

# DAV Recognizes Ned Clapp of North Dakota

Edwin Griffin (Ned) Clapp, III, a life member of DAV Chapter 1, Fargo, N.D., has been named the DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year for 1996. Mr. Clapp will be recognized as the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year before members and guests attending the 75th National Convention of the DAV and Auxiliary in New Orleans, July 27-Aug. 1.

For Ned Clapp, the journey to Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year is the story of a man who follows his dreams and lives life as fully as he can.

Mr. Clapp always wanted to fly. As a boy he'd been fascinated with planes and flying. After high school, he'd followed in his father's footsteps and went on to West Point to pursue an Army career. After graduation in June of 1970, his goal was to become an Army pilot. But after receiving his commission to 2nd Lt., he wound up doing a tour of duty with the 101st Airmobile Division as an artillery forward observer in the Republic of Vietnam. It was during this tour of duty that the young lieutenant's hopes for a career as an Army pilot changed forever, but not his dream to fly.

Mr. Clapp was working with an infantry company during a battalion sweep to locate a North Vietnamese Army base camp near Phu Bai, when his unit stopped for the night on a little hilltop. The next morning, June 2, 1971, he met with the platoon leader who informed him that a helicopter was on its way in to take him back for his promotion to 1st Lt.

"I went back to gather up my gear and rucksack from where I'd slept," Mr. Clapp said. "When I reached down to pick up my rucksack, I stepped on the booby trap. I'd nearly been sleeping on it."

The helicopter to take Mr. Clapp for his promotion became a medivac rushing him back for lifesaving, emergency surgery, where he suffered the loss of his right leg below the knee and half of his left foot.

Following the surgery, he was evacuated to a hospital in Japan for three weeks, before being transferred to Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Denver. Mr. Clapp realized a lifelong dream while an outpatient at the medical center. In the fall of 1972 he obtained his private pilot license. He went on to earn his commercial pilot license, commercial instrument rating, sailplane rating and multi-engine rating, using his G.I. Bill. He also earned a 2nd Class (Commercial) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Medical Certificate and a Letter of Demonstrated Ability from the FAA.

Following his discharge from the medical center in Nov. 1973, Mr. Clapp returned to active duty, serving with the 4th Mechanized Infantry Division and the 29th Field Artillery Battalion. He achieved the rank of captain, but increasing physical difficulty led him to accept a medical discharge in 1975.

Leaving the military, Mr. Clapp went to work for Denver



Avionics to learn the aircraft avionics (electronics) business at Stapleton International Airport, under the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation program. In 1976, he moved to Fargo to assume operation of a fixed base operation offering flight training, aircraft charter, maintenance, and aircraft sales. He later purchased the business, and, as president, operated it until he sold the business in 1981. During his flying career, Mr. Clapp amassed 5,123 hours of flying time.

During this time, Mr. Clapp also started a computer business offering bookkeeping and accounting services to small businesses which he still operates on a small scale. His

computer expertise has been a big help to many in his area, including the Fargo DAV National Service Office.

"He literally set up our computer system on his own time," DAV National Service Officer Greory Seurer said. "He not only set up ours, he's helped all veterans organizations in our area set up their systems, as well as advise them on software and help them become more computer literate."

In September 1985, Mr. Clapp became employed as a Department of Veteran Affairs Prosthetic Representative Trainee. Four months later he was named Chief of Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service at the Fargo VA Medical Center.

Being a prosthetic user himself, Mr. Clapp has experienced the service he now directs. As such, he strives to ensure that the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service provides whatever veterans need to function outside the hospital setting. During his tenure, the service has grown from serving 2,200 disabilities per year to more than 8,000 per year. Under Mr. Clapp's supervision the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service has become one of the most highly regarded services at the medical center.

"Helping people is what motivates Ned Clapp," NSO Seurer said. "Ned is one of the most unselfish, caring men I have ever known. He cares about helping people and does all he can to help them professionally and privately."

Mr. Clapp is also a dedicated family man. In December 1977, he married Deberah Untersherer. Two years later, Griffin, the first of three sons was born. In 1981, a second son, Jim, was born; and Adam, the youngest son, joined the family in 1983.

All of the boys play baseball, and Mr. Clapp couldn't be happier having baseball in his life.

"Baseball is my passion," he said. "Last year, Debbie and I took in 130 games coaching, observing, and scorekeeping with the boys. Baseball is a thinking man's game. There's a lot of strategy to it, and as a coach, you've got to be on top of it and keep the kids on top of it. I love working with kids. It's fun teaching them and seeing them respond."

Mr. Clapp is in his fourth year of coaching Babe Ruth Baseball. He is also a member of the Fargo Babe Ruth Baseball

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# TRICARE Offers Military Retirees Health Care Options

Eligible military retirees and their families throughout the country should have access to the Department of Defense's (DoD) TRICARE managed health care program by next fall.

Already operational since 1995 in Hawaii, along the West Coast and much of the Northwest, in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas, the TRICARE program this year extends to Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Designed as a less costly alternative to the CHAMPUS (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services) program, TRICARE offers participants the option of obtaining medical care from civilian contract providers. Military retirees and family members eligible for CHAMPUS are eligible for TRICARE. (Those who have reached age 65 and are eligible for Medicare are no longer eligible for CHAMPUS or TRICARE.)

The TRICARE program offers participants three basic options, including a health maintenance organization (HMO), a preferred provider plan, and the Standard CHAMPUS plan.

TRICARE Prime is a voluntary enrollment option similar to most HMOs. Participants pay an annual enrollment fee (\$250 individual; \$460 family) and are exempt from the Standard CHAMPUS deductible. When possible, care is provided in a military medical facility. Otherwise, participants are referred to a network of civilian care providers.

In addition to the annual enrollment fee, TRICARE Prime members receiving care from a civilian provider network are charged a co-payment for each office or clinic visit. Out-of-pocket expenses are capped at \$3,000.

The co-payment provision replaces the Standard CHAMPUS cost-sharing of 25% of allowable charges. For members who opt to receive care outside the TRICARE Prime network, there is a \$300 per person, \$600 per family deductible with a 50% cost share.

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## Ned Clapp

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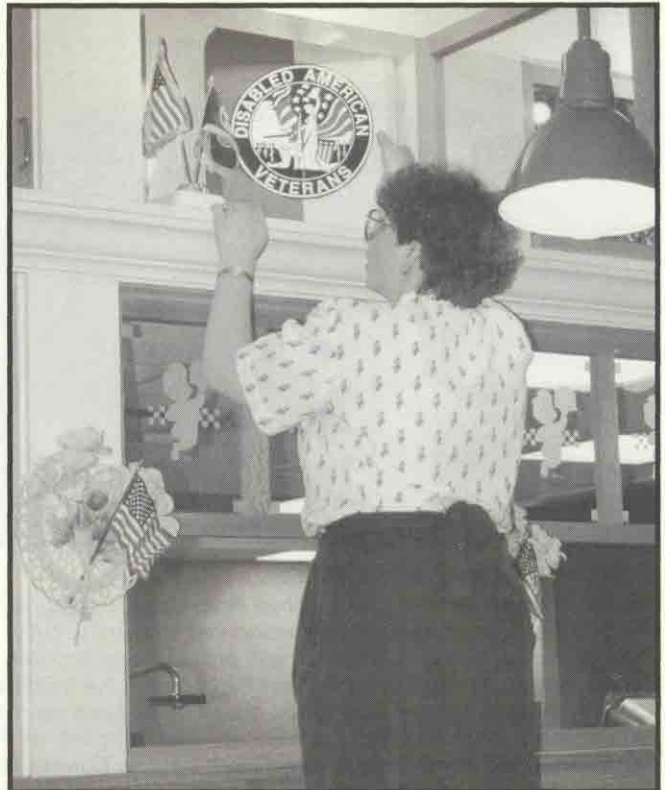
League Board of Directors. In addition to baseball, Mr. Clapp has coached youth soccer and youth football.

In 1991 he attended his first National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic at Snowmass in Aspen, Colo., and returned to clinics in Crested Butte, Colo. in 1992 and 1993. He now owns his own mono-ski and skis in Minnesota and Montana with his sons and their friends.

"I like the diversity of my work. It fits in with what I like to do - helping people," Mr. Clapp said "Being hurt put my life in perspective. I try to live each day to its fullest and help those around me.

"The support of my family; my wife and children, my parents, and three brothers, have been my constant companions.

"I am surprised and honored to have been chosen as the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year. There are a lot of guys out there who deserve this honor as much or more than I - I am humbled by it."



### Remembering Veterans ...

*Christine MacGahie-Troendle, a server at Frisch's Big Boy Restaurant in Cold Spring, Ky., puts up a DAV Memorial Day display at the restaurant near DAV National Headquarters. The display was available for more than a week for customers to view, courtesy of Frisch's. Many restaurants and local businesses offer community display areas and welcome interesting displays. DAV chapters and Auxiliary units are encouraged to inquire about these free and informative services to promote DAV services in their communities.*

## VA Voluntary Service Program Appointments

The following are the new and recertified appointments to the VA Voluntary Service Program at VA medical facilities around the country, as of July, 1996.

### NEW STATE CHAIRPERSONS

Mr. George T. Ray, Department of Oregon  
Mr. John J. Green, Department of Wisconsin

### NEW REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Deacon A. Martino, North Chicago VAMC, Illinois  
Mr. Philip J. Campagna, Baltimore VAMC, Maryland  
Mr. Norman L. Minor, Vancouver VAMC, Washington

### NEW DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Elmer L. West, Bay Pines VAMC, Florida  
Mr. Kent Holland, Marion VAMC, Illinois  
Mr. Thomas Bland, Baltimore VAMC, Maryland  
Ms. Dorothy L. Newberger, Baltimore VAMC, Maryland  
Mr. Calvin L. Morris, Boston VAMC, Massachusetts  
Mr. Raymond B. Desmond, Sr., Northport VAMC, New York  
Mr. Walter J. Kucinsky, Coatesville VAMC, Pennsylvania

### RECERTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Miller M. Aaron, Peoria VAMC, Illinois

### RECERTIFIED DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Manuel Raposo, Brockton VAMC, Massachusetts  
Mr. Raymond E. Flint, Columbia VAMC, Missouri  
Mr. Leonard P. Jaegers, Columbia VAMC, Missouri

### RECERTIFIED ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Denzil Reed, Marion VAMC, Illinois  
Mr. Herbert L. Childers, Cincinnati VAMC, Ohio

### RECERTIFIED DEPUTY ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Carl H. Harmeyer, Cincinnati VAMC, Ohio