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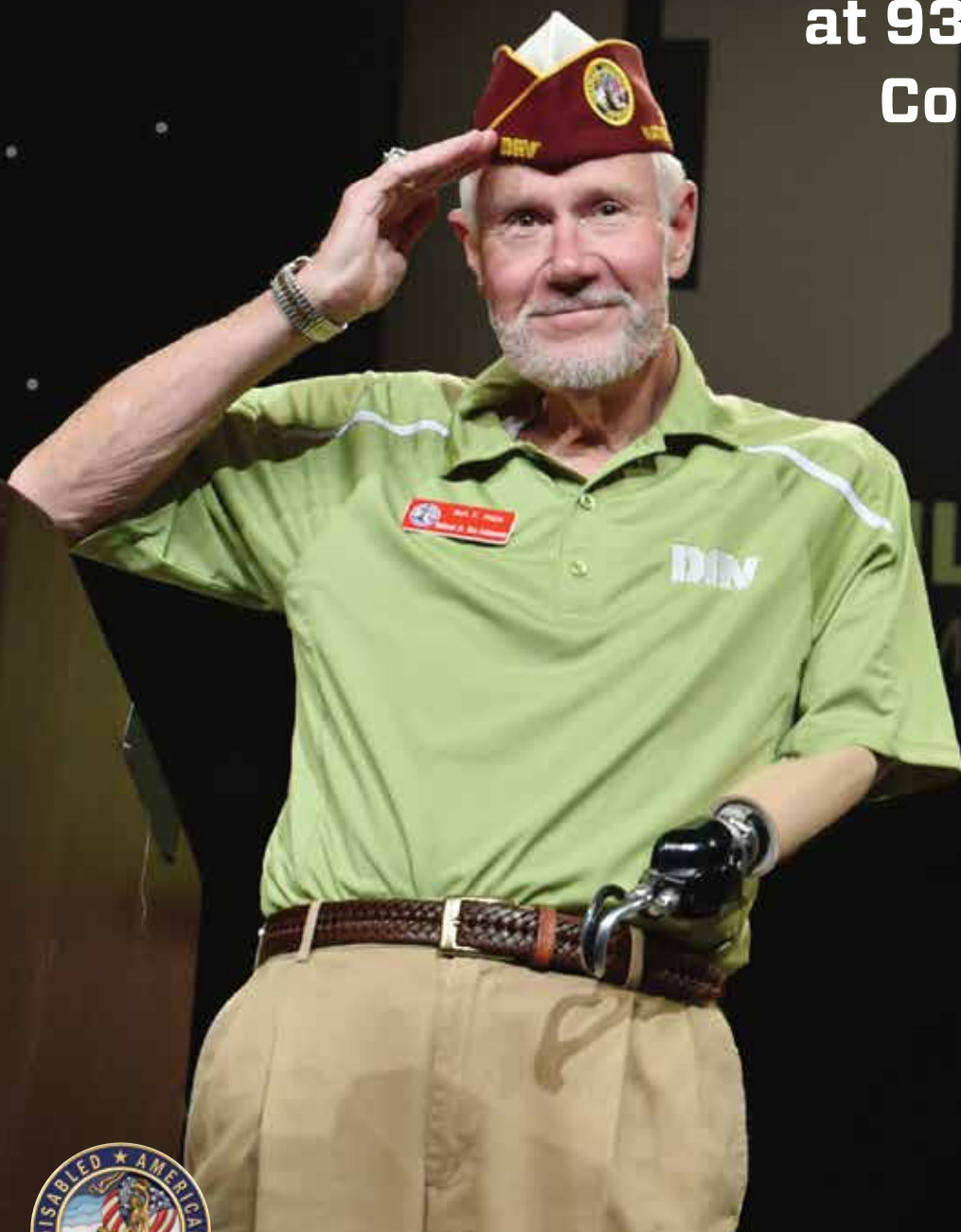
SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2014

# MAGAZINE

## New Officers Elected

at 93rd National  
Convention in  
Las Vegas

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Fun Night featured swing-revival band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.



"America's Got Talent" winner, comedian/ventriloquist Terry Fator, proved to be a big hit for adults and children alike when he performed during the National Commanders' Reception.



The National Order of Trench Rats continued their annual Convention traditions, including their support of the National Service Foundation through fundraising and generous giving.



Always one of the most popular National Convention destinations, this year's Las Vegas experience did not disappoint.





# From the NATIONAL COMMANDER

## RON F. HOPE



### Honored to Serve

**F**riends, we've had a busy year. We're going to get busier.

As our weary nation winds down from combat operations after nearly 13 years of war, those veterans will be making that very challenging transition that we've all experienced ourselves. The transition out of uniform and back to civilian life is difficult, but that's where DAV is at its best.

Helping veterans make that transition often begins with our service officers, and I'm very proud to say I spent 31 years as a National Service Officer (NSO).

This past year, when Washington, D.C., couldn't stop squabbling and playing partisan politics, the government, as you all will remember, shut down. Many of our NSO offices are located inside VA regional offices, and this could have presented a problem.

I cannot tell you how proud I am that, even though the government shut down, DAV's services to veterans and their families did not. Our NSOs developed a "Plan B," and many worked out of our Mobile Service Offices, overcoming any obstacles necessary to carry out their mission. Department and Chapter Service Officers also stepped up, ensuring veterans weren't left behind.

We have busy times ahead, as we continue the fight for passage of the Putting Veterans Funding First Act. This will ensure that much-needed equipment and infrastructure at VA medical facilities is available and, in the event of another government shutdown, that pension and disability compensation will not be stopped for those who've sacrificed for our nation.

DAV knows our partners at the VA operate the largest health care system in the country and offer some of the finest health care in the world. We know they have our veterans' best interests at heart, although the actions of a few individuals have made it a challenging year for our partners at the VA.

The bottom line is that you can't effectively run any organization with adequate funding, and DAV will continue to advocate before Congress to fully fund the VA so it can provide quality health care to our men and women who served. They deserve nothing less.

I'm also proud to say I plan to keep moving forward with our mission to respond to the unique care and health issues of women veterans. Not very long ago, the word "veteran" was a purely masculine term. It's not that way anymore. Our female soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and coast guardsmen are serving in the same dangerous areas as their brothers-in-arms. And many come home with visible or non-visible injuries that alter their lives forever.

We have many fights ahead of us, but none of us has ever backed away from a fight we've been called to while wearing the nation's uniform. Now I urge you to stand with DAV in the battles we face in the year ahead.

Let your local community leaders, stakeholders, elected officials and local congressional delegates know about veterans' issues in your own backyards. Access our Commander's Action Network on DAV's website, and tell your elected national representatives where you stand on veteran-related issues.

Finally, go out and find that man or woman who is about to leave the military or has recently transitioned, and tell them about us. Many have no idea that they've earned benefits through their service, and we can help.

I look forward to working with you all this year. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your National Commander, and I pledge to work tirelessly to ensure your voices are heard as we continue our mission of more than 90 years of service to the men and women who raised their hands, said, "Send me" and went forward to conduct America's business when called.

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**Ron F. Hope** National Commander

**J. Marc Burgess** National Adjutant/Publisher

**Daniel J. Clare** National Director of Communications

**Ashleigh Bryant** Deputy National Director of Communications

**Joseph Chenelly** Assistant National Director of Communications

**Steven Wilson** Assistant National Director of Communications

**Charity Edgar** Assistant National Director of Communications

**Doreen Briones** Production Manager

**Shannan Archer** Senior Graphic Designer

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## From the NATIONAL ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS



### Privatizing Veterans Health Care Is Not the Answer

**A**s the conversation continues over the crisis at VA and the corresponding access issues, inevitably you will hear the question asked: Shouldn't we just privatize health care for veterans?

It's a knee-jerk reaction to a serious problem, usually asked by those too far outside the system to know how beneficial a veteran-centered health care system truly is. Most veterans' organizations—whose members are the users of the current VA health care system—oppose privatization, and for good reasons.

Last May, when news of the crisis was in full swing, the president himself said the VA provides the best quality care for our veterans. This is verified through a number of independent reviews that gauge patient care based on safety, prevention and satisfaction.

VA care consistently rates favorably in studies, surveys and reviews, many of which are conducted from the patients' point of view. The 2013 American Customer Satisfaction Index reported that veterans ranked VA hospitals among the

best in the nation, with equal or better ratings than private hospitals.

The veteran-centered health care system has also yielded significant medical findings on diabetes, mental

illness, heart disease, organ transplants, lung disease and many other problems that affect all Americans. This is in addition to the biomedical advances in care for spinal cord injuries, amputations, polytrauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and rehabilitation for blindness.

The physicians and researchers within the VA health care system

have also gained a deep and unparalleled understanding of the unique, lifelong physical and emotional needs of veterans.

At the heart of the VA crisis is the issue of access to health care, not the quality of the care the system provides. So the answer is not to privatize veterans health care. It is to honor our heroes by giving them the health care system they've earned—one that has both the capacity and resources to meet the growing needs of America's veteran population.

“[The answer] is to **honor our heroes** by giving them the health care system they've earned—one that has both the capacity and resources to meet the growing needs of America's veteran population.”



## Veterans Need Jobs

The country's vets should be given a chance: After WWII the vets of that era had a home or place where they were wanted. Those Americans became known as the "Greatest Generation." Then came Vietnam and the draft. Vets were shut out of jobs such as first responders and even federal jobs. Vets were unwanted! So therefore vets need a place to go to live and become responsible with a job to do and make a worthwhile contribution; to be a part of a community—needed and appreciated. **James Arthur Dukes, Belle Glade, Fla.**

## Women Veterans Need Access

I would like to share my experience. There is not one mammogram machine in any VA facility in New Jersey. That means mammograms are outsourced to local hospitals. The VA is supposed to pay the bill, but is so slow in paying that veterans are sent the bill. I was sent to collection twice. Several VA employees told me they were sorry and I must have fallen through the cracks. How big is this crack? Finally, as of this writing I had to wait over 30 days for a gastroenterology appointment. I hope I don't die waiting. **Candace Franchino, Laurence Harbor, N.J.**

## Quality of Care Appreciated

It is obscene for the Senate to be investigating VA health care. From my experience, it is the best in this nation. I received excellent care in Florida and North Carolina – better than Medicare and Tri-Care for Life in the private arena. **Louis C. Schlaufman, Hillsborough, N.C.**

## Access Card Sustainable?

I'm grateful that the VA is getting the money it needs to get our waiting veterans the care they earned. It's important. But I can't help but wonder if this year's answer isn't just an attempt to "kick the can" down the

road. I can't see this "card" concept as something that can last. It might sound like a miracle cure, but we have to look past this election cycle and wonder what the future will hold if VA funding is being siphoned away from the system. **Layton Lamphere, Cadillac, Mich.**

## Send Congress to VA

It's astonishing to see how many Congressmen are showing such outrage about waiting times at VA medical facilities. After all, they are the ones who haven't funded VA to the levels that veterans service organizations have been saying are needed for the last decade. I think that voters should demand that their elected officials get their care at the VA. If that were the case, I don't think we'd have the funding problems we have. **Harold Holloway, Daytona Beach, Fla.**

## Good Morning Iraq

Robin Williams was never a veteran, but he did a lot for us. When I was in Iraq, he brought a bunch of celebrities out and you could tell he really supported us. It's sad to hear that he committed suicide, but probably a good reminder to all of us to look out for our fellow veterans who might also be suffering and at risk. **Air Force Staff Sgt. Brad Sisson, Tucson, Ariz.**

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## Fully Developed Kudos

I see a lot of gnashing of teeth, pulling of hair and rending of garments

over the VA's problems. I am happy to provide a different perspective. So here's a "shout out" to my DAV representative here. She helped me assemble and submitted my fully developed compensation and pension claim. It was accepted by the Nashville Regional Office on April 17; my 90 percent disability rating was awarded on July 17; 91 days from receipt to award. Thanks DAV for your assistance. **Arthur Thompson III**

## Veteran Unity Needed

The front cover of the new DAV Magazine shows an article titled "The Access Crisis" listing problems such as ignored recommendations, secret waiting lists, and prompt changes. At the Congressional hearings yesterday, one of the whistleblowers summed all this up as a "culture of corruption" that is system wide. I think another term for that is "criminal enterprise." Is this the America we fought to defend? Who can fix this? We need to pull together. **James Helms**

## Convention Appreciation

I am home now and recovering from my first DAV National Convention. What an amazing week! It was an honor to meet and congratulate all the line officers. Those working behind the scenes did an amazing job to make the convention run smoothly. From the DAV store to all the seminars. Bravo Zulu to all. **Commander Lisa Sloan, DAV Department of Vermont**

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# Scores of Veterans Facing Electronic Claims Expiration

By Joseph R. Chenelly

**H**undreds of thousands of disability and compensation claims filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs' eBenefits portal are incomplete and are beginning to expire. DAV wants to avoid a costly reset in their date of claim submissions and help veterans and families obtain the benefits they've earned.

Veterans have been starting claims online through eBenefits since early 2013, but those claims expire if they are not completed and submitted within 365 days.

"It is critical that anyone who has started a claim electronically be sure his or her claim is being processed correctly and in time," said National Service Director Jim Marszalek. "Nearly 280 National Service Officers nationwide are ready to provide free assistance to veterans who need our help."

The VA's electronic claim submission process gives veterans the ability to start a claim online with limited information to hold a date of claim, while providing 365 days to collect data, treatment records and other related information.

During that one-year period, a veteran may add

additional data or upload documents pertinent to the specific claim. At any point during that year, a veteran must click "Submit," and a claim will be automatically established within the Veterans Benefits Management System.

After 365 days, according to the VA, any data in an incomplete claim becomes inaccessible, and the initiated claim date is removed from the system.

There are many reasons to have DAV assist in the claims process. DAV's services are always 100 percent free to veterans, their families and survivors. Veterans do not have to be members to utilize this free assistance. DAV has the most highly trained and experienced representatives. Every DAV NSO is a service-connected disabled veteran. Many times, claims require hundreds of documents, such as medical records. DAV has the expertise to ensure that the right information is gathered and properly submitted.

"We need veterans to let us know if they have initiated claims on their own or if they have problems obtaining the information necessary to complete a claim," Marszalek said. "We want to help, but we need to be in communication with the claimant. We are here, eager to serve our fellow veterans." ■

# VIVA LAS VEGAS



## 93rd DAV National Convention a Hit

By Charity Edgar



Las Vegas was shining even brighter Aug. 9–12 during the 93rd DAV National Convention. Vietnam veteran Ron F. Hope, of North Carolina, was elected to serve as National Commander during the event, which saw the newly appointed Secretary of Veterans Affairs give his first address to a veterans' service organization.

Hope, a combat-injured Army veteran, challenged his fellow veterans to continue the unmatched commitment to DAV's core principle of veterans helping veterans.

"As our weary nation winds down from combat operations after nearly 13 years of war, those veterans will be making that very challenging evolution that we've all experienced ourselves," said Hope. "As you all know, the transition out of uniform and back to civilian life is difficult. But that's where DAV is at its best."

Hope encouraged DAV members to join his efforts as he represents the organization to audiences across the country, challenging them to keep the promises made to America's veterans, regardless of injury or era, to ensure they receive the benefits they have earned and deserve. He emphasized the need to continue fighting for women veterans and addressing their unique needs. "My intent is to continue fighting for those who may feel they have nowhere to turn, nowhere else to go to receive help after they sacrificed when duty called." Hope emphasized service at every level, touting the work of NSOs, TSOs, and Chapter and Department Service Officers in the

field, stating that they are "the foundation of who we are and why we exist."

Hope previously served for more than 30 years as a DAV NSO, a decade of which was spent as National Area Supervisor overseeing service offices in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. His career was dedicated to ensuring veterans received the benefits they earned, and his devotion to DAV and all of America's injured and ill veterans and service members is what drew him to seek national office.

Other National Officers elected by convention delegates are Sr. Vice Commander Moses A. McIntosh Jr., 1st Jr. Vice Commander David W. Riley, 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Dennis L. Krulder, 4th Jr. Vice Commander Brigitte Marker and National Chaplain Michael Patrick Dover. Michael E. Dobmeier was re-elected to serve as National Judge Advocate.

The DAV Auxiliary elected LeeAnn B. Karg, of Minnesota, as National Commander. Her theme for the upcoming year is "Together as One," illustrating the importance of a strong bond between DAV and the Auxiliary.

During his report to the convention, outgoing National Commander Joseph Johnston thanked the members for allowing him to serve during an exciting year. Johnston outlined some favorite memories from his term, including the Operation: Keep the Promise



rally on Capitol Hill during the Mid-Winter Conference, where hundreds of veterans and supporters called on Congress to enact advance funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He encouraged everyone in attendance to continue fighting to have their voices heard in Washington and to pressure Congress to pass the Putting Veterans Funding First Act for advanced appropriations for all VA services, programs and infrastructure.

Johnston also noted the creation of the National Employment Department and praised DAV for recognizing that for veterans who are able, obtaining meaningful employment is essential for the transition from service member to civilian.

He recognized former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki's hard work on reducing the backlog and tackling veteran homelessness. Looking forward, he had the privilege of introducing the eighth Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert McDonald, a fellow Cincinnati native and Airborne Ranger.

McDonald, an accomplished businessman who served as the CEO of Fortune 50 company Procter & Gamble, took office July 30. He acknowledged that the audience before him had been experiencing difficult and turbulent times at the VA and that he and his staff were going to resolve that. McDonald stressed that misconduct, records falsification and apparent systemic problems deep within the VA health care system were serious failures, and he and his staff have outlined aggressive, detailed strategies



*VA Secretary Robert McDonald*

to address the barriers keeping veterans from accessing the quality health care they were promised.

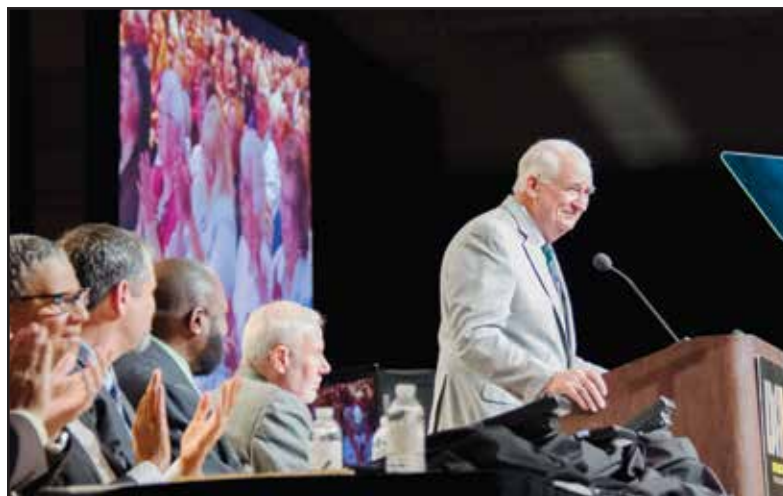
"To be sure, it is a story of failed leadership. But it is also a story about some dedicated people who have had the moral courage to stand up and help us serve veterans better. So, my thanks to them," said McDonald. "Listen—coming face-to-face with the reality some veterans have endured isn't a disaster. It's opportunity."

The Secretary outlined a clear, thoughtful agenda that reflected many of the steps that DAV has advocated:

realistic funding levels; greater commitment to transparency; focusing incentives on patient outcomes and satisfaction; getting more VA staff into the field more often to inspect health care facilities; improving technology and systems; and commissioning an independent audit of VA scheduling practices.

"So that's what we're going to do," said McDonald. "With the continued support of President Obama, Congress, great employees at VA—and especially with the always strong support of Disabled American Veterans and other veterans services organizations—we're going to do what we could never have done otherwise."

"We look forward to working closely with Secretary McDonald to strengthen the VA, including working alongside him and his team to, as he said, 'improve... forecasting for resources,'" said Johnston. "The Secretary's commitment to accurately assess the resources needed to expand VA clinics and hospitals, and hire more doctors



*Left: Then-National Commander Joseph Johnston addresses the Convention. Above: Executive Directors Barry Jesinoski, left, and Garry Augustine await the start of the Joint Opening Session.*



*Ford Motor Co. President Jim Vella presents then-National Commander Joseph Johnston and National Adjutant Marc Burgess with a check slated to purchase new vehicles for the Transportation Network.*

## Ford Continues Support for DAV Programs

Longtime DAV supporter Ford Motor Co. has once again demonstrated the company's dedication and generosity to America's injured and ill veterans with the donation of \$200,000 at the 2014 National Convention. The substantial gift will go to purchase seven new vehicles for the nationwide Transportation Network, ensuring veterans can get to and from medical appointments.

"We are extremely grateful for a strong and lasting relationship with Ford," said newly elected National Commander Ron Hope. "For so many veterans, these vans are a lifeline to their medical care. We couldn't perform this critical function without the truly dedicated partner we have in Ford."

Since 1996, Ford has donated 178 vehicles to DAV's fleet. This is in addition to the 2,851 Ford vans the DAV National Organization, its Chapters, Departments and the National Service Foundation Columbia Trust have purchased since 1987, at a cost of more than \$60 million. These vans have all been donated to VA medical centers for use in the Transportation Network.

Ford also contributes to the Jesse Brown Youth Memorial Scholarship and the annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colo.



*Ford Transit*

and nurses, is an important step toward making sure the VA provides America's veterans timely, high-quality health care." McDonald thanked DAV's leadership for the opportunity to speak, but he did quip that he wished he would have known he was speaking directly after one tough act to follow: Regis Philbin.

Philbin, a Navy veteran, was honored for his commitment to veterans and support of DAV. Before he received his award, Philbin had the audience roaring with laughter. From his one-liners to the duet, "Pennies from Heaven," with Commander Johnston, Philbin illustrated why his impressive television career has now spanned a half-century. Despite his successes, he has stayed humble and true to his roots.

"Regis has never forgotten where he came from and has selflessly supported our cause and others, raising awareness for those whose service and sacrifice has ensured our freedom," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess.

In his address, Burgess reviewed the year's activities, outlining DAV's goals and activities from 2013 to 2014. "The last year has been one of growth and challenge. We have been entrusted with the incredible legacy of DAV. And no matter the obstacles we face, our purpose and mission do not change, nor does our commitment waiver," said Burgess. "It is that commitment that has cemented our place among veteran advocates, and [it is] our body of work that has earned a reputation as a strong and influential advocate for veterans' rights.

"Our reputation has been forged through the commitment of our members, our camaraderie and dedication to service," continued Burgess. "It demands that we strive even harder in helping those who served to overcome great obstacles as they reclaim their lives after service."

Burgess concluded his remarks with a video highlighting the vast list of accomplishments since the last convention, including DAV's efforts to combat homelessness, the inaugural DAV 5k run to honor veterans and another inspiring National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Outgoing Auxiliary National Commander Susan Miller reflected on a successful tenure, stating that meeting members across the nation and seeing what they do for veterans and their families daily was a humbling privilege. She commended Auxiliary members for their recruitment, but challenged them to engage the families of the newest generation of veterans.



*A unique addition to this year's convention was a featured multimedia piece loaned from Western Nevada College. Entitled "Always Lost: A Meditation on War," the exhibition showcased individual photographs with the names of the more than 6,500 U.S. military casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. The large, powerful piece of art silently spoke volumes of the meaning of service and sacrifice.*

"Many of them are not aware of the vast network of support the DAV and Auxiliary have available to them and their families," said Miller. "We must grow in order to remain a viable, productive organization, and we need to take care of all who need our support. And I think, with your help, and based on what I experienced this year, we'll certainly accomplish that."

Despite a jam-packed agenda, there was still plenty of time to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Las Vegas Strip. Fun Night, featuring swing-revival musical guests

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, and the National Commanders' Reception, with a special performance by "America's Got Talent" winner, comedian/ventriloquist Terry Fator, proved to be a big hit for adults and children alike.

The Annual Convention closed in style with the introduction of DAV and Auxiliary National Officers, followed by dinner and entertainment from The Edge that kept members' toes tapping with their mix of everything from old-school favorites to the pop hits of today.

"National Convention gives us the opportunity to elect our leadership and choose the strategic direction for our organization for the coming year and beyond," said Burgess. "It's a chance to network with other members and have fun, but most importantly it's a chance to improve DAV and our individual abilities to serve veterans. I'm grateful for everyone who participated and hope all our members go online to experience the great seminars and information made available through this important gathering."

The 94th National Convention will convene in Denver Aug. 8–11, 2015, so mark your calendars now! ■



### Learn More Online

Download speeches, reports, handouts and more from the convention at

[www.dav.org/events/2014-national-convention](http://www.dav.org/events/2014-national-convention)

Photos can be downloaded at

[www.flickr.com/theDAV](http://www.flickr.com/theDAV)

Videos of the sessions can be viewed at

[www.youtube.com/DisabledVeterans](http://www.youtube.com/DisabledVeterans)



### Regis Philbin, Navy veteran

*Famed television celebrity Regis Philbin charmed members with his witty one-liners and repartee with then-National Commander Joseph Johnston, but he won them over with his stories of being a young man in the Navy. Like so many service men and women, Philbin was unsure of his path after the military but has earned great success through his hard work and perseverance.*

*He has since used that celebrity to aid DAV in getting the word out to the American public that we owe a debt of gratitude to our nation's veterans.*

*"DAV is honored to recognize your extraordinary commitment to your fellow veterans who served and sacrificed on our behalf," said Johnston, presenting Philbin with an award for his involvement with DAV. "Your selfless volunteerism on behalf of our nation's heroes as a spokesperson for our organization has significantly raised awareness about their plight and about the free services DAV offers."*





*At a hearing before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, National Legislative Director Joseph Violante (second from right) delivered testimony regarding the need for adequate funding of the VA in order to meet the growing demand for resources.*

## Health Care Access Bill Signed into Law

By Ashleigh Bryant

Shortly before DAV members and staff held the organization's 93rd National Convention in Las Vegas, President Barack Obama signed into law a bill authorizing additional funding to ensure veterans have access to health care.

The Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, a \$16.3 billion plan, will allow the VA to hire more doctors and nurses at close to 1,000 hospitals and facilities across the nation. The law will take some time to implement but provides \$10 billion to veterans who meet certain criteria the option to seek outside health care, \$5 billion to hire new clinical staff and \$1.3 billion to lease 27 additional clinics in the U.S.

"We're glad to see veterans coming off waiting lists and getting the care they need," said National Legislative Director Joseph Violante, "but we feel the long-term solution lies in fixing the VA health care system, not in making short-term repairs."

Over the next three years, veterans currently enrolled

in VA health benefits who have waited more than 30 days or live more than 40 miles from a VA health care facility will have access to a Veteran's Choice Card, which will allow them to seek care outside of VA facilities.

These criteria represent the most current parameters but may change as the VA publishes the final rules for implementation. For instance, the legislation allows the VA to alter the 30-day wait time if justified, and the 40-mile item must still be more clearly defined to establish rules for veterans who live within range of facilities that offer limited service. Additionally, not all veterans who find themselves eligible for outside health care will be able to select the provider of their choice. Not all non-VA providers will opt in to the new care program, even for veterans who are existing patients.

"We'll be working with Secretary McDonald to learn more about how these resources are going to impact veterans," said Garry Augustine, Washington Headquarters Executive Director. "Looking ahead, we need to make sure our elected officials know how important access to care and advanced funding are to prevent another crisis down the road." ■

## 2014 George H. Seal Awards

# Honor Dedicated DAV Volunteers

*The Seal Awards are conferred each year in memory of George H. Seal, who was DAV's Director of Voluntary Services and a leading organizer and administrator of the VA Volunteer Services (VAVS) program from 1952 until his death in 1977. The presentations were made at the 93rd National Convention Aug. 9-12 in Las Vegas.*

### DAV SEAL AWARD RECIPIENT

## Ernest L. Flynn Sr.



Totally blinded in Vietnam, Army veteran Ernest L. Flynn Sr. could have lived an inconsequential life of darkness, filled with anger or sorrow for himself. But that's not "Ernie." Rather, he sets an incredibly inspirational example for his fellow veterans.

A life member of Chapter 10 in Billings, Mont., Flynn gives freely of his time at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center and the clinic in Billings. Always upbeat and positive, he is known for changing other blind, injured and ill veterans' points of view on their limitations and providing hope and guidance to lead them to new, productive paths for life.

"His gallant spirit knows no defeat," said Department of Montana Commander Joseph Parsetich. "Fear is real, but his hope and action endure. You can't defeat Ernie because he never gives up."

"This year's Seal Award recipients are selfless, dedicated individuals very deserving of this recognition," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "Their work makes a true difference for countless veterans and family members. We are grateful for all they do."

Flynn has given more than 12,500 hours over the past 19 years, volunteering as a Veterans Services Officer, as a member of the VA Visual Impairment Services Team and as the Assistant Hospital Services Coordinator with the DAV Transportation Network.

### AUXILIARY SEAL AWARD RECIPIENT

## Fredrica L. Haymaker

Fredrica Haymaker is a caring, devoted volunteer at the VA West Los Angeles Medical Center, where she makes an extra effort to help veterans feel dignified even when suffering through injuries or poor health.

A DAV volunteer driver, "Freddie" knows all the regulars by name and their routes by memory. She treats each of her passengers as though she were picking up or dropping off an old friend.

Haymaker has logged more than 1,000 hours a year over the past four years, constantly looking to provide more and better service.

As the region's driver instructor, Haymaker shares her passion for serving veterans. She has also, whenever needed, stepped in to serve as the DAV Transportation Coordinator for West Los Angeles.

Known to regularly go above and beyond what is expected, it is not unusual to see her picking up veterans from late appointments, reworking her own life to reschedule at a veteran's request. She even takes it upon herself at the end of each long day to ensure all the vans are clean and ready to go on the next trip.



*Fredrica Haymaker accepts her award from National Director of Voluntary Services John Kleindienst.*



## From the NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE

### Short-term solutions, long-term sustainability

**A**s lawmakers have now passed legislation to improve veterans' timely access to health care, it remains critical to ensure any new laws implemented guarantee veterans are well served by seeking their care at VA.

We applaud the attention to fixing the health care access crisis for veterans. These are serious matters that deserve the full attention of our lawmakers, which did not happen during a similar VA crisis in 2003. We must ensure we temper our expectations and the expectations of our veterans by creating functional policies and procedures that balance access with available resources.

For instance, proposed legislation to send veterans to outside health care providers at the expense of the VA is certainly one way to quickly fix the access problem. However, there must be sufficient funding in place to cover these expenses without taking resources away from the VA hospitals and clinics that are already at or near capacity, and the VA must coordinate and manage the purchased care.

One of DAV's main concerns is that Congress, in a rush to correct the widely publicized problems at the VA, will not take time to guarantee necessary long-term funding. Failure to do this means risking that the VA will end up in a worse position some time down the road—with too high of a demand for services and too little funding to deliver.

More than a decade ago, a presidential task force reported at least 236,000 veterans were on a waiting list of six months or more for a first appointment or follow-up. In the years that followed, DAV and our *Independent Budget (IB)* partners have continued to warn that inadequate funding for VA medical care and construction would once again create a mismatch between demand for health care and the resources provided. These areas went shortchanged for years against *IB* recommendations, predictably facing the same problems.

Though plagued by access issues, VA health care is highly rated for quality and satisfaction. Many of the system's health care practices and procedures have been specialized to address veterans' unique needs throughout the years because of the direct clinical focus on this population.

History has shown us that major medical advances have been made in treating spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, mental health issues and other conditions because of the VA's concentrated focus on veterans.

There is a clear benefit to a veteran-specific health care system, but it must be properly overseen and funded. The VA health care system absolutely needs to undergo reform in an expedient manner. But the focus must be on long-term sustainability, not just on short-term solutions.



## Service and Legislative Highlights

By Ashleigh Bryant

**D**uring his first National Convention report as Washington Headquarters Executive Director, Garry Augustine highlighted for members a number of DAV's current and up-and-coming efforts in the service and legislative arenas.

In particular, the government shutdown in October, brought on by Congress' inability to agree on a budget deal, sent DAV into action. As the VA shut their doors to veterans, claims processing and appeals work slowed and burials were delayed.

"Had this shutdown continued a couple of weeks longer," Augustine told members, "millions of veterans and dependents would have stopped receiving their disability compensation, DIC and GI Bill checks.

"In the face of this political stalemate, DAV responded, and we responded forcefully. As many VA Regional Offices shut their doors to veterans, our National Service Department, with critical help from our Departments and Chapters, executed a contingency plan to set up alternative offices to ensure every veteran who needed assistance filing a claim for benefits got the help they needed. At the same time, our legislative team, along with other VSOs, put a plan in motion to pressure lawmakers to protect veterans."

He also highlighted DAV's major legislative campaign, Operation: Keep the Promise, during which veterans and supporters rallied at a Capitol Hill press conference alongside two dozen VSO partners. There, DAV called on Congress to pass the Putting Veterans Funding First Act, authorizing advance appropriations for the entire VA budget to ensure veterans would no longer be used as bargaining chips in political budget battles.

Augustine reminded members that while DAV continues to push for advance appropriations, the VA's most recent crisis—allegations of secret waiting lists, falsification of medical appointment records and the destruction of official documents within some VA clinics—has presented DAV a new and critical challenge.



**"Over the rest of this year and into next year, DAV will continue working to ensure veterans' health care needs are being met today and will be met in the future."**

*Garry Augustine,  
Washington Headquarters Executive Director*

"This breakdown in management and accountability at VA, which left thousands of veterans waiting for care, was shocking and absolutely unacceptable. We called on Congress and the Administration to take responsible steps to ensure such a breakdown never occurs again," said Augustine.

As a result of these shocking revelations, Congress ultimately struck a deal to provide the department \$16.3 billion to create a temporary program expanding private-sector care and invest in new resources for the VA health care system.

"Over the rest of this year and into next year, DAV will continue working to ensure veterans' health care needs are being met today and will be met in the future. This new legislation has many unfinished details and could have unintended consequences, so rest assured we will be actively engaged with VA and Congress to make sure it gets done right. We remain dedicated to ensuring that veterans receive timely, high-quality care, and that we do not lose the wealth of valuable, veteran-centered knowledge and expertise inside the VA system."

Amidst the troubles of the VA health care system, DAV's talented corps of National Service Officers and

# DAV Service Officers HELPED **VETERANS**

and **FAMILY** members  
OBTAIN MORE THAN

**\$3.3** **BILLION**

in **new** and **retroactive**  
**BENEFITS** in **2013**



Transition Service Officers, as well as Chapter and Department Service Officers, continued to carry out the organization's mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives.

"In 2013, they represented 330,000 claims on behalf of veterans and their families, obtaining for them nearly \$3.3 billion in new and retroactive benefits. Our TSOs conducted nearly 1,400 formal presentations to more than 54,000 transitioning service members on military installations and filed close to 20,000 claims for benefits. Our Mobile Service Office Program traveled almost 90,000 miles in the past year, visiting over 800 cities and towns, interviewing more than 20,000 veterans and other claimants," Augustine reported.

In addition to the depth of service work NSOs perform annually, National Appeals Officers prepare written briefs and represent veterans in roughly 30 percent of the cases brought before the Board of Veterans Appeals and in more than 1,100 cases at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Augustine reported marked progress by the VA in bringing down the claims backlog, noting it has dropped by more than 37 percent from the beginning of 2013.

"The number of claims officially in the backlog—those pending more than 125 days—dropped by more than 60 percent, from over 600,000 in January 2013 to under 270,000 today. In addition, VA reports that the

quality of completed claims rose steadily from 86.3 percent in January 2013 to 90.3 percent in June 2014. While this progress is encouraging, our service and legislative teams continue to work closely with VA and Congress to ensure the progress continues and that the system is truly reformed so that each claim is done right the first time."

Augustine concluded his report by touching on his confidence in DAV's members and staff to continue working diligently to overcome challenges and find solutions to the obstacles that threaten to keep veterans from leading fulfilling, high-quality lives.

"Despite all the scandals and crises and political dysfunction we have seen in recent years, I remain confident that, working together, we can continue to make progress for all of the men and women who were injured, wounded or made ill from their service. After a year in this new position, I feel even more optimistic for the future, particularly when I look at the renewed respect across the country for military veterans." ■



## Learn More Online

Download speeches, reports, handouts and more from the convention at

[www.dav.org/events/2014-national-convention](http://www.dav.org/events/2014-national-convention)

Videos of the sessions can be viewed at

[www.youtube.com/DisabledVeterans](http://www.youtube.com/DisabledVeterans)

**Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year**

Vietnam-era Army veteran **Roger Ferland** was named the 2014 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year for his efforts developing a free legal assistance clinic for veterans in his home state of Arizona.

**Auxiliary Member of the Year**

A nearly 40-year member of the Auxiliary, **Shirley Kosisky**, of Unit 8 in Mesa, Ariz., was honored for her outstanding dedication to veterans and their families.

**Top Recruiter of the Year**

**Ronald Voegeli**, of DAV Chapter 12 in Beaufort, S.C., was the Membership Recruiter of the Year. He recruited 129 part- and full-life members into DAV.

**National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee Awards**

The **Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Award** was presented to **Sharon McGill**, a homeless veterans outreach coordinator and special projects manager in the Decatur Veterans Benefits Administration in Georgia.



Army veteran **Alphaeus Richburg**, Director of the Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Mich., and former Director of Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee, was honored with the **National Cemetery Administration Employee Award**.



DAV life member **Dr. David Tharp**, a psychologist at the Waco Mental Health Post-Traumatic Stress Residential Rehabilitation Program in Texas, received the **Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee Award**.

**Disabled Veterans Outreach Program**

DAV life member **Roy Fillion** was honored with the Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Award for his work as an employment specialist at Job Service North Dakota.

**Small Employer of the Year**

DAV selected **IntelliGenesis**, a woman-veteran-owned small business, as its Outstanding Small Employer of the Year, and **HP**, a longtime supporter of veterans through its companywide Home of the Brave program, as its Outstanding Large Employer of the Year. Both companies recognize the benefits of hiring those who served and actively seek veterans to join their ranks.

**Large Employer of the Year**



## Members Gain Vital Information from Convention Seminars

One of the benefits of attending DAV's National Convention is the opportunity to engage in the many educational seminars hosted by DAV's elected officers and staff.

The **Service and Legislative Seminar** featured a number of VA and Capitol Hill expert panelists answering questions pertaining to the most critical care, benefits and advocacy needs of veterans. National Legislative Director Joseph Violante and National Service Director Jim Marszalek led the **Benefits Protection Team Seminar**, which provided an overview of the new health care access bill signed into law just prior to the convention and how it affects veterans enrolled in VA health care.

A number of members attended the **Women Veterans Seminar** to hear speakers Dr. Betty Moseley Brown, the associate director of the Center for Women Veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Barbara Ward, the director for the Center for Minority Veterans. Both female veterans provided information on women- and minority-specific issues and advancements, and attendees were able to share their most pressing concerns following the presentations. Deputy National Legislative Director Joy Ilem provided details about DAV's upcoming study on transition issues facing women veterans and the Charitable Trust-sponsored Capitol Hill screening of the documentary film, "Journey to Normal."

At the **Membership Seminar**, National Membership Director Tony Baskerville informed attendees about the successful credit card payment trial, during which some 17,000 individuals used the option to make partial or full payments. Baskerville also touched on best practices for recruiting new veterans, retaining current members and keeping members engaged at the Department and Chapter levels.

National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst hosted an open forum during the **Voluntary Services Seminar** to discuss volunteer opportunities at the VA, changes to the DAV Transportation Network program



*At the Service and Legislative Seminar hosted by National Service Director Jim Marszalek and National Legislative Director Joseph Violante, panelists representing the VA and Capitol Hill answered questions pertaining to veterans benefits and claims processing.*



*Dr. Betty Moseley Brown, associate director of the VA's Center for Women Veterans, speaks with a WWII veteran at the Women Veterans Seminar following her presentation.*

and methods of improving statistics. Additionally, Kleindienst presented the previous year's Voluntary Services Report and took feedback from active volunteers looking to suggest new approaches and ideas.

# The 2014 DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Recipients



*New this year was a fundraising seminar, which explained exciting new initiatives taking place in communities around the country. It also gave Departments and Chapters some tools to help launch their fundraising programs to even greater levels of success.*

The **POW/MIA Seminar**, hosted by members Vincent Darcangelo and Larry DeAngelo, presented new information and developments concerning prisoners of war and the tens of thousands of service members who went missing in action. DAV's POW/MIA committee offered a brief history as well as the most current reports on the number of homecomings and unrecovered MIAs. Darcangelo also updated members on the Pentagon's reorganization and restructuring of the MIA accounting agencies in order to maximize identifications, reduce redundant operations and improve transparency for families.

The **Communications and Social Networking** seminars shared DAV's newest messaging and information strategies with members and offered ways to facilitate these techniques at the Chapter and Department levels. Media-relations training was also offered.

By and large, DAV remains on the forefront of service work, volunteerism and advocacy because we are deeply invested in the continuation of training and education. ■



## Learn More Online

For those unable to attend this year's proceedings, videos of the full-length seminars can be found at DAV's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/DisabledVeterans](http://www.youtube.com/DisabledVeterans) under the 2014 National Convention Seminars playlist.



## Shannon Mathew First Place Scholar

This year's top youth volunteer, Shannon Mathew, walked away from National Convention with a \$20,000 scholarship toward making her life career dreams come true. Mathew, a native of Coral Springs, Fla., has already dedicated countless hours volunteering at her local VA medical center, but now she plans to pursue a career as a physical therapist so she can help injured and ill veterans rehabilitate and improve their quality of life.

"When I started here, I didn't want to stop," Mathew said of her volunteer work with the local VA facility. "Each day, I wanted to wake up early. I wanted to go and just help out."

Mathew has accumulated 585 hours assisting veterans over the span of four years at the Miami Department of Veterans Affairs. She plans to enroll in the physical therapy program at either the University of Florida or Florida State University.

Seven more youth volunteers also received scholarships for their outstanding and selfless efforts.

"Our youth volunteers are simply incredible and so full of compassion," said National Voluntary Service Director John Kleindienst. "Their dedication to veterans is nothing less than inspiring, and I am confident they will always carry this spirit of selfless service."

## Other Youth Scholarship Recipients

Richard Struck, Palo Alto, Calif.	\$15,000
Leah J. Lee, Brookfield, Wisc.	\$10,000
Joseph S. Janikowski, Ocean Springs, Miss.	\$7,500
Lilit Kazazian, Waterford, Mich.	\$7,500
Brendan O'Sullivan, Downers Grove, Ill.	\$5,000
Tymber Long, Lincoln, Neb.	\$5,000
Natalia Morales, Bronx, N.Y.	\$5,000





*TSO John Steele with retired Air Force veteran Linda Broeckl at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio*

# TSOs Offer Invaluable Service to Transition Experience

By Steve Wilson

A recently retired Air Force member took advantage of the free services DAV has to offer during a visit with a Transition Service Officer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Linda Broeckl said her experience with TSO and former Army Golden Knight John Steele was very beneficial, and she described him as “highly knowledgeable, professional and caring.”

“Mr. Steele ensured I understood the complex VA claims process from start to finish, and he took the time and effort to assist me with completing my claim accurately and correctly,” she said. “The opportunity to have the assistance of a TSO is a valuable free resource—all transitioning veterans could benefit from such a consultation.”

TSOs assist service members who are nearing the time to shed their uniform and make the often challenging

transition back to civilian life. The service is free to military members separating or retiring and can help establish what Steele calls “lifelong benefits” that veterans have earned as a result of the sacrifices they have made.

Steele said a TSO has the tools and resources to inform individuals about their benefits and provide information others might not.

“TSOs will provide a solid briefing to the service members on the [claims processes], as well as a thorough brief on the nature, importance and complexities of the medical examination administered by the VA,” he said. “It should be important [to transitioning military members] to invest a little time to see if there might be potential claims to benefits that they are not aware of to which they might be entitled.” ■



**Learn More Online**

To find your nearest TSO office, visit [www.dav.org/veterans/tso-locations-2](http://www.dav.org/veterans/tso-locations-2).



# DAV MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. This mission is carried forward by:

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically;
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government;
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level Departments and local Chapters; and
- Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.



Run, walk, roll, or ride your motorcycle in the DAV 5K to honor your fellow veterans who defended our freedom.

**SAT., NOV. 8, 2014**  
**CINCINNATI, OH**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**SUN., NOV. 9, 2014**  
**SAN DIEGO, CA**

**DAV<sup>®</sup> 5K**  
RUN TO HONOR VETERANS

REGISTER ONLINE AT **DAV5K.ORG**



## DECADE OF SERVICE 1960s



Every year until DAV's 100th anniversary in 2020, the September/October issue of *DAV Magazine* will chronicle a decade in our organization's history. This year's installment provides some historical background and highlights of important issues and events that affected disabled veterans and their families during the 1960s.

By Joseph R. Chenelly

In the early 1960s, many Americans believed the nation was at the dawn of a golden age. The charismatic DAV life member John F. Kennedy became President of the United States a year into the decade, but the '60s brought enormous challenges for the nation and certainly for DAV.

America was about to enter the longest war in its history to date, and DAV was facing serious financial difficulties while the size of the National Service Officers corps was dwindling.

At the 1960 National Convention, Dale Adams stated, "Many of those [NSOs] who resigned were our best and most talented people. We cannot sit idly by and let this continue if we hope to carry out the main purpose for which this organization was founded."



Past National Adjutant  
Dale Adams

Many cities had no representation. The Washington, D.C., office alone had lost seven National Service Officers. Adams consolidated three areas—insurance, veterans benefits and regional operations offices—allowing better utilization of the NSOs' training.

An additional move brought NSO Charles L. "Chet" Huber to Washington to assist Adams. Huber would eventually become National Legislative Director. Some hard decisions had to be made as

Adams moved to increase NSO pay without boosting the organization's overhead. During more prosperous days, DAV hired secretarial help to assist with the caseload. Now, offices had to be downsized. In order to fill the vacancies of retiring NSOs, DAV started an on-the-job training program. By the following year,

only one office was without an NSO.

DAV's first National Commander, Judge Robert S. Marx, passed away not long after the 1960 Convention. It was a sad moment for DAV. But, as the old order passed away, a new order was taking shape.

Delegates to the 1961 National Convention elected Francis R. Buono, whose tenure as National Commander saw many changes. The most significant change was announced in the June 1962 issue of *DAV Magazine*: Adjutant John Feighner was retiring, and Dale Adams had been appointed the new National Adjutant.

Adams enlisted in the Army in 1938 and served in the Pacific during World War II. He was discharged in 1944 and came to work for DAV not long after the war. In 1960, he was named National Service Director but went to Cincinnati in 1961 to be Assistant National Adjutant under Feighner.

When Adams took over the adjutancy, DAV was still plagued by scandal and severe financial difficulties. He moved quickly to accomplish his goal of preserving the organization while laying a foundation for the future. When he became National Adjutant in 1962, membership had fallen to around 200,000, but by the time he retired in 1988, membership exceeded 1 million.

Employment became a priority in 1961 when President Kennedy was inaugurated. Featuring the slogan, "Ability—not disability—is what counts," the October 1962 issue of *DAV Magazine* gave complete coverage of President Kennedy's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped.

Kennedy said, "Utilization of...handicapped persons in productive employment is sound and necessary, both for the contribution handicapped citizens make to our national productivity and for the sense of independence and well-being which they can derive from doing a job. It is fitting that the government, as an employer, should lead the way in selective placement of handicapped persons so as to utilize their skills and abilities."

Though the involvement in Vietnam was steadily growing,

the American public hardly noticed. However, the facts did not escape DAV's leadership. Dale Adams brought Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jim Lucas to the 1964 National Convention to tell delegates about the sacrifices America's young people were making in Vietnam. By 1965, it had become impossible for the public to continue ignoring the war.

DAV obtained a list of those who were discharged, and letters were sent thanking veterans for their service and giving them free one-year memberships. Of particular importance to DAV was making sure these veterans received the full complement of benefits they had earned. Initially, benefits for Vietnam veterans, even those who came home from the war wounded and sick, were not equal to those granted to veterans of World War II.

This angered DAV leaders like Dale Adams, Chet Huber and Cap Hogan, who were determined to bring justice to the new generation of veterans. Their goal began to be realized when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966.

DAV worked hard for passage of this bill, which made newly returned Vietnam veterans eligible for benefits similar to those granted to veterans of World War II and the Korean War.

But DAV also fought for Vietnam veterans. Huber's legacy was his leadership in the development of legislation that granted the children of 100-percent-disabled veterans the same educational benefits as the children of those killed in war. He turned the tide of



National Commander John W. Unger cut the ribbon at the dedication of the DAV National Headquarters office in Cold Spring, Ky., on Nov. 11, 1966.



## America was about to enter the longest war in its history to date, and DAV was facing serious financial difficulties while the size of the National Service Officers corps was dwindling.

Congress when he charged that denying these rights was tantamount to the suggestion that children were better off if their parent was killed in war rather than totally disabled.

While care for those who returned home from war sick or wounded has always been the major focus of DAV, the organization has also been greatly concerned with prisoners of war and those missing in action as well. The fate of POW/MIAs took on greater prominence at the end of the Vietnam War.

Returning Vietnam veterans caught the VA medical system by surprise, and some VA hospitals were subject to criticism in *Life* magazine and other media. DAV used the publicity to demand significant improvements in VA medical programs across the board.

As the Vietnam War progressed, DAV renewed its NSO training program. It brought newly disabled Vietnam veterans on board, training them to become experts in veterans' claims. The first of many Vietnam veterans to become a DAV NSO was Arthur H. Wilson, in November 1966. At one time, Vietnam veterans comprised more than 80 percent of DAV's NSOs.

Adams, whose own son fought in Vietnam, demanded only the best for those returning from the war, and his fellow DAV leaders shared that single-minded commitment.

More than 2.6 million Americans served in Vietnam. There were 58,151 deaths and 303,704 wounded.

In 1966, on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11 a.m., in honor of the World War I veterans who founded

DAV, the organization dedicated its new National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Ky., just a few miles south of downtown Cincinnati. National Commander John W. Unger cut the ribbon.

The decision to build a new 115,000-square-foot headquarters on 31 acres had been made in 1964.

Several factors prompted the move, including the business taxes DAV had to pay in Ohio. Kentucky had no such tax at the time.

Prior to the move, DAV acquired a Honeywell 200 computer. Huge and slow by current standards, this machine was a modern marvel in its day. It could handle a mailing of 7 million sets of 50 return-address labels in 10 days—a task that took two and a half months manually.

Computerization proved vital in generating fundraising mail and in processing the contributions that came into DAV Headquarters. This was particularly true as the "Idento-Tag" program, though still DAV's breadwinner, became less cost-effective in the succeeding years.

In 1967, the program was discontinued and replaced by mailings of return-address labels. The change became necessary after states began issuing annual license stickers to motorists instead of new license plates. Since Idento-Tags were based on new license numbers, the DAV's annual fundraising effort was rendered obsolete. But, to this day, DAV continues to honor the commitment to return lost keys with Idento-Tags to their owners. ■



## From the AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER

### LEEANN B. KARG



## Working Together as One

Let me say it's an absolute honor to serve as your Auxiliary Commander this year. I am extremely humbled and grateful for this position of trust you've placed in me. Rest assured, I do not take it lightly.

My theme this coming year is "The DAV and Auxiliary, Together as One."

I really regard it as very simple math. Two people, united in a singular effort, are always much stronger than one.

I believe it is my incumbent duty as your Auxiliary Commander, and even more importantly, it's obligatory on each of us to unequivocally stress to all Chapters and Units that we work jointly and not as separate entities. Together, as one, we are 10 times stronger.

This year, I also encourage Units to think about what the term "veteran" really means. You see, not very long ago, "veteran" was an entirely masculine term. Friends, that's simply not true anymore. As our nation draws down from almost 13 years of war, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of women who serve. Roughly 20 percent of the veteran population will be comprised of females in just a few short years. These wives, daughters and mothers are not just serving in support roles any longer. Many are seeing and have seen combat, just like their male counterparts. Yet female veterans are still not being treated equally, and we can be a linchpin in fixing that.

I'm proud to say the Auxiliary has opened its membership to the spouses of those female veterans, and we should welcome them with open arms. There is much that we can do if we work together.

As your Commander, I want to see DAV and the Auxiliary stand together whenever possible. By showing a united front, we let all of our veterans know that we are here to help.

I believe that none of us can do this alone. It takes all of us working together to be successful. I am very pleased with the staff at DAV. They are energetic and are very willing to work with the Auxiliary. We need help with fundraising efforts, membership, training officers and getting everyone to move into the 21st century. I believe this will be a seamless effort as, in my vision, we work together toward the same goals, which are and must always be a mission of service to veterans and their families.

My husband is a Vietnam vet and a life member of DAV. All of my family belongs to the DAV Auxiliary, including my husband.

Let's all make a pledge to continue to support veterans of all eras and their families.

Thank you, and I can't wait to get started working with all of you in the coming year.

# Lt. Dan Turns 20



Decades after recognition, Gary Sinise uses celebrity to support veterans.

**T**his year marks the 20th anniversary of the release of “Forrest Gump.”

The 1994 film, starring Tom Hanks as the title character, tells the story of a boy who leads an extraordinary life and witnesses many key moments in history.

As a soldier in the Vietnam War, Forrest Gump saves the lives of many in his platoon, including its commander, 1st Lt. Dan Taylor. Played by Gary Sinise, Taylor’s character was intent on following every one of his ancestors who had died in battle in previous American wars.

Besides being cheated of his “destiny” of a combat death, Lt. Dan becomes a double amputee as a result of the war. Embittered about his life as a disabled veteran, he turns to alcohol to ease his suffering.

As the journeys of Lt. Dan and Forrest Gump become intertwined, Sinise powerfully portrays a young man who moves beyond despondency and hopelessness to regain his will to live. Lt. Dan becomes a successful businessman, gets engaged to his girlfriend and walks on titanium legs, which Forrest calls “magic legs.”

“At the time, we’d spent years being inundated with films about Vietnam, and there wasn’t a real consensus among veterans about any one film,” said Arthur H. Wilson, who was appointed National Adjutant the year

before the film’s release. “The movie didn’t critique Vietnam veterans or the war; it showed the sacrifices they made and the important role they played in ensuring they didn’t leave their own behind.”

For his role as a combat-wounded veteran, Sinise was invited to the 1994 DAV National Convention in Chicago, where then-National Commander Richard Marbes presented him with the DAV National Commander’s Award.

“We’ll never forget the anger of the character you played as he begins to understand the implications that his injuries hold for the rest of his life. Nor will we forget that character’s heroic struggle to rise above that anger to become not only a successful, but an unequivocally good human being,” Marbes said.

“I remember walking up onto the stage and meeting the National Commander. He was missing one leg and standing on crutches. And I remember looking out into the audience, and the room was filled with disabled veterans. Everybody who could stand was giving me a standing ovation for playing a wounded veteran. I just will never forget the emotion that swept over me at that moment,” the actor recalled.

Though Sinise had been involved in supporting Vietnam veterans since hosting a Vets’ Night in the 1980s





*Gary Sinise receives the DAV National Commander's Award from then-National Commander Richard Marbes at the 1994 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention.*



*Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band entertain members and guests during the 2012 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Las Vegas.*

to offer free performances at the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago, he often credits DAV's recognition at the 1994 Convention as the start of a lifelong push to publicly honor our nation's heroes.

Shortly after receiving the award, he lent his voice and likeness to DAV public service announcements, narrated important films such as "March of the Bonus Army" and supported many other initiatives.

"CSI: NY," which starred Sinise as disabled Marine veteran Mac Taylor, ended its nine-year, prime-time run in 2013. This gave Sinise more time to dedicate to his charity, the Gary Sinise Foundation, and the other causes he loves.

As the national spokesperson for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, Sinise is looking forward to the dedication in October, but he is still concerned that the sacrifices of those who served will be forgotten.

"It's inspiring to think of how much he has accomplished over the last two decades, and it's amazing for those who know Gary to see how genuinely passionate he is about his support of veterans," said DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "The public sees the big things he does—the concerts and homes he has built—but most people don't see the behind-the-scenes work he does to help the veterans he meets or how he uses his fame and connections to meet unmet needs."

Sinise said he looks forward to continuing his support of DAV and lauds the organization's history.

"DAV has been for over 90 years an active, critical advocate for our wounded service members," he said. "You would not be around for 90 years if you weren't being effective." ■



# Commanders and Adjutants Association

## Department Leaders Exchange Ideas, Expand DAV Knowledge

By Steve Wilson

**T**he annual DAV State Commanders and Adjutants Association's Orientation, held at DAV National Headquarters this summer, gave 130 state-level leaders a better understanding of DAV's collective mission of service to veterans and their families across the nation.

"DAV is evolving, and Department Commanders and Adjutants are critical to our service and outreach efforts to veterans in their communities," said National Adjutant Marc Burgess. "The networking, information and exchange of ideas that took place at this year's event show the creativity and dedication we're seeing nationwide from our fraternal leaders."

Part of the direction for this year's meeting was aimed at bringing DAV's individual Department leaders up to speed on the myriad issues the organization is addressing.

"The more our fraternal leaders know about our core functions, the better we are at serving veterans at the grass-roots level," said National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. "We have an enthusiastic and energetic group of leaders. Many are new and some are learning new things about DAV. We want them to utilize the resources they have to extend our impact across the country."

Other sessions included a seminar detailing DAV's new outreach campaigns, with new artwork and PSAs

featuring a prominent "V" in the messages. There were also sessions dedicated to answering questions about key functions within the organization.

"It's not often that we're fortunate enough to get all of these leaders in one room at the same time and have a chance to talk," said National Headquarters Inspector General (IG) Ed Hartman. "We discussed some of the finer points, rules and regulations some may not have known when it comes to running a Chapter or Department, and I'm glad I got a chance to let them know the IG office is always available as a helpful resource should they need it."

The attendees echoed the success of the yearly event and emphasized its importance.

"It's not easy to run a Department, but the members who've assumed state-level leadership are dedicated to the good of veterans in their communities and the long-term good health of DAV," said Dave Tannenbaum, Secretary-Treasurer of the Commanders and Adjutants Association. "We want to give them a running start to the year and we're grateful for the support of our national staff that make this event so valuable."

"This was very successful," said Department of Oklahoma Adjutant Danny Oliver. "The new officers learned from each other and shared ideas, and the networking opportunities will keep everyone informed of what works and what doesn't." ■

# DAV Helps Vets Obtain Service Dogs

## Charitable Service Trust Grant Addresses Nationwide Shortage

By Charity Edgar

The DAV Charitable Service Trust recently awarded a grant to Patriot PAWS, a nonprofit organization in Rockwall, Texas, that provides free service dogs to wounded veterans.

The grant recipient trains service dogs to help ill and injured veterans restore their physical and emotional independence. The dogs are tailored to the needs of their future owner and can accomplish a variety of tasks, such as picking up and retrieving items, opening and closing doors, pulling wheelchairs, providing emotional stability and getting help in the event of an emergency.

“Service dogs give injured veterans their freedom back, 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Patriot PAWS Founder and Executive Director Lori Stevens. “The benefits of these dogs are incredible.”

Each dog goes through 18 months to two and a half years of training. With this extensive training, it is not surprising that Patriot PAWS has a waiting list of veterans two years long.

“Service dogs are in high demand, and that’s not something that can be mass produced,” said Stevens. “We need as much help with funding as possible, so we can serve as many veterans as possible.”

Patriot PAWS operates entirely on donations and grants and receives no government funding. Training each dog costs between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

“Without organizations like DAV, we can’t keep doing what we’re doing,” continued Stevens. “Every accredited service dog organization I know has a long waiting list. These veterans need it. You’re helping us help them.”

Stevens, who has long been a certified dog trainer,



*Retired Army Maj. Aaron Sears served in Iraq as a military nurse. His service dog, Lane Murray, performs the cue, “Lap,” designed to help a veteran get a service dog dressed in their service vest, receive items the service dog has retrieved or provide comfort to the veteran.*

was inspired to found Patriot PAWS after her son, an Air Force captain, was deployed, and a group of injured veterans asked for assistance in training their dogs. Stevens visited a nearby VA medical center and discovered the growing need for service dogs.

“Supporting Patriot PAWS is a natural fit for DAV,” said Dick Marbes, Chairman of the Charitable Service Trust. “DAV is dedicated to the service of our nation’s heroes, and Patriot PAWS helps veterans on their road to recovery by providing much-needed service dogs at no cost to veterans.”

Patriot PAWS has numerous success stories that illustrate how effective service dogs can be in helping ill and injured veterans regain a sense of normalcy. One young soldier suffered a traumatic brain injury during his second tour in Iraq and was confined to a wheelchair. With his service dog’s

support, he can now walk again. A Vietnam veteran’s life was saved by his service dog, who enabled him to call for help during a seizure, recognizing which hand was mobile and could dial for help.

“These dogs can transform a veteran’s quality of life,” said Marbes. “The need for quality, trained service animals is growing, and the Trust is proud to address a very important need.”

Since its inception in 2006, Patriot PAWS has placed more than 75 service dogs, providing grateful veterans with newfound independence and a built-in best friend. ■



**Learn More Online**

To learn more about Patriot PAWS, visit [www.patriotpaws.org](http://www.patriotpaws.org). To learn more about DAV’s Charitable Service Trust, visit [www.cst.dav.org](http://www.cst.dav.org).



# JOURNEY TO NORMAL

WOMEN OF WAR COME HOME

## DAV to Launch Women Veterans Study, Capitol Hill Film Screening

By Ashleigh Bryant



As part of an ongoing commitment to the growing population of women veterans in our community, DAV has commissioned an in-depth study on women veterans and their transition from military to civilian life. Along with the study, DAV will collaborate with the makers of the documentary film, “Journey to Normal,” which highlights the challenges of that transition period specific to women.

DAV commissioned the study through a service-connected disabled woman-owned small business, Sigma Health Consulting. The study will launch this fall, paired with a special Capitol Hill screening event for “Journey to Normal.”

“This study and the film go hand in hand and can teach us a lot about how we address the needs of women veterans,” said Deputy National Legislative Director Joy Ilem. “We will have hard data to back up the personal testimony of these women veterans, and that goes a long way to create change.”

As with previous Capitol Hill film screenings, DAV and the filmmakers will invite key lawmakers, policy officials, leaders within the Department of Veterans

Affairs and, most importantly, some of the women veterans from the film, who will be part of a post-screening panel discussion.

“Journey to Normal” (JTN) documents the experiences of women during their deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and, later, their transition back into civilian life. Filmmaker JulieHera DeStefano launched this project in 2009 to explore the psychological and social dynamics of military service and reintegration.

“JTN is thrilled to be working with an organization so committed to effecting positive change on behalf of the nation’s veterans. JTN is more than just a film—the project utilizes the power of storytelling in order to help bridge the military-civilian cultural gap,” said DeStefano. “To have these women’s voices heard—especially on Capitol Hill—is vitally important for the future of all service members. For without a genuine understanding and appreciation for their service, how can we expect to respond effectively to the needs of veterans?” ■



**Learn More Online**

To learn more, visit [www.journeytonormal.org](http://www.journeytonormal.org).



“To have these women’s voices heard—especially on Capitol Hill—is **vitally important** for the future of all service members.”

*JulieHera DeStefano, filmmaker*



# Air Show Honors DAV

The B-25 World War II era bomber *Panchito* and DAV's Air Support Outreach Team took center stage at this year's EAA AirVenture air show in Oshkosh, Wisc., the largest event of its kind in the United States.

More than 500,000 spectators attended the July 20–26 event, and most participated in several veteran-centric activities.

Volunteers from DAV Department of Wisconsin Chapters 17, 19 and 44 greeted veterans, signed the DAV Flight Team poster and answering questions about DAV's mission, programs and membership benefits at the DAV Flight Team display.

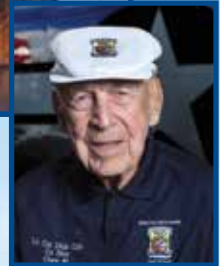
The iconic B-25, the same aircraft type used in the April 1942 Doolittle Raid over Tokyo in response to the Pearl Harbor attacks, centerpiece at the event's Warbird Alley and Boeing Plaza, drew lots of spectators and gave DAV's aircrew and volunteers a chance to spread the word about DAV's continuing mission of service to veterans of all eras, their families and survivors.

Special guests on the ground at Oshkosh included DAV then-National Commander Joseph Johnston, his wife, Vicki, and son Mike; Past National Commander Richard Marbes; and a Doolittle Tokyo Raider, retired Lt. Col. Dick Cole.

Johnston led hundreds of participants in the Salute to Veterans Parade, which was attended by veterans of several eras and represented all branches of service. The Commander spoke to the crowd after the parade and thanked the attending supporters as well as the assembled veterans for their service and sacrifice.



Big Bad  
Voodoo Daddy



Lt. Col. Dick Cole

The air show culminated in the much-anticipated Friday night concert. Johnston and Warbirds of America President Harold Cannon spoke to the crowd about the mission of both organizations prior to the show, and then the crowd was treated to Big Bad Voodoo Daddy at a concert celebrating DAV.

Johnston said air shows are just one way DAV ensures its message reaches myriad audiences.

"Air shows bring together the very fabric of Americans who enjoy military history but who also tend to be very patriotic and supportive," Johnston said. "We had a chance to meet fellow veterans and tell them about DAV's commitment of service to them and their families. This is a unique messaging platform, and the fact we had one of the last surviving Doolittle Raiders, who made it a point to visit us, lends a lot of weight in showcasing DAV's mission to the public and to the men and women who served." ■

# A Fixed Income for Life

## And Doing His Part to Ensure Fellow Vets Get All the Help They Can

**H**arold Harrison, a 21-year Marine and veteran of three wars, chose to fund his first gift annuity after reading in *DAV Magazine* about their lasting benefits back in 2000. Over time, his unwavering confidence in DAV's mission of service has compelled him to follow that initial gift with additional annuities.

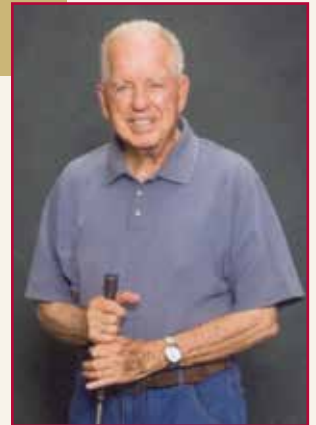
During World War II, Harrison's military service included battles in Bougainville, Guam and Okinawa. He faced countless life-and-death situations as a tank crewman and recalls the unfortunate loss of life of his brothers-in-arms. After the war, he returned to San Diego, where his inherent skills led to employment as a mechanic. It wasn't long before he made the decision to re-enlist, serving during the Korean War and eventually completing a tour in Vietnam before retiring from his military calling. The hard-working veteran then went on to retire from a second career as a mechanic at a California college.

Injured veterans like Harrison, whose World War II

experience was profiled in *Marine Tank Battles of the Pacific*, see their gift annuities as a way to make significant contributions that will some day help America's heroes, without giving up the income they would otherwise receive from CDs, bonds or other investments.

Harrison has this to say about the many charitable gift annuities he has funded with DAV: "This program helps me, too. The payments I receive help pay the rent. Plus, I'm a disabled veteran, so I like that my contributions will help other veterans some day. They need all the help they can get, and this is my way of helping out."

Want to learn more? Just check out the box below. ■



*"The payments I receive help pay the rent...and I like that my contributions will help other veterans some day."*

**Harold Harrison,  
DAV member and  
gift annuity donor**

Gift annuities are easy to do. With a transfer of **\$10,000 or more** to the DAV Charitable Service Trust along with completion of a simple application, gift annuity donors receive a fixed income for life, plus hefty tax advantages. America's injured veterans will benefit from the annuity as well.

### Charitable Gift Annuity Benefits

- ★ Fixed income for life, largely tax-free
- ★ **Rates range from 4.4% (age 60) to 9.0% (age 90)**
- ★ Two-life (e.g., married couple) rates are slightly lower
- ★ Charitable income-tax deduction
- ★ Guardian Society recognition for your generosity
- ★ Minimum gift is \$10,000. Minimum age is 60.

To learn more, and to receive a personalized illustration of the income and tax benefits for your age(s), call DAV's gift planning staff at 1-800-216-9802, email [giftplanning@dav.org](mailto:giftplanning@dav.org) or return the attached postcard. Let us show you how a gift annuity can benefit you personally, as well as fellow injured veterans!

**DAV**® Charitable Service Trust



Date	City	Location
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

## REMEMBRANCE

### Kay Egan

Jan. 6, 1931 – July 2, 2014

■ Kay Egan, who served as DAV Auxiliary National Commander from 2009 to 2010, passed away on July 2 at age 83. Egan joined the Auxiliary in 1987 and was a life member of Unit 18 in Bradenton, Florida. Her membership eligibility was through her late husband, Bill, a World War II Navy Air Corps veteran. The Egans had four children, including a daughter who served in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and nine grandchildren. All are Auxiliary members.

Egan served for over 25 years in the Auxiliary and held all elected Unit and District Offices. Within the Department of Florida, she served in all elected Officer positions as well



*Kay Egan*

as two terms as Department Adjutant and was Department Commander in 2000.

Egan held a degree in clinical psychology and retired from the Lee County Sheriff's Department as a desk officer. She proudly volunteered at the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Cape Coral, where she donated nearly 2,000 hours of voluntary service and served as a VAVS Deputy Representative. She was also an effective legislative advocate who actively sought support for legislation benefitting ill and injured veterans and their families.

"Kay led by example, dedicating her life to giving back," said Auxiliary National Commander LeeAnn Karg. "Her devotion to service inspires me, as it has all DAV and Auxiliary members, and strengthens the resolve to make a difference in the lives of the men and women who served."

# Post-Convention Staff Appointments Announced

**D**uring the National Executive Committee meeting following the Convention's final business session, in appointing DAV's national staff, National Adjutant Marc Burgess announced key staff promotions at both National Headquarters and National Service and Legislative Headquarters.

John Kleindienst was named the National Director of Voluntary Services, and Chad Moos was promoted to Deputy National Service Director. In the Communications Department, Ashleigh Bryant was promoted to Deputy National Director of Communications, and Steven Wilson and Charity Edgar were promoted from Associate to Assistant National Directors of Communications.

"DAV is successful in its mission to empower the men and women who served because of our dedicated employees," said Burgess. "The appointments to these top posts represent a commitment to service that each one of them brings to the office day in and day out."

The appointments became effective Aug. 12.



*Kleindienst*

## National Director of Voluntary Services

John Kleindienst, who served as Acting Director since April 22, assumed official responsibility as DAV's Director of National Voluntary Services Program, covering the numerous branches of volunteer efforts across the country.

He oversees the thousands of DAV, DAV Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary members and youth volunteers across the country who generously donate their time as Hospital Service Coordinators, Transportation Network van drivers and other volunteers who meet the various needs of injured and ill veterans in communities nationwide.

Kleindienst is a service-connected disabled Marine Corps veteran and native of Waco, Texas. After his medical discharge from the military in 2003, he began work as a National Service Officer trainee in his hometown. He was later promoted to Assistant Supervisor at the DAV National Service Office in Milwaukee. After spending a year supervising the Milwaukee office, Kleindienst was promoted to supervisor of National Area 6 and the National Service Office in Lincoln, Neb.

Prior to leading DAV's volunteer efforts, Kleindienst was appointed as Deputy Director of Human Resources at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Ky.

## Deputy National Service Director

As Deputy National Service Director, Chad Moos will play a critical role in the day-to-day oversight of DAV's flagship initiative, the National Service Program. This includes supporting the oversight of more than 270 professional National Service Officers and some 34 Transition Service Officers at 100 offices throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. He also supports the annual training and certification of more than 1,600 Department and Chapter Service Officers nationwide.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Moos joined the DAV professional staff in 1995 as a member of Class III at the DAV National Service Officer Training Academy in Denver. After graduation, he was assigned to the NSO offices in Fargo, N.D. and Reno, Nev., where he served as Supervisory NSO from 1997 to 2000. Moos was then appointed Assistant National Director of Voluntary Services, where he coordinated and managed more than 2.4 million hours of volunteer work each year, prior to being appointed Assistant National Service Director at the National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Moos is a native of Grand Forks, N.D.



*Moos*

## Deputy National Director of Communications

Ashleigh Bryant was appointed Deputy National Director of Communications and will assist in overseeing DAV's public outreach initiatives. In addition to supporting the management of *DAV Magazine*, social networking, media relations and public outreach campaign, she will be the day-to-day lead for communications efforts related to service and legislative outreach at Washington Headquarters.



*Bryant*

A combat veteran of the Afghanistan War, Bryant served in the Marine Corps until 2011, when she was honorably discharged and joined DAV as the Associate National Director of Communications. One year later, Bryant was appointed Assistant National Director of Communications.

Bryant has a master's degree in public relations management and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, both from the University of Maryland.

## Assistant National Directors of Communications

As Assistant National Director of Communications, Steven Wilson leads DAV public outreach campaign and branding efforts. He is also primarily responsible for supporting fraternal outreach by providing training and assistance for DAV Departments and Chapters. Additionally, he contributes to *DAV Magazine* and supports DAV's outreach efforts related to employment, volunteerism and membership.

Before joining DAV in 2013 as Associate National Director of Communications, Wilson retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of service.

Wilson holds a master's degree in international

business from Touro University International, a Bachelor of Arts in world military history from American Military University and an Associates of Applied Science degree in public affairs and criminal justice from the Community College of the Air Force. He is currently pursuing his doctorate through Northern Kentucky University.

Charity Edgar was named Assistant National Director of Communications. In this position she is responsible for managing public relations efforts and producing a wide variety of written and multimedia projects for DAV's internal and external communications. She is DAV's primary lead with national media relations. The Garner, Iowa, native joined DAV in 2013 as Associate National Director of Communications.

Edgar is a public affairs officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, assigned to the Navy Office of Community Outreach in Millington, Tenn. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and English from the University of Dubuque and is currently pursuing her master's degree in military social work from the University of Southern California. ■

## Auxiliary National Adjutant Announces Retirement

Judy Hezlep, who began her DAV Auxiliary career in 1965, has announced her retirement effective January 1, 2015.

"I've been with the Auxiliary for nearly 50 years. I'm proud of the work we've done. I feel like you reach a point when you know it's time," said Hezlep. "I feel like I've given the organization all I can and it's time for someone else to come in with new ideas and energy."

Hezlep began her career as a clerk typist when Auxiliary National Headquarters was moved from Colorado Springs, Colo., to Cincinnati. She was promoted from that position to Executive Secretary before being appointed Auxiliary Assistant National Adjutant in 1986.

She was appointed National Adjutant on May 1, 2008. Since her appointment to the Auxiliary's top professional post, she's facilitated significant changes to modernize the organization. Those include opening membership to men, rebranding, strategic plan development and involvement with DAV in supporting efforts for military and veteran families to participate in Camp Corral.

"She shaped the organization into the well-run machine



Hezlep

it is today," said DAV Auxiliary Commander LeeAnn Karg. "The DAV and DAV Auxiliary have a closer partnership than ever before and she championed that effort."

"Judy can look back on these many decades with pride for what she has accomplished and a sense of satisfaction knowing that she has made a mark as a leader," said Marc Burgess, DAV National Adjutant. "She's been a friend and partner and DAV and Auxiliary members

owe her a great thanks for her contributions."

"I've known Judy for many years now and her reputation as a thoughtful and considerate professional has always proceeded her," said DAV National Commander Ron Hope. "The importance of involving families and supporters in our shared mission is critical and Judy has set up the DAV Auxiliary to make an even greater impact through service and advocacy."

"(Serving in the Auxiliary) becomes part of who you are. It's been the biggest part of my life for so many years and is something I will continue to believe in," Hezlep said. ■



## National Commander

Ron F. Hope, Clemmons, N.C.

## Sr. Vice Commander

Moses A. McIntosh Jr., Hephzibah, Ga.

## 1st Jr. Vice Commander

David W. Riley, Semmes, Ala.

## 2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Vallejo, Calif.

## 3rd Jr. Vice Commander

Dennis L. Krulder, Lynbrook, N.Y.

## 4th Jr. Vice Commander

Brigitte Marker, Klamath Falls, Ore.

## National Judge Advocate

Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, N.D.

## National Chaplain

Michael P. Dover, Ellerslie, Ga.

## Past National Commander

Joseph W. Johnston, Williamsburg, Ohio



*From left, Michael P. Dover, Michael E. Dobmeier, Brigitte Marker, Dennis Krulder, Joseph W. Johnston, Ron F. Hope, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, David W. Riley, Moses A. McIntosh Jr.*

## NEC 1st District

John V. Hogan, Walpole, Mass.

### Alternate

Raymond W. Richards, Bellingham, Mass.

## NEC 2nd District

Robert J. Finnerty, S. Ozone Park, N.Y.

### Alternate

Chester Wisnesky Jr., Constable, N.Y.

## NEC 3rd District

Ron Reilly, Dover, N.H.

### Alternate

Richard P. Fournier, Windsor, Maine

## NEC 4th District

Timothy J. Kelly, Fairfield, Conn.

### Alternate

James M. Kopley, Princeton, N.J.

## NEC 5th District

Albert Burlikowski, Pittsburgh, Pa.

### Alternate

Lawrence F. Kelly, Beaver Meadows, Pa.

## NEC 6th District

Bennie Harris Jr., Washington, D.C.

### Alternate

Idalis M. Marquez, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico

## NEC 7th District

John E. Markiewicz, Jacksonville, Fla.

### Alternate

Richard Tolfa, Winter Springs, Fla.

## NEC 8th District

Kevin A. Wenthe, Ancoco, La.

### Alternate

Dave Sensat, Sulphur, La.

## NEC 9th District

Harmon L. Evans, Columbia, S.C.

### Alternate

Carroll E. Prosser, Surfside Beach, S.C.

## NEC 10th District

Rolly D. Lee Sr., Farwell, Mich.

### Alternate

Steven C. Pruitt, Grand Rapids, Mich.

## NEC 11th District

Herman W. Morton, Cincinnati, Ohio

### Alternate

Robert H. Bertschy, East Liverpool, Ohio

## NEC 12th District

Rodney Helgeson, Warren, Wisc.

### Alternate

Thomas J. Weber, Omro, Wisc.

## NEC 13th District

James S. Huff, Fordsville, Ky.

### Alternate

Timothy W. Duke, Sheperdsville, Ky.

## NEC 14th District

Joe Parsetich, Great Falls, Mont.

### Alternate

Kevin R. Grantier, Lincoln, Mont.

## NEC 15th District

David W. Brader, Parsons, Kan.

### Alternate

Jerry Bay, Windsor, Mo.

## NEC 16th District

Daniel Contreras, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

### Alternate

Michael Steinbaugh, Berkeley, Calif.

## NEC 17th District

Gary Lucas, Powell, Wyo.

### Alternate

Frank Maughan Jr., Pleasant View, Utah

## NEC 18th District

Johnny N. Stewart, Tuscon, Ariz.

### Alternate

Johnie "Bo" Treadway, Tuscon, Ariz.

## NEC 19th District

Fay A. Lyon, Kennewick, Wash.

### Alternate

Sarah J. Royse, Bay City, Ore.

## NEC 20th District

Theresa Johniken, Lufkin, Texas

### Alternate

Percy Spence III, Selma, Texas

## NEC 21st District

Danny Oliver, Coweta, Okla.

### Alternate

Cougar Hammons, Moore, Okla.

## Auxiliary National Officers 2014-2015



From left, Susan K. Miller, Carol A. Gray, Linda S. Stake, Dorothy Reese, Frances J. Costa, William Craig Johnniken, LeeAnn B. Karg, Ellen L. Timmerman, Judy Uetterling

### **National Commander**

LeeAnn B. Karg, Dassel, Minn.

### **Sr. Vice Commander**

Linda S. Stake, Heber Springs, Ark.

### **1st Jr. Vice Commander**

Frances J. Costa, North Attleboro, Mass.

### **2nd Jr. Vice Commander**

William Craig Johnniken, Lufkin, Texas

### **3rd Jr. Vice Commander**

Ellen L. Timmerman, Flora Vista, N.M.

### **4th Jr. Vice Commander**

Dorothy Reese, Kathleen, Ga.

### **National Judge Advocate**

Carol A. Gray, Grand Rapids, Mich.

### **National Chaplain**

Judy Uetterling, Defiance, Ohio

### **Imm. Past National Commander**

Susan K. Miller, Las Animas, Colo.

### **NEC 1st District**

Sandra D. Fincel, Gloucester, Mass.

*Alternate*

Lillian R. Halpin, Auburn, Mass.

### **NEC 2nd District**

Josephine Rivera, Glendale, N.Y.

*Alternate*

Theresa Grabowski, Middletown, N.Y.

### **NEC 3rd District**

Sylvia Heath, Mechanic Falls, Maine

*Alternate*

Donna M. Folcarelli, Johnston, R.I.

### **NEC 4th District**

Sarah M. Kashner, Camden, Del.

*Alternate*

Linda Applegate, Toms River, N.J.

### **NEC 5th District**

Laurie A. Stopyra, Chambersburg, Pa.

*Alternate*

Suzanne M. Seyboldt, Erie, Pa.

### **NEC 6th District**

Carol L. Simmons, Parkton, Md.

*Alternate*

Grace M. James, Front Royal, Va.

### **NEC 7th District**

Debbera McLaughlin, Bradenton, Fla.

*Alternate*

Delphia M. Bare, Brooksville, Fla.

### **NEC 8th District**

Linda Bailey, Maryville, Tenn.

*Alternate*

Dorothy Robinson, Munford, Tenn.

### **NEC 9th District**

Lynn Helms Prosser, Surfside Beach, S.C.

*Alternate*

Clyrissa I. Brown, Augusta, Ga.

### **NEC 10th District**

Carol J. Lee, Farwell, Mich.

*Alternate*

Teresita Morey, Holland, Mich.

### **NEC 11th District**

Deborah Hall, Alliance, Ohio

*Alternate*

Denise Proffitt, Louisville, Ohio

### **NEC 12th District**

Rose Williams, Stevens Point, Wisc.

*Alternate*

Patricia A. Davis, Oak Creek, Wisc.

### **NEC 13th District**

Mabelene Stevens, Harold, Ky.

*Alternate*

Charlyn Davis-Hager, Hagerhill, Ky.

### **NEC 14th District**

Joyce Jefferson, Rapid City, S.D.

*Alternate*

Nancy Worth, Piedmont, S.D.

### **NEC 15th District**

Linda Gerke, Kansas City, Mo.

*Alternate*

Breanne R. Chandler, Bee, Neb.

### **NEC 16th District**

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Berkeley, Calif.

*Alternate*

Melissa Valdez, Highland, Calif.

### **NEC 17th District**

Earnestine Bennett, Aurora, Colo.

*Alternate*

Beth V. Maughan, Pleasant View, Utah

### **NEC 18th District**

Rosie M. McDuffie, Las Vegas, Nev.

*Alternate*

Carolyn J. Walker, Henderson, Nev.

### **NEC 19th District**

Barbara Reding, Cocolalla, Idaho

*Alternate*

Crystal M. Tomlinson, Port Angeles, Wash.

### **NEC 20th District**

Mary S. Bergerson, San Antonio, Texas

*Alternate*

Christopher J. Easley, San Antonio, Texas

### **NEC 21st District**

Linda Oliver, Coweta, Okla.

*Alternate*

Mary R. Roden, Eldorado, Texas



## From the NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

### MICHAEL P. DOVER

#### A Chaplain's Principles

**G**reetings, everyone! As your newly elected DAV National Chaplain, I would like to share my heartfelt thanks to you, the members, for giving me this opportunity to impart some spiritual or general knowledge to each of you in our membership. In this issue, I would like to focus on a more specific group, the chaplains of this great organization. The Greek philosopher Diogenes said, "We have two ears and only one tongue so that we would listen more and talk less." As a chaplain, I personally believe that we need to spend less time talking and more time living as God has spoken. I have met many a faithful one who could quote scriptural principles from the word of God, but their lives were not viewed as an example of those principles of which they so earnestly spoke.

I am not implying that somehow I exemplify God's principles more than anyone reading this article, but I would say that as long as we humans are in charge, opportunities will certainly abound that could affect our example. Thus, we should always rely on God's wonderfully given grace, mercy and peace to be a scriptural example to others whom we serve.

As chaplains in DAV, we can further minimize those issues by understanding a few additional principles that should guide us.

The first principle is that we, as chaplains, are the spiritual leaders and must be inclusive and not exclusive. Chaplains serve in a pluralistic setting, and as chaplains we will serve many people who are not of our denomination or faith group. In many settings, the

chaplains are considered representatives for not only the religious denominations that they serve, but also for the institutions by which they were elected or appointed.

A second principle that should guide us is that we, as chaplains, are to nurture the total religious community. Unlike pastors, chaplains operate in a mobile environment. Just as the DAV's mission is to fulfill the promises to all the men and women who served, chaplains' ministries must never contradict this mission while performing their duties.

Thirdly, the chaplain is not only the spiritual advisor to the commander, but also someone who should intervene, when appropriate, at points which bring spiritual health to the organization and community. The chaplain's ministry may not always be spiritual. A chaplain may have to conduct programs that are not religious in focus but which may be characterized by human growth or character building. In either case, a chaplain's ministry complements his or her faith and places the organization in a like manner.

It is my sincere hope that as DAV chaplains, we all operate from a standard that complements the DAV's mission and purpose while at the same time develops a genuine concern for the overall care of our members, their families and dependents whom we serve spiritually, emotionally and physically. As we walk this journey together this year, I invite you to share your thoughts with me. I do have two ears and one tongue, and I would enjoy the opportunity to listen to your thoughts!

In His Service for You.





### National Alliance of Families 25th Annual Forum...

From left: Wayne Stratos, DAV POW/MIA Interim Committee; Lynn O'Shea, National Alliance of POW/MIA Families Director of Research; and Vincent Darcangelo, Chairman DAV POW/MIA Interim Committee, attend the National Alliance of POW/MIA Families Forum in Washington D.C. The organization is dedicated to the return of POWs, accurate accounting of the missing, recovery and identification of remains, or a reasonable explanation as to why it is impossible.



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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.



### DAV Wisconsin Advocates for Local Employment ...

Al Labelle, DAV Department of Wisconsin Legislative Director (right), and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker show off a T-shirt promoting DAV Wisconsin's website. The governor addressed the Department's state convention and signed Executive Order 137, the Wisconsin Veterans Employment Initiative. The order sets goals for hiring veterans and veterans with a service-connected disability rating. It also created a council on veterans employment to advise and assist in the effort to hire veterans and market state employment opportunities to veterans seeking employment.



### A 'Welcome Home' Long Overdue...

John E. Markiewicz received the Governor's Veterans Service Award from Florida Governor Rick Scott. Markiewicz is a Past Department Commander for Florida and represents his region on the DAV National Executive Committee. The governor also declared March 30, 2014, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" for the state.

Disabled American Veterans National Headquarters			
Unaudited Statement of Financial Position • June 30, 2014			
<b>Unrestricted Assets</b>		<b>Unrestricted Liabilities</b>	
Current Assets	\$ 27,239,920	Current Liabilities	\$ 103,115,591
Investments, at Market	373,200,349	Total Liabilities	103,115,591
Land, Buildings and Equipment,			
Net of Depreciation	7,012,667		
Other Assets	299,900		
		<b>Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	
		General and Net Assets Designated	
		by the Board of Directors	\$ 304,637,245
		Total Unrestricted Net Assets	
<b>Total Unrestricted Assets</b>	<b>\$ 407,752,836</b>	<b>Total Liabilities and Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$ 407,752,836</b>
		<b>Net Assets</b>	
<b>Life Membership Assets</b>		<b>Life Membership Liabilities</b>	
Current Assets	\$ 11,021,984	Current Liabilities	\$ 460,736
Investments, at Market	57,999,279	Reserve for Future Distribution	
		of Life Membership Dues	68,560,527
		<b>Total Life Membership Liabilities</b>	
<b>Total Life Membership Assets</b>	<b>\$ 69,021,263</b>	<b>and Reserve for Future Distribution</b>	<b>\$ 69,021,263</b>
		<b>of Life Membership Dues</b>	



[bbb.org/charity](http://bbb.org/charity)

DAV is very proud we have been authorized to display the seal since 2004, in recognition of meeting the Alliance's 20 Standards for Charity Accountability, which encourage fair and honest solicitation practices, promote ethical conduct by charitable organizations and to advance public support of philanthropy.



### **Newest Transportation Network Van for New York Veterans...**

From left: Northport VAMC Assistant Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC) Joe Kozlowski; Northport VAMC Chief of Voluntary Services Rich Kitson; National 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Dennis Krulder; Associate Director of Northport VAMC Maria Favale; PNC and DAV Department of New York Adjutant Donald Sioss; and Northport VAMC Health Systems Specialist Keith Butcher are with the Ford Transit that was displayed at the recent 93rd DAV and Auxiliary National Convention. The vehicle is now in service and is aiding the Northport VAMC area veterans.



### **Flags for the VA...**

DAV Chapter 4, Wichita, Kan., Commander Ken Gile (left) presents 25 exterior American flags to Rick Kennedy, Volunteer Service Specialist at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center.



### **Advocating for Local Veterans...**

DAV Department of Alabama Chapters 27 and 28 hosted events in Oneonta and Pell City to recognize the sacrifices of America's fallen. Department Adjutant Chad Richmond spoke at the public events, raising DAV's presence in local communities.



### **Fishing Trip**

The DAV California Rehab Foundation and Coast Side Fishing Club sponsored an open water fishing trip off the coast of California for a small group of veterans. The fishermen hauled in a great crab catch.





### **Georgia Establishes Veterans Court System...**

On April 7, 2014, 63 members of DAV Chapter 6, Marietta, Ga., gathered to hear a presentation by Cobb County Superior Court Judge Reuben Green and Chapter 6 Judge Advocate and DAV Department of Georgia Legal Advisor Drew Early. Reuben and Early spoke about the new Veterans Courts established for Georgia by S.B. 320, signed April 1, 2014. The new law, which Early helped write, takes into account the sacrifices that veterans have made, especially those who have been in combat.



### **Utah's Woman Veteran of the Year...**

National 3rd Junior Vice Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster presents the Department of Utah Women's Veteran of the Year Award to U.S. Army veteran Nancy Espinosa-Lawrence at the Utah Department Convention, May 30. Lawrence is a DAV Life Member and Sr. Vice Commander for the Department of Utah.



### **Color Guard...**

Members of Department of New York DAV Roll of Honor, Chapter 120, in Kenmore formed the color guard for a Flag Day event held at the local Roosevelt Elementary School. From left: Ray Byers, Corinna Buccilli, Chapter 120 Jr. Vice Commander Charles LeValley and Sandra Williams.



### **Department of Kentucky Gets a New Vehicle...**

Volunteer drivers pick up a Transportation Network vehicle from National Headquarters. From left: Leslie McLeahy; Charles Simpson Jr.; Kathy Bottom; Lee Ewing, Department Commander; Larry Roberts; Rita Flowers; and Ray Long, Department Adjutant.



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## REUNIONS

### ARMY

**14TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION ASSOCIATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS 1962-1972 (AM&S) (GS)** Oct. 23-27, 2014, San Antonio, TX, Contact: Frank Ferry, Ph: 203-205-9021, Email: frankgferry@yahoo.com, Web: www.14thtransbnaamgs.org.

**44TH ENGINEER BATTALION (BROKEN HEART BATTALION) KOREA, VIETNAM, IRAQ** Sept. 17-19, 2014, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, Contact: Ken Jobe, Phone: 757-404-2590.

**281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY** Sept. 25-28, 2014, Branson, MO, Contact: Don Torrini, Phone: 618-920-3810, Email: donaldo12@aol.com.

**630TH ENGINEER REUNION L.E. - VIETNAM** Sept. 18-20, 2014, Branson, MO, Contact: Cecil Brown, Phone: 731-415-6460, Email: ceclnbrown@charter.net.

**BATTLE OF THE BULGE VETERANS CHAPTER 62** Dec. 14, 2014, West Palm Beach, FL, Contact: George Fisher, Phone: 561-585-7086, Email: GeorgeFVBOB@aol.com.

**KOREAN WAR VETERANS REUNION - 999TH AFA BN (1950-54)** Sept. 25-28, 2014, Branson, MO, Contact: John Eichler, Phone: 704-542-2644, Email: eeichler5480@att.net.

**OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL, FORT KNOX, KY (1965-1968)** Oct. 9-12, Louisville, KY, Contact: Ron Demery, Email: ronaldem@yahoo.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/ocsforknox.

**USA SIGC OCS ASSOCIATION** Oct. 9-12, 2014, Kissimmee, FL, Contact: Richard Kerns, Ph: 615-391-0867, Email: rkerns99@bellsouth.net.

### MARINES

**ALPHA NORTH A-1-11 VIETNAM (1965-66)** Oct. 12-15, 2014, Las Vegas, NV, Contact: Gordon Hansen, Phone: 928-757-4882, Email: ghansen@citlink.net.

**MARINES OF LONG AGO (ALL ERAS)** Oct. 21-24, 2014, St. Augustine, FL, Contact: Joe "Red" Cullen, Phone: 203-877-0846, Email: aircooledmg7@aol.com.

**SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION** Oct. 7-12, 2014, Dumfries, VA, Contact: Larry Walker, Ph: 336-228-7127, Email: rwalkersr@triad.rr.com, Web: www.sixthmarinedivision.com.

### NAVY

**OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION** Nov. 12-14, 2014, Norfolk, VA, Contact: Ed Hamblin, Ph: 757-405-3362, Email: ehamblin74@verizon.net.

**PATROL SQUADRON 45 ASSOCIATION** Oct. 15-19, 2014, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Doug Mitchell, Ph: 678-650-7500, Email: poorbearmit@aol.com, Web: www.vp45association.org.

**USS ALTAIR (AKS-32)** Oct. 14-17, 2014, Las Vegas, NV, Contact: Richard Reiss, Ph: 702-407-0626, Email: Rjr940@aol.com, Web: www.ussaltair-aks32.org.

**USS ANTIETAM (CV/CVA/CVS-36)** Sept. 17-21, 2014, Branson, MO, Contact: Erma Booth, Phone: 253-752-6158.

**USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36)** Oct. 16-19, 2014, Nashville, TN, Contact: Mike Nesbit, Ph: 619-562-5690, Email: thezez@cox.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/brycecanyon.

**USS CANBERRA (CA-70/CAG-2)** Oct. 8-12, 2014, Virginia Beach/Norfolk, VA, Contact: Ken Minick, Ph: 740-423-8976, Email: usscanberra@gmail.com, Web: www.usscanberra.com.

**USS EPPING FOREST (LSD-4/MCS-7)** Sept. 11-15, 2014, Portland, OR, Contact: Bill Franklin, Phone: 360-673-5943 or Cell: 360-430-6538, Email: maryfranklin7@icloud.com.

**USS FORT SNELLING (LSD-30)** Sept. 17-21, 2014, Nashville, TN, Contact: Ray Batiato, Phone: 540-239-0159, Email: batman@swva.net.

**USS HOLLAND (AS-32)** Sept. 17-21, 2014, Norfolk, VA, Contact: Gary Stowe, Phone: 573-769-3996, Email: ussholland@socket.net.

**USS HUSE (DE-145)** Sept. 28 - Oct. 1, 2014, Myrtle Beach, SC, Contact: Dave Perlstein, Phone: 561-368-7167 or Cell: 561-703-4772, Email: usshuse@gmail.com.

**USS JONAS INGRAM (DD-938)** Oct. 23-26, 2014, Norfolk, VA, Contact: Pete Ventola, Ph: 973-627-7491, Email: prpenn@rcn.com, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/jonasingram.

**USS MEREDITH ASSN. (DD-434/DD-726/DD-890)** Oct. 29-Nov. 2, 2014, Savannah, GA, Contact: Dick Kutschbach, Ph: 740-774-3894, Email: dk62@roadrunner.com.

**USS MONSSEN (DD-798)** Sept. 14-18, 2014, Norfolk, VA, Contact: Marj Lemster, Phone: 270-791-5825, Email: Lemster2@windstream.net.

**USS NEWPORT (LST-1179)** Oct. 5-12, 2014, Las Vegas, NV, Contact: Ray Batiato, Phone: 540-239-0159, Email: batman@swva.net.

**USS OAK HILL (LSD-7)** Sept. 18-21, 2014, Memphis, TN, Contact: Raylah Holm, Phone: 509-607-9021, Email: raylah@aol.com, Website: www.ussoakhillsd7.myevent.com.

**USS RANGER (CVA/CV-61)** Oct. 1-4, 2014, Jacksonville, FL, Contact: Larry Schmuhl, Ph: 904-997-2217, Email: lschmuh1@gmail.com.

**USS ROBERT H. MCCARD (DD-822)** Oct. 22-26, 2014, Branson, MO, Contact: John Childs, Phone: 843-670-6811, Email: johnmccchilds6909@gmail.com.

**USS WEXFORD COUNTY (LST-1168)** Oct. 9-12, 2014, Louisville, KY, Contact: Larry Condra, Ph: 314-994-1187, Email: atwexford.county.reunion@aol.com, Web: www.mlsinc.com/wexford.

### AIR FORCE

**34TH BOMB SQUAD** Oct. 2-5, 2014, San Diego, CA, Contact: Rod Breland, Ph: 225-751-2058, Email: rodbrel@msn.com, Web: www.34thbms.com.

**815TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON "FLYING JENNIES"** Oct. 9-11, 2014, Branson, MO, Contact: Stan Staggs, Ph: 479-721-5828, Email: staggsstan@yahoo.com.

**AIR FORCE POSTAL AND COURIER ASSN.** Sept. 16-19, 2014, New Orleans, LA, Contact: Ernie Smith, Phone: 904-824-6097, Email: esmith-6@comcast.net.

**RAF BURTONWOOD ASSOCIATION (1941-1993)** Oct. 7-12, 2014, Portland, OR, Contact: Jim Bentley, Ph: 813-689-0199, Email: Jbent0214@aol.com.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER REUNION** October 22-26, 2014, Ft. Walton Beach, FL, Contact: Jim Weatherbee, Phone: 850-862-2861, Email: jimwxb@aol.com, Website: www.fac-assoc.org.

### ALL SERVICES

**COMBAT INFANTRYMENS ASSOCIATION** Oct. 2-5, 2014, Kissimmee, FL, Contact: Larry Eckard, Ph: 828-256-6008, Email: combatinfantrymenassoc@yahoo.com, Web: www.cianathq.org.

**MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP - VIETNAM** Oct. 23-26, 2014, Nashville, TN, Contact: Wayne McCaughey, Ph: 540-450-8526, Email: wmmccaughey@verizon.net, Web: www.mlrsinc.com/maagvietnam.

### INQUIRIES

- Searching for anyone aboard the USS Sabine AO-25 during 1950-52, who helped recover a life raft/boat containing headless, armless and legless body, and those who served with me in fire room. Please contact Harry M. Wall, 2509 LaPlata Drive, Kettering, OH 45420-1153.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Vietnam from May 1964 to May 1965 with III Corps Advisory Group (located at Bien Hoa Air Base) with Duty Station Phuoc Vinh. Please contact SGM Robert E. Lewis (USA Ret.), 11375 S.W. 75th Terrace Road, Ocala, FL 34476, Phone: 352-861-2269, Email: sgmute@embarqmail.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with my grandfather, Demetrio Gabriele, in World War I. Please contact Demetrio Gabriele, #638518, Col. Annex, Q2114L, 253 S.E. Corrections Way, Lake City, FL 32025.
- Searching for anyone who served with SSGT Michael Peery who was attached to A Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, during 1968. Please contact Janice Peery, 3347 Alvo Road, Seward, NE 68434 or Email: jmp@stewireless.com.
- Searching for military police who served with the 542 Military Police Company, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico 1959-1961. Please contact Bob Cesnik, P.O. Box 2777, Kalispell, MT 59903, Phone: 406-249-8525.
- Searching for anyone assigned to 8th/15th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Japan/Korea 1950-1951. Please contact James (Jim) Hilford, Augusta, GA, Email: jimceltina@aol.com.



## THANK YOU for your service!

Golden Corral and DAV are partnering for another great Military Appreciation Monday, **Nov. 17, 2014**, between 5 and 9 p.m. That's the day Golden Corral restaurants nationwide welcome our nation's veterans and active-duty military men and women to a free buffet dinner and drink, and lots of camaraderie. Last year, DAV Departments and Chapters raised more than \$1.4 million in donations as a result of this decadelong annual tradition.

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