest assets—truly an example of what makes the organization great," said Auxiliary National Commander Donna M. Adams.

Knox recently initiated a local cemetery committee, identified veterans' graves and obtained funds to purchase and install headstones to properly mark the hallowed grounds. She also recruited volunteers to tend to the graves and worked through state officials to have the Horry County Cemetery officially designated.

Knox is a tireless advocate for veterans and their families. She also volunteers at nursing homes and homeless shelters, preparing meals, driving the needy to appointments and organizing group events.

"If there is a veterans event in her area," said Adams,

"one could safely expect to find Knox there handing out flags and information about DAV and the Auxiliary."

Knox is well-known to her elected officials, as she regularly contacts them about veteran-related legislation at the state and national levels. She also organizes grassroots efforts to keep fellow voters informed.

The annual award, which is presented at the DAV and

"Rosa is **selfless, dedicated** and has shown through her unfaltering service that she is **among the Auxiliary's greatest assets**—truly an example of what makes the organization great."

Donna M. Adams, Auxiliary National Commander

DAVA National Convention, recognizes the contributions and dedication of an outstanding member of the Auxiliary whose efforts have enhanced the organization's goals. Knox will receive the award at the 2013 convention in Orlando, Fla. ■

From the AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER

DONNA M. ADAMS



A Wonderful Privilege

It's hard to believe that this year is coming to a close. You have given me the opportunity to attend the Presidential Inauguration and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns; visit Pearl Harbor; participate in DAV's legislative testimony to Congress and travel our country from coast to coast. I have visited historical sites, seen the beauty of our land and wonders created by our citizens, and I have witnessed the "Miracles on the Mountainside." But the most memorable aspect of my year as Auxiliary National Commander has been the privilege of meeting so many wonderful members of DAVA.

Everywhere I have traveled, I have met with warm and wonderful people who have chosen our Auxiliary as their vehicle for benevolent giving and their organization for recording so many hours of volunteer service. No matter what city I'm in, as I watch the evening news, I am told about all the bad things that are happening in our country. Isn't it a shame those reporters aren't traveling with me? Their stories would be so much different!

All over the country, we have members who are answering the call when natural disasters occur, transporting veterans to medical appointments, performing invaluable services in VA hospitals and assisting the families of deployed military personnel. We are collecting food, clothing and school supplies for children, helping send them to camp and making sure these same kids feel they're loved by others. Our communities are enriched by our efforts at the polling booths and community events, and we are making our town parades better by our participation. And, as important as anything we do, we are providing information to our veterans and their families.

When I chose the theme of "The Key Is Understanding," I really wasn't aware of the vast amount of knowledge our members have stored up and are sharing. DAV's

National Service Officers are working every day to ensure that the veterans and dependents who come to them receive the very best representation available in their pursuit of veterans' benefits. But it is you, our Unit and Chapter members, who are in the grocery stores, restaurants and community events sharing your knowledge of benefits and programs for veterans and their families.

DAV and the Auxiliary have created an army of soldiers with a single purpose of making a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families, and we are the best trained, most effective fighting unit in the country in that area. Our army doesn't rely on the federal government to continue our fight, and none of us receive medals for the battles we win. Nonetheless, we continue the war every day, and we do it so very well. But with all of our efforts, there is still so much to be done.

Until we are assured that every veteran is receiving the benefits he or she has earned, that every dependent of our veterans is receiving the emotional support they need and the benefits they deserve, and that every American understands our mission and the contributions of our veterans that have made this country great, our job isn't finished.

My year as National Commander is indeed coming to a close, but I will continue to join you in contributing to our programs with my volunteer time. While I have tried to inspire you to remain active in your support for our American heroes and their families, the inspiration that I have received from you has surpassed tenfold any efforts I have made, and I can't thank you enough. I know you all will continue to support the DAVA and continue our fight to leave no veteran or family member behind.

In parting, I again want to thank our veterans for their service to our country and thank you, our Auxiliary members, for your service to our veterans. The key really is understanding.



From the NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

REV. DR. RONALD R. RINGO, Jr.

True Patriots



With the celebration of the birth of our nation on the Fourth of July, I wanted to touch on the meaning of being a true patriot by sharing some of the story of how Francis Scott Key had the desire to serve his country and fellow man and make a difference in this great country's history.

It was when he was serving during the War of 1812, in the middle of saving a friend's life from the hands of the enemy British, and he was held on his ship to await the attack of the British on our shore. Throughout the night, he watched and looked for our great ensign still waving over Fort McHenry, which protected the city of Baltimore.

When the battle was finished and the flag was still there, he frantically wrote down the thoughts and feelings that ran through him. What was composed became *The Star-Spangled Banner*. It was later adopted in 1931 as our national anthem. Key did what he wanted to do in his life; he served others and is known today as a true patriot.

There are many times when we are not feeling our strongest but, when put to the test, we find that we are of great value to someone else in need of a helping hand, leg or arm. A story that exemplifies this is one about Bob Butler, who lost his legs in a 1965 land mine explosion in Vietnam. He returned home a war hero. Twenty years later, he proved once again that heroism comes from the heart.

Butler was working in his garage in a small town in Arizona on a hot summer day when he heard a woman's screams coming from a nearby house. He began rolling his wheelchair toward the house, but the dense shrubbery wouldn't allow him access to the back door. So he got out of his chair and

started to crawl through the dirt and bushes.

When Butler arrived at the neighbor's swimming pool, there was a 3-year-old girl named Stephanie Hanes lying at the bottom. She had been born without arms, had fallen in the water and couldn't swim.

Butler dove to the bottom of the pool and brought little Stephanie up to the deck. Her face was blue; she had no pulse and was not breathing. Butler immediately went to work performing CPR to revive her while Stephanie's mother telephoned the fire department. She was told the paramedics were already out on a call. Helplessly, she sobbed and hugged Butler's shoulder.

As Butler continued with his CPR, he calmly reassured her. "Don't worry," he said. "I was her arms to get out of the pool. It'll be OK. I am now her lungs. Together, we can make it." Seconds later the little girl coughed, regained consciousness and began to cry. As they hugged and rejoiced together, the mother asked Butler how he knew it would be OK.

"The truth is, I don't know," he told her. "But when my legs were blown off in the war, I was all alone in a field. No one was there to help except a little Vietnamese girl. As she struggled to drag me into her village, she whispered in broken English, 'It OK. You can live. I be your legs. Together we make it.' Her kind words brought hope to my soul, and I wanted to do the same for Stephanie."

As always, it is my hope that this message will help you this week to "mount up as on eagle's wings" and renew a little of your strength to keep moving forward and find joy. (*Isaiah 40:31*)

Until next time, may God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our great nation...SEMPER FI.

TSA Revamps Screening Policy for Veteran Amputees

By Thom Wilborn

A letter sent to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) by National Commander Larry A. Polzin has led to greater leniency in the screening of active-duty and veteran amputees flying on the nation's airlines.

Polzin objected to the TSA's security screening procedures for veterans who use prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs and scooters boarding aircraft. "Some screeners have required these amputees to expose their prostheses when they lack the ability to reposition their clothing, and TSA agents are not allowed to help them, nor do they allow spouses or traveling companions to enter private search areas to assist the amputees," Polzin said in a March 8 letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

As a result, the agency announced March 27 that it would offer expedited screening to severely injured veterans, allowing them to move through security checkpoints without having to remove shoes, light outerwear or hats. The TSA also said it would allow someone to accompany an amputee during a private screening.

Daniel McCann, the head of TSA's Office of Security Operations, wrote Polzin on April 4 that amputees may have a companion accompany them into the private screening area and remain through the screening process to assist the veterans in repositioning any displaced clothing. "The Transportation Security Officers



ANTHONY BEHAR/SIPA USA (SIPA VIA AP IMAGES)

performing the pat-down will not require or ask the veteran to remove the prostheses," McCann wrote. "However, the Transportation Security Officers may need to touch the prosthesis as part of the screening process."

In his letter, Polzin cited a screening of National 4th Junior Vice Commander David Riley, a quadruple amputee, in which he was required to lower his trousers, removing his belt and suspenders. "He could not reattach them or pull his trousers up," said Polzin. "On another occasion, a TSA agent asked him to remove one of his prosthetic legs. That is a shameful way to treat a veteran who has sacrificed so greatly for our nation."

Polzin urged Napolitano to provide a "consistent, respectable and dignified way to allow veterans to undergo screening without having to prove their prosthetic devices pose no threat.

"Mr. Riley is one of many who travel extensively on behalf of DAV," he said. "He deserves all the respect and dignity that the TSA can afford him in

all security screenings. He should not be asked to remove the prosthetic devices that give him mobility and then be left to his own devices to put them back on, using only the prosthetic claws available to him."

Polzin urged Napolitano to provide special training for TSA screeners in dealing with veteran amputees and how they should be treated. McCann said the TSA has redesigned its new-hire training program to emphasize proper screening techniques for injured and ill active-duty service members and veterans.

McCann said the program would emphasize courtesy that will help new-hire Transportation Security officers better assess veterans' specific needs through the screening process.

"It is gratifying to see the TSA act quickly in response to our call to treat our veterans right, while at the same time, protecting the safety of our nation's flying public," Polzin said. "Never should a veteran be treated with such callous actions that Dave Riley and many others have encountered." ■

VA Expedites Older Claims

■ Veterans who have been waiting longer than a year for a decision on their compensation claims may be able to collect benefits more quickly, if eligible. Under a new initiative, VA claims raters will make provisional decisions on the oldest claims in inventory, and veterans will have up to a year to submit additional evidence for consideration before the VA issues a final decision.

The VA will continue to prioritize claims for homeless veterans, those claiming financial hardship, the terminally ill, former prisoners of war, Medal of Honor recipients and veterans filing fully developed claims.

“DAV was supportive of this plan early on in the initial discussions,”

said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski, “although we had a few concerns which have been incorporated into the plan.”

Provisional rating decisions will be based on all evidence provided to date. If a VA medical examination is needed, it will be scheduled and expedited as well, according to the VA.

If an increase is determined to be warranted based on additional evidence, benefits will be retroactive to the date the claim was initially filed. If no further evidence is provided within the one-year window, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) will inform the veteran that the rating is final

and provide information on the appeals process.

“To their credit, VBA leadership sought the input of the major veterans service organizations before moving forward. We offered a number of concerns and suggestions, which the VA adopted before moving forward. Most of the success of this project depends upon the local regional offices following the guidance from the VA Central Office as intended,” said Jesinoski. “In the end, I believe this is the right thing to do.

“If somehow the project appears to be working in a manner that doesn’t serve our veterans, DAV will be the first to call for the needed change,” Jesinoski stressed.

First Lady urges CEOs to hire more veterans

■ Michelle Obama challenged the nation’s top chief executive officers in March to hire more veterans.

The First Lady said that while a decline in overall unemployment are encouraging, joblessness among veterans, particularly those who served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, is higher than the national average. About 200,000 veterans are jobless, not including spouses and those who will return home after the United States ends its combat mission in Afghanistan.

Addressing a meeting of the Business Roundtable in Washington, which represents CEOs of the 200 largest U.S. corporations, Mrs. Obama said the “Joining Forces” campaign she launched two years ago with Dr. Jill Biden, the vice president’s wife, to rally the country around its military members, has led businesses to hire or train more than



First lady Michelle Obama speaks to the quarterly meeting of member Chief Executive Officers of the Business Roundtable in Washington, Wednesday, March 13, 2013. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

125,000 veterans and military spouses. The private sector also has pledged to hire or train 250,000 more veterans by the end of 2014.

“Whether you’re in finance or technology or the food industry, every single one of you can ask yourselves that same question: ‘What more can we do?’” Mrs. Obama said.

In challenging the CEOs, Mrs.

Obama highlighted Wal-Mart’s pledge to hire more than 100,000 veterans in the next five years as part of its plan to help jumpstart the economy.

Separately, UPS said that it will hire more than 25,000 veterans during the next five years. The company will also commit more than 25,000 employee volunteer hours to helping veterans and the organizations that serve them.

Two Veterans Talk About Commitment **and Giving Back**

She served in the Air Force; he was a Marine. She treated the wounded in Operation Desert Storm; he fought in Vietnam. Two of their kids have served during the past decade of war—one in the Navy, the other in the Army.

Alana and Scott DeGarmo know about commitment. Their family lives that virtue. Asked why they included DAV in their wills, and as a percentage beneficiary of their life insurance policy, they spoke of the organization's "willingness and commitment to assist veterans."



"DAV works tirelessly on so many fronts... we cannot do enough for those who are willing to give their lives for our freedom."

*~ Alana and Scott DeGarmo, Florida
DAV Guardian Society members*

When Scott and Alana think of DAV, three related words come to their minds: help, resources and compassion.

"DAV works tirelessly to support veterans on so many fronts," said Scott. "The large amount of resources simply amazes me."

Alana added, "I am overcome with gratitude every time I see a service member in uniform. We cannot do enough for those who are willing to give their lives for our freedom. I love what DAV does in support of veterans."

At DAV, we cherish the story of every veteran's service and what inspires them to give back to their fellow veterans.

■ If you have created an estate gift for DAV, please let us know. We'd like to thank you through the Guardian Society, our appreciation for future gifts.

■ Legal address for estate gifts: **Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250; tax identification number: 31-0263158.**

■ For more information, or to receive our estate planning folder, please call **1-800-216-9802 (ext. 1)**, email giftplanning@dav.org, or visit www.dav.org/giftplanning.

We look forward to hearing from you!



PROTECTING THOSE WHO SERVED



Giving Back to Ill and Injured Veterans...

Frank Plescia, POW/MIA Chair for the state of Florida, presents Chief of Mental Health Dr. Fernandez-Milo, West Palm Beach VA medical center with a case of books that will be used in the Post Deployment Clinic at the VA. The generous donation that made the purchase of How I Stayed Alive When My Brain Was Trying to Kill Me is thanks to Gloria Schmidt, DAV Auxiliary member.



WWO Spring Turkey Hunt...

The Wounded Warrior Outdoors held its spring turkey hunt at Lake Cumberland State Park, Jamestown, Ky. The program helps get young veterans out of the hospital and back into the field.



Mission Accomplished...

Commander J. Jimenez, with members of DAV Chapter 41 of Wichita Falls, Texas, celebrate reaching their recruitment quota for 2012-2013.



Gone Fishing...

Members of Chapter 3 in Rapid City, S.D., gather for their second annual walleye fishing tournament in Pierre, S.D. Each of the 13 veterans who attended the event was paired with a local guide who donated time, equipment and boats. (Photo by Julie Furchner of Capital Journal)

Share Your DAV News

Send in photos of the things your Chapter or Department is doing. Images should be submitted in JPEG format, 300 dpi or larger. Photos should be accompanied by a description, and all persons should be identified when possible. Submissions are subject to editing for clarity, style, accuracy, space and propriety. Send your Chapter/Department news to feedback@dav.org.



All Aboard...

Napa Valley Yacht Club hosted DAV members at its clubhouse for one week in June. Members were invited to sail and fish with the crew of the *Independence*, which is owned by Monterey Bay Veterans and operated by volunteers.



Outstanding Service...

Ralph Poe, right, of Ashe Co. Chapter 8 presents Marvin Greer with a Lifetime Achievement Award for longterm service to Veterans of Foreign Wars. Poe received a Chapter Commander of the Year Award.



Free Health Expo for Veterans, Active-Duty Men and Women...

Vascular surgeon Christopher Stout, left, receives a DAV hat from radio host "Cocoa Butter" of 95.7 RnB FM, who is also a veteran, and Chapter 21 Commander George L. Smith. Earlier this year, DAV Chapter 21 in Norfolk, Va., and the National Organization for Aortic Awareness hosted the first Veterans Health Exposition at the Hampton (Va.) Convention Center.

Disabled Veteran of the Year

(Continued from pg. 5)

impressions on veterans and their families, as well as with the members of his community."

Todd joined DAV Chapter 19 in Fraser, Mich., in 2010, where he serves as the Judge Advocate. He is currently a full-time professor of business law and American legal studies at Rochester College in Rochester Hills, Mich. He lives in Oxford, Mich., with Joyce, his wife of 38 years. Together they have two daughters and one grandson.

In 2010, Todd was featured in the television documentary, "Our Vietnam Generation," on PBS.

"We thank Mr. Todd for his commendable service to the nation and his continued dedication to veterans and their family members," said National Service Director Garry Augustine. "His legislative work has changed lives and continues to help DAV fulfill promises to injured and ill veterans and their families. He is a model for

turning one's circumstances into successful service, and he is truly deserving of this honor." ■



Despite his vision loss, John Todd (right) is an accomplished carpenter, having undertaken multiple construction projects at his home and for the newly acquired DAV Chapter office in Berkley, Mich.

Tornado Relief

(Continued from pg. 8)

Joplin, Mo., sent money to reciprocate the support they received when that city was struck by a devastating tornado. The Department of Arizona pledged financial assistance, and “The Fight Continues” (a post-9/11 veterans group) teamed up with DAV to assist veterans. Meanwhile, businessman Harry Patterson of Patterson Auto Group in Wichita Falls, Texas, loaned vehicles that DAV distributed to tornado victims. “With the massive loss of transportation, this was a greatly needed asset,” Hammons said.

Veterans who received DAV vouchers were directed to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, which distributed \$171,000 in emergency aid grants to veterans. “They were told to establish a working partnership with DAV, and the number of claims they accepted exceeded their annual budget, with increased funding being requested,” Oliver said.

The joint service-officer team also filed disaster claims through the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion, which distributed nearly \$300,000 each in emergency aid grants to veterans.

“DAV transported several hundred veterans to the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center from Moore, Shawnee and the surrounding area to receive medical care and medication,” said Oliver. “Veterans were also taken to relief centers for a hot meal and a shower.”

“The people here were really not sure what to do,” said NSO White. “We were able to help them on the spot.”

Because of DAV’s speed and efficiency in providing assistance, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs processed their grants in 24 to 48 hours rather than the usual two to three weeks. “They’ve seen how quickly DAV can turn things around, and they want to equal that,” White said. “DAV and the state have been able to help 370 families so far, and we expect that number will continue to increase in the El Reno area.

“I just want to help everyone I can,” White said. “Veterans have wept in appreciation for the help we’ve been able to give them.”

“I was amazed that DAV stopped the world to help me,” Early said. “For the first three days, we lived in a tent. Then DAV came to help and they fulfilled their promise to us. I am very grateful.”

“DAV stepped up for me,” said Haywood. “I got a voucher for immediate needs and DAV got me a loaner car and brought it to me. DAV volunteers even helped us search through the rubble of our home. I am totally



DAV distributed nearly 400 emergency grants to veterans. For many, the assistance allowed access to simple necessities such as food and shelter as they waited for their insurance companies to award payment for their losses.

grateful for what they did. I just want to thank DAV from the bottom of my heart.”

“DAV gave me a voucher, which paid for a roof over my head,” said Thompson. “Then they got me a loaner vehicle. I’m joining DAV. I’m so overjoyed that I want to be part of the organization to help pay it back.

“It’s real hard right now,” she said. “We need clothes and didn’t have a clean change for our son. It’s hard for him to understand why he had to wear dirty clothes. We told him the storm took away his clean ones.

“There are lots of people asking what more can they do, but I have no answers,” Thompson said. “You don’t think about yourself or the things you need until you need them.”

When she was searching through the smashed homes on the day of the tornado, Thompson remembers freeing one trapped woman. “She asked me ‘Where do you go from here?’ I asked her if she remembered her life before the storm, and of course she did. I told her to hang on to those memories because the storm can never take them away.”

The assistance and coordination provided by the Department of Oklahoma was magnificent,” said Adjutant Burgess. “Cougar Hammons, Danny Oliver and all those who worked and volunteered helped soften the tremendous impact this disaster had on these citizens. It was remarkable work.”

“DAV disaster aid did what it was meant to do,” said Jesinoski. “It provided ill and injured veterans with necessary assistance immediately after the storm. DAV is pleased that our efforts succeeded so well and so quickly for them. It is just one of the things DAV does to honor the promises made to the men and women who served our nation.” ■

Ashleigh Bryant and Joe Chenelly contributed to this article.

Past National Service Director Passes

William E. Gearhart

Jan. 25, 1924 – May 5, 2013

William E. Gearhart traveled the globe, first fighting for freedom and then for his brothers and sisters in arms, but on May 5, 2013, the World War II veteran died in Bethlehem, Pa., just miles from where he was born 89 years earlier, in Allentown, Pa.

Gearhart was appointed National Service Director in 1978. He directed DAV's nationwide program of service to disabled veterans and their families until his retirement in 1982.

"We have lost a resolute advocate with the passing of Bill Gearhart," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "Many thousands benefited from Bill's tireless efforts. Veterans and DAV, as an organization, were blessed to have such a dedicated leader. He was a role model and true friend to many, and among the greatest to have led DAV's signature service program."

Gearhart enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and was deployed to England,



Gearhart

France and Belgium as a technical sergeant in a supply company. He was injured in 1945 and subsequently discharged with service-connected disability the following year.

After the war, Gearhart trained at American University in Washington, D.C., to become a National Service Officer. He achieved that goal in 1948, assuming a post with DAV in Philadelphia. In 1969, he assumed supervision of DAV's efforts at the Veterans Benefits Office in Washington, D.C.

He became the Claims Chief and supervisor of DAV's staff at the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C., in 1972. Two years later, he crossed town to become Chief of Claims at DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters.

He was appointed Deputy National Service Director of Claims in 1976 and National Service Director in 1978. He retired from that post in 1982.

"Bill's knowledge, experience, expertise and compassion had a tremendous, lasting influence on DAV's service program," Burgess said. "He will be forever missed."

As a life member of Eastern Montgomery Chapter 115 in Philadelphia and the Ernie Pyle Chapter 4 in Silver Spring, Md., Gearhart remained an active supporter of veterans in his retirement, delivering meals in Maryland and Pennsylvania for many years.

Gearhart and his wife, Doris, celebrated 66 years of marriage in February. He is survived by his wife, nieces and nephews.

Richard D. Krueger, retired NSO

June 8, 1931 – March 27, 2013

Retired National Service Officer and Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Dee "Dick" Krueger was born in Milwaukee to Leota and Edwin Krueger. He grew up in Janesville, Wisc., enlisting in September 1949. Krueger served tours of duty in England, Italy and Thailand. His stateside tours included Georgia, Florida, Michigan and Ohio. His last assignment was to Space and Missile Systems Organization, Los Angeles Air Force Base, El Segundo, Calif. Dick retired from the Air Force in 1975, joined DAV



Krueger

and became an NSO in Los Angeles in 1979. Krueger retired from DAV in 1996.

"Dick was the consummate professional, dedicated for his entire adult life to serving his nation and his fellow veterans," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "He helped more veterans and their families than we could ever count. He is dearly missed but will never be forgotten."

Krueger continued serving veterans as a volunteer for years after his retirement. He is survived by wife, Dolores; daughter, Kristine; and son, Richard Jr., all of Los Angeles.

REUNIONS

ARMY

11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSN./FORMER MEMBERS OF 11TH AIR ASSAULT DIVISION/187TH AIRBORNE RCT AND 503RD AIRBORNE RCT September 22-26, 2013, Fayetteville, NC, Contact: Randy Kuhn, 877-922-3936, rkcoa188@gmail.com.

17TH AND 82ND AIRBORNE 507TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT (WORLD WAR II PARATROOPERS) September 18-22, 2013, Columbus, GA, Hilton Garden Inn, Contact: K. Gault, pir507secy1@aol.com.

114TH REGIMENT, 44TH INFANTRY DIVISION September 13-15, 2013, Boston, MA, Contact: David Weiner, 413-783-6432, poetman@comcast.net.

148TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 37TH DIVISION August 23-24, 2013, Port Clinton, OH, Contact: Steve Whitcraft, 419-203-8340, ckst@watchTV.net.

170TH AHC, VIETNAM, 1965-71, THE "BIKINIS" September 26-29, 2013, St. Louis, MO, Contact: Henry Winther, 847-546-7186, Web: www.170th.org.

192ND ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY AND ATTACHED UNITS FT. RILEY, KANSAS November 7-11, 2013, Washington, DC, Contact: Ed Michaud, 203-583-6015, Emich192@yahoo.com.

1ST & 9TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS - 5TH BATTALION, 60TH INFANTRY REGIMENT - VIETNAM (ALL YEARS) September 11-15, 2013, Washington, DC, Contact: Tony Sparaco, 516-293-6219, tony_sparaco@yahoo.com.

218TH MP COMPANY (VN 67-72) September 15-19, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: Dick Reiter, 307-362-6599, rreiter@wyoming.com.

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. September 22-25, 2013, Louisville, KY, Contact: Gene E. Spicer, 812-521-2324, carolynbr@frontiernet.net.

27TH INFANTRY DIVISION (THE WOLFHOOUNDS) HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. August 25-September 1, 2013, Irvine, CA, Contact: John Coon, 949-334-7745, johncoon.d127@gmail.com, Web: www.wolfhound.pack.wolfhoundsonline.org.

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY August 1-4, 2013, St. Louis, Missouri, Contact: Don Torrini, 618-920-3810, donaldo12@aol.com.

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. September 4-7, 2013, Annville, PA, Contact: Gwenn Underwood, 717-944-6721, gwennu45@gmail.com, Web: www.28thinfantrydivisionassoc.org.

335TH RADIO RESEARCH COMPANY August 22-25, 2013, San Diego, CA, Contact: Jim Mossman, 513-779-7145, jmossmann@fuse.net.

39TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "GATHERING OF THE FALCONS" August 1-3, 2013, Indianapolis, IN, Contact: Cal Meyer, 406-600-0888, LZambush239@msn.com.

3RD BATTALION, 8TH INFANTRY "IVY DRAGOONS" July 25-28, 2013, Gatlinburg, TN, Contact: Steve Edmunds, 949-294-6981, edmundsdb@aol.com.

44TH ENGINEER (BROKEN HEART) BATTALION, KOREA, IRAQ AND FORT CARSON September 18-21, 2013, Atlanta/Marietta, GA, Contact: Ken Jobe, 757-404-2590.

503RD AIRBORNE RCT ASSN. WWII September 5-8, 2013, Bentonville, AR, Contact: Nelson Gatewood, 870-856-2216, www503rdprct@yahoo.com.

5TH BATTALION/60TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION (9TH INFANTRY DIVISION) September 11-15, 2013, Washington, DC, Contact: Lee Alley, 307-331-8902, lee@leealley.us, Web: www.5thbattalion.tripod.com.

509TH ENGINEER COMPANY PB September 5-7, 2013, Walker, MN, Contact: Dennis Kremenak, 319-393-7590; tkremenak@mchsi.com.

512TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY September 13-14, 2013, Sierra Vista, AZ, Contact: B. J. Searcy, 520-456-1229 or 520-249-9516, Dbjsearcy@powerc.net.

68TH ANTI AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GUN BATTALION (68TH AAA)/508TH October 24-27, 2013, Orange Beach, AL, Contact: Herb Waters, 251-937-5771, herbertwaters@bellsouth.net.

630TH ENGINEERS L. E. REUNION September 19-22,

2013, Branson, MO, Contact: Cecil Brown, 731-415-6460, ceclinbrown@charter.net.

83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. July 31-August 4, 2013, Arlington, VA, Contact: Clifton Wooldridge, 603-875-3649.

864TH ENGINEER BATTALION ALUMNI ASSN. (WWII TO PRESENT) October 3-6, 2013, Nashville, TN, Contact: Zak Grogan, 615-516-1119, hs.zak.grogan@gmail.com.

ARIZONA ASA ASSOCIATION August 16-18, 2013, Mesa, AZ, Contact: Jerry Darr, 480-570-1252, ardg308@gmail.com, Web: www.azasaa.org.

ARMY SECURITY AGENCY (ASA/INSCOM) REUNION PICNIC August 3, 2013, Fort Meade, MD, Contact: Nels Johnson, 703-517-9321, nelson.johnson@verizon.net, Web: www.asaaancr.org.

B COMPANY, 1/6 INFANTRY, 198TH BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION 1967-68 VIETNAM October 2-4, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: Ted Andrews, 973-383-8970, tandrews078@embarkmail.com.

B — 2/501ST INFANTRY (101ST ABN DIV) RVN 67-72 July 10-14, 2013, Fargo, ND, Contact: Chuck German, 701-783-4386 or 701-710-0315, Web: www.B2501Airborne.com.

DUSTERS, QUADS, SEARCHLIGHTS, VULCANS AND HAWKS, 31ST ANNUAL REUNION August 7-11, 2013, Oklahoma City, OK, Contact: Bruce Geiger, 914-576-1050, bmgiege@aol.com, Web: www.ndqsa.com.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE 6TH INFANTRY DIVISION (ALL UNITS AND ALL ERAS) September 4-8, 2013, Arlington, VA, Contact: Russ McLogan, 517-437-2768, terruspress@dmci.net.

NATIONAL PATHFINDER ASSN. "LEGACY" October 4-6, 2013, Williamsburg, VA, Contact: Dean Nelson, 970-353-0146, nelent@aol.com.

OV-1 MOHAWK ASSN. (GRUMMAN) September 5-7, 2013, Savannah, GA, Contact: Paul Jacobsen, 763-493-2428, jacobsenpaule@hotmail.com, Web: www.ov1mohawkassociation.org.

US ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND JAPAN ASSN. (1945-PRESENT) September 16-19, 2013, New Orleans, LA, Contact: Charles W. S. Jezycki, 707-257-6818, charleswsj@msn.com, Web: www.usamcja.com.

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION - VIETNAM September 5-8, 2013, Rapid City, SD, Contact: Rod Green, 605-360-1240, randhgreen@sio.midco.net.

MARINES

1ST BATTALION 7TH MARINES, H & S COMPANY/1ST BATTALION 9TH MARINES September 26-29, 2013, Quinico, VA, Contact: John T. Ward, 412-371-3639, jtwardmarine1@yahoo.com.

3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE, 3RD MAR/DIV REUNION August 28-September 1, 2013, Herndon, VA, Contact: Travis Fryzowicz, 732-251-5518, maddogandgrace@verizon.net.

AVIATION LOGISTICS MARINES September 20-21, 2013, Cherry Point, North Carolina, Contact: Don Davis, 252-444-1777, gregyegl@ec.rc.com.

DELTA 1/7 VIETNAM MARINES, INC. September 19-22, 2013, Asheville, North Carolina, Contact: George J. Schneider, II, 989-486-3103, Web: www.delta-company-1stbattalion-7thmarines-vietnam-veterans.com or www.marzone.com.

FOX COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION, KOREA (1950-1953) October 23-27, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: Bill French, 417-739-5541.

MARINE AIR GROUPS REUNION (WWII TO PRESENT) October 2-5, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: James Jordan, 417-535-4945, james.m.jordan@hughes.net.

MARINE BARRACKS SASEBO, JAPAN October 22-25, 2013, Reno, Nevada, Contact: C. R. McCarthy, 515-274-9110, Coach430@aol.com.

MIKE CO 3RD BATTALION 7TH REGIMENT (VIETNAM ASSN.) September 4-7, 2013, Natick, MA, Contact: Jim Hastings, 508-966-0364, snopymike@aol.com.

USMC MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSN. September 15-18, 2013, Norfolk, VA, Contact: Terry Hightower, 910-450-1841, secretary@usmcmta.org.

USMC VIETNAM TANKERS ASSN. October 31-November 4, 2013, San Antonio, TX, Contact: John

Wear, 215-794-9052, johnwear@yahoo.com.

NAVY

MOBILE RIVERINE MARINE ASSN. August 28-September 1, 2013, Indianapolis, IN, Contact: Michael Kelley, 317-308-0760, michaeljosk@yahoo.com.

NAVY PHOTOGRAPHIC SQUADRONS ASSN. FAPS 1/VD-1, 2, 3, 4, 5/VPP-1, 2/VF-61, 62/VJ-61, 62/VAP 61, 62/VFP-62, 63 September 23-26, 2013. Contact Norman Smalley, 316-630-0577, nsmalley29@yahoo.com. All veterans, reserves, active duty welcome.

NMCB-3 VETERANS (ALL ERAS) September 19-22, 2013, Port Hueneme, CA, Contact: Jack Davis, 606-546-8491, nmc3vra@hotmail.com, Web: www.seabee3.org.

NSVA CONVENTION MCB1/MCB9/MCB10 August 21-25, 2013, Warwick, RI, Contact: Peter Dowd, 781-837-0393, mcb1reunion@verizon.net.

USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CV/CVA-31) SHIP COMPANY AND AIR GROUPS & USS BON HOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) September 12-14, 2013, Rapid City, SD, Contact: Frank Pulliam, 417-684-1358.

USS BOSTON (CA-69/CAG-1/SSN-703) July 11-14, 2013, Albuquerque, NM, Contact: Arthur L. Hebert, 603-672-8772, Web: www.usssboston.org.

USS CURTISS (AV-4) September 4-7, 2013, San Diego, CA, Contact: B. Bruce Snider, 956-423-2214, bruceusscurtissav4@rgvrr.com, Web: www.ussscurtiss.com.

USS DAMATO (DD/DDE-871) October 6-10, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: Jim Niedzielski, 269-998-7103, Web: www.reunionpro.com.

USS EDSON (DD-946) July 31-August 4, 2013, Bay City, MI, Contact: Tim Nightingale, 586-202-2202, tim32968@gmail.com, Web: www.edson.military-reunion.com.

USS ELDORADO AGC 11 September 10-14, 2013, Norfolk, VA, Contact: John Wilhelm, 704-933-6416.

USS ELOKOMIN (AO-55) September 24-27, 2013; Lancaster, PA, Contact: Robert F. O'Sullivan, 617-288-3755, theeloman@verizon.net.

USS FORT SNELLING (LSD-30) September 13-15, 2013, Warwick, RI, Contact: Dominic Gerand, 516-443-0888, Cl5252@aol.com.

USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754) September 26-29, 2013, Virginia Beach, VA, Contact: John Coffey, 706-335-0724, johnjudyc@gmail.com.

USS GREENWICH BAY (AVP-41) September 26-29, 2013, Baltimore, MD, Contact: Martin Brown, 910-582-3791, ussgreenwichbay@gmail.com.

USS HAMNER 718 October 16-19, 2013, Tucson, AZ, Contact: Jim Tighe, 716-649-5997, lynn721@gmail.com.

USS HARLAN R. DICKSON (DD-708) September 15-19, 2013, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Herman Ibach, 904-641-0650, hermanibach@bellsouth.net.

USS HOLLISTER (DD-788) September 25-28, 2013, Albany, NY, Contact: Ed Gundersen, 518-842-7126, gunder788@verizon.net, Web: www.usshollister.org.

USS INGERSOLL (DD-652/DD-990) September 6-9, 2013, Duluth, MN, Contact: Dick Fontana, 218-666-5702, dick.fontana@yahoo.com, Web: www.uss-ingersoll_vets.tripod.com.

USS IOWA (BB-61) October 9-13, 2013, Houston, TX, Contact: Michael Meldrum, 317-535-6589, Muddrumb61@hotmail.com.

USS MCDERMUT (DD-677) October 6-10, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: Jack Henderson, 417-337-9586, jacsueh@yahoo.com.

USS MERRIMACK (AO-179) September 27-29, 2013, Chicago, IL, Contact: Richard Wales, 224-656-3790, www.reta20@comcast.net.

USS MONTRAIL (APA-213) October 3-6, 2013; Branson, MO, Contact: Don DiCoio, 973-696-3725, dicio44@aol.com.

USS MOUNT MCKINLEY ASSN. September 18-22, 2013, Portland, OR, Contact: Dwight L. Janzen, 509-534-3649, djanzen4@msn.com.

USS NAVARRO (APA-215) October 7-10, 2013, New Orleans, LA, Contact: John Majors, 225-978-5502, majors@qualitytransport.net.

USS NEWPORT (LST-1179) September 4-8, 2013, Carter, WI, Contact: Ray Batiato, 540-239-0159, Batman@swva.net.

USS OAK HILL (LSD-7) September 12-15, 2013,

Honolulu, HI, Contact: Raylah Holm, 509-607-9021, raylah@aol.com, Web: www.ussoakhillssd7.myevent.com.
USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CV/CVA/ CVS-47) October 24-29, 2013, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: USS Philippine Sea Assn., 941-743-5460, Philsea@embarqmail.com.

USS PIEDMONT (AD-17) September 25-29, 2013, Seattle/Tacoma, WA, Contact: Ruth Geraghty, 201-339-5155, rwgeraghty@verizon.net.

USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-31) September 11-15, 2013, Kissimmee, FL, Contact: John Nicolosi, 978-532-0717.

USS RENDOVA (CVE-114) October 7-11, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: Chuck Fecay or Sue Foley, 313-565-1515, cfecay@att.net.

USS ROY O. HALE (DE/DER-336) September 23-25, 2013, Mt. Pleasant, SC, Contact: Simona Robinson, 603-867-2023, simonarobinson@metrocast.net.

USS SPHINX (ARL-24) ALL CREWS September 16-19, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: Frank Ironi, 320-352-3271, fironi@mainstreetcom.com.

USS TRATHEN (DD-530) September 12-14, 2013, Cincinnati, OH, Contact: Ron Keeler, 843-795-1484, ronksc@att.net.

USS WALDRON (DD-699) October 23-27, 2013, New Orleans, LA, Contact: Bill Turner, 985-264-3294, dtcsiti@cs.com.

USS WALKER (DD-517) September 9-12, 2013, Charleston, SC, Contact: Michael Goggins, 414-774-5201, m.bgoggins@att.net.

USS WARRINGTON (DD-843) September 25-29, 2013, Valley Forge, PA, Contact: Stan Prager, 916-791-6700, stashuman843@msn.com.

USS WORDEN (DLG-18/CG-18) September 4-8, 2013, New Orleans, LA, Contact: Dennis Royer, 717-733-9223, dlg18@dejazzd.com.

USS HARRY E. YATNELL (DLG/CG-17) November 9-11, 2013, Virginia Beach, VA, Contact: Bill Brewer, 703-356-1274, BIGVTX1800@aol.com.

AIR FORCE

4TH FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR WING, 334/335/336 FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR SQUADRONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES September 18-21, 2013, Dayton, OH, Contact: Andy Whipple, 352-259-7792

377TH SECURITY POLICE REUNION, TAN SON NHUT, VIETNAM April 24-27, 2014, Wilmington, DE, Contact: Tim Clifford, 724-742-0180, tjcliff@consolidated.net.

5TH COMMUNICATIONS GROUP/934TH SIGNAL BATTALION (KOREA 50-54) October 6-12, 2013, Waukesha, WI, Contact: Chuck Siegismund, 501-985-1310, sparkyarky@comcast.net.

526TH FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON/TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON October 10-13, 2013, Tucson, AZ, Contact: Joe Shambon, 520-572-4636, eshambo618@gmail.com.

61ST FIGHTER INTERCEPTER SQUADRON NEWFOUNDLAND October 24-26, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: Charles "Chris" Christianson, 763-295-2861, cncask4it@gmail.com.

6314 SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON (OSAN AIR BASE, KOREA) 1968-69 November 9-11, 2013, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Vincent Darcangelo, 724-877-9339, darcangelo@adelphia.net.

86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSN. WWII September 18-22, 2013, Fort Walton Beach, FL, Contact: Dallas Lowe, 850-319-3047, lowe_dallas@yahoo.com.

AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION, SHADOWS & STINGERS; AIR & GROUND CREW; 71ST, 17TH & 18TH SOS September 26-29, 2013, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Jerry Hester, 210-663-3159, jhester7.satz@gmail.com.

BIEN HOA AFB REUNION August 22-24, 2013, Fairborn, OH, Contact: Tim Pierce, tap6869nam@gmail.com.

C-7A CARIBOU ASSOCIATION (VIETNAM) October 9-13, 2013, Seattle, WA, Contact: Pat Hanavan, 210-479-0226, PatHanavan@aol.com.

GEEIA-MDA-EI October 3-6, 2013, Oklahoma City, OK, Contact: James Street, 405-733-5041, streetjames@att.net.

MARINE AIR GROUPS REUNION (WWII TO PRESENT) October 2-5, 2013, Branson, MO, Contact: James Jordan, 417-535-4945, james.m.jordan@hughes.net.

WOMEN IN THE AIR FORCE ASSN. September 11-16,

2013, Salt Lake City, UT, Contact: Veda Jones, 435-613-9537, vedaj40@emerytel.com.net.

ALL SERVICES

299TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION AND THE DAK TO DEFENDERS October 2, 2013, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Barry Avent, 336-656-0882, lbtank4612@yahoo.com.

USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CV/CVA/ CVS-47) October 24-29, 2013, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: USS Philippine Sea Assn., 941-743-5460, Philsea@embarqmail.com, Web: www.philsea@embarqmail.com.

VETERANS OF THE KOREAN WAR REUNION October 8-10, 2013, Virginia Beach, VA, Contact: F. D. Newkirk, 757-340-9801, fnewkirk1@cox.net.

COAST GUARD

2013 SPENCER REUNION September 19-22, 2013, Cheektowaga, NY, Contact: Bob Marzen, 570-325-4414, marzenh@netzero.net.

INQUIRIES

- Searching for anyone who knows if the US Army maintained a hospital at Sandia, New Mexico in the 1950s, particularly 1951. Please contact Marko J. Skof, PSC 41, Box R5515, APO AE 09464.
- Searching for anyone who served at APO 858 NEAC, 6611th Abcon Sac, Narsarssuak, Greenland during the years of 1956-57 for the months of June rotation. If you were aboard the C-54 that crashed landed in May/June 1956, please contact Earl Stout, 14386 Hwy. 196, Box 401, Genoa, AR 71840.
- Searching for anyone who served at Camp Mercer, Korea 1966 to 1968 or with the 547th Engineer Company FB Combat. Please contact M. Gibson, P.O. Box 557, Riddle, OR 97469, telephone 541-670-779 or meordale@tymewyse.com.
- Searching for anyone who served in the 32nd Sig Bn, Gibbs Kaserne, Frankfurt, Germany from April 1963 to November 1965, or anyone stationed at McNair Kaserne, Hoechst, Germany. Please contact Saleem Muhammad, telephone 336-833-5606, or saleemxxxx@gmail.com.
- Searching for anyone who served in the Military Police Company during 1959-60 at Fort Richardson, Alaska. Please contact Charles Kelley, 709 Mineral Street, Galena, KS 66739 or KelleyCharles@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who served on the USS Chicago CG-11, 12/1/72 to 10/1/1973, USS Preble DLG-15, 3/1/70 to 10/72, please contact Homer Ray Peterson,

5000 Old Buncombe Road, Apt. 27232, Greenville, SC 29617, telephone 864-553-9596.

- Searching for anyone who served on USS LST-77 during World War II. Contact Elmer Higgs, 11790 CR 140, Flint, TX 75762, telephone 903-894-5936.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in the Korean War 1950-51 with the 74th Engineer Combat Battalion. Please contact A. B. Barnes, 240 Fayetteville Street, Durham, NC 27707, telephone 919-688-4775.
- Searching for anyone who served with the 39th Infantry Regiment "Fighting Falcons" Vietnam 1966-69. Please contact Cal Meyer at 406-600-0888.
- Searching for anyone who was stationed at A Trp, 1/17 Cav, 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg, NC from 1974 to 1976. Please contact David P. McCain, P.O. Box 672, 510 Boone Street, Roseboro, NC 28382.
- Searching for anyone who witnessed an open fire on the USS Bagley DD-386 on December 7, 1941. Please contact Dennis Boyd, 1930 Cutler Road, Cutler, ME 04626, denniswboyd@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who witnessed or heard of the building of a temporary bridge over a stream in Kumwha Valley, Korea, by 2nd Infantry Division, 82nd AAA AW Battalion circa 1952. Please contact James Callahan at 7185@yahoo.com.
- Searching for a man named "Carson" who was a Navy Mechanic on the LCT-221 during WWII. Please contact Tom Modica, 175rvn@gmail.com.
- Searching for anyone that knew Cpl Charles Frederick, USMC Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Division who was killed in action in Korea June 10, 1951. Please contact Charles Christianson, P.O. Box 326, Monticello, MN 55362, cncask4it@gmail.com.
- Searching for fellow members of USMC Platoon 386, MCRD Parris Island, SC who graduated on August 27, 1968. Hoping to organize a reunion. Please contact Roman Milanowicz at 717-278-5634 or by roman.milanowicz@gmail.com.
- Searching for Pilot Johnny O'Connor &/or any member of my crew of B-17 Bomber 15th AAF 97th Bomb Group 241st Squadron. Please contact Albert G. Erd, 4514 186th Street, Apt. 206, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.
- Searching for anyone who was in VMFA 314, 542, 115, 323 or 513 Radar Station in 1965-66 in the U.S. Marine Corps. Please contact Tom Boland at 912-289-9498 or colusar1@hotmail.com.
- Searching for information on Chaplain Liam Fitzpatrick stationed at RAF Burton Wood, England around 1943 to 1945. Please contact Elaine Booth, 22 Bean Leach Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK74LD England, Telephone: 01144161285 3921.

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