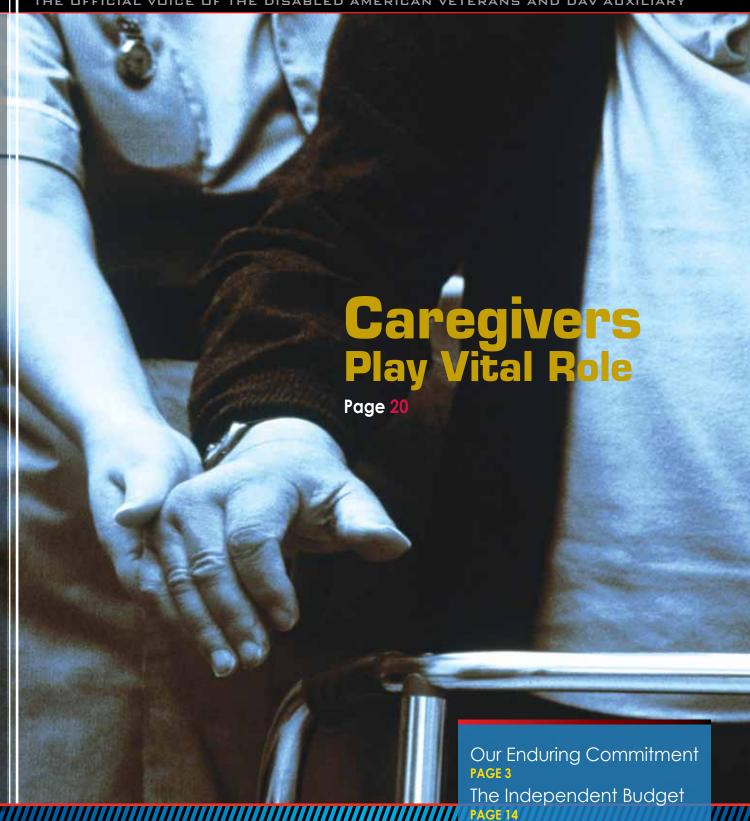


THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AND DAV AUXILIARY





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### Standing By Their Veterans



### from the NATIONAL COMMANDER

I recently had the distinct privilege of visiting Brooke Army Medical Center and the Center for the Intrepid in San Antonio. There, I met with some our nation's finest heroes. It is always moving to witness the courage, fortitude and perseverance of these young men and women as they take on the hardest challenges of their lives.

eeting with the devoted medical professionals who provide the very best care to them as well is an enduring reminder of how important it is to ensure that Congress and the administration meet their resource needs year after year and that those resources are being put to good use. These doctors, nurses, rehabilitation specialists and others are putting a great deal of themselves into their mission, passionately helping these wounded warriors achieve what was not too long ago unthinkable levels of recovery from their devastating injuries.

There can never be enough said about the veterans and the medical staff. But there are others who far too often are overlooked when praise is given. I have been truly inspired by the unwavering support of the families I have met. And I am constantly reminded of how important family was to my recovery and rehabilitation —and still is today.

Before the circumstances and injuries that brought their loved ones to the medical centers, these spouses, parents and children endured long deployments, family separations and frequent relocations. They hoped that their willingness to meet and overcome these challenges would allow their warriors to perform their assigned missions effectively and safely. The families' dedication and faithful service to the nation are the true definition of patriotism.

Now, these family members are further putting

their lives on hold, leaving their jobs and homes behind to take up residence at a military or VA medical center or at any one of the many facilities where a loved one is being treated.

Today, our soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen are surviving injuries they would not have lived through in any previous war. We are seeing many with severe multiple traumas, brain injuries at epidemic levels, post-traumatic stress disorder and other serious psychological injuries.

The burdens on these young men and women and their families are overwhelming. Of course, rehabilitating from a serious injury is dreadfully demanding both physically and mentally. But there in San Antonio are family members putting everything they have into helping and supporting their loved ones in so many ways through the healing and rehabilitation processes. The family's courage and commitment should not go unnoticed.

These servicemembers, veterans and their families need all the help and support we can provide through our volunteering, as well as our advocacy. I know many of you are dedicated to helping those who are serving or have served in uniform. But I urge you to also do what you can to help the families. And when you thank servicemembers and veterans for their service, look to see if their spouse or other family members are there. If so, extend your appreciation to them as well for their service and sacrifice.



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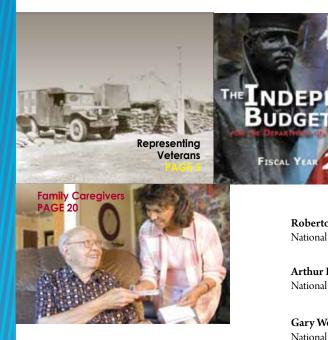
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### Our Enduring Commitment



### from the NATIONAL ADJUTANT

As our great organization approaches its 90th anniversary, we can be very proud of all that we have accomplished since our beginning. Our record of service and advocacy on behalf of disabled veterans and their families and survivors remains unmatched. And I am confident that we will continue to be the nation's premier veterans service organization.

we have remained steadfastly true to the purpose established at our organization's first national convention following World War I. Our founders who bore the wounds and scars of war returned home to find their government unprepared to meet the unique needs of disabled veterans. And although many disabled veterans had formed local groups that made a difference in helping one another, they also knew that their best hope for meaningful change on a larger scale was through a nationwide movement.

So, thanks to the leadership and organizational skills of visionaries such as Judge Robert S. Marx, among others, the foundation of the DAV was laid. The organization they sought to create was born out of the special bonds and solidarity of purpose they shared as they struggled with the impact of war on their lives.

So, when thousands of disabled veterans from across the country gathered at that first National Convention in Detroit, they created what Judge Marx declared to be "an organization of us, by us and for us." And in fulfilling that vision, the newly formed Disabled American Veterans of the World War became the champion of all disabled veterans. From then on, the new organization would be there for their comrades, helping them solve their own problems and

advocating for their best interests.

But as the echoes of battle grew more distant and faint, the DAV's founders knew how vital it was that veterans' sacrifices not be allowed to fade from the national consciousness. Today, as then, the men and women of the DAV understand first-hand the special needs of veterans disabled in service to our nation. We share that common commitment to making sure our government lives up to its moral obligation to all who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Our professional National Service Officers and Transition Service Officers, along with our Department and Chapter Service Officers, continue to provide the very best benefits counseling and claims assistance available anywhere. Theirs is a revered legacy of those first DAVWW Liaison Officers who aided veterans with their claims before the Veterans Bureau.

Over the past 90 years, we have expanded and improved our service programs with the highest caliber training and continuing skills development. We have continued to raise the bar in many other ways, including expanded outreach with our fleet of Mobile Service Offices that crisscross the country bringing DAV's unmatched service to veterans in their communities.

Our thousands of volunteers in VA hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities continue to set (Continued on page 31)

#### **Texas Bill Excludes Widows**

This year, the Texas Legislature passed a bill signed by the governor that provides total tax exclusion for 100 percent disabled veterans on their homesteads. It did not include any tax relief for surviving spouses of deceased 100 percent disabled veterans. I think that was an injustice. Spouses of military men serve their country also. They stay home and manage the house, car, yard and children so their husbands can be deployed without worry. I was the primary caregiver during my husband's lengthy illness before he died. Including widows in this bill would not put a heavy financial burden on the taxing entities in Texas. Many widows of 100 percent disabled veterans are in their 70's and 80's and do not own a home. Those of us who do own a home deserve consideration for the few remaining years of our lives. Edith Walsh, Bastrop, TX

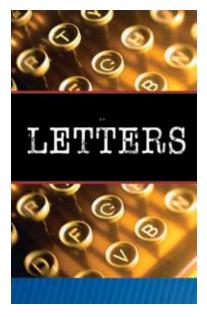
### Interested in Women Veterans Study

The Department of Veterans Affairs study of Vietnam era women veterans is another giant step forward in serving this courageous integral group. However, it is unfortunate it took so long to initiate. Hopefully it is not too late to assist this group and future active military women with health care and benefits.

Linda Noe, Fredericksburg TX

### Writing Project Stirs Warm Memories

Thank you for the article "Writing is Therapy" in the November/December 2009 issue of *DAV Magazine*. I am 89, a member of DAV, and in 1946 through 1949, I was involved with Mrs. Elizabeth Fontaine at the veterans hospital in Hines, Illinois. She was interested in poetry and creative writing. She assisted one patient in having his poetry published. She aided other patients to use the local radio station as a means of self-expression through interviews



and reading news releases written by patients. Her enthusiasm, interest and encouragement helped many patients finish college. My friend the poetry writer received his Ph.D., and I received my B.S. and M.A. because this lady was so determined that writing could open doors into the future. Maybe more attention should be expended on this project. "Man does not live by bread alone." *Harry J. Kone, Marietta, GA* 

#### **'Un-COLA' Chafes Veterans**

The article in the November/December 2009 issue entitled "No COLA Increase for VA in Forecast" sheds light on an unfortunate situation. Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman said, "the COLA amount is not determined by Congress. It is

DAV Magazine welcomes letters. However, due to the volume of mail, we are unable to acknowledge every letter. Letters are subject to editing for clarity, style, accuracy, space, and propriety. Letters involving individual claims are referred to the DAV Service Department, DAV Magazine, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301.

computed using a formula specified by law." Is it not true that Congress enacted a law giving its members not only a COLA every year, but a raise as well? Perhaps our representatives would do well to actually consider their constituents and pass laws allowing a COLA to those on fixed incomes and stop giving themselves raises every year. Lora Butler, Westminster, MD

Recently, I wrote my two U.S. Senators and my U.S. Representative to ask if they were receiving their mandatory pay raise as of January 1, 2010, or are forgoing it as veterans will have to do because of the economic crisis facing our nation. The general answer from all of them was why we were not getting our COLA raise, nothing on their mandatory pay raise. I feel that if we forgo our COLA raise and have to tighten our belts because of the nation's economic crisis, Congress should forgo their mandatory pay raise. John Sharpe, Fayetteville, GA

### **Funeral Assistance Lacking**

A friend recently told me that her son's father had passed away and that he was a 16-year Navy yeteran who served in Desert Storm. He had no insurance and nothing of value to sell to pay for the funeral expenses. His son had just started a new job and didn't have the funds to pay the expenses. Although the VA pays a small stipend and supplies a headstone. I do not think this is all the VA and the government should be providing for our deceased veterans. This man served his country honorably and was decorated with high military honors. Any veteran with such service is well taken care of while serving his or her country and should be well taken care of when they pass. It is high time the government and the VA take notice of these failures of their duties to all veterans in this situation. May God bless this fallen soldier. Gary L.

Lewis, Westminster, CO



### **King Cobras & a Purple Heart**

By Jim Hall

ou never know what may result from a discussion with a veteran about a disability claim. National Service Officer John Hansen can vouch for that. King cobras and a Purple Heart Medal were topics of conversation when he sat down with Vietnam veteran Robert McBride and his wife, Barbara, to discuss McBride's service-connected disability claim.

As a young Army specialist, McBride served with C Company of the 554th Engineers in Cu Chi, South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. According to McBride, his company seemed to come under mortar attack nearly every night. During one of the nightly mortar attacks he suffered shrapnel wounds. He reported the wounds to his commander and was told to report to the medical tent for treatment.

"When I got to the medical tent I saw other soldiers being treated who were worse than me," McBride said. "There was another soldier there like me. We went back to our position and removed shrapnel from each other, and that was it."

Actually, that wasn't it. According to McBride's medical records, he had previously received first and second degree burns to his left shoulder and right foot during a pre-dawn mortar attack on Jan. 31, 1968. He had been recommended

for the Purple Heart but had not been awarded the medal before being honorably discharged in June 1968.

Vietnam.

McBride filed a claim for service-connected disability for Agent Orange exposure, and went for a physical evaluation in 1993. The VA denied the claim.

He filed another claim on Aug. 16, 2007, for entitlement to service connection for soft tissue sarcoma, bilateral hearing loss and tinnitus. He was denied service connection and filed his Notice of Disagreement directly through the VA regional office.

Still not satisfied with the way things were progressing, McBride decided to contact the DAV National Service Office in Reno, Nev. With that decision, McBride's luck was about to change.

"My first contact with Mr. McBride was on Sept. 4, 2008, shortly after my assignment to Reno, Nev." NSO Hansen said. "We discussed a VA letter advising him of a personal hearing with the Decision Review Officer."

On Nov. 21, 2008, McBride and his wife arrived at the DAV National Service Office to discuss his upcoming hearing with NSO Hansen. McBride was tired of the denials. He

(Continued on page 31)



The second session of the 111th Congress presents great opportunities to assist disabled veterans and their families, with direct action by our members and the Stand Up for Veterans grassroots initiative in support of our legislative goals.

The DAV is the authoritative voice for our nation's service-connected disabled veterans, including the young men and women wounded or injured as a result of the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The spirit of our members in support of our legislative initiatives is essential to our efforts to secure and enhance the programs that benefit disabled veterans.

Our legislative goals are the guide used in our mission to build better lives for disabled veterans and their families. They are drawn from resolutions adopted by the delegates at our annual National Convention. Below are some of the major objectives the DAV will pursue during the second session of the 111th Congress:

### Disability Compensation & Other Benefits

- Reform the VA claims adjudication process.
- Support legislation to remove the offset of Survivor Benefit Plan payments and VA dependency and indemnity compensation.
- Oppose any change that would redefine service-connected disability or restrict the conditions or circumstances under which it may be established.

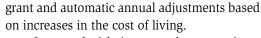
- Oppose any proposal that would offset payments of Social Security Disability Insurance benefits or any other federal benefits by the amount of VA compensation.
- Support legislation to repeal provisions allowing attorneys to charge veterans a fee for benefits counseling or any claims services before the VA.
- Oppose any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of VA disability compensation.
- Support legislation to provide service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases.
- Support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation for all longevity retired veterans.
- Support compensation of Persian Gulf War veterans for illnesses circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War.
  - Support an expansion of POW presumptions.
- Support presumption of exposure to traumatic stressors for veterans who served in a war zone and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Oppose any scheme to means test disability and death compensation.
  - Increase disability compensation.

#### **Medical & Health Care Services**

- Ensure that priority access and timely, quality health care services are provided to service-connected disabled veterans.
- Ensure proper screening and treatment for traumatic brain injury and post-deployment mental health issues.
- Support equal medical services and benefits for women veterans.
- Support the repeal of VA and Department of Defense co-payments for medical care and prescriptions.
- Support repeal of beneficiary travel pay deductibles for service-connected disabled veterans and support increased benefit travel reimbursement rates.
  - Support legislation to provide relief for family caregivers.
- Support enhancement of long-term health care to service-connected disabled veterans.

#### **General Issues**

- Support increases in grants for automobiles or other conveyances available to certain disabled veterans and to provide for automatic annual adjustments based on the increase in the cost of living.
  - Provide an increase in the specially adapted housing



- Support legislation to reduce premiums for Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance consistent with current life expectancy.
- Increase the face value of Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance.
- Seek the immediate release of any American who may still be held captive following World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom,

and seek immediate return of the remains of any Americans who died during those wars.

- Provide education benefits for dependents of serviceconnected veterans rated 80 percent or more disabled.
- Increase the burial allowance for service-connected disabled veterans.
- Extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to 100-percent service-connected disabled veterans.
- Condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States.
- Construct a memorial to commemorate the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans.
- Eliminate the delimiting date for eligible spouses and surviving spouses for benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38, United States Code.

### VA to Begin Recovery of Post-9/11 GI Bill Advance Payments

■ The VA is beginning the process of recovering advance payments of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits made available during the fall 2009 semester. The VA began sending notification letters explaining the repayment process in late January.

In October VA instituted an advanced payment process for all eligible students enrolled in an institution of higher learning for the fall 2009 term. As part of that process, a Web portal was established to allow electronic submission for advance payment. Advance payments were also made on-site at VA offices around the country. At that time student veterans were

told that advance payments would be deducted from future benefit payments.

The VA also has released a "hip pocket" guide and checklist with tips to assist veterans in the application process. The guide and checklist can be found on college campuses and VA's GI Bill Web site, www.gibill. va.gov.

### DoD Seeks Better Data on Balad Burn Pits

■ A Pentagon health official told doctors that cases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and undiagnosed respiratory symptoms at Joint Base Balad, the site of Iraq's largest burn pit, may be as much as 30 percent higher than at other bases.

The DAV is maintaining a registry of people who believe they have been sickened by exposure to the burn pits. For information, e-mail legislation@davmail.org.

The U.S. military has not compiled a complete history of its burn pit use; nor does it have a way to account for where many of the two million members were exposed to pits while serving at war between 2001 and 2009.

Defense officials also said it is possible that bronchiolitis in some troops that initially was attributed to their exposure to a sulfur fire near Mosul, Iraq, actually may have been caused by the burn pits, or a combination of factors including the burn pits, the sulfur fire, pre-existing health conditions and tobacco use.



Department of California Commander Robert Linder welcomes Department Service Officer Curtis Johnson, his wife, Jillian, and their daughter Izabella at a DAV picnic.

DAV National Commander Bobby Barrera recently authorized lowering the minimum down payment for membership from \$40 to \$20.

### **Initial Membership Fee Temporarily Lowered to \$20**

epartment of California Adjutant Dan Contreras' experience with information seminars about veterans benefits spans years. But even he was shocked by a recent event in Oakland.

"You typically see 50 or so people show up. We had over 400 people at the doors. We had to open up another area and call in more service officers to work," he recalled. "In Yorba Linda, we had the same thing. We had to turn people away."

A difficult economy has hit veterans hard in the Golden State and around the nation. The need for the DAV's services continues to grow while families are keeping a tighter hold on their pocketbooks than ever before. Optional expenses must be weighed against a family's needs.

In response, DAV National Commander Bobby Barrera recently authorized lowering the minimum down payment for membership from \$40 to \$20.

"Veterans recognize the value of

joining the DAV, but times are hard," said National Membership Director Anthony Baskerville. "We don't want people to put off joining for any reason at a time when our community needs to grow substantially to make up for the number of veterans we are losing every day."

According to Adjutant Contreras, who helps lead the largest Department in the organization, veterans who attend events like information seminars see the benefits of the DAV's mission and membership immediately.

His friend, Past National Commander George H. Steese, Jr., agrees. The \$20 cost to initiate a membership may make it possible for more veterans to join, but Steese said he hopes leaders nationwide will use the rest of the membership year to revitalize Chapters and engage future leaders.

"Vietnam veterans should know what it feels like to be the 'young guy' at the meetings," said Steese. "When I first got involved in the DAV, it felt like I had 15 fathers and no brothers. The World War II veterans brought me along and I'm grateful. Our future now depends on our ability to identify young men and women with potential and give them the opportunity to serve as equals."

The past Chapter, Department and National Commander has invested the time he once devoted to fraternal management toward promoting future leaders.

His most recent protégé is Department Service Officer Curtis Johnson, a veteran of the recent conflicts. When Steese met Johnson, he was an employee at the VA medical center in Fresno, Calif.

"I invited him to a couple of meetings and he stepped up right away. Immediately we saw that he was a young man who was willing to commit. He's taken over our Chapter Web site. We knew right away that we needed to

keep him and our Department leadership felt the same way," Steese said. "He's excelled in training to be a service officer. Now we have a fantastic employee and a very active Chapter member."

Curtis Johnson isn't the Golden State's only bright young star. Kyle Dishler is a Marine veteran of the invasion of Iraq. He's also the Adjutant of Chapter 28 in Riverside. At 30 years old, he may be the youngest officer in that position nationwide.

He joined after his master gunnery sergeant's last order was to "join something" for benefits assistance after his discharge. He didn't know at the time that the DAV offered free services.

Dishler attended a meeting out of curiosity and was



Johnson

immediately taken under wing by then-Chapter Commander Richard Wright. Unfortunately, Commander Wright passed away while attending last year's National Convention.

But the mentorship Commander Wright showed during their time together inspired Dishler to keep serving after he returned from Denver following the loss. The young Chapter Adjutant

gets a lot of traction in the community. He has local bands performing concerts to benefit the Chapter and they are supporting the survivors of troops killed in combat.

Chapter 28 now has a MySpace social networking page and is working toward changing its operations to better accommodate working veterans who can't attend weekday meetings.

Past National Commander Steese said the most important advice he gives Chapter leaders in his Department and

nationwide is to spread the wealth.

"You see in some instances where one person has to take on more than one leadership position. That's anything but ideal. As Vietnam veterans in particular, we know how important it is to welcome our brothers and sisters home. If we want to leave our mark on the organization, we need to do so by preparing the next generation to fill our shoes," he said.

"Younger veterans bring in younger veterans and give us the opportunity to pass on our legacy to the individuals who will serve the next generations," said Steese.

National Commander Barrera said the temporary fee change is especially necessary considering the changes that lie ahead for the veterans community at large.

"We're not looking for our seasoned members to hand off the keys and walk away from the car. At the same time, most Chapters don't need to look into a crystal ball to see that we're getting older. We need to reflect the people we serve," said Commander Barrera. "If we don't have veterans of different eras and both genders attending our meetings, we know where we need to grow. We know we need more members and to inspire more of them to take an active stake in our cause."

"I applaud the National Commander's decision to recognize the challenges families are facing during this financial crisis. As we celebrate our 90th year and look forward to the century mark, it's critical that we strengthen our ranks," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "There is a place in our organization for any disabled veteran who has ever served honorably and wants to contribute. It should be our greatest pleasure to put their skills and abilities to work for the greater good."

#### **Past National Commmander Randazzo Passes**

■ The DAV lost one of its many popular leaders when Frank Randazzo passed away in February.

"A World War II vet and a New Yorker through and



Randazzo

through, Frank wore his passion for his fellow disabled veterans on his sleeve," remarked DAV National Adjutant Art Wilson. "He was one of the warmest, kindest, friendliest men I've ever known – the type of leader our members loved and loved to follow."

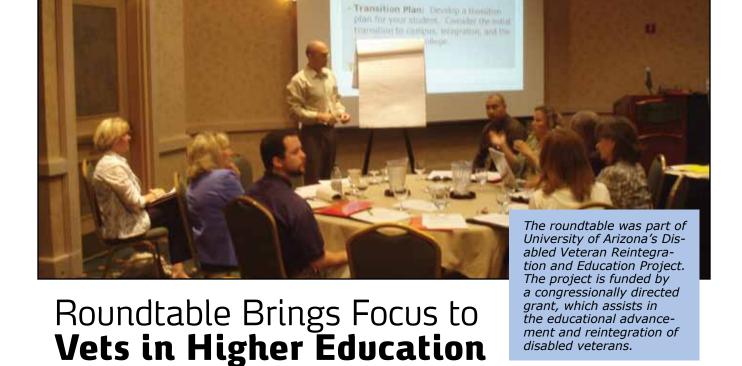
Mr. Randazzo entered the Army in 1944 and was proud to serve under General Patton. He earned

five Bronze Stars, fighting in the Normandy Invasion, the Rhineland Campaign, and the Battle of the Bulge, in which he was seriously wounded on Christmas Eve, 1944. He spent nearly a year in the hospital before he was honorably discharged with service-connected disabilities.

Mr. Randazzo served in all command ranks in his DAV chapter and the Department of New York before moving into national DAV office in 1972. He was elected National Commander in 1976.

"We all remember his year in office – soon after the Vietnam war – as a time characterized by an intense struggle to protect benefits and services for disabled veterans and their families," said Adjutant Wilson. "Frank was right there in the thick of it, ready to do what needed to be done as our organization's leader.

"We'll remember Frank's courage in championing our cause. But even more, we'll remember who Frank was – a man whose compassion ran as deep as a river."



An expected boom in the number of veterans accessing higher education brought together panelists to identify programs to meet their needs.

By Rob Lewis with Rebecca Ruiz-McGill (University of Arizona Communications)

here there are challenges facing disabled veterans, the DAV is there to provide support and encouragement.

So it should come as no surprise that an increase in the number of veterans on college campuses nationwide has increased the DAV's focus on the best way to provide assistance in this often difficult transition.

Recently, the DAV was on hand as the University of Arizona (UA) brought together leaders from throughout the United States for a roundtable discussion to identify best practices developed to serve military veterans seeking higher education.

The UA and other universitites and colleges in the United States have noted an increase in enrollment among military veterans, particularly those returning from serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Campus administrators—including disability resource personnel, admissions officers, veterans advocacy groups and policymakers—met to discuss how best to serve the boom of veterans accessing higher education, a group they say will increase threefold in the coming years.

Making the transition from military service to civilian life can be difficult. The challenges can increase exponentially with a disability, said DAV National Commander Bobby Barrera.

"I know from experience that there are many challenges facing a disabled veteran pursuing a college degree," Barrera said. "It is important for administrators, professors and veterans groups to recognize these challenges and work to provide structured, practical support for these men and women."

To this end, the DAV's National Service Department is developing new ways to target student veterans to ensure education, rehabilitation and compensation benefits are being handled properly.

"We are working on new, innovative strategies to assist veterans in the transition from military life to higher education," said DAV National Service Director Randy Reese. "The DAV is committed to all aspects of recovery for our veterans. With the new education incentives in place, we have recognized the need to direct our attention to college campuses as prime locations to assist disabled veterans."

Sven Jones, with the Institute of Learning and Understanding in Bethesda, Md., attended the UA roundtable, and said enrollment of veterans pursing higher education will only increase and the need for services specific to military veterans is essential.

"The biggest concern nationwide is how to integrate vets into the college system in a way that they will be retained. We are meeting to outline the major issues that might affect their retention as well as identify factors that will increase their success in graduate school or in doctoral work," Jones said.

The roundtable was part of UA's Dis-

abled Veteran Reintegration and Education Project. The project is funded by a congressionally directed grant, which assists in the educational advancement and reintegration of disabled veterans. The project includes a research and outreach component and funds the UA Veterans Education and Transition Services or V.E.T.S. office.

The UA V.E.T.S. office supports existing UA student veterans as well as veterans who would like to attend the university.

Amanda Kraus, program director of the Disabled Veteran Reintegration and Education Project, worked to identify a network of partners and experts to invite to the conference to identify trends as well as barriers in providing useful programs to veterans throughout the nation.

"Our program is very comprehensive—it spans different areas of campus but

the focus we have, and have learned is the most effective, is to provide oneon-one services to veterans seeking higher education," Kraus said.

The V.E.T.S. office works with existing programs such as the UA's Disability Resource Center, UA Admissions and the UA Office of the Registrar to provide services and other resources off campus to veterans.

"The V.E.T.S. office is our marquee program and serves as an initial point of contact for veterans on the UA campus. The center provides campus information, peer mentoring, socializing and is operated by veterans. The UA provides transition courses—classes for credit that are specifically tailored for veterans. We also provide administrative support in the UA Office of Registration that provides one-on-one help including information on the GI

Bill," Kraus added.

Reese said that many of the students who will be transitioning to college campuses in the coming years have disabilities that could complicate their education experience. Injuries such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury make retention and focus a challenge, while physical disabilities—including spinal cord injuries and amputations—can adversely affect a veteran's ability or even desire to pursue higher education.

Kraus agrees. "These students are nontraditional in every sense of the word. This meeting provides an opportunity for those who are leaders in the field to talk about all of our experiences, resources and to 'reconceptionalize' transitions and what transition means to us in higher education and for veterans."

### VA Reaches Out to Aid Transition from Combat to Classroom

The Department of Veterans Affairs is working with Florida and other states to help veterans make the transition from combat to college life. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki addressed educators and veterans during a conference this week at the University of South Florida (USF) on the importance of programs that ease the transition from active duty to veteran status.

"Here at USF, we are piloting our 'VetSuccess on Campus' program to support new veterans as they transition from the rigors of military life to the responsibilities of civilian life and the rewards of student life," said Secretary Shinseki. "By providing on-campus benefits assistance and adjustment counseling, this support program is on the leading edge of VA's drive to ensure services to all veterans."

Shinseki was the featured speaker at "Uniforms to Mortarboards: Colleges and Universities Serving Veterans," a one-day conference designed to help administrators and faculty maximize the opportunity

for success for veteran-students.

He emphasized the importance of ongoing outreach to ensure that veterans are fully informed of available education benefits, the newest of which is the Post 9/11 GI Bill. It is the

most significant educational benefit for veterans since the original GI Bill of 1944.

To further aid veteran-students, VA and USF began "VetSuccess on Campus," a pilot program designed to ease transition from active duty to veteran status, particularly for disabled veterans. The program places VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service and mental health counselors on campus to help veterans succeed in college. It will eventually expand to other parts of the country.

For more information about VA's education benefits, visit www.va.gov.



Derek Hollcraft, left, and Brandon Thomas, veterans of the current wars, discuss problems they and other veterans have encountered as they reenter civilian life.



### Helping Gulf War Veterans

By Joseph R. Chenelly

The Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans recently concluded more than a year of exhaustive research, producing a comprehensive set of recommendations to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki titled, "Changing the Culture: Placing Care Before Process."

Six health care and benefits themes were addressed in detail. They were health care priority, access to care, undiagnosed illnesses, classification of Gulf War I records, outreach and timeliness.

The committee, includes active duty and retired servicemembers, veterans of the first Gulf War and other conflicts, representatives of the major veterans service organizations, medical experts, and a widow and family members of Gulf War I veterans. The DAV's National Service Director Randy Reese also sits on the committee.

The VA established the committee in April 2008 to conduct an independent examination of the VA health care and benefits received by veterans who served in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations in the Persian Gulf War in 1990-91 and to provide recommendations on how these veterans can be better served.

"Due to the lack of reliable data regarding the 70,000 veterans who served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, we based most of our findings on scattered scientific research and anecdotal information," Reese said of the committee. "With that in mind, we made extra efforts to contact veterans who use VA services and veterans who do not use VA services to

come before the committee and report on their personal experiences."

In its final report, the committee stated, "The VA culture has significantly changed for the better since Gulf War I, but more needs to be accomplished. As VA continues to transform its culture and practices, caring for veterans must not be bogged down by bureaucratic processes."

The committee went on to say it found that VA's processes often prevented the effective and timely delivery of care and benefits to Gulf War I veterans.

"The process itself created barriers," Reese said, "like the experience with undiagnosed illness. There definitely is a need to move beyond the narrow and restrictive confines of treating diagnosable illness, to addressing the broader functional limitations which remain as

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Cornhusker Style Veterans Day in Nebraska .. Chapter and Unit 9 members in Hastings, Neb. prepare to join more than 30 organizations and groups participating in the Hastings Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11, 2009. Following the parade, veterans were invited to the Chapter home for a free meal and plenty of camaraderie.

ongoing problems requiring health and social interventions."

The committee recommended that the VA eliminate the end date for the presumptive period for compensation for undiagnosed illness in Gulf War I veterans, and to apply the same standardized diagnostic criteria in VA's health care diagnoses and benefits ratings for undiagnosed illness.

It was also recommended that the VA reinstate authority to enroll Gulf War I veterans into health care Priority Group 6, as well as to implement specialized programs to educate VA and

contract medical personnel on Gulf War I medical issues, research and regulations.

The final report stressed the importance of establishing a "much stronger and more formal health care support mechanism" at VA facilities by assigning a person, who would provide a friendly and informed primary point of contact during their initial interaction with the VA.

The committee found that Gulf War I veterans need to

be identified and grouped as a distinct population in all VA databases. The recommendations included paying closer attention to the overall quality of information within the VA databases.

"These recommendations will go a long way in helping this underserved group, but only if our recommendation to carry out a comprehensive and targeted outreach to Gulf War veterans is executed," Reese said. "The 20th anniversary of the Gulf War is a very positive opportunity to attract Gulf

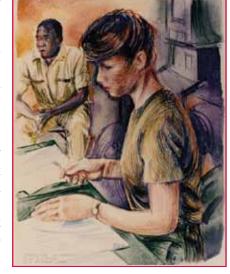
War veterans to the VA."

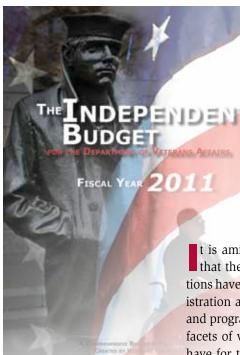
The report stated additional emphasis is needed in outreach to female veterans.

The committee expressed, in length, that timely responses from the VA are critical to the success in caring for veterans. The recommendations included setting a standard of 30 days in which to respond to inquiries from the Advisory Committees.

"We worked to present recommendations that are people-centric, result-oriented and forward-looking," Resse said. "Our goal is to improve access to VA benefits and health care services for veterans of Gulf War I, and I feel strongly that if appropriately acted upon, the committee's recommendations will go a long way toward achieving that."

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Veterans' Policy, Funding Plan Makes Real Difference

By Joseph R. Chenelly

that the DAV and other veterans organizations have presented Congress and the administration a highly detailed package of budget and program recommendations relating to all facets of veterans' care and benefits. "As we have for the 24th consecutive year, the DAV, AMVETS, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have produced The Independent Budget, which is viewed as one of the most significant and respected blueprints for meeting the needs of America's veterans," said National Legislative Director Joseph A. Violante.

"The Independent Budget is revered by lawmakers on Capitol Hill and policy makers throughout the VA," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "Along with our partners, we paint a straight, bright line from where the VA is today to where it needs to be in the near term." Additionally, more than 60 other veterans and military organizations and health care and disability advocacy groups have endorsed the recommendations.

"A lot of work by a lot of people goes into putting this document together, but the end product is so accurate and unaltered by politics that it now serves as a key guide for many as how to proceed in planning for the coming year," Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman said. "There is no arguing that *The Independent Budget* has raised, and continues to raise, the profile of veterans issues in Washington."

The Independent Budget recommendations are based upon the coauthors' expertise and

experience concerning the resources that will be necessary to meet the needs of America's veterans. They are the products of an extensive, comparative analysis of VA workload information and carefully reviewed medical and administrative cost data.

"Through *The Independent Budget*, we have identified a broad spectrum of policy challenges facing veterans and their families," Violante said. "We are addressing the massive claims backlog and many, many issues in veterans health care. Pointing out the problems is just one part; *The Independent Budget* also offers ways to solve those problems."

These recommendations are designed to meet the needs of the thousands of young veterans currently serving in America's armed services who soon will require from VA the health care and financial benefits that they have earned, as well as the needs of the millions of veterans from previous conflicts and service who currently depend on VA.

A major focus of *The Independent Budget* is the VA's claims system and the projected need for an increase of about 12 percent in funding for the Veterans Benefits Administration. Also provided are a host of proposals aimed at the VA that will lead to improving the timeliness and accuracy of the claims adjudication process.

"There must be a real plan implemented before VA's claims system becomes further mired in its own red tape and ultimately collapses under its own weight," Violante said. "Veterans and their families deserve prompt

As our nation closes in on a decade of sustained combat operations, another 30,000 American troops are bound for Afghanistan, even as others are poised to be withdrawn from Iraq. In any event, the mounting workload for the VA is expected to increase for the foreseeable future.







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decisions. VA must avoid further delay and move forward to meet its obligations in a timely manner."

The VA is facing growing demand for services as America's veterans age and medical treatment and administrative costs spiral upward. In addition to the rapidly growing number of new disabled veterans, almost 40 percent of the total veteran population is 65 years of age or older. This group of aging veterans has an increased demand for VA health care and long-term care services. These complicated age-related treatment issues make accurate financial and personnel

resource forecasting difficult but more important each year.

For the first time ever, the appropriation for veterans health care is coming a year in advance. There is no plan for *The Independent Budget* to provide precise predictions for the 2012 health care needs due to the ongoing development in how that is to be calculated. It is important to observe this process and review the required report by the Comptroller General before doing so.

"We will gain some experience with the advance appropriations for VA health care this year, and we fully expect to be in a much better position to provide accurate projections and recommendations in the future," Violante said. "We are very pleased to have this challenge, as it means better, timelier care for veterans and their families."

"The Independent Budget has evolved over its two-dozen years," Violante said. "It is no longer just a map for budgeting, it is driving legislative action and inspiring policy changes. Members of Congress look to The Independent Budget when coming up with bills. Many new bills are directly based on our recommendations, which are affecting real change for the good of veterans, their families and their survivors."



### Deployed Medics Raise Money for DAV

eployed North Carolina Army National Guard medics recently raised more than \$800 to support the DAV through a haunted clinic at Contingency Operating in Base Basrah, Iraq.

The soldiers used medical supplies left over from the British capture of the base and volun-

teers to scare visitors.

Donated cash and dinars went into a coffee can designated for the DAV, with officers pledging to donate a percentage of the total collection. The combat medics said they appreciated the DAV's service mission.

"They support soldiers and help them get the benefits they need and deserve. They also help them get assistance if they need it and they help a lot with the soldiers' families," said Sgt. Tyler Crowder, combat medic,

who spearheaded the event.

Sgt. Sarah Crowder, his spouse and fellow deployed medic, said the event broke up the monotony of the deployment for soldiers on the base and those who were visiting from other locations.

"They just enjoyed doing something fun and unusual here; day to day it can get kind of boring," she said. "I think what motivated everyone was that we were doing this for a great cause."



### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY

from the NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

### Full Steam Ahead

The DAV is flush with success after the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act was passed by Congress and signed by the President. It took years to achieve, but the results were worth the investment of time and resources. Today this historic law ensures that veterans will benefit from sufficient, timely and predictable VA health care funding.

One of the powerful tools that made this law a reality was the grassroots Stand Up for Veterans initiative, in which our members and others urged their elected representatives to support advance appropriation for VA health care. It was that powerful, influential engine that successfully propelled the legislation forward.

As we once more enter the breech of advocating legislative initiatives, we need to maintain this grassroots momentum. As publisher Michael Korda once said, "One way to keep momentum going is to have constantly greater goals." Those greater goals are the legislative initiatives proposed and adopted by our membership.

We have the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Claims Process as a "greater goal" this year. It includes legislative and administrative proposals designed, among other things, to improve the accuracy and timeliness of the claims adjudication system and to simplify and streamline procedures.

We can use the Stand Up for Veterans momentum to help make our case to lawmakers about the need to transform the VA claims system into a smooth, efficient machine that provides the best service to veterans. Considering the age of some claimants, this is a moral imperative to honor the promise given to generations of veterans. Justice delayed is justice denied.

More immediately, we need our members' grassroots support to push the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act (S. 1963) through Congress. It is a combination of bills to improve health care for women veterans and to allocate assistance and resources for caregivers of veterans. This vital legislation has been approved by the Senate and is now being studied by House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees' staff to reconcile several duplicate bills which passed in the House.

It is certain that a bill that improves health care for women veterans, assists caregivers and covers other veterans health issues will be produced during this year's congressional session. Your legislative staff will be working closely with those developing the final legislation. But the power behind this legislation is the support of the DAV membership and our determination to Stand Up for Veterans.

The more than 15,000 dedicated individuals involved in our grassroots efforts need to contact their elected officials and reach out to other DAV members, family members, friends and neighbors to encourage them to urge their lawmakers to support our legislative issues. They are important in helping us succeed on all of our vital issues.

Since this is an election year, members of

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Congress will be more sensitive to the initiatives supported by their constituents. The power of a phone call, e-mail, letter or telegram to our lawmakers is never greater than in an election year.

It was Shakespeare who wrote that "what is past is prologue," and, with the support of our 1.2 million members, we can make the success of the past serve as a prologue for what needs to be done.

We need your support and your energy to keep the momentum of Stand Up for Veterans moving, growing and

achieving the legislative goals desperately needed by our nation's veterans and their families and survivors. This year we will build upon the success of the DAV's Virtual March, and we will conduct Virtual Townhall meetings with members of Congress and VA officials.

DAV's reputation on Capitol Hill is as powerful as it is honorable. Lawmakers listen when the DAV speaks. And they will listen when the DAV members in their districts and states speak. Join Stand Up for Veterans to help us create a tsunami of success for veterans legislation.

### Columbia Trust Helps Drive DAV's Mission

AV Transportation Network vans can be seen traveling the highways and back roads of America every day transporting sick and disabled veterans to their VA medical appointments and home again.

The vans are highly visible with colorful décor, but the great support of

Burns

the Columbia Trust that helps put them on the road isn't as apparent. The Trust, created in 1996 as a restricted fund within the DAV National Service Foundation, is a vital

erican Veterans Transportation Network

tool in providing support for our many programs and services, and has been a great boon to the Transportation Network.

Last year, 152 Transportation
Network vans went into service to
assist our most needy veterans. The
Columbia Trust's partnerships with
Chapters and Departments, along with
the support of the Ford Motor Company's commercial fleet program, have
sustained this effort over the last two
decades. The total Trust expenditure
for the vans last year was nearly \$3.46
million dollars.

In addition to support for the Transportation Network, the Columbia Trust provides fuel for the engine that drives the many new programs that Departments and Chapters find are needed, but lack the funds to put them in place.

"The Trust provides the funding so that Chapters and Departments find innovative ways to serve disabled veterans and their families in their communities to guarantee they receive the unique services they need," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "The Trust remains an essential

> initiative that allows Chapters and Departments which are blessed with

funds to help others that have needs for services but not the resources."

"Our Columbia Trust has become a tremendous program to improve service to disabled veterans and their families," said Foundation President Gary P. Burns.

Since the Trust was established to help Chapters and Departments serve disabled veterans throughout our nation, nearly \$17 million has been awarded in grants to service programs.

"The Columbia Trust continues to provide needed services," said Burns. "Through it, and the dedication of our members, we can see a future of limitless possibilities and opportunities to provide innovative services for those returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, and to veterans of all wars."

Thanks to the Columbia Trust, thousands of veterans ride in DAV Transportation Network vans. In addition, the Trust also supports Hospital Service Coordinators who dedicate their time scheduling passengers and serving those who need assistance. They ensure the mission of the DAV is fulfilled daily.

"The Trust does tremendously useful work," said Wilson. "Its results are far more than the dollars and cents provided. It instills hope and compassion for disabled veterans and their families."





### **Credentials a Must for Convention Delegates**

By Jim Hall

o represent your Department, Chapter or Unit, you'll need delegate credentials for the 89th National Convention, July 31 through Aug. 3, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

"The supreme power of the organization is vested in a National Convention. The National Convention shall be composed of the elected National Officers, the Past National Commanders, the National Executive Committee Members and you, the delegates and alternates representing the Departments and Chapters of the organization," National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson said. Having proper credentials

maintains the integrity of our convention system and guarantees the most accurate representation of the will of the membership of our great organization."

Getting your credentials is easier than ever before, according to National Membership Director Anthony L. Baskerville. "Just be sure to bring your individual credentialing letter with you to the convention. It's the letter with the bar code," he said.

All necessary forms for certifying elected delegates and alternates representing your Department, Chapter or Unit will be mailed in early

spring. Chapter delegates and alternates shall be elected by their respective Chapters prior to the convention and certified to the National Organization. The forms must be signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the delegate's appropriate Department or Chapter or Auxiliary State Department or Unit. All subordinate organizations of the DAV should select delegates and alternates as soon as the delegate/alternate forms arrive and be sure to get the lists of delegates and alternates to National Headquarters before the June 30 deadline.

Be sure to contact your Chapter or Unit if you wish to be a registered delegate or alternate delegate.

Atlanta is a city filled with activities and interesting sights. You may want to visit Underground Atlanta with a six-block marketplace that offers historic guided tours and more than 100 specialty stores and outstanding restaurants. Atlanta's

National Museum of Patriotism celebrates the city's spirit and historic influences. You'll find relics and exhibits from the Revolutionary War to the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. Speaking of the Atlanta Olympics, the Centennial Olympic Park is one of the most popular spots in the city, offering concerts, family activities and festivals. The Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site is in the Sweet Auburn section of the city where our members can see Dr. King's birth home, historic Ebenezer Baptist Church and the King Center, holding the crypt and gravesite of Dr. King and his wife, Coretta Scott King. And don't forget the World of Coca-Cola

which has a 4-D theater, a restored 1880s soda fountain and the opportunity to sample 70 different beverages from around the world.



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### Atlanta Convention Agenda at a Glance

Registration July 31-August 3, 2010

### Friday 07/30/2010

District Meetings	
(Even numbers)	1:00 p.m 2:00 p.m.
(Odd numbers)	2:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Memorial Service	7:00 n m

#### **Saturday 07/31/2010**

Joint Opening Session	8:30 a.m.
1st Business Session	1:15 p.m.
National Commander's	
Reception	7:00 p.m 9:00 p.n

### Sunday 08/01/2010 DAV Business Session

Ditt Dusiness Session	5.00 dilli
Seminars/Workshops	1:00 p.m 4:00 p.m.
Fun Night	8:00 p.m 11:00 p.m.

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### **Monday 08/02/2010**

Seminars/Workshop	s 9:00	a.m n	ioon
Seminars/Workshop	s 1:00	p.m 4	1:30 p.m

#### **Tuesday 08/03/2010**

Business Session	9:30	a.n
Intro. of National Officers		

& Dinner 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

### Testimonial Dinner for Auxiliary Commander Egan

Auxiliary National Commander Kay Egan will be honored at a testimonial dinner Saturday, May 1, at the Crowne Plaza

in Ft. Myers, Fla.



The event will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m. with dinner to follow at 7 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person. Dinner choices are roasted pork tenderloin or macadamia nut encrusted Pacific whitefish. Reservations are required, and you must purchase your dinner tickets no later than April 25. Make your check payable to DAV Auxiliary, State Department of Florida and mail to

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Beverly Gregory, 17 Pinewood Blvd., Lehigh Acres, FL 33936. For additional information, contact Beverly at 239-369-4908. Be sure to indicate your dinner choice with your reservation.

Room reservations should be made directly with the Crowne Plaza, 13051 Bell Tower Dr., Ft. Myers, FL 33907. Phone: 239-482-2900, or fax, 239-482-4668, and be sure to ask for the DAVA room block rate. The room rate is \$99, plus tax, per night for a double or a single. Parking is free. The cut-off date for room reservations is March 31.

The hotel is located approximately eight miles from the Ft. Myers Southwest Regional Airport. A free shuttle service is available to and from the hotel and airport. It can be accessed from a courtesy phone between doors 4 and 5 in the baggage area. The shuttle may also be used to travel to locations within three miles of the hotel.

### **Testimonial Dinner for National Commander Barrera**

AV National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera will be honored with a testimonial dinner on Saturday, April 24, at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio, Texas.

The event will begin with a cash bar and light snacks at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$75 per person. Dinner choices are: filet mignon, served with demi glace; pumpkin-seed-crusted breast of chicken with cranberry demi glace; or grilled Pacific salmon with lemon grass butter sauce. A vegetarian meal is also offered, consisting of grilled vegetable brochette with brown rice pilaf. Dessert choices are Bananas Foster pie or triple chocolate mousse cake. Dinner



reservations and payment by check should be made to DAV Chapter 5 (Barrera Testimonial Dinner). Mail to: Duke Hendershot, 1169 Loma Verde Drive, New Braunfels, TX 78130-1209. Payment along with names of attendees, contact telephone and address and dinner choice for each attendee must be submitted before April 12.

Hotel accommodations must be reserved through the Grand Hyatt San Antonio. Phone 210-224-1234 and ask for reservations. Room rates per day are \$117 plus tax. Please request the Disabled American Veterans Testimonial Dinner for Barrera group rate when making reservations. The deadline for hotel reservations is April 2. Hotel parking is \$10 per day for self-parking and \$23 per day for valet.

The hotel is a short drive from the San Antonio International Airport. San Antonio Trans-Shuttle service is available at the baggage claim area. Taxi service is also available. The River Walk has

unlimited dining and shopping and the "Alamo" is a few blocks away from the Grand Hyatt.

For additional information, contact Duke Hendershot at 830-624-1949 or Armando Albarran at 210-843-6044.



### Family Caregivers Play Vital Role

By Dave Autry

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erious disabilities such as amputations, brain injury and spinal cord injuries don't just affect the veteran; they also affect the family of the survivor. In many cases, it is up to family members to take care of the physical, emotional, economic and social needs of the veteran.

National Commander Bobby Barrera often talks about the vital role of family in his recovery and rehabilitation from injuries he sustained in Vietnam. And as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and beyond remind us, the sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform also have a profound impact on their families as well.

"It is often said that when servicemembers go to war, their families also 'go to war' in a very real sense," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "And when veterans return home, often with severe injuries, their lives and the lives of their family members are forever changed."

There has always been a need for family support, both during deployment and afterward. And when veterans return from the battlefield, the entire family goes through a period of transition. Experts agree that this is the most important time for the family to seek support and learn about the changes and difficulties that may occur, especially if the veteran has a severe injury.

It is widely recognized that informal caregiving can delay or prevent a veteran from being institutionalized, and these caregivers relieve VA of the obligation and the cost of institutionalization. This also results in an enhanced quality of life for the veteran.

"Of course, the VA's patient medical care and rehabilitation are among the very best available, especially when it comes to polytrauma, traumatic brain injury and the like," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman. "But the VA also knows that family and friends have an important role in helping disabled veterans get the most out of their rehabilitation."

While the VA's programs and support for family caregivers continue to evolve and expand to meet a growing need, those efforts face a number of challenges. Among them are

statutory restrictions on VA's authority to provide direct services and support to family caregivers as well as funding limitations. Nevertheless, the VA has made strides toward providing more options for care and through contracts with existing programs.

For example, the VA reports that it currently contracts for caregiver services with more than 4,000 home health and similar public and private agencies. The contractor trains and pays the caregiver directly. But those caregiver services are not part of the veterans health benefits package; they are only provided upon request.

★ Editor's Note: The

Web sites, publications

are not intended to be

all-inclusive, nor should

their mention herein be

construed as an endorse-

and other resources

cited in this article

In addition, the VA's Volunteer Caregiver Support Network program is a collaborative effort between VA Voluntary Service and the Office of Care Coordination. Its Volunteer Respite Program prepares volunteers to assist primary caregivers of veterans. Through this program, volunteers are trained by peers and health professionals to provide a much-needed temporary break for family caregivers. The local VA Voluntary Service Specialist has primary responsibility for establishing and operating a community-based volunteer home respite program for primary caregivers, but they are not available at all medical centers.

"While family members certainly need some time off from their caregiver

duties, such volunteer respite programs are no substitute for a full range of support services the VA ought to be providing throughout the system," Gorman said.

In 2006 Congress authorized funds for new VA caregiver assistance efforts. And in December 2007, the VA announced the allocation of \$4.7 million to help fund eight pilot programs across the country to explore innovative options for providing education and support services to caregivers. These two-year projects included respite care, case management and service coordination, assistance with personal care, extended days of respite care, social and emotional support and home safety evaluations. They also included teaching caregivers how to obtain community resources such as legal assistance, financial support, housing assistance, home delivered meals and spiritual support.

"The VA is in the process of reviewing the outcomes of these new caregiver pilot programs, and the DAV eagerly awaits the results of that study," said Gorman. "

VA Vet Centers also are part of caregiver support efforts.

Centers around the country offer veterans support for mental health needs, readjustment issues, marriage and family problems. Some even offer support groups to help caregivers better understand the veteran's personal challenges. For those who live in rural areas, the VA also is networking with county and private human services providers to offer education and counseling and other support for caregivers.

"Unfortunately, many of the VA's caregiver programs are just getting started," Gorman said. "Family caregivers do not receive sufficient support services or financial assistance

> from the government, and the VA is limited as to the kinds of services it is authorized to provide to veterans' family members."

> The DAV has long advocated for a comprehensive set of support services that will benefit these family caregivers and the veterans who need assistance.

> "What is needed is an array of support services such as respite care, financial compensation, vocational counseling, basic health care, relation-

ment by the DAV. The ship, marriage and family counseling self-help resources cited and mental health care. These services are essential to equip caregivers while are not intended to be a they provide for our disabled veterans. substitute for therapy or Additionally, the VA should develop a professional advice. 'Caregiver Toolkit' that includes a detailed recovery roadmap to assist them in maneuvering the complex systems

> of care and inform them of available federal, state and local resources," Gorman said.

"Although the VA has the potential to be an even more essential resource for disabled veterans and their families, caregivers often have to find these kinds of services and valuable information from other sources," said Gorman. These include other government agencies, nonprofit organizations, such as the DAV, and private businesses.

For example, the Department of Health and Human Services announced in 2008 that it would provide the VA with \$19 million for consumer-directed and community-based services. The VA estimates purchasing at least \$3 million in community-based long-term care services in 10 states for both older veterans and recently returned veterans to help divert them from nursing home placement.

"The DAV understands caregiver support services fall under VA's long-term care program, but there are significant gaps in VA's existing medical benefits package that must be filled," Gorman said. "We urge Congress to address the

unequal eligibility for long-term services that has such a profound impact on family caregivers, and we urge that the VA abandon its one-size-fits-all approach to long-term care that unfairly limits the use of and access to such care."

As a way to help fill those gaps, many families of veterans often turn to self-help books for advice in caring for persons with severe disabilities, such as those available from organizations, including the National Family Caregivers Association and the Family Caregiver Alliance. Educational institutions and private publishing companies also have found a market for books to meet this growing need.

Demos Medical Publishing, among others, offers several practical self-help guides for patients and caregivers that attempt to bridge the gap between consumers and the health care community.

The following are some recent titles from Demos, which are distributed by Publishers Group West and are also available through Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and all major bookstores. Those interested may also visit the Web site www.demosmedpub.com for more information.

The Mayo Clinic Guide to Living with a Spinal Cord Injury: Moving Ahead with Your Life, is an illustrated, accessible guide to help enable people with spinal cord injury return to an active and productive life within the limits of their disability. Leading medical experts at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic offer their expert advice on topics ranging from emotional adjustments to skin care to modifying a home and car to accommodate a disability. This book encourages readers to resume their favorite hobbies, participate in athletic activities and return to the workplace, if possible.

There are 1.7 million regular wheelchair users in the United States. Like anyone else, they work, marry, have children, travel, play sports and are full members of their community. *Life on Wheels* is an A-Z guide for information about living with mobility impairment. This book is designed to help people make their adjustments sooner and more completely by explaining how one adapts to disability, and by addressing misconceptions that only delay the ability to adapt. This book is for persons using a wheelchair and those who share their lives with someone in a chair.

More than 1.4 million people sustain a brain injury each year in the United States. Add to that the number of returning veterans with a brain injury and the numbers are staggering. The Brain Injury Survival Kit: 365 Tips, Tools & Tricks to Deal with Cognitive Function Loss aims to give brain injury survivors, their families and loved ones the strategies they need to improve brain function and quality of life. The book is a compendium of tips, techniques and life-task shortcuts that author Cheryle Sullivan has compiled from her personal experience. From basic principles to unique solutions for saving time and energy, this book provides helpful information for those coping with the special challenges of a brain injury.

"The types of injuries that veterans sustain are in many cases so severe that family members put their own lives on hold to care for their loved ones. Many military and veteran families face financial and emotional hardships as they help their wounded sons, daughters, husbands and wives. We owe these families the support needed to care for our disabled veterans by providing family caregivers increased federal assistance," said Gorman.



### **Rules for Caregivers**

Although caretaking can be extremely rewarding, it can also be frustrating, overwhelming, and lonely. The following six rules from BrainandSpinalCord.org are designed to help the caregiver cope.

■ Rule One: Take Care of Yourself Caregivers should attend to their own health and wellness by eating well, exercising regularly, and getting plenty of sleep. Tired, fatigued or sick caregivers won't be able to make good decisions or handle frustrating times.

### ■ Rule Two: Connect with Other Caregivers

Quite frequently caregivers feel alone. Connecting with others in the same situation will allow caretakers to share wisdom and strength, and will make them feel less isolated and lonely.

#### ■ Rule Three: Educate Yourself

Knowledge is power. Knowing as much as possible about the survivor's condition and how it will affect their emotions, physical being and behavior will help the caretaker prepare for the demand he or she will face.

#### ■ Rule Four: Get Help

Caregivers should enlist the help of other

family members so that they take breaks and enjoy regular down time. If regular family members or close friends aren't able to fill in, respite care is another option.

#### ■ Rule Five: Be an Advocate

The caregiver should speak out on the survivor's behalf and should also ask any necessary questions. The caretaker should also be prepared to help navigate legal and financial issues, as well as help make decisions regarding rehabilitative or nursing care.

#### ■ Rule Six: Get Tech Savvy

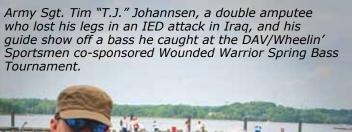
Caregivers should familiarize themselves with adaptive equipment, technology, tools, homecare products and services related to brain and spinal cord injury. As these things help the survivor become more independent, the caretaker will also benefit.

### **DAV 2010 DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS**

DATE	STATE	CITY		NQUET DATE
April 15-18	RI	Warwick	Crowne Plaza Hotel	April 17
April 23-25	PR	Guayanilla	Best Western Pichi's Hotel	April 24
April 29-May 1		Rocky Hill	Courtyard by Marriott	May 1
April 29-May 2		Bangor	Four Points Sheraton-Bangor	May 1
April 30-May 1		Anchorage	Coast International Inn	No Banquet
April 30-May 1		Rutland	Holiday Inn	May 1
April 30-May 2		Jamestown	Quality Inn & Suites	May 1
May 2-4	NV	Mesquite	Casablanca Resort-Casino	May 4
May 5-8	ID	Couer D'Alene	Couer D'Alene Casino Resort Hotel	May 7
May 6-8	MN	Hinckley	Grand Casino Hinckley	May 7
May 7-8	WY	Sheridan	Holiday Inn Sheridan-Conv. Center	May 8
May 13-16	LA	Alexandria	Best Western Inn & Suites of Alexandria	May 15
May 14-16	SD CO	Sioux Falls	Holiday Inn City Centre  Doubletree Hotel	May 15
May 19-21	IA	Denver Tama	Meskwaki Casino & Hotel	May 21
May 19-22 May 19-22	OR	Lincoln City	Liberty Inn – Lincoln City	May 21 May 21
May 20-23	AR	N. Little Rock	Hilton Garden Inn & Suites	May 21
May 20-23	SC	Columbia	Radisson Hotel & Conf. Center	May 22
June 1-6	VA	Roanoke	Holiday Inn – Tanglewood	June 5
June 2-5	AZ	Yuma	Quechan Casino Resort	June 4
June 2-5	CA	Fresno	Radisson Hotel & Conf. Center	June 5
June 2-5	MD	Ocean City	Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conf. Ctr.	June 5
June 2-5	WA	Yakima	Howard Johnson Plaza	June 4
June 3-5	MT	Hamilton	Bitterroot River Inn	June 4-5
June 3-5	UT	Salt Lake City	Radisson Hotel-Salt Lake City Downtown	June 4
June 3-6	AL	Montgomery	Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa	June 5
June 3-6	GA	Perry	Holiday Inn	June 5
June 3-6	NC	Raleigh	North Raleigh Hilton	June 5
June 4-6	MO	Jefferson City	Capitol Plaza Hotel	June 5
June 4-6	NH	Nashua	Radisson Hotel Nashua	June 5
June 7-11	NJ	Atlantic City	Resorts Casino-Hotel	June 10
June 10-12	FL	Lake Mary	Marriott-Orlando Lake Mary	June 12
June 10-12	IN	Indianapolis	Holiday Inn North (Select)	June 12
June 10-12	NM	Albuquerque	Sandia Courtyard Hotel & Conf. Center	June 11
June 11-13	HI	Lahaina	Westin	June 12
June 11-13	KS	Salina	Ramada Conference Center	June 12
June 11-13	KY	Louisville	Holiday Inn Hurstbourne	June 12
June 11-13	MI	Sault Ste. Marie	Kewadin Casino Hotel & Conf. Center	June 12
June 11-13	MS	Tupelo	Summit Hotel-Tupelo	June 12
June 11-13	NE	Grand Island	Howard Johnson-Riverside Inn	June 12
June 11-13	WI	Green Bay	Radisson Hotel & Conference Center	June 13
June 17-19	DC	Washington, DC	Embassy Suites-Washington, D.C.	June 19
June 18-20	TX	Austin	Doubletree Hotel	June 19
June 23-26	MA	Fitchburg	Courtyard by Marriott	June 24-25
June 24-26	PA	Altoona	Ramada Inn-Altoona Conf. Center	June 25
June 24-26	TN	Murfreesboro	Doubletree Hotel	June 26
June 24-27	IL	Springfield	Northfield Inn Suites	June 26
June 25-26	DE	Dover	Sheraton-Dover Hotel	June 26
June 25-27	OH	Dublin Minoral Wolls	The Crowne Plaza	June 26
June 25-27	WV	Mineral Wells	Comfort Suites	June 26
June 27-30	NY	Kerhonkson	Hudson Valley Resort & Spa	June 29
July 8-13	OK	Oklahoma City	Wyndham Garden Hotel	July 10

Chapter 41 Commander Joel Jimenez poses with Sidney "Gibby" Gibson after shooting a wild hog during a Texas Wheelin' Sportsmen event.

### Partnership Creates **Outdoors Opportunities** for Disabled Vets





By D. Clare

oel Jimenez hadn't fired a gun since he left Vietnam, where he served in 1969 and 1970. He had been wounded eight miles from Khe Sahn, and while he has recovered enough physically to be able to return to outdoor sports, enduring psychological trauma kept him out of the wilderness.

But that all changed when the Army veteran and Commander of Chapter 41, Wichita Falls, Texas, met Sidney "Gibby" Gibson at an outdoor sporting event sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF).

A dozen disabled veterans from the current conflicts were signed up to hunt in the NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen event and with room for one more, Gibson encouraged Jimenez to give it a try.

For Jimenez, it was a breakthrough.

"It was so inspiring to see the way the younger veterans were treated and to find a group of people who were so sincerely interested in their welfare," said Commander Jimenez. "I never planned on hunting; we were there to help. But Gibby kept encouraging me. He was a retired veteran himself. He took me out there and set me up for success."

The hunt was indeed successful for Commander Jimenez, and he donated the deer he harvested to a double amputee who had not fared so well that opening day.

"We had the chance to talk to the younger guys. When you spend time together and show your willingness to help, they open up to you," Commander Jimenez recalled. "There was a young man there who talked to us about his time in Afghanistan. He said it was the first time he spoke about his experiences. We could see them coming out of that combat zone. We can see ourselves in these younger veterans. We can help them avoid some of the mistakes we might have made and ensure they enjoy a brighter future."





Army veteran Rodjean Thorman and her guide show that women veterans can cast and catch with the best of them.

Jimenez said he hopes more Chapters in Texas and throughout the country will reach out to groups like the NWTF and become involved in events for disabled veterans. Next year, he hopes to work with the NWTF's Gibson to at least double the number of participants and triple the number of volunteers.

The DAV's partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation's Wheelin' Sportsmen, now heading into its fifth year, continues to open up the outdoors to disabled veterans. Through a grant with the DAV Charitable Service Trust, Wheelin' Sportsmen representatives are gaining access for veterans to military installations and helping organize outdoors events around the country.

Baltimore National Service Office Supervisor Ron Minter helped out at the first-annual Wounded Warrior Spring Bass Challenge in Maryland co-sponsored by the DAV and Wheelin' Sportsmen.

"We had 40 boats and over 40 active duty soldiers and veterans out there catching bass. Many of these folks were right out of Walter Reed or Bethesda. For some it was their first chance to get away from the hospital and do something fun for a change," said Minter.

"The friendship I made with the guide they paired me up with continues," said retired Marine First Sgt. Jamie Andries, who was wounded in 2003 by shrapnel in the initial invasion of Iraq. "We still keep in contact and are fishing buddies. We check up on each other, and when it warms up we'll be going out again."

The more the DAV and Wheelin' Sportsmen can do to pair Vietnam veterans such as Jimenez and others with younger Marines and soldiers, the more lasting the impact events can have on everyone involved.

DAV Past National Commander James E. Sursely, a long-time NWTF member, was instrumental in partnering the DAV with the NWTF and Wheelin' Sportsmen. He attends hunts from as far south as Florida and all the way up into Minnesota, where the Camp Ripley hunt has become one of the top events nationwide.

Sursely said he's meeting younger veterans throughout the country whose first experience with the DAV and the NWTF through these events is far more engaging than monthly meetings.

"We've seen how successful the DAV and NWTF can be when we work together. Around the country, countless chapters on both sides are looking for meaningful experiences that will energize their members," said Sursely. "The people who take the initiative, facilitate and support outdoors events get as much or more out of giving their time as the participants."

"We join the DAV or get involved in the NWTF because we want to make a difference. This is our chance to change the lives of veterans who've given so much to protect the nature we enjoy," he added.

"The DAV's mission is to build better lives for disabled veterans and their families. When we're able to open new opportunities and shatter perceived limitations that disabilities introduce to our lives, we can make a single event last a lifetime," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "That concept is at the very heart of our relationship with the NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen."

"The NWTF values what our veterans have done for our country," said George C. Thornton, NWTF CEO. "Our volunteers are dedicated to providing opportunities for our veterans to participate in outdoor activities and enjoy their hunting heritage."

### **DAV Day at the Ballpark Begins 10th Year**



fter a long, cold winter, the longer days and the first warm breezes bring with them the promise of spring and baseball, America's pastime, will begin in parks across our nation. This is the 10th year of the DAV Day at the Ballpark program in which sick and disabled veterans will be the guests of Chapters and Departments at special Major and Minor League ballgames honoring their service and sacrifice.

"The program is among the most active for our members," said National Adjutant Arthur H.

Wilson. "Last season, DAV members were saluted at 65 games – 21 Major League games and 44 Minor League games – a new record for participation. In all, more than 17,000 DAV members and their sick or disabled veteran guests attended games."

"Our vigorous efforts with Major League Baseball officials served to make them and the American public more familiar with the needs of our nation's disabled veterans," said Wilson. "Major League Baseball launched several programs to assist disabled veterans and to raise funds for their support."

Major League Baseball also included the DAV in its program to provide one million free tickets to veterans and charitable organizations. The DAV Day at the Ballpark program was also included in MLB's Community Relations annual report, making more teams aware of our program of outreach and service.

"Clearly, Major League Baseball and many of its teams recognize DAV as the leading veterans' service organization and a valued resource," said Adjutant Wilson.

Minor League baseball continues to provide a rich resource to reach out to the public and assist disabled veterans and their families. Teams last season routinely provided DAV with space and tables to spread information about our mission of service and sign up new members. Teams also are eager to visit patients at VA medical centers and to show our award-winning DAV videos. Some give financial support to DAV Chapters and Departments.

Nearly 30 games have been scheduled as of this writing. Be sure to check our Web site for updates on the DAV Day at the Ballpark schedule of games. Also check with your local Chapter or Department for games this season.

"Be part of the service program, by taking a veteran to a DAV game this season, and help us reach out to the public to tell them about our mission to build better lives for disabled veterans and their families," Wilson said.



### 2010 DAV Day at the Ballpark

#### Major League DAV Day at the Ballpark Schedule

Home Team	Game Date	Opponent
*Seattle Mariners	April 17	Detroit Tigers
Kansas City Royals	May 22	Colorado Rockies
*Houston Astros	May 22	Tampa Bay Rays
Cincinnati Reds	May 28	Houston Astros
*San Francisco Giants	May 31	Colorado Rockies
Seattle Mariners	June 19	Cincinnati Reds
*Philadelphia Phillies	July 5	Atlanta Braves
Minnesota Twins	July 18	Chicago White Sox
San Diego Padres	Aug. 10	Pittsburgh Pirates
*Washington Nationals	Aug. 15	Arizona Diamondbacks
Texas Rangers	Aug. 29	Oakland Athletics
*San Diego Padres	Sent 26	Cincinnati Reds

#### Minor League DAV Day at the Ballpark Games

Pillior Ecagac	DAY Day at the D	anpark dames
Home Team	Game Date	Opponent
Asheville Tourists	April 24	Augusta Green Jackets
Kinston Indians	May 15	Frederick Keys
New Britain Rock Cats	May 24	New Hampshire Fisher Cats
Wilmington Blue Rocks	May 25	Frederick Keys
*Potomac Nationals	May 28	Salem Red Sox
Huntsville Stars	May 28	Birmingham Barons
Arkansas Travelers	May 30	Corpus Christi Hooks
Durham Bulls	May 30	Rochester Red Wings
*Louisville Bats	May 30	Gwinnett Braves
*Toledo Mud Hens	June 3	Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs
Oklahoma City RedHawks	June 4	Memphis Redbirds
Fresno Grizzlies	June 5	Sacramento River Cats
So. Maryland Blue Crabs	June 6	York Revolution
Iowa Cubs	June 8	New Orleans Zephyrs
Las Vegas 51s	June 11	Colorado Springs Sky Sox
Cedar Rapids Kernels	June 13	South Bend Silver Hawks
Portland Beavers	June 18	Tacoma Rainiers
Lakewood BlueClaws	June 29	Hagerstown Suns
*Buffalo Bisons	July 3	Rochester RedWings
Rochester Red Wings	July 11	Buffalo Bisons
Buffalo Bisons	July 18	Gwinnett Braves
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	July 18	Great Lakes Loons
Aberdeen IronBirds	July 22	Tri City Valley Cats
Grand Prairie AirHogs	July 30	El Paso Diablos
*Joliet Jackhammers	Aug. 1	Gary RailCats
Fort Myers Miracle	Aug. 3	Tampa Yankees

\*Veterans Appreciation Games – Not all teams will offer ticket discounts. For information, please call the team's ticket office and say you are a DAV member.

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### from the NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

#### **Promise Yourself**

Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your mind; to talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet; to make all your friends feel that there is something worthwhile in them; to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

Promise yourself to work only for the best and expect only the best; to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own; to forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future; to wear a cheerful countenance at all times.

Promise yourself to give every living creature you meet a smile; to give time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others; to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear; to be too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

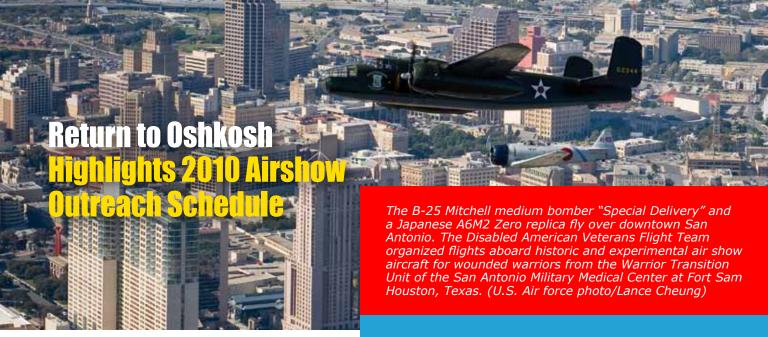
#### Thoughts to Consider:

- "Replace your weakness with positives, take life's broken pieces and re-create your dreams."
- "Never measure the future by the past; let yesterday become a memory and tomorrow a promise."
- "Take responsibility for your actions; never make excuses for not being the best you can be."
- "Determine your tomorrow by the choices you make today, and you'll find yourself living in joy and triumph."



#### Ohio Chapter 12 Celebrates 80 Years...

Chapter 12, Zanesville, Ohio, recently celebrated it's 80th anniversary. The Chapter's veterans received best wishes from their state's top elected officials and American astronaut and former U.S. Senator John H. Glenn, Jr.



return to the "Super Bowl of Airshows," a rousing musical performance featuring famed actor Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band and a trip across the Pacific are among the many highlights in the upcoming season of DAV's Airshow Outreach program.

For the first time since 2008, the DAV Flight Team will bring its B-25 Mitchell bombers to Oshkosh, Wisc., home of the largest, most prestigious aviation event in the world. Oshkosh planners say the DAV's return has prompted a renewed focus on veterans at the weeklong aviation celebration.

AirVenture at Oshkosh runs July 26-August 1. On Friday, July 30, Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band will return on behalf of DAV to perform a concert at the sprawling venue known as the Theater in the Woods. The band's performance at the venue in 2008 was wildly popular with the aviation enthusiasts at Oshkosh.

"Our return to Oshkosh will once again place the DAV on a national stage, which serves to highlight our mission with a large audience," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "I applaud the organizers of Oshkosh for welcoming the DAV back to their event and using AirVenture as a week-long salute to our nation's veterans.

"Gary Sinise is a tireless advocate for disabled veterans and continues to be a friend to the men and women who have served in uniform," Wilson said.

The 2010 airshow season will also find the DAV Flight Team in previously unexplored parts of America including Alaska, Connecticut, West Virginia, Minnesota and Hawaii.

For the latest news and updates on the DAV's Flight Team, visit www.dav.org.

### 2010 Airshow Schedule

DATE	PRIMARY SHOW	AIRCRAFI
March 20-21	Columbus, GA	Panchito
March 27-28	Maxwell AFB, AL	<b>Special Delivery</b>
April 10-11	Eglin AFB, FL (Raiders 75th)	Special Delivery
April 17-18	Doolittle Raiders-Dayton, OH	Panchito
May 8-9	Thunder of Niagra, NY	Panchito
May 15-16	Andrews AFB, MD	Panchito
May 22-23	Cherry Point, NC	Panchito
May-29-30	Bridgeport, CT	Panchito
June 12-13	Cape Girardeau, MO	Special Delivery
June 26-27	Muskegon, MI	Special Delivery
July 17-18	Duluth, MN	<b>Special Delivery</b>
July 26-Aug 1	Oshkosh, WI	Special Delivery
July 30 -Aug 1	Anchorage, AK	Other aircraft
Aug 21-22	Westfield, MA	Panchito
Aug 28-29	Portsmouth, NH	Panchito
Sept 4-5	West Virginia ANG	Panchito
Sept 11-12	Pittsburgh, PA	Panchito
Sept 25-26	Kaneohe Bay, HI	Other aircraft
Oct 9-10	Little Rock AFB, AR	<b>Special Delivery</b>
Oct 16-17	Dobbins ARB, GA	Panchito
Oct 23-24	NAS Jacksonville, FL	Panchito
Nov 6-7	Homestead, FL	Panchito
Nov 13-14	Stuart, FL	Panchito
Nov 13-14	NAS Pensacola, FL	<b>Special Delivery</b>

DAV MAGAZINE

### Stay Connected in Your Community



### from the AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER

s we venture into a new decade, we are also entering into a time of new opportunities within our Auxiliary. It is a time of innovation and determination, a time of change and a time to stay connected as we build the future of our organization.

Plans to make significant positive changes within the Auxiliary are underway as we develop our strategic plan. We are exploring new ideas and systems to best manage what will be new and to integrate current programs and procedures to operate more effectively. Members at work on the strategic plan have already identified some very positive ways to make communication easier and more effective throughout the organization.

As work continues on our strategic plan, we don't have to wait for opportunities to come our way. With a little imagination we can direct what we have onto new paths to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families. Community service is an example where this can be accomplished.

Community service will be a focus of our efforts for as long as there is an Auxiliary, and the possibilities to perform community service are nearly without limit.

As our guidelines state, community service is involvement. It is knowing, caring and participating in our surrounding environment. As society changes, so do the opportunities for community service. By staying connected and being aware of the needs of our community, Auxiliary members, Units and Departments can meet those needs head on.

Sometimes we must think outside the box to succeed in our efforts. This often means identifying other individuals, organizations and resources and uniting them to meet needs within the community. As our guidelines state, no one is an island, and no home survives alone. Just as individuals and families find it necessary to reach beyond their

borders, so do organizations when the need exceeds capability.

In working with other individuals and organizations within your community, lasting friendships and valuable contacts are established. Additionally, the reputation of the Auxiliary is enhanced. This often helps to accomplish future community service projects that you or your Unit may not be able to do alone. Building such relationships is an additional way to stay connected.

Do you have a talent that can be used to ease the burdens or cares of someone in your community? Do you have a professional ability that can be donated to help others? We tend to think of hairdressers, bookkeepers, accountants and nurses as those who can give professionally of their personal time, but what about mechanics, housepainters, landscapers, carpenters and artists? Changing the oil in a car, painting an old fence, mowing a lawn, doing some weeding, repairing the steps on a porch or drawing a mural not only can help an elderly or disabled person, it can also bring pleasure into their lives, and yours, as well. It is the little things in life that count the most. You never know how much good you can do until you try.

As the strategic plan is being developed to assist you even more, I encourage each of you to again read the Community Service section in the Auxiliary Manual and use your imagination to do some good for another. And don't forget to stay connected to other Auxiliary members.

All too often, I've heard a member complain that no one came to visit while he or she was in the hospital. However, that person never told anyone that a hospitalization had occurred. Help can't be given if the need for it is not known. Bare pantry shelves cannot be stocked if no one knows they're empty. Auxiliary members need to stay connected by communicating with one another. It's hard to help if we are not aware of the challenge. So, stay connected.

### **Department & Chapter News**



#### New Empire State Headquarters ...

Department of New York Officers and local dignitaries pause for a photo in front of the new Department of New York headquarters during the dedication ceremony Dec. 19, 2009 in Lynbrook, N.Y. Despite a snowstorm, more than 150 people attended the dedication and holiday party that followed. Pictured are, from left, Anthony Santino, Councilman, Town of Hempstead; Leo Ortiz, Department Commander; Sidney Siller, Sr., Department Adjutant and Past Department Commander; Brian Curran, Mayor of Lynbrook; Alan Beach, Trustee, Village of Lynbrook; and Mike Hawhurst, Trustee, Village of Lynbrook.



#### A Super Supermarket ...

Members of DAVA Unit 187, El Paso Texas, present a plaque to Pat Gurule, Manager of Aberstson's #999, the unit's community partner. The supermarket provides the auxiliary with refreshments that are served at VAMC El Paso.

### Happier Holidays for Disabled Vets ...

Crestwood Manor, a full service senior living community, and more than 40 local business partners raised more than \$3,000 to benefit disabled veterans in Ocean County, N.J. The donations came from a fundraising breakfast Crestwood Manor hosted on behalf of Chapter 24. On hand at the donation are, from left, Renee McAleavy, Director of Sales and Marketing, Crestwood Manor; Frank Dascoli, Commander, Chapter 24, Toms River, N.J.; Mary Bencievenga, DAV National 3rd Jr. Vice Commander; and Dave Wean, Executive Director, Crestwood Manor.

### Disabled American Veterans National Headquarters Unaudited Statement of Financial Position • December 31, 2009

Unrestricted Assets Current Assets Investments, at Market Land, Buildings and Equipment,	\$ 27,087,385 273,191,463	Unrestricted Liabilities Current Liabilities Total Liabilities Unrestricted, Net Assets	\$ 69,632,267 69,632,267
Net of Depreciation Other Assets	8,075,080 257,500	General and Net Assets Designated by the Board of Directors Total Unrestricted Net Assets	238,979,161
Total Unrestricted Assets	\$ 308,611,428	Total Liabilities and Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 308,611,428
<b>Life Membership Assets</b> Current Assets Investments, at Market	\$ 2,482,849 52,051,305	<b>Life Membership Liabilities</b> Current Liabilities Reserve for Future Distribution of Life Membership Dues	\$ 163,390 54,370,764
Total Life Membership Assets	\$ 54,534,154	Total Life Membership Liabilities and Reserve for Future Distribution of Life Membership Dues	\$ 54,534,154

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#### **King Cobras**

(Continued from page 5)

wanted the VA to recognize the disabilities he believed were related to his service in Vietnam.

During the conversation, NSO Hansen explained that the cancer condition McBride was being treated for was not a presumptive condition due to herbicide (Agent Orange) exposure. McBride was willing to withdraw his appeal for that condition.

As they continued to talk about McBride's service, the conversation covered post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but since McBride had received no valor awards, NSO Hansen informed McBride that he would need to have a verifiable stressor. That's when McBride recounted the mortar attacks. Hansen listened closely and asked McBride if he had nightmares. He said he didn't, but Barbara began to relate about how one night McBride started screaming about snakes in his sleep.

"I never told you about the snakes," McBride said to his wife. "Why don't you tell me about the snakes?" NSO Hansen said.

McBride described how there were king cobras in the area where his company was located. One day he saw a cobra going toward another soldier and shot it in the head. The nightmare came from the memory.

In preparation for McBride's hearing with the Decision Review Officer, NSO Hansen was reviewing McBride's service medical records when he noted an entry for Jan. 31, 1968. The entry contained the information about the first and second degree burns McBride suffered in a mortar attack. It also recommended McBride for the Purple Heart Medal, but there was no indication the medal had been awarded. McBride said he was unaware of being recommended for it and had not received the medal.

NSO Hansen went to work to assist McBride in receiving his medal. He contacted Susan Lisagore from Sen. Harry Reid's (D-Nev.) office for additional assistance. "I explained what I had found in Mr. McBride's service medical records," NSO Hansen said. "She asked what the Purple Heart would mean for the veteran, and I explained it would place him in a higher priority group at the VA medical center, and being a valor award, the Purple Heart Medal would support his claim for PTSD."

Sen. Reid presented the Purple Heart Medal to McBride on April 15, 2009. "This is one tax day I'll never forget," McBride said, as NSO Hansen, members of the DAV Department of Nevada, Military Order of the Purple Heart, VA regional office staff, and family and friends looked on.

Prior to receiving his long-overdue medal, McBride won his appeal on April 3, 2009, and was granted service connection for tinnitus at 10 percent, and bilateral hearing loss at 0 percent. Five days later, his claim for service connection for PTSD was approved with a rating of 30 percent.

"Working with Mr. McBride was truly a pleasure," NSO Hansen said. "It reminded me of why I had become a National Service Officer. My father was a World War II Navy veteran who died of a service-connected disability in 1979. He never spoke about his time in the service, but growing up I saw the passion my father had helping his fellow veterans. I feel I am honoring my father's memory by serving veterans as a National Service Officer. Knowing you have made a difference in the life of a veteran like Mr. McBride is a truly a great feeling."

"NSO Hansen was very helpful and understanding," Mc-Bride said. "He's a good man who treated us with respect."

"Since I was assisted by the DAV I have talked with other veterans regarding Agent Orange claims, and I always recommend the DAV to them, because they work to get you what you have earned and deserve," McBride said.

#### **National Adjutant**

(Continued from page 3)

the pace improving the quality of life for sick and disabled veterans in their communities. Our nationwide Transportation Network repeatedly sets new records rolling up the mileage making sure veterans get to their medical appointments and returning them home safely.

As the official voice of America's

service-connected disabled veterans, we are a strong, assertive advocate for reasonable, responsible legislation and policies to assist each other and our families and survivors. We continue to build government and public support and awareness of veterans' issues and to seek adequate federal funding that will ensure the continued viability of programs for our wartime disabled veterans.

And while we have achieved much success in fulfilling the mission our founders embarked on nine decades ago, we still face many challenges. Their cause is still our cause. That is why we will never waver in our enduring commitment to their legacy. Nothing is so vital to the welfare of this organization and those we serve than fulfilling our mission of service and hope.



# Where there's a WILL there's a WAY

### to Remember Disabled Veterans.

Please consider honoring America's disabled veterans by remembering the DAV in your will or trust, or by naming us the beneficiary of an insurance policy or financial account.

Legal address to use: Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301

### We'd enjoy hearing from you!

For more information, please request our estate planning folder by calling

Judie or Kati at 1-800-216-9802, then press 1.

Or clip and return the coupon below.

	O Please send more information on including DAV in my estate plans. O I have already included DAV (P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH) in my plans via my	
f	Name(s):	
L	Address:	DAV
Г	Phone:	
ŀ	E-mail:	CHARDIAN
ı	Mail to: DAV Gift Planning • P.O. Box 14301 • Cincinnati, OH 45250	SOCIETY
Ī	E-mail: giftplanning@dav.org Website: dav.org/giftplanning	PROTECTING THOSE WHO SERVED

Inquiries - This column is for inquiries submitted to DAV members and other interested persons attempting to locate persons to substantiate a claim for service-connected injuries. Your request will be processed through various means in an effort to find the person you are attempting to locate. Requests to locate persons will be published if all other attempts have failed. Thank you...the Editors.

#### **INQUIRIES**

- Searching for anyone who knew Dewey Marsh, the medic for the 317th Anti-Tank Company, 80th Infantry Division and whether he is living. Please contact Dempsey J. Prappas, 4899 Montrose, Apt. #1301, Houston, Texas 77006.
- Searching for anyone who served aboard the USS Forrestal (CVA-59) from 1971-1974. Please contact Peter Leete at Email: PeterLeete@mrplette417@ suddenlink.net or Telephone: (919) 585-4518.
- Searching for anyone who served aboard USS Krishna (ARL-38), June 14, 1965 to June 1, 1966. Please contact Nicasio P. DeGuzman, 4073 Via Del Bardo, San Diego, California 92173-1525, telephone: (619) 428-0875. Searching for anyone who served in A Co. 65th Engineers Combat Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, APO 25 New York, New York. Please contact J. D. Bowman, 113 Vaturia Drive, Hurricane, West Virginia 25526.
- Searching for anyone who served in Thailand during 1967-68, particularly a munitions person, with the 414th Fighter Squadron. Please contact Albert (Butch) Whetstone, P.O. Box 1581, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530, Telephone: (541) 973-9940.

- Searching for anyone who served in the army 1978-79 and knew Celeste P. Burdine. She served in Co. C Bravo 11th Div. Fort Jackson, S.C., then in Germany. If you remember she limped during training, had arthritis or made to stand on a side road, please contact C. Pearson, 3473 South M L King Drive, #169, Chicago, Illinois 60616, Telephone: (651) 497-6235, Email: burdineinquiry10@gmail.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with A.S.P.-63 in Korea during 1953. Please contact Robert Palmateer, 2210 Park Place, Lynchburg, Virginia 24501.
- Searching for anyone who served with me and remembers A-10 Thunderbolt (warhog) firing on tank at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, approximately October 1, 1981 before Mission Bright Star, Egypt. Please contact Allen L. Rice, P.O. Box 921, North, South Carolina 29112.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Kami-Saya, Japan, stationed out of the Command Cave in Yokoska, Japan, Technical Guidance Unit.
   Please contact Ronald E. Morris, 1589 N. Waterman Avenue, #215, San Bernardino, California 92404-5134.
- Searching for anyone who served with the 1st Bn/325AIR/82nd ABN, October 25, 1988. Please contact Martin Kloubec, 3050 East Dove Court, Inverness, Florida 34452-3678.
- Searching for Elmo Dodson or anyone who served with me on the USS Mercury (AKS-20) from 1953-1955. Please contact Richard Mabe, 157 Sugar Loaf Road, Elizabeth Town, North Carolina 28337, telephone: (910) 876-0482.
- Searching for Major Campbell who served with me in Tackikawa/Yokota Japan during 1967-1972.
   Please contact Ms. Margie B. Nelson, P.O. Box 4005, Vallejo, California 94590, Telephone: (707) 643-9144.
- Searching for Paul "Spider" Webb or First Sgt. Jameson, or anyone who served with me in the 469th TFS/388th CSG Korat, Thailand 1967-68. Please contact Jerry Conway, 208 S.W. 47th Street, Cape Coral, Florida 33914, Telephone: (301) 518-7467.
- Searching for Sgt. Glyn (Ben) Casey (USAF) who served in Hawaii in 1968; Postal Service (1972) at Tan Son Nhut, Rvn and Little Rock AFB, Arkansas in 1974. Please contact Ronald L. Pipkin, 22 S. Sunland Drive, Cabot, Arkansas 72023, Telephone:

- (501) 843-2432.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in recruit Platoon 348 at Parris Island, South Carolina in July 1961 to November 1961, especially Wilbur M. Hamblin. Please contact W. W. Blevins, 294 Co. Rd. 783, Ider, Alabama 35981, Telephone: (256) 605-4444.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Lima Company 3/3 in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, during 1976-1979, especially anyone who went on WESTPAC deployment. Please contact Richard Diaz, 7650 Rimhurst, San Antonio, Texas 78250, Telephone: (210) 256-9476, Email: diazfamily2000@sbcglobal. net.
- Searching for anyone who served with me on the 46th Troop Carrier Squadron, 317th Troop Carrier Group in Kimpo, South Korea during 1946. Please contact Chester E. Sowinski, 1592 Lembrook Lane, Wheaton. Illinois 60189.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in the Navy Support Activity (PBR Mobile Base II), TAN AN, South Vietnam, from June 1970 to June 1971. Please contact Roy Basilio Rios, P.O. Box 7, Rosenberg, Texas 77471-0007, Telephone: (281) 217-6979, Email: Roybrios@yahoo.com.
- Searching for anyone who served with me in Company "A", 341st Infantry Regiment, 86th Blackhawk Infantry Division in the European Theatre (March 27, 1945 to June 7, 1945) and in the APT Theatre, Philippines. Please contact Mose Thompson, Jr., 403 Thompson Road, Garner, North Carolina 27529, Telphone: (919) 772-2576.
- Searching for anyone who served with me aboard USS Summon County (LST-1148), from 1968 to 1969. Please contact Horace Judson Lee, 1609 Carol Oaks Trail, #1807, Fort Worth, Texas 76112.
- Searching for anyone who served in the 4th and 125th Transportation Group and Companies under MACV. Please contact Brian G. Maloney, 175 Brushy Plains Road, Bldg. 3, Apt. B-5, Branford, Connecticut 06405, Telephone: (203) 481-9792.
- Searching for Air Force personnel from the 432 FMS Transit Alert/Crash Recovery Squadron based at Undorn, Thailand from July 1971 to July 1972, specifically those on duty during a monsoon, when we recovered a F-4 from the runway. Please contact Donald S. Crauswell, 1161 Poppy Hills Drive, Blacklick, Ohio 43004, Telephone: (614) 864-9854, Email: dcrauswe@insight.rr.com.

### **Retired NSO John Riegel Dies**

■ John M. Riegel, 86, a former DAV National Service Officer (NSO), died on Jan. 2, in Middleburg Heights,

Riege

Ohio.

"John was devoted to the single cause of justice and dignity for men and women disabled in the defense of America," National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson said. "John's work as a highly skilled, professional NSO resulted in the well-being of thousands of disabled veterans and their

families. He will be forever appreciated and sorely missed."

Born on July 2, 1923, Riegel, was a U.S. Army veteran who served in World War II from December 1942 through November 1945, and in the Korean War from October 1950 through Jan. 1952. He sustained wounds during the Korean War that resulted in the amputation of his right leg above the knee.

Riegel was an active, life member of Chapter 116, Parma, Ohio. He joined the DAV's professional corps of NSOs on May 6, 1968 at the Cleveland National Service Office. He served in the Cleveland office until his retirement as Supervisor in June 1986. Prior to his career with the DAV, Riegel was employed by the AMVETS for 15 years.

Jean, Riegel's wife of 53 years; a son and three daughters; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren survive him.

Reunions - Because of increasing number of requests and the space limitations of our magazine, we must limit publications of unit reunions to one time only. Send such notices at least six months in advance to: Reunions, DAV Magazine, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301. Thank you...the Editors.



#### ARMY

6TH CAVALRY ASSOCIATION - June 11-13, 2010, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Gary West, Phone: (405) 692-3462, Email: gwest73044@yahoo.com.
8TH BATTALION, 4TH FIELD ARTILLERY - May 20-24, 2010, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Carl Lanier, Phone: (540) 483-0562, Email: igor@ scaredofbees.com.

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. AND ALL ATTACHED UNITS (WWII) - July 30-August 1, 2010, Indianapolis, Indiana, Bill Robey, (866) 229-2377, pin #3322, Email: billrobey@aol.com.

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION; 5TH
BATTALION/60TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
VIETNAM (ALL YEARS) - June 17-20, 2010,
Wichita, Kansas, Tony Sparaco, Phone: (516) 293-6219, Email: tony\_sparaco@yahoo.com.
11TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSN. - August 2-8,

**11TH ARMORED DIVISION ASSN.** - August 2-8, 2010, Louisville, Kentucky, Bob Pfeiffer, Phone: (724) 375-6295.

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT— BLACKHORSE ASSN. - June 9-13, 2010, Houston, Texas, Gene Johnson, Phone: (936) 205-4553, Email: reunion@blackhorse.org.

19TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION ASSN. VIETNAM AND ATTACHED UNITS - September 10-11, 2010, Waynesville, Missouri, Tom Ebrite, Phone: (765) 286-4906, Email: s2snoopy@comcast.net, Website: www.19engrvn.org.

19TH & 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION (KOREA & JAPAN 1950-1953) - April 26-28, 2010, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, Llannie Ellison, Phone: (205) 349-2237, Email: bobnjoan@citcom.net.

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. - September 12-18, 2010, Boston, Massachusetts, P.O. Box 7, Flourtown, Pennsylvania 19031, Email: TropicLtn@aol.com.

26TH YANKEE INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSN. - June 10-12, 2010, S. Portland, Maine, Sam Thompson, Phone: (508) 285-4656, Email: sthompson.1sgret@comcast.net.

84TH ENGINEER BATT. CONSTRUCTION REUNION GROUP - June 24-27, 2010, Las Vegas, NV, Richard Sharp, (314) 821-8640, Email: kwagnersha@aol. com, Website: www.84thebecreuniongroup-vietnam. com/84th\_ebc.htm.

84TH INFANTRY DIVISION RAILSPLITTER SOCIETY WWII - August 27-29, 2010, Cincinnati, Ohio, Richard Jamieson, Phone: (513) 732-2317 or (513) 680-2317.

**85TH ORDNANCE COMPANY (DIRECT SUPPORT) VIETNAM** - April 30-May 4, 2010, Camp Dawson, West Virginia, Dallas Waterfill, Phone: (859) 265-7189, Email: dallaswaterfill@yahoo.com.

237TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT, DMZ
DUSTOFF—VIETNAM -August 7-8, 2010,
Indianapolis, Indiana, Phil Marshall, Phone: (937)
947-1319, Email: Dmzdustoff@verizon.net, Website:
www.dmzdustoff.org.

(1943-1977) - June 22-26, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Jim Winstead, Phone: (417) 882-7229, Email: pbrmp@sbcglobal.net. 516TH ENGINEER COMPANY (PB), HANAU, **GERMANY** - September 7-9, 2010, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, Jim Bruce, Phone: (386) 325-6094, Email: jim\_eunice\_bruce@att.net.

716TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION VIETNAM REUNION - August 20-22, 2010, Branson, Missouri, Tom & Edna Malotke, Phone: (248) 437-8321, Email: cakeladyedna@peoplepc.com.

**720TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION REUNION ASSN., INC.** - May 28-June 1, 2010, Arlington, Virginia, Tom Watson, Phone: (864) 391-2661 or Peter Schroeter at (973) 956-1038, Website: www.720mpreunion.org.

**8605TH AAU; 5TH ASA FS; DET 5, 2ND SIG SVC BN** - April 29-May 2, 2010, St. Louis, Missouri, Dick Dixon, Phone: (601) 485-7567.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSN. -EASTERN REGION CHAPTER REUNION - May 20-23, 2010, Hampton, Virginia, Dave Eichhorn, Phone: (740) 678-2001, Email: dave.eichhorn@kraton.com. ARMY TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION -VIETNAM (ATA-V) - June 9-13, 2010, Pigeon

VIETNAM (ATA-V) - June 9-13, 2010, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, Don Mangus, Phone: (866) 794-0580 or (865) 453-0625, Email: dmild2wild@ yehoo.com or DonMangus57@yehoo.com, Website: www.mild2wild.homestead.com/index3.html or www.atav.us.

COMBAT INFANTRYMENS ASSN. - October 21-24, 2010, Seattle, Washington, Larry Eckard, Phone: (828) 256-6008, Email: combatinfantrymensassoc@yahoo.com, Website: www.cianathq.org.

FIELD ARTILLERY OCS (ALL YEARS) - May 5-8, 2010, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Randy Dunham, Phone: (580) 355-5275, Email: faocsalumni@sbcglobal.net. SIGNAL SERVICE & ASA OKINAWA PERSONNEL 1945-85 - September 8-13, 2010, Dallas, Texas, Paul Watson, Phone: (978) 465-7473, Email: W562236@aol.com.

SOCIETY OF THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION -September 15-19, 2010, Arlington, Virginia, Monika Stoy, Phone: (703) 912-4218, Email: monikastoy@ yahoo.com, Website: www.3rdiv.org. USA SIGC OCS ASSOCIATION, INC. - October

**USA SIGC OCS ASSOCIATION, INC.** - October 7-10, 2010, St. Louis, Missouri, Richard Kerns, Phone: (615) 391-0867, Email: rkerns99@bellsouth.net.

**US ARMY AIR CORP PILOT CLASSES OF WWII** - September 9-12, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee, Stan Yost, Phone: (239) 466-1473.

US ARMY VIETNAM—DUSTERS, QUADS, SEARCHLIGHTS, VULCANS, HAWKS REUNION - July 7-11, 2010, Savannah, Georgia, Bruce Geiger, Phone: (914) 576-1050 or Paul Kopsick, Phone: (202) 262-9560, Email: NDQSA@cox.net, Website:

VIETNAM GUNTRUCKERS & ALL TRANSPORTATION UNITS - August 4-8, 2010, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, John Dodd, Phone: (434) 724-1469. Email: bhower1@cox.net.



#### MARINES

**1ST ANGLICO** - June 3-5, 2010, Quantico, Virginia, John Maurer, Phone: (614) 262-9002, Email: jmaurer@columbus.rr.com.

2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES ASSN. -September 1-5, 2010, Pleasanton, California, Brooks Wilson, Phone: (559) 298-3094, Email: Brooks@ Adanceofi inht.com

3RD & 4TH DEFENSE BATTALIONS - WWII - May 12-14, 2010, Branson, Missouri, Joseph P. Dunn, Phone: (856) 629-8043.

3RD MARINE DIVISION - TEXAS CHAPTER - April 8-11, 2010, Galveston, Texas, Mike Sohn, (210) 654-3310, Email: jumient2@hotmail.com. MARINE DETACHMENT, USS JUNEAU (CL-119) - September 8-12, 2010, Albuquerque, New Mexico, William S. Gerichten, Phone: (336) 993-5415. MARINE EMBASSY GUARD ASSN. - April 22-25, 2010, St. Louis, Missouri, Chuck Norris, Phone: (520) 444-0286, Email: chuckn38@comcast.net,

Website: www.embassymarine.org.
THIRD MARINE DIVISION ASSN. - August 4-8, 2010, Charleston, South Carolina, Jeffrey Dement, Phone: (815) 436-3783, Email: JeffDemont@aol. com, Website: www.onethreemarines.com.



#### NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION SANFORD, ALL UNITS AND SQUADRONS, 1942-1968 - June 24-27, 2010, Sanford, Florida, Gerald Bohm, Phone: (386) 668-4851, Email: Dlfrsf@aol.com.

THE NEWPORT DEALEYS (USS CROMWELL (DE-1014); USS DEALEY (DE-1006); USS JOHN WILLIS (DE-1027); USS VAN VOORHIS (DE-1028); USS LESTER (DE-1022); USS HARTLEY (DE-1029); USS JOSEPH K. TAUSSIG (DE-1030); USS COURTNEY (DE-1021); USS HAMMERBERG (DE-1015) - September 30-October 3, 2010, Mobile, Alabama, Ron Bauer, Phone: (334) 826-3009, Email: rrbauer@bellsouth.

net, Website: www.newportdealeys.org.
US NAVY AMPHIBIOUS FORCE VETERANS
ASSN. - September 5-9, 2010, Mount Pleasant,
South Carolina, John J. Walsh, Phone: (732) 3676472, Email: apa224vp16@comcast.net.
USS ABNAKI - 96 - September 8-11, 2010, New
Orleans, Louisiana, Mike Holland, Phone: (904) 285-

9345, Email: bmcmusn@aol.com. **USS AEOLUS (ARC-3)** - October 4-7, 2010, Norfolk, Virginia, Mike Jarvis, Phone: (586) 501-3130, Email: mjarvis@nandc.com.

USS ALAMO (LSD-33) - June 1-3, 2010, Pensacola, Florida, Gary W. Moss, Phone: (850) 944-3499

USS AMPHION (AR-13) - April 29-May 2, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Lloyd Stagg, Phone: (828) 256-6008, Email: mcaanreunion@yahoo.com. USS ARCADIA (AD-23) - April 29-May 2, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USS Arcadia Reunion, Phone: (828) 256-6008, Email: mcaanreunion@yahoo.com.

ÚSS BENNINGTON (CV-CVA-CVS-20) - August 11-16, 2010, Albany, New York and Bennington, Vermont, Bill and Dottie Copeland, Phone: (508) 380-7457, Email: bcopeland@uss-bennington.org. USS BLOCK ISLAND (CVE-21, CVE-106) - May 24-28, 2010, Bettendorf, Iowa, Bob Mathis, Phone: (337) 981-4701.

USS BOSTON (CA-69, CAG-1, SSN-703) - July 8-11, 2010, Washington, D.C., Art Hebert, Phone: (603) 672-8772, Email: Secretary@ussboston.org, Website: www.ussboston.org.

USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36) - April 29-May 2, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Robert E. Baschmann, Phone: (716) 655-5415, Email: caanreunion@yahoo.com.
USS CAMBRIA (APA-36) - April 15-18, 2010,

USS CAMBRIA (APA-36) - April 15-18, 2010, Boston, Massachusetts, Andrew Henry, Jr., Phone: (703) 660-8602, Email: usscambria@gmail.com. USS CHARLES P. CECIL (DD/DDR-835) -September 19-25, 2010, Norfolk, Virginia, Greg Wells, Phone: (405) 365-1926, Email: glw513@

yahoo.com.
USS COMSTOCK (LSD-19) - June 6-9, 2010,
Branson, Missouri, Jon Dahlke, Phone: (605) 390-7470, Email: jonandvi@juno.com.

USS CONY (DD/DDE-508) - May 18-23, 2010, Branson, Missouri, Ken Cox, Phone: (863) 307-3187, Email: kcox@tampabayrr.com. USS COURTNEY (DE-1021) - September

USS COURTNEY (DE-1021) - September 30-October 3, 2010, Mobile, Alabama, Ron Bauer, Phone: (334) 826-3009, Email: rrbauer@bellsouth.net, Website: www.newportdealeys.org.

USS CROMWELL (DE-1014) - September 30-October 3, 2010, Mobile, Alabama, Ron Bauer, Phone: (334) 826-3009, Email: rrbauer@bellsouth. net, Website: www.newportdealeys.org.
USS CUTTYHUNK ISLAND (AG-75) - July 9-12,

USS CUTTYHUNK ISLAND (AG-75) - July 9-12, 2010, North Bergen, New Jersey, Jerry Mussman, Phone: (201) 868-7167, Email: jamussman@juno.com.

**USS DEALEY (DE-1006)** - September 30-October 3, 2010, Mobile, Alabama, Ron Bauer, Phone: (334) 826-3009, Email: rrbauer@bellsouth.net, Website: www.newportdealeys.org.

USS DUNCAN (DDR-874) - April 28-May 2, 2010, Jacksonville, Florida, David M. Walrod, Sr., Phone: (513) 523-8880, Email: david\_walrod@hotmail.com, Website: www.USSDuncan.org.
USS DYESS (DD/DDR-880) - September 8-11,

**USS DYESS (DD/DDR-880)** - September 8-11, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee, Jerry Kutcher, Phone:

(978) 851-5133, Email: jerrykutch@verizon.net. USS ESTES (AGC-12) - October 3-7, 2010, Reno, Nevada, Wayn Wright, Phone: (503) 298-7030, Email: captaincolo971@yahoo.com, Website: www. USSEstes.org.

USS FORREST B. ROYAL (DD-872) - June 24-27, 2010, Warwick, Rhode Island, Ron Larsen, Phone: (715) 423-8905, Email: mosbyusn@wctc.net, Website: www.forrestroyaldd872.org.

**USS FORT SNELLING (LSD-30)** - September 14-17, 2010, Buffalo, New York, Adrian Szarowics, Phone: (716) 826-0284, Email: zarski2000@yahoo.com.

USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CV-42) - May 12-16, 2010, Naperville, Illinois, Raymond G. Hough, Phone: (318) 645-7673, Email: rghough@bellsouth.net, Website: www.ussfdrcv42reunion.com.

USS GREENWICH BAY (AVP-41); USS VALCOUR (AVP-55); USS DUXBURY BAY (AVP-38) September 23-26, 2010, Warwick, Rhode Island, Martin Brown, 424 Washington Avenue, Hamlet, North Carolina 28345, Email: jmbnpb@bellsouth.net.

USS GUAM (LPH-9) - September 15-19, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee, Robert G. McAnally, Phone: (757) 723-0317, Email: yujack@megalink.net.

USS GURKE (DD-783) - April 8-11, 2010, Washington, D.C., Thomas Stephenson, Phone: (408) 263-2836, Email: dd783\_reunion@ tsephenson.com, Website: www.ussgurke.org.

USS HARTLEY (DE-1029) - September 30-October

3, 2010, Mobile, Alabama, Ron Bauer, Phone: (334) 826-3009, Email: rrbauer@bellsouth.net, Website: www.newportdealeys.org.

USS HORNET (CV-8, CV-12, CVA-12, CVS-12) - October 20-24, 2010, Tucson, Arizona, Carl & Sandy Burket, Phone: (814) 224-5063, Email: hornetcva@

Burket, Phone: (814) 224-5063, Email: hornetcva@ aol.com, Website: www.usshornetassn.com.

USS HOWARD W. GILMORE (AS-16) MEMORIAL ASSN. - April 29-May 3, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Bob Munjas, 440 West 40th Street, Shadyside, Ohio 43947, Phone: (740) 676-5582, Email: moonmunj3@aol.com.

**USS HUSE (DE-145)** - October 17-20, 2010, Jacksonville, Florida, Dave Perlstein, Phone: (561) 368-7167, Email: dbp14@hotmail.com.

USS JOHN R. CRAIG (DD-885) - September 8-12, 2010, Chattanooga, South Carolina, Jerry Chwalek, Phone: (734) 525-1469, Email: jermail@ameritech.net.

USS JONAS INGRAM (DD-938) - October 21-24, 2010, Jacksonville, Florida, Pete Ventola, Phone: (973) 627-7491, Email: pete.ventola@att.net, Website: www.dd938.com.

**USS JUNEAU (LPD-10)** - July 16-18, 2010, Independence, Missouri, Russell Godfrey, Phone: (816) 833-0919, Email: russkathygodfrey@yahoo.com.

USS KALAMAZOO (AOR-6) - April 22-25, 2010, Jacksonville, FL, Frank Taylor, P.O. Box 668, Steinhatchee, FL 32359, Email: usskalamazoo@gmail.com. **USS KENNETH D. BAILEY (DD/DDR-713)** - May 13-16, 2010, Portland, Oregon, Robert Nowak, Phone: (413) 592-1355, Email: Blueobblue@aol.com.

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN ASSN., INC. - October 28-31, 2010, San Diego, Calfornia, Joe Stoffel, 1057 Sonoma Lane, Aurora, Illinois 60502, Email: gcarroll@rochester. rr.com. Website: www.usslca.com.

USS LESTER (DE-1022) - September 30-October 3, 2010, Mobile, Alabama, Ron Bauer, Phone: (334) 826-3009, Email: rrbauer@bellsouth.net, Website: www.newportdealeys.org.

USS LYNDE MCCORMICK (DDG-8) - September 9-12, 2010, Jacksonville, Florida, Robert Wefald, Phone: (701) 223-8975. Email: bobwefald@msn.com

USS MANSFIELD (DD-728) - September 8-12, 2010, Portland, Oregon, Jim Frazier, (562) 425-6968, Email: 1papaj1@verizon.net, Website: www.karlskorner.org. USS MARIAS (AO-57) - April 29-May 2, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USS Marias Reunion, Phone: (828) 256-6008, Email: mcaanreunion@yahoo.com. USS MASSACHUSETTS (BB-59) - June 12-14, 2010, Fall River, Massachusetts, Bernie Silveria, Phone: (561) 641-9064, Email: bernardjewell@yahoo.com. USS MULTPHEN (AKA-61) - April 22-25, 2010, Baltimore, Maryland, Ron Wiant, Phone: (302) 737-1751, Email: rwiant@ussmuliphen .com, Website: www.ussmuliphn.com.

**USS NAVARRO (APA-215)** - October 4-7, 2010, Jacksonville, Florida, Donald Bush, Phone: (256) 413-7295, Email: drbushrbc@aol.com.

**USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62)** - September 29-October 3, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee, Ernest Dalton, Phone: (210) 275-7886.

USS ORLECK (DD-886) - November 6-9, 2010, Newport, Rhode Island, Charles F. Burkhardt, Jr., Phone: (318) 742-9847, Email: cburkusn@suddenlink.net. USS PAWCATUCK (AO-108) - May 3-6, 2010, San Antonio, Texas, David Willis, (623) 214-9835, Email: dwshs53@aol.com, Website: www.usspawcatuck.org. USS PURDY (DD-734) - April 21-24, 2010, Savannah, Georgia, Larry DiPasquale, Phone: (610) 433-4787, Email: chiefdi@juno.com.

USS RANGER (CVA/CV-61) - September 22-25, 2010, San Antonio, Texas, Bill C. Broaddus, Phone: (281) 414-5981, Email: jbclassics@stealthwave.net, Website: www.uss.ranger@yahoo.com.

USS RANKIN (AKA/LKA-103) - September 23-26, 2010, Branson, Missouri, Skip Sander, Phone: (412) 367-1376, Email: ussrankin@aol.com, Website: www. ussrankin.com.

USS SCHOFIELD (DEG/FFG-3) - September 16-19, 2010, Portland, Oregon, Ron Spagna, Phone: (724) 335-5204, Email: ron6978@comcast.net. USS SELLERS (DDG-11) - September 30-October 3, 2010, Norfolk, Virginia, Delta Hinson, Phone: (757) 615-7089, Email: seldewcarwas@aol.com. USS SOUTHERLAND (DD/DDR-743) - September 21-25, 2010, Branson, Missouri, John Jones, Phone: (402) 431-1661, Email: jearlj@cox.net, Website: www.usssoutherland.com.

USS SPHINX (ARL-24) - September 13-16, 2010, Branson, Missouri, Frank Ironi, Phone: (320) 352-3271, Email: fironi@mainstreetcom.

USS TARAWA (CV/CVA/CVS-40) - April 15-18, 2010, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Cliff Gardner, Phone: (401) 539-1149, Website: www. usstarawavets.org.

USS TOLOVANA (AO-64) - August 4-8, 2010, Washington, D.C., Joseph A. Baer, Phone: (508) 278-3724, Email: josephabaer@yahoo.com. USS VAN VOORHIS (DE-1028) - September 30-October 3, 2010, Mobile, Alabama, Ron Bauer, Phone: (334) 826-3009, Email: rrbauer@bellsouth. net, Website: www.newportdealeys.org. USS WILHOITE (DE/DER-397) - September 15-18, 2010, Russellville, Arkansas, Elisabeth

Rider, Phone: (479) 968-6659, Email: canerday@ suddenlink.net.

VP-45 (VP-205/VP-MS-5) PATRON FOUR FIVE ASSN. - September 20-October 2, 2010,

VP-45 (VP-205/VP-MS-5) PATRON FOUR FIVE ASSN. - September 20-October 2, 2010, Washington, D.C., Buck Jones, Phone: (601) 528-9374, Email: bpj1927@yahoo.com, Website: www. VP45association.org.



#### AIR FORCE

7acaribou.com.

**551ST AEW & C WING (OTIS AFB)** - August 12-15, 2010, Dayton, Ohio, John Loftus, Phone: (609) 386-1318, Email: jloftus@comcast.net.

117TH AHC/8TH TRANS CO AND DETACHMENTS - VIETNAM 1961-72 - June 17-20, 2010, Atlanta, Georgia, Al Bennett, Phone: (850) 834-3376, Email: namvet42@hotmail.com, Website: www.117thahc.

29TH AIR SERVICE GROUP HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON. CHARLOTTE ARMY AIR BASE, CHARLOTTE, N.C. 1942-45, SOUTH WEST PACIFIC OCEAN - April 15-16, 2010, Pueblo, Colorado, John J. Sandusky, Phone: (719) 561-2674. 38TH BOMB WING (FRANCE) ASSN. - June 11-13, 2010, Rancho Cordova, California, Don Lester, Phone: (209) 295-4525.

**494TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) REUNION** - April 29-May 3, 2010, Mobile, Alabama, Marshall L. Keller, Phone: (248) 626-3684 or Tony Bianchi at (989) 736-6142.

(989) 736-6142.

7TH SQUADRON 17TH AIR CAVALRY

ASSOCIATION - August 11-15, 2010, Saint Louis,
Missouri, Lee Parsons, Phone: (603) 585-7151,
Email: parsons.computer@yahoo.com.

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC. - July 28-31, 2010,
San Antonio, Texas, Robert Peeples, Phone: (614)
237-2052, Email: rpeeples5720@wowway.com.

USAF C7A CARIBOU ASSN. - August 25-29, 2010,
Macon, Georgia, Bill Avon, Phone: (330) 878-7451,
Email: veteran1@tusco.net, Website: www.c-





**Caring for Our Own ...** Members of DAV Chapter 101, Nokomis, Fla., visited the VA Polytrauma Center at VAMC Tampa to provide workout clothing for veterans wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. The veterans hospitalized at polytrauma centers often are the most profoundly disabled veterans and are also, with quality care and encouragement, the veterans who recover the most following multiple debilitating injuries.



### 'Heartland's Heroes' Kicks Off 2010 Season in Vegas

The DAV's mission of service and hope for our nation's disabled veterans received a high-stakes, star-studded boost at the kick-off to the 2010 season Heartland Poker Tour (HPT), widely recognized as the poker tour for the common man in Middle America.

Producers of the Heartland Poker Tour treated enthusiasts to glitz and excitement for the launch of the sixth season of the nationally syndicated poker show at the Red Rock Casino and Spa in Las Vegas.

"DAV is proud to partner with Heartland Poker Tour to help bring much-needed financial support and public awareness to our mission of hope and compassion for America's disabled veterans," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "Heartland provides a unique, exciting way for poker enthusiasts to honor our heroes."

During the kick-off event, Heartland representatives took

time out to present a check for \$68,000, raised for DAV on the 2009 tour.

The event raised funds and public awareness for Heartland's Heroes, the partnership between DAV and HPT, which is now entering its second season.

The weeklong event was highlighted by a charity game to support DAV. Poker "A-listers" Kathy Liebert and Dennis Phillips joined stars including actor Lou Diamond Phillips at the tables. With Robin Leach of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" emceeing, DAV Executive Director Richard Patterson and Past National Commander James E. Sursely also joined in on the fun.

"I was at the kick-off event last year and I can already see the growth of this amazing partnership," Sursely said. "With this level of enthusiasm and support, it's hard telling just how big Heartland's Heroes can get."

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