

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

DEPARTMENT of TEXAS, HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

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APRIL 2006

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

From the Commander's Pen

"Greetings fellow Comrades"

There is a lot going on in Washington these days and most of it spells trouble for our veterans and their benefits. Just once I wish we could write something positive and in our favor. With the extremely high gas prices we have had all year, one would think the cost of living increase would be somewhat higher than it has in the past, wrong again. I heard on the news that the President wants to cut the budget deficit by 150 billion for next year and he said it would come mostly from "Mandatory Spending" programs. I don't think he meant from the Mandatory Spending that would affect any of the President's people or our Representatives, so I guess that means the Veterans will take another bullet for our leaders.

There is another story I think you all need to look into. It was written by Larry Scott who is a journalist, a veteran who receives VA compensation for a service connected disability and a watchdog of what goes on between the VA and the Administration. You can find his articles by going onto the web at www.military.com and then open up his articles, or you can go to www.vawatchdog.org and look up some interesting articles.

One that caught my eye was "Dismantling VA". It starts out with Representative Steve Buyer's aide chuckling loudly and saying, "What VA? By the time this administration is done there won't be a VA."

Now if you think this can't happen, you are wrong. GOP strategist Grover Norquist says he wants the government shrunk down so he can "drown it in a bathtub". The problem with this is that smaller government means fewer services as well as the much-touted lower taxes. And the jobs that are spared are outsourced and cost more to maintain because private corporations have to build in a profit margin. So while the concept of smaller

government appeals too many, the economics fall into the "voodoo" category, and the social ramifications spell disaster for those who need the programs that are cut back or eliminated. In fact smaller government gives less but cost more per person served. And we would all like to see Mr. Grover fit 24.6 million veterans in a bathtub.

Last year the Cares Commission recommended closing VA hospitals and clinics and urged that VA's primary mission be outpatient treatment. All this while the number of ageing veterans and especially Vietnam era veterans will need more inpatient space. Then there was Dr. David Chu, a DOD undersecretary who said that the government is spending so much money on veteran's benefits that it is hurting the country's ability to fight the current wars. Representative (R) Steve Buyer is pushing for massive changes in VA benefits. The Veterans Disability Benefits Commission is studying ways to completely rewrite the book on veteran's benefits at the request of the administration.

While the VA represents a lifeline to veterans it is an ideological anchor to an administration that has gone out of its way to portray veterans benefits as something akin to welfare. This assault on VA and veterans benefits will not stop. The major service organizations know it and have known it for years. Many of our veterans are waiting months for treatment at VA facilities or are getting no treatment at all. Those in Congress who realize what is going on are shouted down and voted down along party lines. Smaller government and lower taxes for the wealthy are obviously more important than veteran's lives.

Think about these things the next time you visit or write one of your representatives.

Yours in comradeship,
L. Duke Hendershot
Department Commander

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS HAD THE FOLLOWING POPULATION SUMMARY AS OF, 3/14/2006:

Life Members	57,840
Part Life Members	22,406
Total Members	80,246

This years GOAL for full paid life members is:

Goal	58,503
Goal percentage as of 3/14/2006	98.87

Members to make goal 663

Membership is open to any man or woman, who was wounded, gassed, injured or disabled in line of duty during time of war, while in the service of either the military or naval forces of the United States of America, and who has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service, or who may still be in active service in the armed forces of the United States of America is eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans. Others, who are disabled while serving with any of the armed forces of any actions associated with the United States of America as allies during any of its war periods, who are American citizens and who are honorably discharged are also eligible.

Imagine

Imagine the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee not seeing the need to meet with Veterans Organizations to present their legislative agenda to the joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Imagine that this was in a time of **War**, whereas the United States of America had America's finest engaged in battle on foreign soil.

Imagine the Commander-in-Chief proposing a budget that would raise the cost of medical care for the men and women who have served and fought for the freedoms that all Americans share.

Imagine a VA health care that does not meet the needs of the returning heroes who served bravely for their country in Iraq and Afghanistan needing health care, and the increased requirements for long-term care.

Well this could never happen in this country! I'm sorry to say, it has. If you need any inspiration to recruit new members in the **DAV** you should think of those brave troops we have serving overseas. Recruit for them! Recruit them! The larger our membership the larger difference it makes when we speak to our elected officials in Washington! With fewer veterans represented in our total population, we need a very clear and strong voice **NOW** more than ever.

DAV's goal nationally is one million fully paid

by June 30th, which as of today we are around 13,000 members short of that goal. Congress listens to numbers, as they equate to voters.

Now imagine Congress doing what's right and taking care of those who served. That's the way it should be. So please recruit for America's future.

Rex Lloyd

Membership Chairman

ADJUTANT'S COMMENTS

Convention Hotel information: The hotel plans to change names/ownership in the near future. We are told to refer to the hotel as the Holiday Inn Ft. Worth South - soon to be a Radisson Hotel. **For reservations call (817) 759-4614, and request the DAV Group Rate.** The call to convention letters will be going out to chapters not later than 1 April which will allow chapters time to elect delegates, and those delegates time to make their reservations and travel plans. Your participation and involvement = success.

Election of officers in Chapters, Districts, and Department. Strive to elect those persons who want more than just a title, cast your votes for capable people who will work towards meeting the goals of the DAV. The organization must have leadership at all levels if we are to survive.

New phone numbers for the NSO offices in Houston and San Antonio: Houston 713-383-2715; San Antonio 210-699-2359.

Eldon L. Armstrong

Department Adjutant / Treasurer

DISTRICT I

By-the time you read this our convention will have come and past. It is impossible to comment on what was adopted or who was elected seeing how that I cannot see into the future, so this will be a short news letter. Speaking of futures, I had the honor and privilege of talking to one of our past Dept. Commanders yesterday. Well a month and a yesterday. He wanted to wish us well at our convention and to tell his friends, and not so friends, that he is doing as well as can be expected all things considered. He is on an experimental drug that seems to be keeping the cancer at bay, but he isn't sure which is worse, the after effects or chemo. However he did ask for our prayers for Betty who is having some serious health problems. So in closing I ask all of you to pray for both of

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them and if you think of it drop them a line or maybe a short phone call.

W. "Ted" Monette
Commander, District I

DISTRICT II

"Hello Texas!"

District II just finished their Convention. A great big "Thank You" must be extended to the District II Commanders, Convention Chairs, Host Chapters and Units for all their hard work that made this a successful convention. It was well attended and certainly was accomplished in an orderly and effective manner. **A job well done!**

This year at the convention the comrades have given me the privilege of filling a gap. You may remember that I had served in each of the District II line offices positions except Commander. Because of moving into the line offices at Department, I was unable to serve as District II Commander. Thank you so much for all your support. I will do my best to serve this District to the best of my abilities.

We would like to take our hats off to our Department Adjutant, Eldon Armstrong, for planning and presenting a much-needed session of Officer Training. Our Department Commander, "Duke" Hendershot, also participated in the training. Many positive comments were overheard in the hallways pertaining to the well-presented training. Thanks to both of our Department Officers for taking the time to bring our comrades up to date on the many changes.

Congratulations to all our newly elected district officers. The following District II Officers were elected or appointed for the year 2006-2007:

Commander: Gerald J. Cowan (137)
Sr. Vice Cmdr.: Joel Jimenez (41)
1st Jr. Vice Cmdr.: Annie J. "A.J." Jones (32)
2nd Jr. Vice Cmdr.: Jackie Gilliam (16)
Judge Advocate: Harry J. Kabler (57)
Chaplain: Cynthia Burks (42)
Finance: Jerry Black (57)
Alternate Finance: Tory Adcock (42)

The Commander has appointed the following:

Adjutant: Marvin Dunn Jr. (11)

Just prior to our District II Convention, the 2006 Mid-Winter Conference was held in Washington D.C., February 26 through March 1, 2006. The National 3rd Junior Vice Commander "Bobby" Barrera, Department Commander, "Duke" Hender-

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shot, Department Adjutant, Eldon Armstrong, myself and our wives attended this Conference. We were able to visit with a staff member in the offices of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Representatives Jeb Hensarling and Kenny Marchant. We discussed the Independent Budget, Mandatory Funding, Concurrent Receipt and presented our case relating to the medical needs of our veterans.

This year's conference was one of the best attended in many years. It was a wonderful feeling to see so many DAV and DAVA members in attendance in support of our DAV National Commander, Paul W. Jackson, as he presented his statement before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Thank you again for placing your faith in me as your District II Commander. My first visit will be to an Americanism Program at Bun Lilly Chapter #16, Mr. Pleasant. I would love to be able to visit with each of the Chapters in District II this coming year. If there are any special events taking place throughout the year, please give me a "Heads-Up" in order that I might put it into my schedule for the coming year.

I am looking forward to serving you as District II Commander and hope that each of the Chapter Commanders will contact me with any DAV matters.

Yours in service,
Gerald J. Cowan
Commander, District II

DISTRICT III

District III Convention: The District III Convention was held March 24 -26, 2006 in Waco. Thanks to DAV Chapter 3, in particular Commander Ron Minter, for hosting the Convention. Chapter 3, also, hosted the final district officer's meeting in Waco on 25 February. This gave the district officers the opportunity to "walk thru" the convention site and to finalize the plans for the convention.

DAV 29: Chapter 29 conducted their elections on 4 March 2006. Comrade Kirk Bennett was elected as the Commander for the 2006-2007 year. The outgoing Chapter Commander and then District 3 Commander Raul Villaronga administered the oath of office to the elected and appointed officers of the chapter. Best of luck to the officers and the chapter, as they start a new year serving the veterans of the Fort Hood-Killeen-Harker Heights-Nolanville area.

2006 Memorial Day Ceremony: DAV Chapter 29 together with other veteran's organiza-

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tions in Central Texas will conduct the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Central Texas Veteran's State Cemetery. This cemetery serves the entire Central Texas Area, and was constructed in Killeen, thanks to the efforts of many veteran's organizations and local community leaders. The ceremony will start in the afternoon at 4:30 PM, and will follow local Memorial Day Ceremonies by area veteran's organizations in their respective cities and communities. All veterans and organizations in the Central Texas Area are invited to participate. Contact Comrade Raul Villaronga at 254-289-3333 or rvillaronga@hotmail.com for more details.

District III Commander: When I was elected as District Commander in 2005, I pledged to visit all District III Chapters during the year. Unfortunately, I fell short of that goal, visiting only 10 of the 16 chapters in the District. Last month, I visited Chapter 198 in Kingsland to install their newly elected officers and Chapter 215 in Lake Whitney. During the year, I visited Chapter 234 in Stephenville, Chapter 63 in Palestine (three times), Chapter 86 in Caldwell, Chapter 200 in Bryan, Chapter 219 in Austin, Chapter 3 in Waco, and, of course, Chapter 29 in Harker Heights, my home chapter. We held three District meetings at each of the following locations: Temple, Harker Heights, and Waco. I concentrated in visiting the far-away chapters, and thus, was unable to visit 6 chapters - Chapter 40 in Mexia, Chapter 147 next door in Killeen, Chapter 111 in Temple, Chapter 52 in Marlin, and Chapters 4 and 173 in Austin.

Unfortunately, I started my term of office by closing out DAV Chapter 45 in Brownwood. This chapter had been inactive for a long period of time, and by the time I closed it out, funds, records, and equipment were practically non-existent. This, together with my experiences visiting the chapters throughout the District, has convinced me of the need for an active DAV District to assist their chapters within each District to stay afloat and to serve their communities. I thank the District officers who attended the District meetings, those officers who visited the chapters that I had assigned to them, and those officers who helped the chapters in need. I wish the new District Commander luck and wish him well in visiting all the chapters in the District. I want to thank all members of District III for my election to this position and for the confidence you had in me to do the job. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you for the past year and hope to have the honor to continue to help veterans

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through other important jobs within the hierarchy of the DAV,

If your chapter or auxiliary, would like to place any information on the activities of said in the Department Newsletter, please write our adjutant, Kristen Gholson-Dopkant, 810 Mountain View Cove, Pflugerville, Texas, 78660-3840 by the 5th day of each month.

For the Commander,
Kristen Gholson-Dopkant
Adjutant, District III

DISTRICT IV

The District IV Convention will be over by the time this read. New officers and a new year will be ahead of us and we will all be looking forward to Department Convention. If you have never attended Department you really should make an effort to do so.

We still have lots of work to do. With our "new" disabled veterans returning home every day we have got to make ourselves available to advise them on where the nearest medical care is and how to get into the VA system; as well as how to access a DAV NSO/DSO to get their claims expedited. These men and women are the future of DAV. We must get these veterans involved in DAV so that our future is guaranteed.

I would like to recognize the Commander of Chapter 233, Humberto Romero. I met this gentleman about 1 ½ years ago when I was given the honor of presenting awards at a local meeting of their chapter. Chapter 233 was struggling to exist prior to his taking office. Humberto took it upon his self to pull the chapter together. He personally has signed up and completed transfers for 60 plus members and his chapter attendance has gone from 10 to 50 at meetings. Commander Romero takes veterans that need a ride to Houston for medical care or to file claims. As a DAV member I am proud to know Humberto Romero, he is a shining example of what DAV is all about. Thank you Commander Romero for being my friend as well as a friend to all disabled veterans!

I recently returned from Mid-Winter Conference. It was my first time there and I really did not know what to expect. There is no doubt that this was the most educational DAV experience that I have had so far. I learned about the proposed VA budget and what the shortfalls are, as well as how some of the shortfalls are "hidden" upon first glance. We also visited our Congressman and edu-

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cated him on the shortfalls and what we, as his veteran constituents, expected of him as far as approval of this budget. I realize everyone cannot go to every convention due to time and expense. This may be one trip you would want to work towards strictly to take advantage of all of the work that the DAV legislative committee puts into research and to have a personal one on one with your congressman.

I look forward to seeing each of you at Department Convention. Have a safe and happy Easter.

Yours in Comradeship,
Teresa Johniken
Commander, District IV

DISTRICT V

During our recent Texas state elections, it was reported that statewide only 4.12 percent registered voters casts ballots in the Texas Democratic primary, while another 5.24 percent voted for Republicans. This means that only 1,191, 326 of the states over 12.7 million registered voters took the opportunity to express their preferences. Perhaps several million Texas citizens decided against voting because they wanted to sign the petition now circulating for independent candidates.

Now before anyone gets the wrong impression, I am fully aware of the non-political rule as it applies to our DAV organization. However, I am also equally aware of the key role our U.S. politicians enjoy regarding the well being of veterans and their families. Consequently, it behooves all of us to take advantage of our constitutional right to vote whenever possible.

In casting your vote for the next election, I challenge all to become better prepared to vote by researching and studying veterans related issues. Of course these issues can be found on the DAV WEB, in the DAV Magazine, other veterans' magazines, and also in Department and Chapter newsletters. The hoped for results is to help you decide who represents the veterans interest most or least, then cast your vote accordingly. I am sure most remember the well worn cliché, "If you didn't vote, don't complain". Let's all be thankful that this is not an enforceable rule which, if applied, would silence many of us because we didn't vote or worst, we don't vote! I think you get the picture, let us stand together regarding common veterans issues, and vote so we can make a difference for veterans and their families.

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Finally, special thanks go to all of our various committees and District V Officers who worked so diligently to make our 58th Annual convention a huge success. The highlight of this event was the presence of several Iraq and Afghanistan war injured veterans who joined us at the convention banquet.

James Scott
Commander, District V

BPT / LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The House Committee on the Budget is preparing to decide, on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, the level of funding it is recommending to the full House of Representatives, to fund the activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the new fiscal year that begins on October 1. This decision is crucial for sick and disabled veterans who rely on VA health care to meet their needs.

The Independent Budget produced by DAV, VFW, AMVETS and PVA, recommended VA medical care be increased to \$32.4 billion, almost \$1 billion more that was requested by President Bush for this account next year. The two Veterans Affairs Committees have also recommended the budget for veteran's benefits and services be increased above the President's proposed level.

We need everyone to contact your elected Members of Congress to urge their support of the level of funding requested in the Independent Budget, a budget by veterans, for veterans. If the Independent Budget were adopted as the Congressional budget for veterans, we believe VA would receive enough funding to be able to meet your health care needs next year. If Congress enacts a lower budget, we fear repetition of the VA funding problems that came to light last summer to produce another public embarrassment of the President and Congress.

Please call or email your elected Congressional Representative today to tell that Representative that you demand the House Budget Committee adopt the Independent Budget for Veterans Benefits and Services.

Jim Roos
BPT/Legislative Chairman

VAVS REPORT

Fellow Vets,

I thought that a reminder of the purpose of our organization would be timely.

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The CONSTITUTION of this organization states that we are "To advance the interests and work for the betterment of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans; to cooperate with the United States Department of Veteran Affairs and all other public and private agencies devoted to the cause of IMPROVING and ADVANCING the condition, health and interest of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans; to STIMULATE a feeling of mutual devotion, helpfulness and comradeship among all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans; to serve our comrades, our communities and our country."

I quoted only a portion of our constitution, but it is a significant one in that it gives us our direction. The easiest way to involve yourself is to volunteer at the VA hospital/clinic, local hospital or service centers.

Giving a fellow vet a hand means more than a handshake.

Yours in Service,
Kirk Bennett

Department VAVS Chairman

Women Veteran's Representative

"WOMEN JOINING FORCES – CLOSING RANKS, OPENING DOORS"

Business and Professional Women/USA, founded in 1919, promotes equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information. With 1,300 Local Organizations across the country, BPW/USA is the leading advocates for millions of workingwomen on work-life effectiveness and workplace equity issues. BPW Local Organizations provide members with professional development programs, networking, and opportunities to support scholarships for disadvantaged women.

On October 20, 2005, Business and Professional Women/USA launched a new membership initiative "Women Joining Forces – Closing Ranks, Opening Doors" to support military women exiting all branches of the Armed Forces, National Guard, and Coast Guard. For the first time in BPW/USA's 87 year history, they extended the benefits of BPW/USA membership to women exiting the military at no cost as an expression of support to this extraordinary group of workingwomen.

The first of 1,500 membership dues waivers to women veterans were given to Antoinette Scott, and Iraqi Freedom veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and mother of four girls and Suzanne Fahr a twenty

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year veteran of the Navy, retired and eager to pursue a civilian career in nursing.

Please join our salute to BPW/USA for their women veterans' membership initiative and important venture to promote the promising career of those who have ensured our nation's security. The introductory membership gives women veteran's much-needed professional and personal support during a critical time in their lives. Women veterans are more likely to experience unemployment, a disconnection with much-needed services, or even homelessness. BPW/USA helps its members with successful career transitions through professional development training, leadership opportunities, peer mentoring, networking opportunities, and continuing education scholarships.

Our veterans bring an unparalleled level of dedication and experience to the workforce. Women Joining Forces offers tools and resources to make that transition successful. Whether you are a veteran, know a veteran, or an organization that would like to connect veterans, we urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

You can learn more about how you can connect a vet to the important government, non-profit, and employer services available to them by visiting www.bpwusa.org. Please share this information with women veterans across this great state of Texas. I am honored and proud to serve on the national BPW Women Joining Forces Advisory Council.

Yours in service
Delilah Washburn

Women's Veteran Department Appointee

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER



Dear Members,

Last month, I talked about membership and making quota. This month I'd like to talk about another important item- ANNUAL REPORTS. I know we talk about these reports a lot. Some of you, mostly adjutants and commanders, fill them out. There is a lot of you who do all kinds of things all the time in : (1) Community service – giving rides to appointments, church, shopping, church activities; (2) VA Hospitals – recreation activities,

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visiting patients, making lap robes, duty bags, working in the various clinics, etc...; (3) Non-VA Hospitals and Nursing homes – same as the VA; (4) Americanism – participating in parades, memorial services at cemeteries, programs; (5) Jr. Activities – our juniors can do all kinds of things to assist us, plus Scouting, church activities, etc...; (6) Legislative – here is where we can all lend a voice. Written or vocal – let our views be known to our Congressmen and Senators.

Sometimes we do things as a group and sometimes as individuals and the help is always important and appreciated, ***BUT*** it has to be written down and recorded in order to be ***counted*** on the report.

The report forms should be coming soon to all the Units from the State office. They need to be filled out and sent back by May 1st. From there, they go to the various chairmen who have to compile their reports. Your reports are judged at the State Convention and the very best that win are sent on to the National chairmen to be judged at the National Convention.

I traveled to the District II Conference in Richardson this past weekend and was welcomed by District Commander Charlene Listenbee and members. My sister, husband and I enjoyed being at the conference. The new officers elected for this next year are: Cmdr. - Belinda Hackney; Sr. Vice Cmdr. – June Gilliam; Jr. Vice Cmdr. – Linda Paquette; Chaplain – Mary Beamon; Adjutant - Ann Crowell.

This month we will be attending District I in Abilene, District V in San Antonio and District IV in Nacogdoches.

I hope all of you recalled what a privilege it was to vote during the recent Primary Elections. Don't forget any run-offs in May. Remember – not ***all*** countries can say they have that ***same*** privilege.

Joyce Humes

Commander, DAV Auxiliary

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary had the following Population Summary as of 3/14/2006:

Life Members	5,961
Total Members	6,764

THIS YEARS GOAL is:

Goal	7,153
Goal percentage	94.56
UNDER Goal	389

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Do you carry both a DAV and a DAVA membership form? Please do so – with your help we can make our goal!

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Texas Rangers DAV Day at the Ballpark in Arlington TX, is scheduled for Sunday, September 3rd. Ticket information will be published in the Bulletin at a later date.

I want to give you a heads up on changes VA North Texas Health Care System may be implementing in the very near future. In light of the increased number of veterans enrolling for health care, and the high patient load at our VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC), we have found it necessary to consider capping enrollment of new veterans at those clinics. Please be assured that veterans who are currently enrolled for care at any of the CBOCs will continue to be seen at those locations; no one will be dropped as part of this initiative. Eligible veterans who are not currently enrolled and wish to begin receiving VA health care will be referred to the VA Medical Centers in Dallas and Bonham, or the Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic.

Tentative plans are to begin capping enrollment on April 1, 2006. I will keep you apprised as we move forward. Thank you for your continued support of veterans and VANTHCS.

Betty Bolin Brown
Director

Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business now have set aside authority for federal contracts and the government contracting folks have been mandated goals to meet by offering contracts to SDVOSB's.

A Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) is:

At least 51% Owned and controlled by a veteran with a service-connected disability between 0% and 100%.

Unlike 8(a) and HUBZone, there is no Federal SDV certification.

The SDVOSB self represents their status in their Representations and Certifications (orca.bpn.gov)

Protests regarding the SDVOSB's status are referred to SBA who will ask the veteran for documentation (VA letter, DD 214, etc).

Federal Acquisition Regulation Interim Rule issued May 5, 2004; Final Rule published March 23, 2005.

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Rule of 2 for competitive set-asides; fair price; no dollar ceiling.

Fewer than 2 – noncompetitive awards up to \$3M/services; \$5M/manufacturing

Office of Federal Procurement has issued policy letters emphasizing the importance of the SDVOSB program Executive Order October 21, 2004.

For more information, contact:

<http://www.vetbiz.gov>

Veterans call toll free 1-866-584-2344

Others call (202) 303-3260

Mid-winter where the DAV members meet with Senators/Representatives and members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. The room was packed – standing room only awaiting the opening of the hearing.



The Commanders and Adjutants (Department) Association also conducts training and holds information meetings/workshops. Examples are Service Workshop, Legislative, Membership Workshop, DAV & Auxiliary VAVS Workshop, Adjutants Workshop, Communications Workshop, DAV Charitable Service Trust, NSO Guild Meeting, and much, much more. It's a worthwhile trip.



DAVA National Adjutant Maria Tedrow



National (Texas' own) 3rd Jr. Vice Cmdr Barrera riding to the Senate Building in the luggage compartment of Commander Hendershot's SUV. "I'm all hooked up" he said.



A group of Texans outside Senator Kay Bailey Hutchisons' office. She is a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee and this group was there to deliver a message.

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VA Secretary Nicholson attended the DAV Commander's Reception.



The "Heavy Hitters" at the Veterans Affairs Senate Hearing. Commander "Action" Jackson delivered his powerful message.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Human Faces of the American Veterans

I've traveled far along life's road...

I've seen many things and places.

My fascination never ends with the things I see in the faces of American Veterans.

The faces young veterans, So open...free of guile with eyes that say I trust...Accept, always ready with a smile.

The faces wounded veterans...They reveal how much they grieve.

Their eyes reflect their desperate need for a reason to believe.

The faces of veterans who are survivors...Those who've made it through their storm. They've fought their fight...They've paid their price and now they're safe and warm to some degree.

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The faces that I love the most are the faces of the old veterans.

Those lines...those dimming eyes reveal the memories they hold.

Memories that must be shared with the citizens of their beloved country.

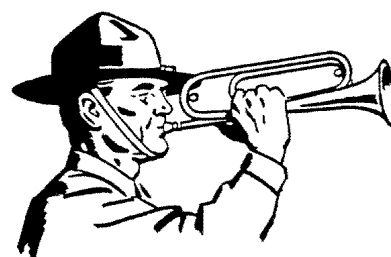
I see character and wisdom gained through years of joy and strife.

They help me see what I might be when I too have lived a life.

I thank my God for the human faces I see in the Veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Dr. Charles E. Edwards, Jr.

Department Chaplain



TAPS

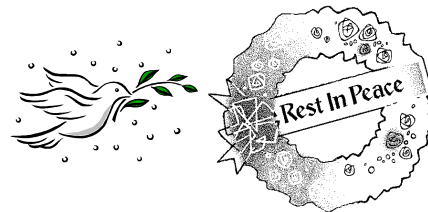
Department has been notified that the following comrades have been called into final formation above:

Lillie Staley, Charter member Unit 17 passed Feb, 06.

Paz Leal Flores, Chapter 84 passed Feb 28, 06.

Alphonso "Al" Altieri, Past Department Commander 1994/95. Al passed March 12, 06.

Department and the membership extend deepest sympathies to the family members, friends, and comrades of these fallen heroes. May each one rest in honor.



Please feel free to call, write, or email the Adjutant's office if you have a loss in your family, Chapter, or Unit that should be included in this column.

**Disabled American Veterans
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To:



District II DAV Officers elected & Installed



Dist II DAVA Officers elected



More Mid-winter politics in Washington