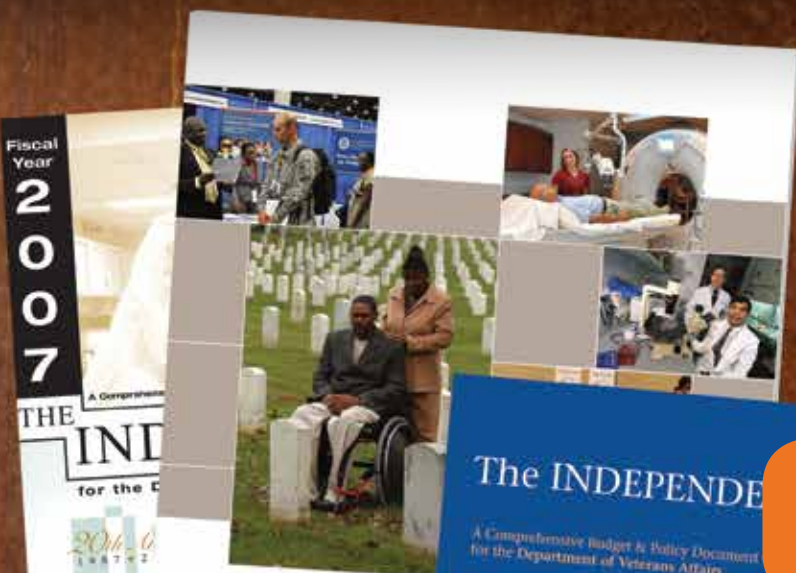




THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF DAV AND AUXILIARY  
JULY | AUGUST 2014

# MAGAZINE



## The Access CRISIS

Ignored  
recommendations,  
secret waiting lists  
prompt changes...  
DAV presents solutions

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### Travel Assistance

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) can facilitate the screening of injured or wounded veterans. Those who require assistance (or their care coordinators) should contact TSA Cares with details of the itinerary, after making flight arrangements with an airline. A TSA Cares representative may be reached for more information by calling toll-free at 855-787-2227 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern time).

The 93rd National Convention takes members back to the ever-popular Las Vegas Strip for our yearly assembly for veterans advocacy and service camaraderie. The annual meeting of DAV's national body is slated for Aug. 9–12 at Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino.

As always, this event gives DAV and Auxiliary members the chance to address the needs of injured and ill veterans and their families and survivors. It serves as one of the premier opportunities to be an active part of DAV and to help steer the legislative direction of this great organization.

"Convention attendees will hear directly from subject-matter experts on the most pressing issues our community faces today," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "If you want to be part of the conversation and the solution, this is the place to do it."

During the convention, national officers will be elected, and national leadership will brief members on the organization's progress throughout the past year.

While attending delegates will have important business to accomplish, members and their families who attend will enjoy fellowship and fun during the event and at nearby attractions. On Sunday and Monday, children ages 5 through 12 can attend Kids Camp. It runs 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free of charge, though meals are not provided. After hours, you and your guests can enjoy all Las Vegas has to offer.

There are a limited number of reduced-rate rooms available. As of May 28, all reduced-rate rooms in Bally's Jubilee Tower had been reserved, but you may reserve a room in Paris at the same reduced rate.

To make reservations at Paris, call 877-603-4389. Be sure to mention our group name, "Disabled American Veterans," or the code "SPDAV4," to receive the special rate of \$112 single/double per night. More information can be found online at [www.dav.org/events](http://www.dav.org/events). ■



## From the NATIONAL COMMANDER

### JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON



## A Year of Accomplishments

**A**s I wrap up an incredibly fulfilling year, I truly appreciate the opportunity you have granted me to serve as your National Commander. It has been an amazing and humbling experience, and I am proud of what our organization has accomplished. This, the world's greatest veterans service organization, is leading the way in every aspect of service to veterans.

Standing with many of you in front of the U.S. Capitol this past February, demanding Congress and the White House keep the promise to veterans, as snow covered Washington, D.C., there was no room for doubt. No one fights harder or smarter for veterans than DAV. That makes leading you an incredible honor I will always cherish.

We came together in Washington and online around the nation and launched a strong campaign to protect veterans' compensation and benefits from being used as a political football again. I am proud to have been there at the start of Operation: Keep the Promise, and I know this is something we will see through to victory.

You know how important it is for this organization to keep serving, to keep focused and to keep improving. I am proud of the new DAV Employment Department. This major move will offer veterans a new, much-needed service. It makes sense, given the large number of veterans struggling to find gainful employment as they transition from military to civilian status. I have complete confidence in this new endeavor, and I know many veterans will directly benefit from it.

Among the most enjoyable times I've had over the past year was meeting with members around the country at Department conventions. It is motivating to get to know them and our Auxiliary members, who are the heart and soul of our grassroots program.

My travels gave me the wonderful opportunity to meet those donating their time as Transportation Network drivers, VA Voluntary Services volunteers and through our Local Veterans Assistance Program, which acts on behalf of veterans in underserved communities around the nation.

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic was extremely moving. I witnessed the transformation of men and women who went from being unsure of their futures to being filled with hope and confidence. All who are part of that program should be proud of their part in empowering veterans to lead fulfilled lives.

I want to express my gratitude to our professional National Service Officers and Transition Service Officers—the men and women who devote their lives to service for veterans. They, along with our Department and Chapter Service Officers, are at the core of our service to veterans.

As I close my year as National Commander, I am giving special thanks to all our members. You serve your fellow veterans with pride and dignity, with the same honor and courage as you served our nation. Service is what sets you apart, earning you the proud distinction as honored veterans. Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you.

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DAV MAGAZINE • July/August 2014  
Contact us: [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org) • Toll Free 877-426-2838 • 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. Volume 56, Issue 4, *DAV Magazine* (ISSN 0885-6400). Editorial Office: DAV Magazine, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301. Telephone 859-441-7300 or toll free (877) I AM A VET. Published and circulated bimonthly bulletin by the Disabled American Veterans, a Congressionally chartered, nonprofit organization, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301. DAV Home Page is [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org). Available on recording for the blind and those with physical handicaps that preclude reading printed material. The magazine is mailed free to DAV and Auxiliary members who are paid subscribers. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$15 per year. Periodical postage paid at office of publication, Newport, KY 41071, and at additional offices. Printed in U.S.A. Change of Address: When notifying a change of address, send former as well as new address, including zip code, to: DAV Magazine, DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, OH 45250-5550. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DAV Magazine, DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, OH 45250-5550.



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## From the NATIONAL ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS



### A Steady Voice in the Storm

**W**hen are they going to start listening?

As many of you undoubtedly know, the VA is embroiled in a maelstrom of negativity stemming from allegations of wrongdoing and misconduct at multiple facilities. The short-term result was the resignation of Secretary Eric K. Shinseki and a great deal of finger-pointing.

Each year, DAV and other leading veterans' service organizations submit an Independent Budget before Congress and the Administration. This collaborative budget is a recommendation of how Congress should fund the VA for the coming fiscal year, based on what the VA reports they need to effectively operate and care for our nation's veterans.

But the Independent Budget is consistently ignored. Over the past ten years, DAV has repeatedly testified to Washington that the VA was being funded at \$17 billion less than what their own internal analysis projected.

So while it's clear there have been major wrongdoings within the VA system, DAV believes the time is now to start focusing on immediate and long-term solutions. First and foremost, there must be an open and transparent investigation, and those guilty of breaking the law should be held accountable. Veterans who have been waiting for medical care and treatment should be treated quickly and immediately, even if this means they have to be treated outside the VA system.

Recently, President Obama said many VA systems are out of date. This is

something DAV has been telling Congress for years. The system is simply overburdened and underfunded.

The main issue at hand here is not one of quality care; studies show that most veterans are happy with the care they receive through the VA. The problem is getting access to that care in the first place. There are simply not enough medical professionals and treatment clinics. In some places, infrastructure is horribly outdated. Computer systems and scheduling technology in many cases are more than 20 years old.

This is a complex issue, but one with a simple answer: resources. Congress must adequately fund the VA now, as these challenges will only increase as the draw-down from 13 years of war continues and more veterans transition out of uniform.

The VA is the best source of care for veterans, as they have trailblazed advances in medical science for unique veteran-related issues such as PTSD, amputation injuries and rehabilitation and traumatic brain injuries. I sincerely believe they're the best choice to care for our wounded, ill and injured who've sacrificed for our freedoms.

But the bottom line is they can't do it without proper funding. Please join the DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) and demand that your Congressional representative do the responsible thing by fully funding the VA with no political infighting or budget gimmicks.

You and our fellow veterans deserve no less.



## LETTERS

### Thanks, DAV

I go to the VA hospital in La Jolla, Calif., and am pleased to say I have not missed an appointment since DAV started providing me rides. **Franklin O. Walker, San Diego**

I want to thank DAV Nashville, Tenn., Chapter 3 for all they do for veterans. I am so thankful to be able to call when us veterans need them as our community buddies. **James Harris, Music City, Tenn.**

After struggling for more than three years with the VA claims process, we finally gained the success for which we were looking. I can't go another minute without a big compliment to Department Service Officer Mario Flores at the Fresno medical center. He worked constantly to move my claim along and was readily available when I had questions. I have been a Life Member since leaving the service; therefore, my choice was to use your people when I needed help. I didn't regret one minute of that choice. **John A. Erb, Fresno, Calif.**

### Mentorship

National Membership Director Tony Baskerville's mentorship article in the May/June *DAV Magazine* was very well worded, and I'm sure his article will influence old vets to assist new vets. I personally am assisting two vets to apply for their VA benefits. The story he shared about the "crusty, retired E-9," was right on the mark when it comes to training our replacements through mentoring. Please pass on my praise to Mr. Baskerville for his time in preparing this article. **Maj. LeAnn Swieczkowski, Major, U.S. Army (Retired), Charlotte, N.C.**

### Partisan Politics

As a veteran since 1987, the problem I see with the VA is stability in leadership. The VA system needs a leader who will be held accountable but have enough

time to affect the culture and make needed changes. The Postmaster General does not have to change with the Administration and neither does the VA Secretary. The VA Secretary position should be a 10-year appointment and answer to Congress, and Congress should have the authority to fire the Secretary when necessary. The president would appoint a new secretary if the current one resigned or was fired. It should work similarly to the way Supreme Court justices are chosen. Pass it on. It's past time for a change of the system. **Red Williams, Houston, Texas**

You know, I am sick and tired of hearing about Republicans and Democrats. We are veterans! We represent a nation of people who depended on us for their freedom. A certain few are messing with our VA rights, and we need it fixed. I don't want to hear about politics; I want to hear about the idiots down the chain who are responsible getting their butts fired! **George Mitchell, Charlotte, N.C.**

### Facebook

**facebook.com/the.DAV**

Shinseki has served this nation proudly for decades, from being badly wounded in Vietnam, to pulling the Army out of terrible problems with morale and readiness, to standing up for the military as a whole, to leaving the profitable private sector to take on the mess that was the VA. He deserves our lasting appreciation and a solid salute. It is a shame his departure from the VA came the way it did, but he can walk away

knowing he gave his all and left the massive agency in much better shape than he found it five years ago. **Clinton Secher, San Diego**

I have been a patient at the Minneapolis VA hospital for over 30 years, and I have never met a more dedicated, caring staff. They do a better and quicker job of screening patients in the emergency room than Hennepin County General Hospital does, and Hennepin is a major trauma center. With high patient volumes like these, triage takes time. I was a medic in the Army and served at Madigan General Hospital at Fort Lewis, Wash. The triage system took time there, also. Improvements need to be made to the VA system of medical care. People need to be transferred or fired if they are not doing their jobs, but the VA system is basically sound and a godsend to the great majority of veterans who have served our country. **Gerald Senear, Minneapolis, Minn.**

### Twitter **twitter.com/DAVHQ**

**Jun 11** Just saw a @DAVHQ, looked down at my DAV bracelet and smiled, yall help the most deserving of help, thank yall and the vets yall help. **@joshturnage1496**

**Jun 6** @DAVHQ My 63 y/o father could die b/c @VeteransHealth can't or won't provide TIMELY medical care for him! **@NiteStar**

**May 15** At least SecVA stayed to hear VSOs. Only 3 senators stayed? Congress is part of the problem here! **@jimmygill**

**WRITE TO US** We welcome letters from our readers. Please mail them to *DAV Magazine*, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076, or submit them via email to [feedback@dav.org](mailto:feedback@dav.org). We regret we are unable to acknowledge every letter due to the volume received. Letters used are subject to editing for clarity, style, accuracy, space and propriety. Messages involving individual claims are referred to the DAV Service Department.



2014

OUTSTANDING  
DISABLED VETERAN  
OF THE YEAR

Roger K. Ferland

By Ashleigh Bryant

Vietnam veteran Roger K. Ferland, of Phoenix, has been named DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year. In 1968, Ferland was diverted from law school when he was drafted into the Army. Sent to Vietnam, he first served as a squad leader and then platoon sergeant before he lost both legs and severely injured an arm when he stepped on an explosive device. For his service, Ferland was awarded the Bronze Star with V device, the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge.

During his extensive hospitalization and rehabilitation, Ferland became engaged to his wife, Sandy, whom he married in 1970. In 1974, he graduated from Duke University Law School and began a distinguished career in environmental law.

After practicing for more than 35 years and serving on the Military Legal Assistance Committee of the Arizona State Bar, the certified DAV Chapter Service Officer worked with his local DAV to spearhead clinics providing pro bono legal assistance to veterans, particularly in the much-needed area of family law. Thanks to his continued efforts, two additional clinics are being planned.

"My immediate response was to ask, 'Why me?'" said



"That precious gift of survival imposed a responsibility to do something meaningful..."

—Roger K. Ferland

Ferland of his nomination for the award. "Since the injury, what actions have I taken to make things better... for my family, for my community and for other veterans?" These are not just theoretical questions, Ferland contends. "We were blessed to survive our injuries while many others did not," he explained. "That precious gift of survival imposed a responsibility to do something meaningful with our lives, and that responsibility is continuing and will continue as long as we live."

Ferland's fellow veterans believe he takes that responsibility to heart. "Roger displays the attitude that if one is disabled, it does not mean that one is incapable," said Department of Arizona Adjutant Patrick Young. "A term used by military servicemen is

to 'adapt and overcome,' and Roger is the preeminent example of this motto."

"Roger Ferland deserves our thanks for his commendable service to the nation and his continued dedication to veterans and their family members," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "He exemplifies the spirit and determination of American veterans to overcome injuries or challenges they face and inspire others through their devotion and contributions." ■

Army veteran, Vietnam



# The Access CRISIS

## As False Waiting Lists Are Uncovered, DAV Promotes Solutions

By Joseph Chenelly

A scandal that surfaced in Phoenix involving secret waiting lists and months-long wait times for veterans seeking health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs has led to the resignation of Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki and has shook the public's faith in the government agency charged with caring for our nation's heroes.

Shinseki resigned on May 30, apologizing for a scandal in which employees throughout the VA's massive hospital system conspired to hide months-long wait times for veterans who seek health care.

After accepting and announcing the resignation, President Obama immediately directed Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Sloan D. Gibson to take over the embattled agency until a new secretary is named. In announcing Shinseki's resignation, the president described the retired Army general as a person of integrity who presided over a bureaucracy that was overwhelmed by two long wars and an aging

veteran population, and which ultimately succumbed to widespread cheating to hide its shortcomings.

"I want to reiterate, he is a very good man," President Obama said of Shinseki at the White House following the resignation. "I don't just mean that he's an accomplished man. I don't just mean that he's been an outstanding soldier. He's a good person who's done exemplary work on our behalf."

However, he concluded that the growing calls for Shinseki's firing had become too much of a distraction from the complicated work of fixing the troubled department.

"We respect Secretary Shinseki's decision to resign and allow new leadership to address this crisis with new solutions," National Commander Joseph Johnston said of the longest-serving VA head. "But ultimately, a change in leadership does not address the root of the VA health care system's problems of access and insufficient funding levels."

"History clearly shows that unless VA receives sufficient resources to hire enough doctors and nurses, and has enough physical space to treat veterans, waiting-list



“We need **serious policy solutions**, not cheap political attacks on the integrity of leaders of veterans’ organizations who hold different opinions, all of whom served honorably to defend this nation and then devoted all or most of their lives to serving their fellow veterans.”

—Garry Augustine,  
Washington Headquarters Executive Director

problems will continue,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. “Over the past decade, DAV—along with *Independent Budget* veterans service organizations—has pointed out that the VA has received more than \$17 billion less than was needed, a figure that was derived primarily from VA’s own internal analysis. Although these facts have been clear to successive Administrations and Congresses, none took the actions necessary to provide VA the resources it required.”

The VA is dealing with a 50-percent increase in primary care visits in the past three years. During the same period, the department has increased the number of primary care doctors by just nine percent.

DAV’s willingness to speak pointedly about that important factor in this crisis drew fire from some who were responsible for setting VA’s levels of funding.

In mid-May, DAV and other veterans’ service organizations offered comprehensive testimony on the underlying causes of the waiting-list problems. In addition to demanding full accountability for any VA employee found to have violated VA rules, regulations or laws, DAV provided detailed analysis and forward-looking recommendations to address the root cause of waiting lists: lack of access and capacity to treat all veterans seeking care.

There were those in Congress who took exception to the fact that the vast majority of veterans’ organizations

## 5 Core Principles for Improvement

As the Senate, House and Department of Veterans Affairs are racing to enact new legislative, regulatory and administrative fixes to VA’s longstanding access problems, DAV issued a list of five core principles for lawmakers to keep in mind while working toward improving veterans’ health outcomes and preserving the veterans’ health care system.

### 1. Veterans who are entitled to receive care

inside the VA system, but who do not reside within a reasonable distance of a VA facility, or who would be required to wait beyond medically reasonable time limits to be treated, **should have the choice** either to wait and/or travel for a VA appointment or to have VA coordinate and pay for that care based upon medically responsible time and distance standards at local, qualified non-VA providers.

### 2. Any proposal to expand or enhance access to care must include **full, accurate, honest and transparent funding** that is separate from the budget required to operate VA’s existing hospitals, clinics and other health care facilities and programs.

### 3. VA must remain responsible for ensuring the quality, timeliness and coordination of all health care provided to veterans, whether it is delivered inside VA facilities by VA medical professionals, at VA clinics operated by outside entities by contract or through non-VA providers through purchased-care programs.

### 4. Any new legislative or regulatory proposals enacted **must not interfere with VA’s emergency access initiative** that is currently contacting every veteran found to be waiting for care and arranging for them to receive medical appointments either inside the VA system or through non-VA providers within the next thirty days. VA must work openly and collaboratively with Congress and VSO stakeholders to implement its emergency access program, fully sharing all findings and details as soon as they are known.

### 5. We call on Congress and the Administration to take the time necessary to **thoroughly investigate and analyze the root causes** of VA’s longstanding access problems and to work with VSO stakeholders to craft, enact and implement comprehensive, effective, honest, long-term solutions to address the problems identified.

did not call for Secretary Shinseki's resignation. These VSOs, which include DAV, became the target of verbal attacks on the eve of Memorial Day weekend.

"Certain people were only listening for calls for the VA secretary to resign," said Augustine. "While they may be enamored with the idea that all of VA's problems and challenges can be overcome by replacing one secretary, the plain facts and simple logic dictate otherwise. We need serious policy solutions, not cheap political attacks on the integrity of leaders of veterans' organizations who hold different opinions, all of whom served honorably to defend this nation and then devoted all or most of their lives to serving their fellow veterans."

Rather than be distracted by insults, DAV pushed forward, reaching out to both Republicans and Democrats in the Senate and House, as well as the president and leaders in VA to implement solutions. On June 10, just before press time, a major first step was taken legislatively when a bipartisan bill was passed in response to the current VA health care crisis.

"DAV commends Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fl.) and ranking member Mike Michaud (D-Me.) for joining together so quickly," said Commander Johnston. "The House's action is a first step that with the anticipated approval of similar bipartisan legislation in the Senate from Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), and in conjunction with actions already taken and planned by Acting VA Secretary Gibson, could lead to better access to medical care for the men and women who served."

The bipartisan bills would fund construction of 26 new medical facilities and set up ways to make it easier for veterans to seek private care if they do not live near a VA medical facility. The bills would also improve access to health care for survivors of military sexual assault.

DAV staff is working with all parties to help fine-tune, strengthen and coalesce around effective administrative, regulatory and legislative changes needed to address VA's capacity and access problems. "As the House and Senate work toward a final compromise bill, it is imperative that VA remains responsible for both coordinating and paying for enrolled veterans' medical care, regardless of



**"DAV commends Chairman Jeff Miller and ranking member Mike Michaud for joining together so quickly. The House's action is a first step that ... could lead to better access to medical care for the men and women who served."**

*—Joseph W. Johnston, National Commander*

the provider, in order to achieve the best health outcomes for veterans," said National Legislative Director Joseph Violante.

"As Congress expands the mandate to provide care outside VA, we must ensure that it provides the additional funding without taking away funding from VA's hospitals and clinics that are already at or near capacity," Augustine said.

"While this crisis is deeply disturbing, we hope the issues uncovered serve as a wake-up call to focus America's attention on the need to fulfill the sacred promises made to the men and women who so honorably served our country," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess.

"DAV stands ready to work closely with Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson to implement solutions necessary to ensure all veterans can access the health care they need," National Commander Joseph W. Johnston said. "We hope that newly appointed leadership continues to build on the progress made during Secretary Shinseki's tenure in regard to reducing the claims backlog, addressing homelessness among veterans and improving access to mental health care." ■



# VA Care as Good as or Better than Private-Sector Hospitals

Veterans' satisfaction rates with the care they receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs is equal to or better than ratings for private-sector hospitals, according to an independent survey.

The 2013 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) report assessed satisfaction among veterans who received inpatient or outpatient care from the Veterans Health Administration. The ACSI is the nation's only cross-industry measure of customer satisfaction between the public and private sectors.

Overall, the satisfaction index for VA was 84 for inpatient care and 82 for outpatient care, which compares favorably with the U.S. hospital industry (with scores of 80 and 83, respectively). Since 2004, veterans have consistently given VA hospitals and clinics a higher customer satisfaction score, on average, than patients give private-sector hospitals. Those scores are based on specific feedback on customer expectations, perceived value and quality, responsiveness to customer complaints and customer loyalty.

"Some are having a terrible time obtaining timely access to VA health care, but those veterans receiving care in the system are finding that it is among the best in the nation. DAV continues to support efforts to maintain high standards and improve access to health care for our nation's heroes," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. "Veterans gave nothing less than the best for our nation and deserve the highest quality care for their service and sacrifices."

Veterans strongly endorsed VA health care, with 91 percent offering positive assessments of inpatient care and 92 percent for outpatient care. When asked

if they would use a VA medical center the next time they need inpatient care or outpatient care, veterans overwhelmingly indicated they would (96 percent and 95 percent, respectively).

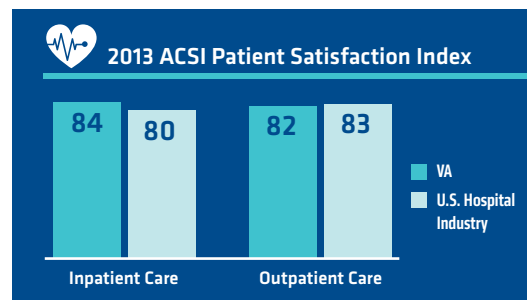
Veterans also responded positively to questions related to customer service for both VA inpatient care (92 percent favorable) and outpatient care (91 percent favorable). Medical providers and appointment personnel were considered highly courteous with scores of 92 and

91, respectively. Additionally, VA medical providers ranked high in professionalism (90 percent positive).

With more than 8 million veterans enrolled, the VA operates the largest integrated health care delivery system in the United States and provides a broad range of primary care, special-

ized care and related medical and social support services. VA provided 89.7 million outpatient visits last fiscal year. VA has 236,000 health care appointments per day.

"This study confirms what many of us already knew—that, by and large, VA does a good job taking care of veterans," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "Unfortunately, the system is overburdened and under funded. We'll continue to work toward solutions that address access issues and ensure that patient outcomes are the driving force behind care management at VA." ■



## Learn More Online

The ACSI VHA Inpatient Survey can be found at [www.va.gov/health/docs/VA2013InpatientACSI.pdf](http://www.va.gov/health/docs/VA2013InpatientACSI.pdf). The ACSI VHA Outpatient Survey can be found at [www.va.gov/health/docs/VA2013OutpatientACSI.pdf](http://www.va.gov/health/docs/VA2013OutpatientACSI.pdf).



# Family Matters

## DAV Helps Widow Stay in Home by Securing Overlooked DIC Benefits

By Charity Edgar

**T**hereasa Tyus normally looked forward to celebrating the holiday season with her large family in Detroit. But not last Christmas. In November 2013, instead of purchasing gifts for her loved ones, Tyus was fighting to stay in her home.

Tyus' financial situation had been difficult since her husband Lamont, an Army veteran, passed away in April 2009. Lamont, who served in Vietnam, was rated 100-percent disabled by the VA.

"When my husband passed, it was half of the household income," said Tyus. The grieving widow was blindsided with financial hardship after the VA informed her she did not qualify for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC), a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of veterans whose deaths resulted from service-related injuries or diseases.

Tyus sought help through a private attorney, who said there was nothing more she could do because the VA had already denied the claim. Three years went by as she struggled to support her family on one income. She and her late husband had helped raise 27 kids in total throughout the years—children, grandchildren and neighbors. Even as money became tight after Lamont's passing, she was committed to providing whatever she could for her loved ones.

Faced with losing her home, she heard about DAV's free services for veterans at just the right time. She inquired if DAV's assistance was also available to family and survivors. Tyus was introduced to Associate National Service Officer Jason Zielke, who asked her to come in with her claims paperwork.

"I told her that we don't just help veterans; we assist their spouses and children as well," said Zielke. "It's important to help families because they are supporting the veterans throughout their lives."

Zielke reviewed Tyus' denied claim and discovered a clear and unmistakable error. As he suspected, Tyus was entitled to DIC. He hand-delivered the claims folder to the VA, stressing the urgency of the situation. Zielke frequently followed up with the VA on the status of Tyus' claim. Within a few weeks, Zielke was notified Tyus was, in fact, eligible for DIC and would be receiving retroactive benefits to 2010.

"Sadly, sometimes people fall through the cracks in the claims process, but DAV is here to prevent that," said Zielke. "It's unfortunate that Thereasa had to struggle for so long without the compensation her husband had earned for her through his sacrifices. But I am glad she found her way to DAV so we

could correct the error."

Zielke takes pride in helping veterans and their families who are experiencing difficulties with their claims, as he understands firsthand how overwhelming the process can be.

"I did it by myself for many years before I realized getting an advocate can be a big help," said Zielke. "Without assistance, it can be very discouraging."

Thankfully, Tyus isn't the kind of person who gives up easily. She never stopped supporting her husband, even after his mental health began to diminish. And she refused to stop fighting for the assistance he earned for his family. She believes where there's a will, there's a way.

*(Continued on pg. 25)*



**"It's important to help families because they are supporting the veterans throughout their lives."**

*Jason Zielke,  
DAV Associate National Service Officer*

# House Approves Healthy VA Increase, Weak Spots Remain

By Dave Autry

The House of Representatives has passed and sent to the Senate for consideration legislation appropriating \$158.2 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This represents an increase of \$10.3 billion above the fiscal year 2014 level. Although it is close to what the Administration requested, it falls short of the VA's true need in a number of areas.

Discretionary funding alone for veterans programs in the bill constitutes \$67.8 billion. Approximately \$55.6 billion of this discretionary total was provided last year via advance funding in the fiscal year 2014 appropriations bill. The bill funds VA medical services at \$45 billion, providing for approximately 6.7 million patients to be treated in fiscal year 2015. Within this total funding is \$7.2 billion in mental health care services; \$133 million in suicide prevention activities; \$229 million for traumatic brain injury treatment; \$7.4 billion in homeless veterans treatment, services, housing and job training; and \$250 million in rural health initiatives.

"The measure provides more funding for VA medical care than the 2014 appropriation and is about the same as the president's request, but it's still \$2.4 billion below the amount recommended in *The Independent Budget*," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine.

The bill also contains \$58.7 billion in advance fiscal year 2016 funding for VA medical care—the same level as the president's request. This funding is more than \$741 million less than veterans groups recommended for medical services, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities. Most of the shortfall is due to the continued underfunding of nonrecurring maintenance for VA facilities, similar to the draconian reductions identified for construction funding over the last several years.

Major and minor construction within the VA is funded at almost \$1.2 billion, yet the bill does not provide funding for major new hospital construction projects. It does, however, allow the VA to continue to correct safety issues and deficiencies and to make patient care improvements at several facilities.

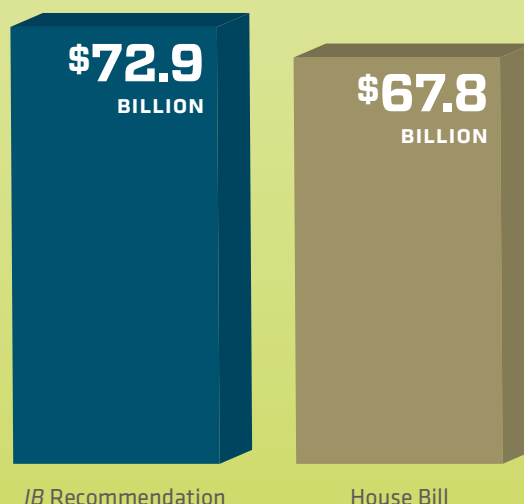
## FY15 PROPOSED VA BUDGET

AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

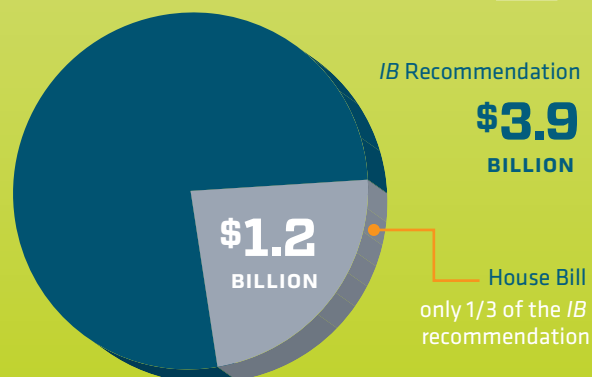
# \$55.6 BILLION

more in funding for VA medical care than 2014 appropriation but still \$2.4 billion below *The Independent Budget* recommendation

### DISCRETIONARY FUNDING



### MAJOR AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION



SOURCE: THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET FY2015



“Both the president’s request and the House bill are less than a third of *The Independent Budget* recommendation for construction,” said National Legislative Director Joseph A. Violante. “Both the Administration and Congress have failed for years to provide adequate funding to meet the VA’s critical infrastructure needs. That continues to put the quality of care and the well-being of veterans in jeopardy.”

The legislation also includes provisions to increase oversight of taxpayer dollars at the VA, including requiring the department to report on construction expenditures and savings, forbidding new changes in the scope of construction projects and restricting the agency from taking certain spending actions without notifying Congress.

Also of concern is a \$23 million shortfall in DAV’s recommended funding for medical and prosthetic research, according to Augustine. “With veterans surviving longer with serious and often atrophic injuries, it is imperative that the VA remain on the leading edge in the research field.”

The fiscal 2015 VA appropriation bill includes \$173 million for the paperless claims-processing system and an increase of \$20 million above the request for digital scanning of health records, centralized mail and

overtime to cut the backlog in disability compensation claims. In addition, rigorous reporting requirements to track the performance of each regional office on claims processing are continued.

“The Veterans Benefits Administration has made significant progress in its massive transformation, and DAV believes there has been sufficient progress to merit continued support of the current efforts,” Violante said. “Congress must provide the support and resources necessary to complete this transformation as currently

**“Both the Administration and Congress have failed for years to provide adequate funding to meet the VA’s critical infrastructure needs. That continues to put the quality of care and the well-being of veterans in jeopardy.”**

**—Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director**

planned, while continuing to exercise strong oversight to ensure that VBA remains focused on the long-term goal of creating a new claims-processing system that decides each claim right the first time.”

Mandatory spending in the bill includes funding for compensation programs for 4.6 million veterans and their survivors; education benefits for more than 1 million veterans; and vocational rehabilitation and employment training for more than 130,000 veterans.

“DAV continues to monitor progress of funding legislation and make our concerns known at every opportunity,” Violante said. “We need to ensure that our government fulfills its promises to America’s veterans and their families.” ■



# Outstanding Employees honored by

## NATIONAL COMMANDER AWARDS

By Charity A. Edgar

“The recipients of these awards represent the best among the best of veterans’ advocates. They go above and beyond in serving the men and women who sacrificed for this nation. This isn’t just a job for them; they’re fulfilling a promise.”

*National Commander Joseph W. Johnston*

**Veterans  
Health  
Administration**

**Dr. David Tharp**

Dr. David Tharp, a DAV life member and lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, is a psychologist at the Waco Mental Health Post-Traumatic Stress Residential Rehabilitation Program.

“I see the VA as a continuation of the DOD,” said Tharp. “Our veterans deserve the best treatment possible and we have some great clinicians and researchers that are working diligently to make that happen.”

Tharp recognized that his patients felt most comfortable relating with staff who had spent time in a combat zone. This led Tharp to volunteer for a deployment to Afghanistan, where he served as the NATO medical advisor and commanded the medical assets of 28 countries. While forward deployed, Tharp suffered a spinal-cord illness but stayed in Afghanistan an additional month after the injury to fulfill his ten-month tour and to ensure the combat-effectiveness and continuity of care to NATO forces.

“Dr. Tharp volunteered to go to war so he could better understand the men and women he served in his full-time civilian capacity at the VA,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. “His selflessness came at great personal cost, but he was committed to doing whatever it took to provide the best service and treatment to veterans returning from combat.”

Since returning from Afghanistan in 2011, Tharp has used his real-world experience to provide direct clinical care to veterans. He has implemented significant improvements to PTSD residential treatments and has improved performance scores from 65.5 percent to more than 90 percent.

In addition to a doctorate in psychology, Tharp holds three master’s degrees. He has authored nearly a dozen scholarly articles and journals, several of which focus on issues impacting veterans.

“Dr. Tharp simultaneously serves his country and his fellow veterans,” said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. “He works tirelessly to support veterans on their road to recovery—a path he knows from experience is not easy.”



## Veterans Benefits Administration

Sharon McGill

Sharon McGill serves as both homeless veterans outreach coordinator and special projects manager in the Decatur Veterans Benefits Administration. Her father, husband and brother are veterans, and she says giving back is a reward in itself. "I have a passion of helping others," she explained. "The best payment is making a difference and seeing a smile on a veteran's face."

McGill has been serving veterans for 13 years and doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon. She joined the VA as a voucher examiner and quickly worked her way up the ranks as she took on more responsibilities that resulted in her directly assisting more veterans.

"A lot of the veterans I serve have never had anyone sit down and tell them about the benefits they are entitled to," said McGill. "It makes a difference in their life realizing someone cares."

In her current position, McGill oversees homeless claims processing. She also conducts outreach throughout the state of Georgia. She is responsible for identifying homeless veterans and educating them on services and benefits available to them. She has interviewed more than 3,000 homeless veterans since 2010.

"Ms. McGill has logged an impressive number of interactions with veterans who are not easy to find or identify," said Augustine. "The sheer volume alone is a testament of her dedication to eradicate veteran homelessness."

"Ms. McGill is recognized for immersing herself in the community and finding veterans in neighborhoods that most people avoid," continued Augustine. "She finds them under blankets near highway bypasses and in cardboard boxes over heating vents. Each veteran she seeks out is treated with integrity and respect."

"No one who served our country should be huddled under a bridge, in a shelter or camped out in the woods," said Burgess. "Ms. McGill recognizes this injustice and goes to great lengths to support this underserved segment of the population. She is committed to standing up for the men and women who served, and I applaud her for putting veterans first."



## Local Veterans Employment Representative

Teresa Maryska

DAV life member Teresa Maryska takes pride in helping fellow veterans obtain meaningful employment and a better quality of life through her work at the Texas Veterans Commission.

As a Local Veterans Employment Representative, Maryska contacted more than 140 employers this year to talk about veteran job seekers and their unique skillsets. She led her region in the job placement of 81 veterans, including 10 disabled veterans.

"Ms. Maryska is dedicated to ensuring that the men and women who stood up for us have the tools they need to competitively enter the job market," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. "Her impressive placement numbers illustrate her skill and commitment to serving veterans."

The U.S. Navy veteran serves on the local Chamber Diplomat Committee, which enables her to welcome new companies to the area while simultaneously fostering relationships with established employers.

Maryska is known for pursuing new opportunities to better serve veterans in their career search. These unique initiatives have included a "Suits for Vets" drive, which provided veterans with professional apparel for interviews, and procurement of donated bicycles for veterans without a means of transportation for work.

"Ms. Maryska's innovation helps veterans overcome obstacles as they seek high quality and fulfilled lives," said Augustine. "Her service to America's heroes extends outside of the office and throughout the community."

"I am honored to receive this award and thankful to be recognized by DAV, an organization that stays focused on being a prominent leader in all aspects of disabled veterans' rights and benefits, for doing my part in taking care of those who 'stood the watch,'" said Maryska.



## National Cemetery Administration

### Alphaeus Richburg

Army veteran Alphaeus Richburg, Director of the Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Michigan, is responsible for all burial, maintenance and administrative operations at the cemetery, where there are as many as 50 burials per week.

"Freedom is not free. It comes with a cost. Some pay the ultimate price," said Richburg. "It's important for me to give back to my fellow veterans."

Richburg was initially hired as a cemetery representative at Beaufort National Cemetery in South Carolina in 2009, but was quickly promoted as he continued to excel at each new responsibility he took on. Prior to his current position, Richburg served as Director of Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee, where he was nominated to receive the Commander's Award.

"Mr. Richburg recognizes that the final resting place for our nation's heroes is sacred," said Augustine. "He goes above and beyond to honor his fallen comrades with respect and dignity."

Community engagement is a priority for Richburg. He initiated an outreach program that encourages feedback from and cooperation with groups like DAV, which helps him connect with veterans and ensure they are aware of their benefits.

"There are a lot of veterans who don't realize that they are eligible to be interred at a national cemetery free of charge," said Richburg. "There is no cost because they've already paid it through their service to the country."

"Day in and day out, Mr. Richburg works diligently to ensure that families burying their loved ones know that this final resting place will honor their hero's service and sacrifice," said Burgess.

"I work with people on the worst day of their life, because they've lost a loved one," said Richburg. "I understand we only have one chance to get it right. So I make sure what I'm doing, and what my staff is doing, is showing that family honor, compassion, dignity and respect."



## Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

### Roy Fillion

DAV life member Roy Fillion, an employment specialist at Job Service North Dakota, ensures that every veteran who seeks his support receives the answers and assistance they are looking for.

Fillion travels extensively, serving 10 counties in northeastern North Dakota, where he helps veterans obtain meaningful employment. He is also responsible for ensuring their offices are informed about current veterans' issues and opportunities. But it's the one-on-one interactions with

veterans that set Fillion apart.

"It is not uncommon for Mr. Fillion to encounter dejected veterans who have lost hope in obtaining employment," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "By the time a veteran is finished speaking with Mr. Fillion, they have a renewed sense of hope and a plan to get them back on their feet."

"This is the most meaningful job I've had in my life," said Fillion. "Veterans do so much for this country. I enjoy giving back even a part of what they've done for us."

Fillion is an active member of the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee where he maintains important relationships that help him better understand the employment needs of the community and the veterans he serves.

Fillion is committed to the veterans he is serving from start to finish, providing frequent follow up for each case. Outside of work, the Air Force veteran has served as Commander of DAV Andy Nomland Chapter 2 and as Department Commander of North Dakota.

"Mr. Fillion never 'clocks out,'" said Burgess. "He epitomizes veterans helping veterans in all that he does, both inside and outside the office."





# DAV And RecruitMilitary Host Inaugural Career Fair

By Steve Wilson

A new partnership between DAV and RecruitMilitary kicked off at the first of 65 All Veteran Career Fairs annually that will connect an estimated 26,000 veterans with employment opportunities and free benefits services.

The first event was hosted by the Washington Redskins at FedEx field in Washington, D.C.

"I am very proud DAV has taken the lead in addressing the all-important issue of veteran employment," said DAV National Headquarters Director Barry Jesinoski. "This event kicks off the main thrust of that effort, and we couldn't have partnered with anyone better than our friends at RecruitMilitary."

Jeff Hall, National Director of DAV's newly established Employment Department, said the partnership and events have enabled the organization to start up a new program and begin providing services to veterans and their families concurrently.

"We understand there are immediate needs for our services, and with RecruitMilitary we have a vehicle to connect veterans with jobs immediately," Hall said. "In addition to our primary service of assisting veterans with their claims for benefits, we now have resources and an organized effort to address this other critical piece in their lives."

As the nation winds down from 13 years of war, veterans will rapidly begin transitioning from service uniforms to business attire. DAV's Employment Department and partnership with RecruitMilitary will create opportunities for veterans, family members and survivors to connect with employers.

Nearly 50 employers attended the first event. On average, each fair draws 400 prospective employees. While many are hired as a result of the event, DAV will also use RecruitMilitary's digital resources to directly connect veterans with employers online and engage them until they achieve their goals.

"All of us at RecruitMilitary are delighted to have the opportunity to work with the fine organization that is DAV," said Peter A. Gudmundsson, president and CEO of RecruitMilitary and a former officer in the United



*The goal of a DAV/RecruitMilitary Career Fair is to put veterans face to face with potential employers and help ease the transition from service to civilian life.*

States Marine Corps. "This partnership brings together two organizations that are leading the way in veteran services. DAV is well-known for its strong advocacy of veterans' causes. RecruitMilitary helps employers excel by attracting, hiring, appreciating and retaining America's best talent—its veterans."

According to Jesinoski, DAV will continue to build upon the resources it provides veterans in the area of employment to meet growing needs.

"Americans want their veterans to enjoy the way of life they served to defend," said Jesinoski. "Through this partnership, we're dealing a win-win scenario to veterans and employers. Corporate America receives disciplined, highly skilled workers with a wide range of qualifications and a rock-solid work ethic, and veterans get the chance to contribute and care for their families." ■



**Learn More Online**

Veterans and their spouses can access the times, dates and locations of the DAV-sponsored events by visiting [www.dav.org/veterans/employment-resources](http://www.dav.org/veterans/employment-resources).



## 2014 ALL VETERANS CAREER FAIRS

| Date     | City               | Location   |
|----------|--------------------|--|
| June 26  | Washington, D.C.   | FedEx Field  |
| June 26  | Atlanta            | Georgia Dome   |
| July 10  | Indianapolis       | Indianapolis Museum of Art                                     |
| July 10  | St. Louis          | Chaifetz Arena at Saint Louis University                       |
| July 17  | Dallas             | Irving Convention Center                                       |
| July 24  | Columbus, Ohio     | Aladdin Shrine Event & Conference Center                       |
| July 24  | Philadelphia       | Amtrak 30th Street Station                                     |
| Aug. 7   | Houston            | Minute Maid Park   |
| Aug. 14  | Nashville, Tenn.   | LP Field   |
| Aug. 14  | San Diego          | Hotel del Coronado   |
| Aug. 21  | Richmond, Va.      | Richmond International Raceway                                 |
| Sept. 4  | Oklahoma City      | Lloyd Noble Center   |
| Sept. 11 | Denver             | Sports Authority Field at Mile High                            |
| Sept. 11 | San Antonio        | Norris Conference Centers – San Antonio                        |
| Sept. 18 | New Orleans        | Mercedes-Benz Superdome  |
| Sept. 18 | New York City      | New Yorker Hotel   |
| Sept. 25 | Kansas City, Mo.   | Arrowhead Stadium  |
| Oct. 2   | Baltimore          | To Be Determined   |
| Oct. 2   | Cincinnati         | Paul Brown Stadium   |
| Oct. 9   | Chicago            | Macy's on State Street   |
| Oct. 9   | Oakland, Calif.    | To Be Determined   |
| Oct. 16  | Phoenix            | University of Phoenix Stadium                                  |
| Oct. 16  | Pittsburgh         | To Be Determined   |
| Oct. 22  | Dallas             | Hurst Conference Center  |
| Oct. 30  | Atlanta            | To Be Determined   |
| Oct. 30  | Austin             | Frank C. Erwin Jr. Events Center                               |
| Nov. 6   | Jacksonville, Fla. | To Be Determined   |
| Nov. 6   | Philadelphia       | To Be Determined   |
| Nov. 13  | Charlotte, N.C.    | To Be Determined   |
| Nov. 13  | Los Angeles        | Dodger Stadium   |
| Nov. 20  | Norfolk, Va.       | Nauticus – Half Moone Cruise & Celebration Center              |
| Nov. 20  | Seattle            | Safeco Field   |
| Dec. 4   | Houston            | Minute Maid Park   |
| Dec. 4   | San Diego          | Liberty Station's NTC Promenade at Corky McMillin Event Center |



## From the NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT DIRECTOR

### JEFFREY C. HALL

## Empowering America's Heroes

The journey from injury to recovery is not complete until a veteran is able to find meaning in life. For those who are able, that means getting back to work to care for their families. The importance of helping them accomplish that, in a way, defines DAV as an organization. And yet, when we consider all that veterans have done to make our American Dream possible, we cannot go far enough to ensure they are able to fully enjoy and participate in our way of life.

It is for that reason that National Adjutant Marc Burgess and Commander Joseph W. Johnston have appointed me to launch the DAV Employment Department. I'm proud to be leading that effort and humbled by the importance of this initiative. In the coming months, we will be looking at ways that we can connect veterans with meaningful employment and develop strategies that address one of the major impediments to veterans leading high-quality lives.

We have already hit the ground running. On June 26, our partnership with RecruitMilitary began in earnest with the first of at least 100 job fairs we will be facilitating over the course of the next 18 months. The first fair was hosted by the

Washington Redskins in Washington, D.C.

We project this partnership will result in more than 24,000 veterans having the opportunity to meet with prospective employers. It will also connect them with resources to enhance their job search

and continue the process until they are successfully employed.

Even before this department was launched, DAV had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) to provide

We are poised to provide **comprehensive assistance**, ensuring veterans receive their benefits and are given the resources they need to get back to work and transition successfully to civilian life.

our free benefits assistance and information at NCOA Career Expos.

With more than 500,000 veterans projected to leave active military service in the coming years, we are poised to provide comprehensive assistance that ensures they receive their benefits and are given the resources they need to get back to work and transition successfully to civilian life.

Stay tuned to DAV.org and our social networks for more information on career fairs coming to you. I thank our members and leaders for the opportunity you have given me and look forward to DAV's continued growth through this critically important venture.



# Unbroken Soldiers

## A MOMENT of HOPE

### Women Veterans Tell Inspiring Stories

By Ashleigh Bryant

Through an ongoing collaboration with DAV, the cable network INSP has begun broadcasting a series of video productions highlighting veterans and their inspiring stories.

The first of the “Unbroken Soldiers” series on INSP features DAV life member Christy Gardner, of Lewiston, Maine, who plays for the DAV-sponsored injured veterans hockey team, the USA Warriors. The second and third highlight DAV Transition Service Officer and Army combat veteran Naomi Mathis and renowned U.S. Air Force combat photographer and author Stacy Pearsall. All three women are a testament to the courage and strength of injured women veterans returning home and rebuilding their lives.

“The videos focus on the inspiring road to recovery each of these women walked after they were injured in service to our country,” said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. “We are thrilled with the partnership between INSP and DAV that allows us to recognize and commend the service and sacrifice of women veterans by sharing these incredible stories.”

Within the first three months following release, the videos were viewed in nearly 2 million households by an estimated 2.5 million people. Three additional videos focusing on different topics are expected to be added to the series later this year.

INSP as a cable network is available in 75 million



*Women veterans Christy Gardner (top) and Stacy Pearsall (inset) are among those sharing their stories of courage and recovery after returning home.*

homes. It ranks in the top 50 of all 300-plus cable networks for total viewers and in the top five for viewer retention. The network’s web channel, Moments.org, has garnered more than 1.3 million total views.

“We’re grateful we’ve been able to partner with DAV to bring more awareness to the inspiring stories of sacrifice and courage made by brave veterans through our ‘Moments’ stories,” said INSP CEO and Chairman David Cerullo. “These men and women are real heroes and deserve the thanks and appreciation of Americans everywhere. Our ‘Moments’ stories have touched the hearts of millions who watch INSP.”

Those not receiving INSP through their cable, telco or satellite provider can call and ask for INSP to be added to their channel lineup to watch these stories and other family-friendly programming. ■



#### Learn More Online

The three videos will run during commercial breaks on INSP and can be viewed at [www.moments.org](http://www.moments.org), or through the following direct links:

- [moments.org/unbroken-soldiers-stacy-pearsall/](http://moments.org/unbroken-soldiers-stacy-pearsall/)
- [moments.org/unbroken-soldiers-naomi-mathis/](http://moments.org/unbroken-soldiers-naomi-mathis/)
- [moments.org/unbroken-soldiers-christy-gardner-moment-hope/](http://moments.org/unbroken-soldiers-christy-gardner-moment-hope/)



# Polytrauma and TBI

## How a Decade of War Has Changed Treatment

By Steve Wilson

**M**ore than a decade of war has dramatically changed the way polytrauma (PT) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are treated in America's veterans returning home with these life-changing wounds.

"In the 1990s, there were specialized centers for these types of injuries, but the network we have now didn't exist," said Dr. Ronald Riechers, medical director of the poly-trauma team at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center.

Riechers explained that when the current generation of wars began, the VA developed a system of treatments based on the nature and severity of a patient's injury. Patients are classified at levels one through three, with three being the most severe. As a patient recovers, the condition is downgraded to the next level with what Riechers calls a "warm handoff" to the patient's individually assigned liaison service officer at the next treatment center.

*Above: U.S. Army medical personnel offload a simulated injured soldier from a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter at Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La. Service members at JRTC 13-04 are educated in combat patient care and aeromedical evacuation in a simulated combat environment. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John R. Nimmo Sr./USAF)*

"The system-based care has been the biggest change regarding how we treat these injuries," said Riechers.

Another change is the immediate treatment that often begins on the battlefield. In previous conflicts, the injured were evacuated to a treatment center. In recent wars, especially as bases were established and facilities erected, a patient could be moved from the point of injury to lifesaving care at full-spectrum medical facilities within the course of an hour.



“We have **better survival rates than the civilian sector** because of early intervention, and the ability to begin neurologic care at a tertiary medical facility is dramatic.”

*Dr. Ronald Riechers, medical director of the poly-trauma team,  
Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center*

“What the military did early on was place medical professionals down range, as proximately close to the fighting that was safe,” Riechers said. “Neurosurgeons were there early, and some were aggressive in performing surgery on wounds to the skull, as sometimes the pressure created by that kind of injury is what would be fatal.”

The early intervention has greatly increased survival rates.

“We can aeromedical evacuate a patient [to a treatment center] rapidly after they received surgery early,” Riechers said. “This reduced negative cognitive impairment and death. We have better survival rates

than the civilian sector because of early intervention, and the ability to begin neurologic care at a tertiary medical facility is dramatic.”

Riechers said the future of PT/TBI injury care consists of integrating treatments for patients with both post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and a TBI. While the overwhelming majority of cases are mild, he said, TBI symptoms are often associated with a mild concussion and shouldn't be overlooked.

“Coexistence of PTSD/TBI is extremely high,” he said. “What you will see moving forward is people who have PTSD/TBI being integrated into interdisciplinary programs and treatments.

“The challenge lies in identifying these injuries in these individuals who can't necessarily describe their experience due to amnesia that sometimes comes with the extreme adrenaline rush that led to the injury in the first place,” said Riechers.

Any veteran who may have experienced even what might have initially been called a “mild” concussion is encouraged to see a specialist to ensure they are properly diagnosed—especially as some injuries can worsen over time.

“The stigma of asking for help, whether a veteran suffered a TBI-related injury and is still serving or has transitioned out of uniform, can and should be removed from our mindset as a veteran community,” said DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess. “Anyone who has suffered an injury like this, even if they were initially told it was mild or didn't report it, should absolutely see a medical professional.”

Riechers agrees.

“There's no IV drip to treat TBI and, unfortunately, there's no pill, either,” Riechers said. “The cure comes from early treatment, rehabilitation or surgery, if required. It's important to report head injuries and be evaluated.” ■



*David W. Franco (left) watches a Veterans Day celebration in Moorpark, Calif., with his father, David R. Franco, who holds his godson Hunter Henry. Both Marines, the two Francos were injured during separate deployments to Iraq and have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries, a mental wound afflicting an estimated 10 percent of troops returning from today's wars. Both also have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. (Chris Carlson/AP)*



# MSOs Bring DAV Service to Vets on Campus

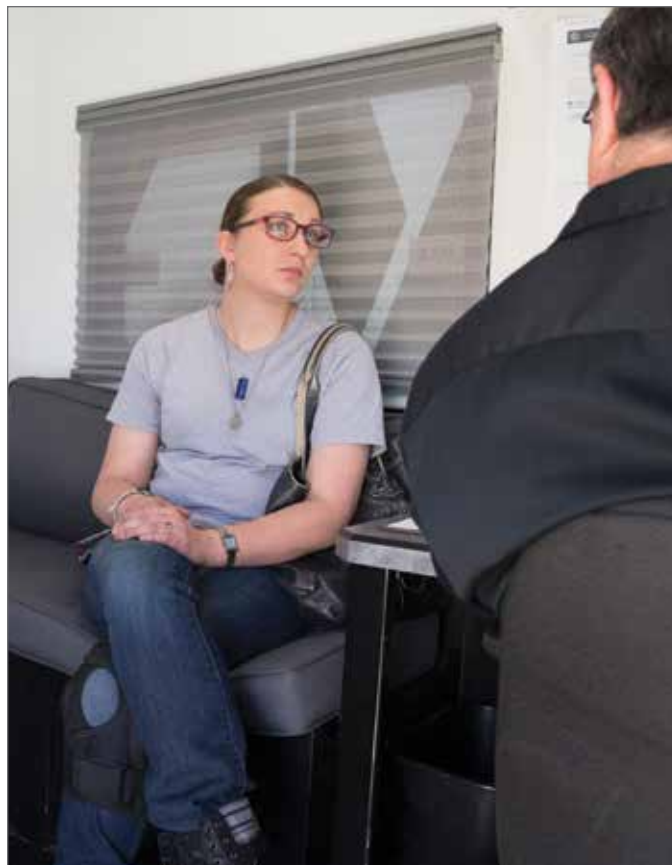
By Ashleigh Bryant

**D**AV has been working to help connect veterans returning to school with National Service Officers, affording them easier access to information and assistance regarding their earned benefits.

In late April, DAV began efforts to deploy Mobile Service Offices (MSO) to a number of college campuses to bring experts in veterans' benefits directly to the students.

"Too many veterans go without their earned benefits because no one reaches out to them," said National Service Director Jim Marszalek. "Putting our MSOs on college campuses gives our National Service Officers a chance to better connect with the population of student veterans and let them know we're here to help."

So far, more than 21 campus visits have taken place, with more to come throughout the year.



*National Service Officer Humberto Mezo counsels a veteran during an MSO visit to the Central Texas College campus on April 29. (Rick Kern/Getty Images)*

## Upcoming MSO Stops

|                 |   |                          |                    |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Wed., July 9    | Spectrum Campus National University                 | San Diego                | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.    |
| Wed., July 16   | Palomar College                                     | San Marcos, Calif.       | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.    |
| Fri., July 18   | Central Virginia Community College                  | Lynchburg, Va.           | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.    |
| Mon., Aug. 25   | Chesapeake College                                  | Wye Mills, Md.           | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.    |
| Thurs., Aug. 28 | Central Connecticut State University Student Center | New Britain, Conn.       | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.    |
| Tues., Sept. 9  | Montgomery County Community College                 | Blue Bell, Pa.           | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.    |
| Fri., Sept. 12  | Pulaski Technical College                           | North Little Rock, Ark.  | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.    |
| Mon., Sept. 15  | Clayton State University                            | Morrow, Ga.              | 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. |
| Tues., Nov. 4   | Coleman College Campus                              | San Diego                | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.    |
| Wed., Nov. 5    | California State University San Marcos              | San Marcos, Calif.       | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.    |
| Wed., Nov. 6    | Mayfield College                                    | Twentynine Palms, Calif. | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.    |



## Learn More Online

Log on to [dav.org](http://dav.org) and look under "News" for updates on future college campus visits. There are a total of 22 additional stops scheduled throughout the remainder of the year.

# Columbia Trust Helps ‘Spread the Wealth’



**W**hen Chapters and Departments lack sufficient funds to provide direct services and special programs for injured and ill veterans, DAV's Columbia Trust can be a valuable resource. Chapters and Departments that have excess funds can also “spread the wealth” by contributing them to the Trust, which ensures that strong services and DAV's legacy of hope are distributed to veterans across the nation.

If a Chapter or Department has liquid assets that exceed three times the expenses of their last fiscal year, they are required to spend the excess for service, bringing their accumulated funds into compliance with Article 18 of the National Bylaws. One way to use excess funds for service is a donation to the Trust.

As a “restricted fund” within the DAV National Service Foundation (NSF), the Trust exists solely to support DAV service programs to veterans and their families at the Department and local levels. No other use is permissible.

“One of the most successful functions of the Trust is its role as a catalyst, bridging resources from well-populated Departments and Chapters to those in need,” said NSF President Arthur H. Wilson. “Funds contributed to the Trust are then used for service initiatives that other Departments and Chapters simply couldn't afford to offer veterans in their communities.”

Grants are not awarded to Chapters and Departments that exceed the asset accumulation limitation spelled out in DAV's National Bylaws, and Chapters and Departments that show an ongoing ability to meet their proposed service obligations are ineligible.

“The Columbia Trust is about creative generosity and providing the means to help others,” National Adjutant Marc Burgess said. “After all, DAV is all about service to our nation's veterans and their families.”

## Spread the Wealth

Chapters and Departments who enjoy a surplus of funds can help maintain basic services for underserved veterans across the country by channeling that surplus through The Columbia Trust. Checks can be made payable to: The Columbia Trust, DAV National Service Foundation, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076.



*Volunteer drivers from Michigan pick up a new Transportation Network vehicle from DAV National Headquarters. From left: Norman Herman, Frieda Herman, Michael Wise, Dianne Spakowski and Mike Spakowski; and Clayton Breiler (back).*

Last year, the Trust awarded \$454,000 in support of DAV Hospital Service Coordinator and Department Service Officer programs. Another \$1.1 million was expended to help put 128 new vans into operation through the DAV Transportation Network.

All Chapter and Department leaders are urged to identify unmet needs and develop creative projects to serve ill and injured veterans in their communities. When funds from the Trust are needed to start or maintain programs to meet those needs, Chapters and Departments are encouraged to apply for grants.

Applications for Trust grants are reviewed by members of an Advisory Committee, which includes one member from each District of the DAV's National Organization. This provides each geographical area with representation and a voice in the decision-making process to determine the expenditure of funds from the Trust.

The Committee reviews the grant requests and recommends where to spend the funds. The NSF Board of Directors is the final arbiter of the grants and acts to affirm, reject or modify the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

The Columbia Trust allows us to share who we are and what we have. It enables us to both give and receive. It provides the means to fulfill our mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. ■

# Turning the Page

## Veteran Assisted by DAV Pays It Forward

By Steve Wilson

**B**efore penning a book on entrepreneurship and graduating from the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) program, Michael Bluemling encountered DAV. The assistance he received from his National Service Officer “helped me immensely in my life post-military service.”

“A life member and representative who worked in the Pittsburgh office actually influenced my decision to join DAV after meeting him through a colleague,” he said. “As a new veteran, I did not understand the resources or organizations that were available to help me with my transition, and DAV was there for me every step of the way. Without the support and commitment of DAV, I would not be the person I am today or have the opportunities that I have as a result of their top-flight representation,” said Bluemling.

Bluemling sought out DAV’s free services and



*Veteran and author Michael Bluemling credits his experience with DAV in his transition from a member of the armed forces to successful entrepreneurship. He founded his own company after graduating from the DAV-supported EBV program.*

person,” Ramsey said. “He spoke to me about his own concerns for veterans and that veterans should be treated fairly.”

National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski said veterans like Bluemling naturally have the zeal and drive to be successful. “Veterans have a work ethic ingrained in them that is unique,” said Jesinoski. “I’m very pleased that Michael is finding success and am so glad we were part of getting him on that path.”

Bluemling said completing the EBV program is one of his life’s biggest accomplishments and has changed his life for the better.

After graduating from the EBV program, Bluemling authored “Turning the Page: Overcoming Abuse to Reach Life’s Fulfillment” and founded Power of One, LLC, which provides its clients with tools for personal growth and development.

DAV supports EBV through participating universities that offer the program.

Bluemling said he was motivated to write the book to help survivors of abuse take control of their lives again through a simplified process of healing and overcoming pain. “When you have organizations such as DAV standing up for all veterans, it really makes you proud to have served your country,” Bluemling said. ■

“Veterans have a work ethic ingrained in them that is unique.”

*Barry Jesinoski, National Headquarters Executive Director*



eventually met Lewis Ramsey, who would become the NSO to help with his claim for benefits earned through his military service.

Ramsey said he remembers Bluemling very well. “He stood out to me as a very, very intelligent and sincere



## SSA Fast Tracks Injured and Ill Veterans

■ The Social Security Administration (SSA) adds injured and ill veterans to the high-priority list for benefits processing. In March, the SSA began expediting the claims of those veterans already deemed fully disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs, in order to help alleviate lengthy delays in processing.

The SSA, like the VA, has struggled to topple the massive backlog of benefits claims, which has increased by 7.6 million over the past decade. On average, a claim takes approximately three months for an initial determination and nearly a year to complete an appeal. With the new expedited procedure, veterans can expect to have an initial interview within three days of filing a claim and a determination about their financial eligibility for benefits in a matter of days.

While this new regulation would help only the 10 percent of veterans who have already received their rating of 100-percent disabled from the VA, SSA officials believe this may be beneficial to tens of thousands of veterans over time.

Though it will not make it more likely that a veteran will receive benefits, the fast-track process means faster decisions for veterans, some whom have waited for years to receive their rating and compensation from the VA.

## Online Tool Helps with Life's Challenges

■ Life can be tough. Relationship troubles, financial responsibilities and loneliness can be hard for anyone.

Veterans and service members often face these obstacles, along with difficulties related to adjusting to civilian life. Recognizing these unique challenges, the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have developed Moving Forward: Overcoming Life's Challenges to help veterans and service members strengthen their problem-solving skills and successfully overcome obstacles.

Moving Forward is a free, confidential, online educational and life-coaching program designed for veterans and service members, but it can be useful to anyone with stressful problems. Moving Forward uses videos, games and interactive exercises to create an engaging and enjoyable learning experience. The course teaches skills to increase one's ability to identify goals and formulate plans to solve problems more effectively. Because stress and pessimism make it harder to solve problems, Moving Forward provides tools to reduce stress and increase optimism. This self-paced program includes eight modules that can be viewed and reviewed at the user's convenience.

Moving Forward is based on a highly effective cognitive behavior treatment program that has been used successfully with veterans and service members across the country. The online course expands access to this valuable training by allowing veterans and service members to take the course anonymously at the time and location of their choice.



Veterans and service members can start the course at [www.veterantraining.va.gov/apps/movingforward/index.html](http://www.veterantraining.va.gov/apps/movingforward/index.html).

## Family Matters

(Continued from pg. 10)

"Don't give up. Keep trying," said Tyus. Her determination paid off when she was finally granted DIC.

"The benefits made a big difference. I was feeling relieved. I could pay off some bills, just breathe a little easier," said Tyus. Instead of worrying about losing her home and putting food on the table for her family, Tyus could actually enjoy Christmas with her loved ones and reminisce about the love of her life, Lamont.

"Lamont Tyus sacrificed for our nation, and as any military spouse knows, that means his family did, too," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "DAV is here to serve not only veterans, but their families who supported and sacrificed right alongside their loved one."

Zielke wants to ensure that survivors know the

benefits they are eligible for, and that they can access free assistance in securing them. He doesn't want anyone else to needlessly struggle, like Tyus did.

National Service Director Jim Marszalek applauded Zielke's commitment to fast tracking Tyus' claim. "When Jason met Thereasa, she was faced with losing her home. He recognized the urgency of the difficult financial situation she was put in due to an oversight, and he jumped into action," said Marszalek. "Thereasa's story is a shining example of DAV's dedication to serving not only veterans, but also their devoted families who supported them."

"I am going to do whatever I can to help others. It makes me feel really good about my job and what I do here," said Zielke. "Come on in and let us assist you with the process. That's why we're here—to help." ■



## Shirley A. Kosisky

By Steve Wilson

“Shirley has demonstrated amazing leadership qualities and a **selfless commitment** to all veterans and their families.”

*Susan Miller, Auxiliary National Commander*

A 39-year member of the DAV Auxiliary, described by her peers as “passionate and relentless in her service to veterans and their families,” has been named the 2014 DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year.

Shirley A. Kosisky of Mesa, Ariz., will be presented the award at this year’s National Convention in Las Vegas.

Kosisky’s extensive experience includes positions within Unit 8, such as Treasurer, Adjutant, Vice-Commander and Commander, as well as Department of Arizona Commander in 1989–90. She is also the Department Judge Advocate and the 2014 Arizona Department Convention Chairperson.

Kosisky has a long history of addressing several issues affecting her local community. In 1992, she co-founded Transitional Living Communities (TLC), a program that focuses on the needs of homeless veterans and their families. Since its founding, TLC has expanded into eight additional states, and Kosisky remains an active member of its board of directors.

Additionally, she was honored by the Arizona governor’s office for her work combatting drug abuse and was named to the Governor’s Substance Abuse Task Force, where she

continues to battle drug-related issues that affect her state.

Auxiliary National Commander Susan Miller said Kosisky has been an inspiring and noble leader through her tenure with the DAV Auxiliary. “Throughout her years of membership, Shirley has demonstrated amazing leadership qualities and a selfless commitment to all veterans and their families. Her actions and accomplishments speak to her dedication to serving others in her local community and within our organization.”

Auxiliary National Adjutant Judy Hezlep said members like her are beacons for others to follow. “Shirley is a true trailblazer. She never rests and is a definite ‘go-to’ person within the Auxiliary and her community for her expertise honed by nearly 40 years of advocating for veterans and their families. I can’t think of anyone who deserves the honor more.”

The DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year Award is conferred annually at the DAV and Auxiliary National Convention. Nominations for next year’s award are due at Auxiliary National Headquarters by March 31, 2015. ■

# From the AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER

## SUSAN K. MILLER



### Always United

It is hard to believe that my year is almost over. I want to thank you, the members, for allowing me to serve this great organization for the past six years. It has been the best opportunity I have ever had.

As my term of office draws to a close, I look back on a very memorable year. From Maine to Hawaii, California to Florida, and everywhere between, I have had the support of our membership. We are “United in Service” everywhere. I have been able to see this at the local, state and national levels. I joined DAV in 1971, eligible through my father, the late Harold Fae Tomlin. Ever since, I have taken personal pride in participating in the many excellent programs, most of which had been in existence long before I joined the DAV Auxiliary.

The Share and Care boat ride in Pennsylvania is a great example of being “United in Service.” DAV and the Auxiliary, along with many other organizations, work together to make this a huge success. Veterans and their families look forward to this event every year.

Veterans Day in Birmingham, Ala., is also very successful. Chad Richmond has every detail well planned for the DAV National Sr. Vice Commander and the DAV Auxiliary National Commander. I am sure many people work together to make this successful event. Another example of “United in Service.”

I had the honor of laying a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery. I was accompanied by three Auxiliary line officers—National Sr. Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg, National 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Craig Johniken and National 4th Jr. Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman. It was a beautiful day, a beautiful wreath and a very gratifying experience.

I was thankful for the invitation to sit beside

Commander Johnston when he delivered DAV’s Legislative Presentation to the joint session of the Veterans’ Affairs Committees. I was proud that all the Auxiliary National Line Officers were present, which showed how united we are in our legislative efforts. I was also honored to participate in the rally, Operation: Keep the Promise.

I am happy to report that the DAV Auxiliary did make its membership quota this year. As of April 30, 2014, our total membership was 144,709, which is 1,125 members over quota. The DAV is working with the Auxiliary to increase our ranks by assisting with a membership-drive mailing. They are also planning to conduct an email membership drive, which will be very efficient. If we, the members, would sign up everyone who is eligible, we could surpass the DAV’s membership of 1.2 million-plus. With the recent changes in eligibility requirements, it is almost impossible to tell someone they do not qualify. There are eligible members everywhere, and we need to learn how to sell our great organization.

The National Line Officers who were elected to serve with me have performed their duties with efficiency, dedication and great ability. It has been an honor and a privilege to have such a devoted group of officers. I thank them for their commitment to this organization.

As I leave the office of National Commander, I pledge to continue my support of our long-standing programs, which have distinguished the DAV Auxiliary as being an outstanding organization. I also intend to support any new programs that our future leaders may initiate. Please continue to be “United in Service.” I look forward to seeing many of you at the National Convention in Las Vegas.





## From the NATIONAL CHAPLAIN CHAPPY RON RINGO, Ph.D.

### True Patriots



**W**ith the celebration of the birth of our nation on the Fourth of July, I want to touch on the meaning of being a true patriot and share 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.

During the war of 1812, Key boarded a British warship in Chesapeake Bay and successfully negotiated a friend's release from enemy hands. But because he and his companions had gained knowledge of the impending attack on Baltimore, the British did not let them go ashore.

Throughout the night, he watched for our great ensign waving over Fort McHenry, which protected the city of Baltimore.

When the battle was over 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 adopted in 1931 as our national anthem. Francis Scott Key did what he wanted to do in his

life; he served others and is known today as a true patriot.

As with Francis Scott Key and all those who serve in the military, service men and women are honorably giving of themselves and willingly bearing each other's burdens. Throughout the scriptures we have been taught to do this. Actually, many of us have the opportunity to do similarly for those around us and often give all we have for others.

May I encourage us all to seek opportunities to serve our fellow man and find the joy that follows, even when you aren't expecting it. This month, I hope you take a moment to remember those who continue to give their all—around the world and in our local areas—for each of us. Enjoy this patriotic month and please be safe.

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.

# Auxiliary Junior Moves to Start New Unit

By Ashleigh Bryant

Most teenagers see turning 18 as the starting point of their adult lives. For many, this means going off to college, beginning a career path and making one's own life decisions. While all that is true for Livonia, Mich., resident Rachel Francis, turning 18 also means she can finally step out on her own—in a different way.

The niece of Marine Corps veteran Beth Francis, Rachel has on her to-do list to start a new DAV Auxiliary Unit at DAV Chapter 102, where her aunt is currently a member.

"I've been doing Junior Auxiliary work since I was in second grade, about 8 years old," said Francis. "I've gone to National Conventions and really just help out wherever they need me."

Her aunt was hurt years ago in a training exercise and joined DAV after being discharged from the Marines. Ever since, Francis has spent hours each month—usually every weekend—helping her aunt around the house. Eventually, she began attending DAV Chapter meetings with Beth and was encouraged to become more involved with volunteer work.

"At first, I was like, really? More stuff to do? But then I got really into it and started to appreciate and enjoy



*Rachel Francis attends the Michigan Department Convention, June 6–8, 2014.*

it," said Francis. "My aunt notices me and my cousin are the ones who are most involved, and she's proud. It means a lot to her."

Currently a member of the Chapter 114 Junior Auxiliary, Francis has been looking forward to the day she turned 18 and could officially begin the process of starting a new Auxiliary Unit to support her aunt's Chapter.

"I like being part of it and going to the meetings and conferences," said Rachel. "I like listening to the stories about what these veterans all did and where they were. A lot of them ended up coming back not fully who they were, but they still have a smile on their face. It's a big deal. I feel like I understand more what they have done and the sacrifices they made."

Francis will begin college in Fall 2014 and hopes to study musical theater or enter the nursing program, but plans to continue her Auxiliary work and spend time volunteering for DAV.

"I really don't know what I'd do without it," said Francis. "DAV is a part of me." ■



## VAVS National Advisory Committee...

Members of DAV gathered with members of several other veteran and military organizations at the Durham VA Medical Center April 23–25 to attend training workshops and to set priorities and develop future plans for the national VA Voluntary Services program. Pictured from left: Kirk Johnson, Calif.; John Marklewicz, Fla.; Dee Davis, S.C.; Mary Ann Keckler, Fla.; William "Bill" Baumann, Nev.; and Larry Long, S.C.



## Do you have a legacy to share?

We'd love to hear from you if you'd like more information on including DAV in your will or other estate gift options such as beneficiary designations.

If you have created an estate gift for DAV, please let us know. We want to show our appreciation for your future gift by enrolling you in the Guardian Society. Members receive an engraved certificate, a society lapel pin, and are named in the society's newsletter, unless anonymity is preferred.

For more information, please

- return the attached postcard,
- call 1-800-216-9802 (ext. 1),
- email [giftplanning@dav.org](mailto:giftplanning@dav.org) or
- visit [www.dav.giftplans.org](http://www.dav.giftplans.org).

We cherish the story of every veteran's service and what inspires them to give back to their fellow injured veterans. We look forward to hearing from you.

**DAV**® Disabled American Veterans  
Guardian Society

Legal address for estate gifts:  
Disabled American Veterans  
P.O. Box 14301  
Cincinnati, OH 45250

Tax identification number:  
31-0263158

## I Owe DAV and My Brothers

### Vietnam Veteran and Wife Name DAV in Wills

**F**or Terry "Wolf" O'Brien, a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran, and his wife, Carol, life took a big turn for the better when DAV's Mobile Service Office visited a nearby town in Michigan several years ago, making it easy for O'Brien to ask about help.

"The National Service Officer that day treated me so righteously and made me feel right at home," O'Brien remembered. "He had served in war, too, so we had lots to talk about. I explained my situation and he started a claim for me that same day. That's what it takes."

O'Brien, who had served in an infantry reconnaissance platoon during Vietnam, said this of his service: "You came out of there dead or wounded. I was 20 when I got hit. Those experiences never go away; some things just don't go away."

Thanks to the service officer's hard work, a few months later O'Brien began to receive VA disability benefits for the first time, four decades after Vietnam. He reflected on the new life this gave Carol and him. "Being older and wiser by then, in the back of my mind I started to think, 'Now I'm getting benefits. I owe DAV and my brothers. They are still my brothers,'" he emphasized, with a break in his voice. "I figured if DAV helped me out, they can help others out, and it didn't cost me a red penny. That's why Carol and I named DAV in our wills."

Thinking back on his life since Vietnam, including all of the great support from his wife, O'Brien said he has no regrets.

"I served my country, and I'm proud of my fellow vets. I always will be."

DAV, in turn, is proud to call the O'Briens friends to DAV, and to all veterans. We hope their story inspires others to follow in their footsteps. ■



*Terry "Wolf" O'Brien  
and his wife, Carol*



*Left: O'Brien in Vietnam. Right: O'Brien with the DAV Mobile Service Office the day he sought help with his VA claim.*





# Department of North Carolina Hosts First **Coming Home** Fundraiser Event

By Steve Wilson

**M**ore than 200 guests, including 65 motorcycle riders, took part in the DAV Department of North Carolina's first Coming Home Run, which featured a motorcycle ride, free meals, music and prizes all aimed at putting funds back into programs for North Carolina's veterans.

Department Commander Cleveland Bryant said the key to the event's success was the relationship his Department has with the community.

"When we were putting this together, I talked to a local barbecue restaurant, BBQ Brothers, and told the owner what we were doing. He said, 'You know what, Commander? I'll give the first 100 [motorcycle] riders a free meal.' I couldn't believe it."

He also credited DAV's longstanding partnership with Harley-Davidson and the Department's relationship with the local Ray Price Harley-Davidson dealership in Raleigh.

"They let us use their facility, parking lot, provided a band and gave us space for a Mobile Service Office van so we could help veterans and tell people about DAV," said Commander Bryant.

Local government officials became involved and small businesses donated prizes for the event.

"Events like this show how relationships with community stakeholders and business owners can make all the difference in fundraising," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "People like to know they can stand up for their veteran neighbors, just as they stood up for their community when America called. Commander Bryant and the Department of North Carolina did a fantastic job." ■



*The relationship between the Department of North Carolina and the Harley-Davidson dealership in Raleigh paid dividends as the two organizations worked together to raise funds for N.C. veterans. All proceeds will go towards veterans' advocacy and service in that state.*



*Department of North Carolina's first Department-wide motorcycle ride stops at the state capital building along the route. While there, the names of the state's military members still listed as Missing in Action were read aloud.*



### **New Chapter Takes Flight in Louisiana...**

DAV Department of Louisiana Commander Shedrick Figaro, far left, addresses the soon-to-be installed officers for the newly formed Chapter 51 in Monroe.



Department 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Gary Littleton (left) presents the Charter to the newly installed Commander of Chapter 51, Stephen Myres. The new Chapter is named for Gen. Claire Chennault, of the famed "Flying Tigers" American Volunteer group, which flew against the Japanese in China prior to the United States officially entering World War II.



### **Celebrity Volunteer Network...**

Veteran and 2009 National Cemetery Administration Employee of the Year Daniel Bradford was visited at the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center by Major League Baseball Umpire Jerry Layne, May 1. Layne is part of baseball's rich heritage and a participant in DAV's Celebrity Entertainment Program.



### **DAV Teams with Campfire...**

Chapter 41 Commander Joel Jimenez and driver Troy Melton assist Campfire director Betty Ricks who sends cookies to injured veterans at the Intrepid Center at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.



### **Charity Proceeds Go Right Back to Local Veterans and their Families...**

The DAV Charities of Central California presents a check for \$54,000 to the VA medical center in Fresno on May 23. The gift will be used to purchase comfort items and equipment, such as a charging station for family members who may not be able to leave the hospital while their loved ones are being treated in the Intensive Care Unit. Fresno VAMC Chief of Public Affairs Sheryl Grubb, 2nd from left, accepts the donation from members of the DAV Charities of Central California and DAV Chapter 1 in Fresno.



**Share Your News!** Send photos of your DAV or Auxiliary news to [feedback@dav.org](mailto:feedback@dav.org).





### Remembering Our Heroes...

Chapter 60, Bloomington, Ill., Treasurer John Sledge and Goldie, the "Riderless Horse," led the 2014 Memorial Day Parade in Bloomington. Goldie marched in the parade to represent our fallen soldiers.



### Smart Home...

DAV Auxiliary Department of Oklahoma Commander Joni Bundy assisted with several fundraising efforts to help Army veteran Rusty Danagan purchase a "smart home," which is designed to ease the everyday challenges for veterans with obvious life-changing injuries. Danagan is the only post- 9/11 survivor from Oklahoma that is a triple amputee. "I am an Army veteran and Danagan is a comrade," Bundy said.



### Nebraska Honor Flight...

Ed Smejkal (left) and Bernard Krakowski, lifetime members of General MacArthur Chapter 2 in Omaha, Neb., were among 460 Korean Veterans to participate in the Nebraska Honor Flight March 25, organized by Patriotic Productions. The trip included visits to the Korean War Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery and the World War II Memorial.



### Community Service...

Chapter 59, Lodi, Calif., Sr. Vice Commander Melissa Sousa and Adjutant/Treasurer Bill Jones worked with NSOs at an event held April 16 to help local veterans get answers to their questions about VA benefits and the claims process.

### Chapter 3 Rapid City, S.D., Takes Local Veterans Fishing...

For the third consecutive year, members of DAV Chapter 3, Rapid City, S.D., held a Walleye Outing May 17. This annual event takes advantage of the statewide free fishing weekend for the veterans who would otherwise not be able to enjoy fishing. Each veteran was paired with a guide who provided all of the gear required.





# Claude Callegary

Past National Commander (1965–1966)

■ Claude Callegary, who served as National Commander in 1965–1966, has died.

He was elected National Commander at DAV's 45th National Convention in New Orleans and led DAV in a tumultuous time as America's service members were being sent to Vietnam, which was becoming an unpopular war in the eyes of the public.

Callegary enlisted in the Army nine months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. After defending American soil in the Aleutian Islands Campaign, he was shipped to the South Pacific, where he was one of just three survivors in a plane crash.

He was out of the war and spent the next four months in a hospital, after which he earned a law degree. He was active in state government, received commendations from



Callegary

the Governor of Maryland and became actively involved in veterans' groups. He was nominated for National Commander by United States Senator Daniel Brewster, another World War II veteran, and was selected Maryland Veteran of the Year that same year.

Callegary was well respected in the veteran community. His counsel was sought for veteran-related issues by five U.S. presidents as part of the U.S. Veterans Advisory Commission.

"Claude Callegary served his fellow veterans with tremendous distinction and provided a voice for veterans on the national stage," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "At a time when the relationship between the military and public was strained due to an unpopular war, he was ensuring DAV was ready to welcome home a new generation. We're mourning the loss of a great leader and we will certainly miss him."



## Students Care about America's Veterans...

Kiera Cislo's second grade class from Clinton Street Elementary School in West Seneca, N.Y., won a schoolwide "carecrow" making contest. The contest generated a \$325 donation to support DAV's free services.



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

## REUNIONS

### ARMY

#### 2ND BATTALION 94TH ARTILLERY (VIETNAM)

Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Gettysburg, PA, Contact: Jim Lary, Ph: 501-834-9777, Email: jlary@usa.net, Web: 2ndbattalion94thartillery.com.

#### 8TH BATTALION, 4TH FIELD ARTILLERY (VIETNAM 1967-1971)

Aug. 6-10, Philadelphia, PA, Contact: Brian M. O'Neill, Ph: 973-729-5586, Email: bmonell@juno.com.

#### 14TH BATTALION H & HQ COMPANY VIETNAM

Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Dan Quackenbush, Ph: 315-320-4174, Email: quack0711@twcny.rr.com.

#### 19TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION ASSOC.

VIETNAM AND ATTACHED UNITS Sept. 4-6, St. Roberts, MO, Contact: Tom Ebrite, Ph: 765-286-4906, Email: s2snoopy@comcast.net, Web: www.19engrvm.org.

#### 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.

Sept. 17-21, Omaha, NE, Contact: Don Maggio, Ph: 828-684-5931, Email: the24thidavp@aol.com.

#### 27TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (THE WOLFHOUSES)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. Aug. 18-24, Kansas City, MO, Contact: Randy Hall, Ph: 816-668-8685, Email: wolfhounds2014@gmail.com.

#### 79TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY DS VIETNAM

Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Art Harrison, Ph: 440-668-0019, Email: jam1996min@aol.com.

#### 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC.

July 30-Aug. 3, New Orleans, LA, Contact: Charles Abdnor, Ph: 978-323-4536, Email: info@83rdassociation.com, Web: www.83rdassociation.com.

#### 96TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Sept. 18-20, Branson, MO, Contact: Frank Lewandowski, Ph: 440-255-2118, Email: fsewand@att.net.

#### 97TH AND 510TH ENGINEER BATTALION

(CONSTRUCTION) Oct. 2-4, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, Contact: Larry L. Castleman, Ph: 334-677-5179, Email: llchief@aol.com, Web: www.catkillers.org/97thEng.

#### 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION - VIETNAM VETERANS

Aug. 28-30, Charleston, SC, Contact: Rod Green, Ph: 605-360-1240, Email: randhgreen@sio.midco.net, Web: www.101namvet.com.

#### 249TH ENGINEER BATTALION ASSN.

Sept. 18-21, Branson, MO, Contact: Robin Wandell, Ph: 660-815-1166, Email: firewoodfriend@hotmail.com.

#### 335TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY DS VIETNAM

Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Tom Peterson, Ph: 316-794-8427, Email: gtp001@pixus.net.

#### 339TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY DS VIETNAM

Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Ralph Frank, Ph: 352-527-9319, Email: rf339ds@embarqmail.com.

#### 503RD FORWARD SUPPORT BATTALION, 1ST

BRIGADE, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION Aug. 22-25, Hurley, WI, Contact: George Boyles, Ph: 979-587-1124, Email: bud16692200@yahoo.com.

#### 509TH ENGINEER COMPANY VIETNAM

Sept. 4-6, Fort Worth, TX, Contact: Jerry Sexton, Ph: 405-373-0354, Email: lindasexton@sbcglobal.net.

#### 512TH MILITARY POLICE ACADEMY

Aug. 1-3, Tucson, AZ, Contact: B. J. Searcy, Ph: 520-456-1229 or 520-249-9515, Email: dbjsearcy@powerc.net.

#### 536TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY - GERMANY

Sept. 16-18, Algoma-Green Bay, WI, Contact: Ronald Nelson, Ph: 507-895-2877.

#### 540TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY GS VIETNAM

Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Wayne Gallant, Ph: 916-543-4856, Email: wayne.gallant@sbcglobal.net.

#### 604TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY DS VIETNAM

Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Ken Gurbisz, Ph: 732-542-0843, Email: Gurbisz@verizon.net.

#### 608TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY DS VIETNAM

Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Dan Sippel, Ph: 912-876-5017, Email: dsippel@coastalnow.net.

#### 610TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY GS VIETNAM

Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: James Womble, Ph: 615-889-7872, Email: womble8048@gmail.com.

#### 614TH AVEL LEM, VIETNAM

Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Frank Ferry, Ph: 203-205-9021, Email: frankgferry@yahoo.com.

#### 864TH ENGINEER BATTALION (PACEMAKERS) ALL

ERAS Oct. 22-26, San Diego, CA, Contact: Skip Semler, Ph: 619-370-9121, Email: reunion864th\_2014@yahoo.com.

#### ARMY COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS VETERANS

(ACICV) Sept. 18-22, Minneapolis, MN, Contact: John Knobach, Ph: 772-341-2063, Email: johnknobloch@hotmail.com.

#### ARMY SECURITY AGENCY OKINAWA

Sept. 17-21, Albuquerque, NM, Contact: Gary Duenow, Ph: 319-393-2234, Email: thedue60@yahoo.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/asaoakinawa.

#### DELTA CO. 1/20TH BATTALION, 11TH LIB, AMERICAL

DIVISION Oct. 2-5, Bowling Green, KY, Contact: Wendell Strode, Ph: 270-467-8814, Email: strode@corvettemuseum.org, Web: www.deltacompany.org.

#### E COMPANY RECON 2/501ST, 101ST AIRBORNE

VIETNAM Sept. 7-14, Myrtle Beach, SC, Contact: Mike Campbell, Ph: 843-750-0705, Email: campbell7578@sc.rr.com.

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE 6TH INFANTRY

DIVISION Sept. 10-14, Louisville, KY, Contact: Russ McLogan, Ph: 517-437-2768, Email: terruspress@dmci.net.

#### OV-1 MOHAWK ASSOCIATION

Sept. 4-6, Addison (Dallas), TX, Contact: Paul Jacobsen, Ph: 763-493-2428, Email: pej@reagan.com.

#### SOCIETY OF THE FIFTH DIVISION

Sept. 25-29, Nashville, TN, Contact: Bobby Moody, Ph: 864-859-9952, Email: bobbymooddy68@gmail.com.

### MARINES

#### K-3-1 (VIETNAM 66-71)

Aug. 21-24, Rochester, MN, Contact: David Crawley, Ph: 507-273-7183, Email: rocketsup@charter.net.

#### LIMA COMPANY 3RD BATTALION, 1ST MARINES

(VIETNAM) Sept. 11-14, Quantico, VA, Contact: Nick Carter, Ph: 641-715-3900 ext. 422137#, Email: limathreone@gmail.com.

#### MARINE AIR GROUPS REUNION

Oct. 1-4, Branson, MO, Contact: Bob Miller, Ph: 636-327-5854, Email: mbobsue13@gmail.com.

#### MARINES BARRACKS SASEBO

Oct. 7-9, San Diego, CA, Contact: Bob McCarthy, Ph: 515-274-9110, Email: ccoach430@aol.com.

#### SECOND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES ASSN.

Aug. 13-17, Portland, OR, Contact: John Schassen, Ph: 541-536-5863, Email: jnschassen@aol.com, Web: www.2-4association.org.

#### SHORT AIRFIELD FOR TACTICAL SUPPORT/

#### EXPEDITIONARY AIRFIELD (SATS/EAF) ASSN.

Aug. 13-16, Baltimore, MD, Contact: James Halterman, Ph: 443-402-0720, Email: Halterman1944@msn.com.

#### STORMY'S BLT 3/3 (1961-62)

Oct. 20-23, Las Vegas, NV, Contact: Jim Burrus, Ph: 949-830-1732, Email: calpacgpb@pacbell.net.

#### USMC MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSN. INC. 2014

REUNION Sept. 21-24, 2014, Camp Pendleton, CA, Contact: Marcel Arbelaez, Ph: 910-450-1841, Email: secretary@usmcmta.org.

### NAVY

#### 15TH ANNUAL NMCB-3 ALL ERAS

Sept. 18-20, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Jack Davis, Ph: 606-546-8491, Email: nmcb3vra@hotmail.com.

#### AMERICAN ASSN. OF NAVY HOSPITAL CORPSMEN

Sept. 25-28, Providence/Warwick, RI, Contact: Charles Kraut, Ph: 817-428-6299, Email: chuckkat@swbell.net.

#### MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (NMCB) - 7

Sept. 11-14, Washington, DC, Contact: Denny Blaisdell, Ph: 419-867-9371, Email: mcb7ra@yahoo.com.

#### NAVY PHOTOGRAPHERS REUNION

Sept. 25-28, Pensacola, FL, Contact: Bill Solt, Ph: 757-427-5766, Email: sisbill@aol.com, Web: www.navyphoto.net.

#### USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2)

July 14-20, Annapolis, MD, Contact: Russ Pillion, Email: rpillion@comcast.net, Web: www.ussbellegrove.com/reunion.

#### USS BEXAR (APA-237)

Sept. 18-21, Pensacola, FL, Contact: Steve Malloy, Ph: 360-373-1093, Email: ussbexar@comcast.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/bexar.

#### USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CV/CVA-31) SHIP

#### COMPANY AND AIR GROUP AND USS BON HOMME

#### RICHARD (LHD-6)

Sept. 11-13, Gurnee, IL, Contact: Frank Pulliam, Ph: 417-684-1358.

#### USS BOSTON (CA-69/CAG-1/SSN-703)

July 10-13, Danvers, MA, Contact: Arthur L. Hebert, Ph: 603-672-8772.

#### USS CARTER HALL (LSD-3)

Sept. 22-24, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Donald Brewer, Ph: 423-349-6338.

#### USS CONCORD (AFS-5)

Oct. 9-12, Louisville, KY, Contact: Garry Collins, Ph: 502-424-4430, Email: garrysea@gmail.com, Web: www.ussconcord.org.

#### USS COURTNEY (DE-1021)

Sept. 4-7, Boston, MA, Contact: Marc Arsenault, Ph: 508-248-5072, Email: marc-a@charter.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/courtney.

#### USS COWELL (DD-547)

Oct. 6-9, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Vincent Kraus, Ph: 904-721-8009, Email: volga36@aol.com.

#### USS CROMWELL (DE-1014)

Sept. 4-7, Boston, MA, Contact: Marc Arsenault, Ph: 508-248-5072, Email: marc-a@charter.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/Cromwell.

#### USS CURRENT (ARS-22)

Sept. 11-14, Branson, MO, Contact: Jerry Spickler, Ph: 317-996-2759, Email: brickletter@yahoo.com.

#### USS DEALY (DE-1006)

Sept. 4-7, New London, CT, Contact: Marc Arsenault, Ph: 508-248-5072, Email: marc-a@charter.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/Dealey.

#### USS EDMONDS (DE-406)

Sept. 25-27, 2014, Twin Falls, ID, Contact: Carl Jackson, Ph: 208-324-8573, Email: nanjack192@cablenet.net.

#### USS ELOKOMIN (AO-55)

Sept. 23-26, Myrtle Beach, SC, Contact: Robert F. O'Sullivan, Ph: 617-288-3755, Email: theeloman@verizon.net.

#### USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754)

Oct. 1-4, Seattle, WA, Contact: John Coffey, Ph: 706-335-0724, Email: johnjudy@aol.com.

#### USS FRANK KNOX (DD/DDR-742)

Sept. 17-20, New Orleans, LA, Contact: Orville Krieg, Ph: 727-724-1279, Email: orvnancy@verizon.com.

#### USS HALSEY POWELL (DD-686)

Sept. 29-Oct. 3, San Antonio, TX, Contact: James Wyatt, Ph: 435-752-2026, Email: halseypowell@comcast.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/hpowell.

#### USS HARRY E. YARNELL (DLG/CG-17)

Nov. 7-9, Virginia Beach, VA, Contact: Paul Bolduc, Ph: 978-249-4038, Email: pcbolduc@verizon.net.

#### USS HARTLEY (DE-1029)

Sept. 4-7, New London, CT, Contact: Marc Arsenault, Ph: 508-248-5072, Email: marc-a@charter.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/Hartley.

#### USS HOLDER (DD/DDE-819 AND DE-401)

Sept. 21-25, Chattanooga, TN, Contact: James de Barrios, Ph: 831-458-9062, Email: ussholder\_dde819@hotmail.com, Web: www.ussholder.com.

#### USS HOLLISTER (DD-788)

Sept. 24-28, Davenport, IA, Contact: Ed Gundersen, Ph: 518-842-7126, Email: gunder788@verizon.net, Web: www.usshollister.org.

#### USS HUNLEY (AS-31)

Sept. 10-14, Waterloo, IA, Contact: James Fitkin, Ph: 319-266-3509, Email: jfitkin@netins.net.

#### USS HUNTINGTON (CL-107)

Sept. 25-28, Memphis, TN, Contact: Gene Volcik, Ph: 512-926-7008, Email: evolcik@aol.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/Huntington.

#### USS INCHON (LPH/MCS-12)

Oct. 12-16, Norfolk, VA, Contact: David F. Fix, Ph: 717-203-4152, Email: ussinchon@gmail.com, Web: www.ussinchon.com.

#### USS INGERSOLL (DD-652/990)

Sept. 5-7, Houston, TX, Contact: Dennis Harris, Ph: 979-676-0612, Email: oldsailor62@gmail.com, Web: www.ussingersoll-vets.com.

#### USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2/LHD-7)

Aug. 27-31, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Robert G. McAnally, Ph: 757-723-0317, Email: yujack46709@gmail.com, Web: www.ussiwomjashipmates.cfnr.net.

#### USS JOHN R. CRAIG (DD-885)

Sept. 24-28, Portland, OR, Contact: Jerry Chwalek, Ph: 734-525-1469, Email: jermail@ameritech.net, Web: www.ussjohnrcraig.com.

#### USS JOHN WILLIS (DE-1027)

Sept. 4-7, Boston, MA, Contact: Marc Arsenault, Ph: 508-248-5072, Email: marc-a@charter.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/johnwillis.

#### USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16)

Sept. 4-7, San Francisco, CA, Contact: Jim Hansen, Ph: 719-488-4443, Email: jzhansen@msn.com.

#### USS JOSEPH K. TAUSSIG (DE-1030)

Sept. 4-7, Boston, MA, Contact: Marc Arsenault, Ph: 508-248-5072, Email: marc-a@charter.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/jktaussig.

#### USS JUNEAU (CLAA-119)

Sept. 3-7, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Edwin Cox, Ph: 843-537-5848, Email: edwincox@bellsouth.net.

#### USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN ASSN.

Sept. 11-14, Plattsburgh, NY, Contact: James Brown, Ph: 732-928-8355, Email: goat1964@aol.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/lakechamp.

#### USS LATIMER (APA-152)

Oct. 6-8, Hampton, VA, Contact: Elisa Raney, Ph: 757-595-3274, Email: iannavy@me.com.

**USS LEAHY (DLG-16)** Sept. 15–17, Branson, MO, Contact: Bob Jeffries, Ph: 574-268-7678, Email: bljeffries@embarqmail.com.

**USS LESTER (DE-1022)** Sept. 4–7, Boston, MA, Contact: Marc Arsenault, Ph: 508-248-5072, Email: marc-a@charter.net, Web: www.mlsinc.com/lester.

**USS MANSFIELD (DD-728)** Sept. 10–14, Fall River, MA, Contact: Tom Harper, Ph: 419-448-0536, Email: tom5292@sbcglobal.net.

**USS MISSISSIPPI (EAG-128)** Sept. 25–28, Memphis, TN, Contact: Paul Shepley, Ph: 910-256-6173, Email: eag128reunion@yahoo.com, Web: www.mlsinc.com/eag128.

**USS MONTRAIL (APA-213)** Sept. 25–28, Myrtle Beach, SC, Contact: Don DiCoio, Ph: 973-725-1974, Email: dicoio44@aol.com.

**USS MOUNT MCKINLEY ASSN.** Sept. 17–21, Colorado Springs, CO, Contact: Dwight L. Janzen, Ph: 509-534-3649, Email: djanzen4@msn.com.

**USS NAVARRO (APA-215)** Oct. 20–24, Tucson, AZ, Contact: Pete Waid, Ph: 253-332-2859, Email: petewaid@aol.com.

**USS NECHES (AO-47)** Sept. 10–14, St. Louis, MO, Contact: Johnny Hanlon, Ph: 918-760-7371, Email: johnnyhanlon@cox.net.

**USS NEW JERSEY** Aug. 20–24, St. Louis, MO, Contact: Ernest Dalton, Ph: 210-275-7886, Email: ps159@sbcglobal.net, Web: www.usnewjersey.org.

**USS PERKINS (DD-26/DD-377/DDR-877)** Sept. 10–14, Ft. Worth, TX, Contact: Billy Orr, Ph: 903-227-1852, Email: jackaloperancher@msn.com.

**USS PICKAWAY (APA-222)** Sept. 18–21, Pensacola, FL, Contact: Jim Crawford, 527 Childers Lane, Ringgold, GA 30736, Email: sailor@catt.com, www.mlsinc.com/pickaway.

**USS PITTSBURGH (CA-72)** Sept. 12–16, Washington, DC, Contact: Victor St. Laurent, 225 Hilton Street, Tiverton, RI 02878, Ph: 401-624-4330.

**USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-31)** Sept. 10–14, Oklahoma City, OK, Contact: John Nicolosi, Ph: 978-532-0717, Email: pointdefiance@yahoo.com.

**USS RANDOLPH (CVA/CVS-15)/USS TERROR (CM-5)** Sept. 21–28, Newport News, VA, Contact: Sal Rizza, Ph: 321-454-2344, Email: kenmendelcva15@gmail.com.

**USS RENDOVA (CVE-114)** Oct. 7–10, 2014, New Orleans, LA, Contact: Chuck Fecay, Ph: 313-565-1515, Email: cfecay@att.net.

**USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)** Sept. 25–29, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Joe Hill, Ph: 931-432-4848, Email: nitecrawl@twlakes.net.

**USS ROY O. HALE (DE/DER-336)** Sept. 22–24, Mt. Pleasant (Charleston), SC, Contact: Simona Robinson, Ph: 603-867-2023, Email: simonarobinson@metrocast.net.

**USS SARATOGA (CV-3/CVA-CA-60)** Sept. 25–27, Louisville, KY, Contact: Harvey A. Hirsch, Ph: 877-360-7272.

**USS SCHOFIELD (DEG/FFG-3)** Sept. 18–21, Philadelphia, PA, Contact: Mark Fletcher, Ph: 413-773-3211, Email: gunnerfletcher@hotmail.com, Web: www.mlsinc.com/schofield.

**USS SPHINX (ARL-24)** Sept. 8–11, Branson, MO, Contact: Dennis Klein, Ph: 215-542-2283, Email: dckdck@aol.com.

**USS TRUXTUN (DLG(N)/CG(N)-35)** Oct. 9–12, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Charlie Bethea, Email: cbethea1@sc.rr.com, Web: www.truxtunassn.org.

**USS TURNER JOY (DD-951)** Aug. 7–10, Bremerton, WA, Contact: Richard Asche, Ph: 360-871-9482, Email: reasche@aol.com, Web: www.ussturnerjoy.com.

**USS VAN VOORHIS (DE-1028)** Sept. 4–7, Boston, MA, Contact: Marc Arsenault, Ph: 508-248-5072, Email: marc-a@charter.net, Web: www.mlsinc.com/vanvoorhis.

**USS VOGUE (DE/FF-1047)** Oct. 8–12, Norfolk, VA, Contact: Tom Anderson, Ph: 501-259-1369, Email: ussvogegroup@gmail.com.

**USS WALKER (DD-723)** Sept. 14–18, Springfield, IL, Contact: Richard Williamson, Ph: 920-788-4916, Email: rwilliamson@new.rr.com.

**USS WALKER (DD/E-517)** Oct. 6–9, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Mike Goggins, Ph: 414-774-5201, Email: m.boggins@att.net.

**USS WARRINGTON (DD-843)** Sept. 17–21, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Stan Prager, Ph: 916-791-6700, Email: stashuman843@msn.com.

**USS WILHOITE (DE/DER-397)** Sept. 28–Oct. 2, Memphis, TN, Contact: William West, Ph: 423-261-2202, Email: rockbill9@gmail.com, Web: www.usswilhoite.org.

**VP-6 BLUE SHARKS (ALL YEARS)** Sept. 18–21, San Diego, CA, Contact: Terry Snyder, Ph: 805-205-4442, Email: Sensorone@verizon.net, Web: www.vp-6.org.

## AIR FORCE

**4TH FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR WING, 334TH, 335TH, 336 FTR INTERCEPTOR SQDNS** Sept. 10–13, Goldsboro, NC, Contact: Carlo Romano, Ph: 301-593-2266.

**20TH & 81ST TAC FIGHTER WING GROUP** Oct. 8–12, Villages of Florida, FL, Contact: Gregory Vogel, Ph: 352-633-6029, Email: gvogel55@yahoo.com.

**28TH WING ASSOCIATION** Aug. 28–Sept. 1, Rapid City, SD, Contact: Bob Regets, Ph: 315-406-9002, Email: fatherbob1234@yahoo.com, Web: www.28thwingassociation.org.

**38TH BOMB WING/66TH TAC REC (FRANCE 1953-58)** Sept. 4–6, Cleveland, OH, Contact: Peter Bachman, Ph: 706-885-1272, Email: 38bomwingassoc@gmail.com.

**61ST FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON NEWFOUNDLAND 1950** Sept. 18–20, Mt. Clemens, MI, Contact: Charles Christianson, Ph: 763-360-5681, Email: cncask4it@gmail.com.

**1041ST SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON (T)** Oct. 2–5, Evergreen, TX, Contact: Bill Revell, Ph: 936-767-4868, Email: peregrine1041@yahoo.com.

**AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION** Sept. 17–21, Albuquerque, NM, Contact: Steve Mac Isaac, Ph: 302-249-1499, Email: colmacmac@mac.com, Web: www.ac-119gunships.com.

**CHAMBLEY AIRBASE, FRANCE 1954-1967** Oct. 2–6, Tampa, FL, Contact: Leonard Black, Ph: 813-480-1828, Email: lblack1927@aol.com.

## ALL SERVICES

**80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSN.** Aug. 13–16, Hagerstown, MD, Contact: Jeff Wignall, Ph: 978-532-0741, Email: member9219@aol.com.

**ALASKA MILITARY VETERANS** Sept. 8–11, St. Louis, MO, Contact: Herman T. Snelling, Ph: 704-663-2915.

**NEBRASKA VIETNAM VETERANS** Aug. 14–17, Norfolk, NE, Contact: Bruce Bounds, Ph: 402-841-5524, Web: www.vetsreunion.com.

**VETERANS OF THE KOREAN WAR** Sept. 30–Oct. 3, Virginia Beach, VA, Contact: F. D. Newkirk, Ph: 757-340-9801, Email: fnewkirk1@cox.net.

## INQUIRIES

- Searching for information about SFC Jeremiah J. Sullivan, Pusan Perimeter, Korean War. Contact James A. Dengel, 260 W. 260th Street, Bronx, NY 10471, Ph: 718-884-7064.
- Searching for anyone aboard USS Purdy (DD-734), Winter 1951–52, who remembers muzzle blast from #3 Mount that Flansburg MM1 received while on station, north of 38th Parallel, North Korea. Contact Victor W. Flansburg, 7687 120th Street, S.W., Motley, MN 56466-2580, Ph: 218-352-6751.
- Searching for anyone involved with or who has info about a canceled attempt to install footbridge hanging below Chinook helicopter around Oct. 1966 in the Minh Thanh area during Operation Shenandoah One. Contact Steve Pearce, 16220 Fairview Crescent, Southfield, MI 48076, Email: pearce1944@gmail.com.
- Searching for anyone serving time in the Long Binh Stockade, July–August 1968. Contact Julie Singleton at AccuJules@aol.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with Charlie Wolff, 18th Battalion, 720th MP Group A Company from Nov. 1968 – Feb. 1970. In Long Binh, ran operation from Newport to the 93rd Replacement Center via late-night convoys and Highway 3-1 Alpha. Spent time in the company at the 24th Evac, then stationed at Provost Marshall Office, Bear Cat Vietnam. Contact Charlie Wolff, aka Woffie, South Division, 281 North State Street, Concord, NH 03301.
- Searching for anyone who served aboard the (USAT) Gen. Freeman, Sept.–Oct. 1946 and has knowledge of stopping in Japan then on to South Korea Oct. 14, 1946. Contact Bernard L. Mazurkiewicz, 9337 Rambler Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123-4418, Ph: 314-631-8924.
- Searching for anyone who served in Germany between the years 1979–1982 in the 59th Air Traffic Control Battalion under Col. Curt M. Read. Contact Nancy Sikorski at Email: u1021kelly@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who served in the Air Force at Aerial Mail Terminal, 388th Combat Support Group, 553rd Recon Wing (HSS) in SEA (1967–68) (1969–70) across from the Army - Camp Friendship. Contact Nate Biddle, Jr., 62 East

Macedonia Road, Texarkana, TX 75501.

- Searching for anyone who served with me from October 1954 to October 1957 in the 67th Medical Detachment, 2nd Armored Division, in Mainz Germany. Contact Arthur B. Barnes, 2403 Fayetteville Street, Durham, NC 27707-4123, Ph: 919-246-4335.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Okinawa from Sept. 1969 to Sept. 1970 with Headquarters 3rd Marine Division at Camp Butler after pulling out of Vietnam. Contact Bob Butler, 800 N. Kilgore, Portales, NM 88130, Ph: 575-607-5282, Email: bobbyRbutler@hotmail.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in the 1961 Engineer Aviation Depot Company from 1943–1946, U.S.A., Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany. Contact Vivian Young, 1608 Parkdale Drive, Wichita Falls, TX 76706, Ph: 904-761-1490.
- Searching for anyone who served with Sgt. Wm. Waldrige of the 92nd Aviation Division. Contact Sgt. Wm. Waldrige, 101 W. Main Street, Alexandria, TN 37012, Ph: 615-815-5213.
- Searching for anyone who was in Leyte or the Philippines serving in the 187th Airborne Glider Infantry or the 77th Infantry Division Liberty Patch from Aug. 1945 to Sept. 1946. Contact Jack Inserra, Ph: 201-575-0275, Email: inserraj@optimum.net.
- Searching for anyone who was with the 224th General Hospital at Eureux, France. Then went to the 57th General Hospital Luzon, Philippines, on the USS General Gordon; and then onto the 57th General Hospital at Hiro, Japan, on the USS LST-771 on Dec. 27, 1945. Contact Albert E. Huffman, 6866 E. David Drive, Tucson, AZ 85730, Ph: 520-790-1518.
- Searching for anyone who was wounded and transported out on the Gen. M. C. Meigs from Korea to Japan during the Korean War, 1950 to early 1951. Contact Ralph A. Pisano, 34692 Calle Loma, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624, Ph: 949-493-3404, Email: 13rapsr@cox.net.
- Searching for Jack Dailey and Strang, nicknamed Junior. Served in the 554th Red Horse Squadron in 1971, Pleiku and Danang. George Silva looking for Jack Dailey, a carpenter in Danang. We all served with Junior. I served with Strang in Pleiku; he was a Dirt Boy. Contact Dan Raske, Ph: 781-272-4840, Email: Draske@verizon.net.
- Searching for John Morgan, who volunteered with me during Vietnam in Badshersfield, Germany, in 1965 and returned to Fort Hood in 1967. He was from Denver, CO. Contact Jackie McCain, Ph: 903-732-7000.
- Searching for Robert M. Greene who was stationed with me at 412 MMs, Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, during 1967–68. Sang with vocal group Doc & the Cavaliers. Won first place AF talent contest and toured with 7AF Command Performance from Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam. Contact Jesse Holt, 1804 Wigner Court, Hampton, VA 23663, Ph: 757-851-8332, Email: patjess2@cox.net.
- Searching for Russell Dawkins, who served with me in the Headquarters Co. of the 34th Engineers at Phu Loi in Vietnam, 1969–70. Contact Charlie Van Der Maillie, 249 Gutha Road, Delanson, NY 12053-4721, Ph: 585-703-4312, Email: fivestartcharlie@yahoo.com.
- Searching for surviving family members of three airmen: Ledr. Donald E. King, Ledr. Richard Earl Parks and ADJ-3 Carl V. Miller, who perished in an A3B aircraft accident in Alturas, CA, on April 5, 1967. Contact Barbara Reader at Email: breader@san.rr.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Company L, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st US Army Division, in Freidburg, Germany, during 1948–1950. Contact Charles "Ken" Shelton, Ph: 850-456-6787.
- Searching for anyone who served with me at A1W prototype at National Reactor Testing Station, Idaho Falls, ID, Crew-D, between 1968–1970. Contact Allan Schlobohm, Ph: 951-242-9834, Email: mwdnomas@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me from Feb. 1974 to May 1976 in the 1st Armored Division 3/35, Combat Support Company, stationed at Bamberg, Germany. Contact Reynaldo Cabanas, Ph: 609-635-6902, Email: reycabarc@gmail.com.
- Searching for anyone who served at the U.S. Naval Ammunitions Depot, Oct. 1971–July 1972. Inquiring about possible reunion. Contact Harold Adams, 631 E. 100 Place, Chicago, IL, Ph: 773-785-0316.
- Searching for army doctor who was aboard PVT William H. Thomas at Port Cristobal Colon, Panama, who examined me on Aug. 2, 1948. Contact Homero A. Castillo, 1815 Hidalgo Street, Laredo, TX 78040.







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