

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

DEPARTMENT of TEXAS, HEADQUARTERS

BULLETIN

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

From the Commander's Pen

GREETINGS FELLOW TEXANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that a subcontractor, hired to assist in insurance collections for the VA medical centers in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, has informed the Department that a desktop computer containing personal information on some veterans is missing from the company's offices.

The subcontractor, Unisys Corporation reported that the computer was missing from its Reston, Va office. Initial estimates indicate the desktop contained information on approximately 5,000 patients treated at Philadelphia, approximately 11,000 patients treated at Pittsburgh and approximately 2,000 deceased patients. This missing computer may also contained information on another 20,000 people who received care at the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center.

This announcement came just days after the VA cancelled its free credit monitoring program. I truly believe that stronger measures should be taken to protect our personal information from theft.

While I was at the C&A Orientation, I had the opportunity to meet with Paul "ACTION" Jackson, as well as other National Line Officers and discuss some of the pressing issues facing veterans at present. It's time to get your post cards out and write your elected officials as HR 4914 in the House, and Senate Bill S 2695 propose to allow attorney's to file claims on behalf of veterans for a contingency fee. This would slow down the claims process, as the longer it takes for a claim to adjudicate, the more back pay involved, thus the more an attorney would collect. The VA claims process is slow enough now without having it slowed down more by lawyers!



I would like to share this VA webpage with you as it is a helpful resource for information about VA benefits that you may be unfamiliar with. The Benefits Fact Sheet Webpage is www.vba.va.gov/ and select "benefits". I think you and your family members will find this site useful, so you may want to put it under your Favorite Sites.

Yours in comradeship,
Rex Lloyd
Department Commander

2006-07 National Officers

Commander	Bradley S. Barton
Sr. Vice	Robert T. Reynolds
1 st Jr. Vice	Raymond E. Dempsey
2 nd Jr. Vice	Roberto Barrera
3 rd Jr. Vice	Wallace E. Tyson
4 th Jr. Vice	Jerome Krejci
Judge Advocate	Michael E. Dobmeir
Chaplain	Edward Bastille
Past National Commander	Paul W. Jackson
District 20 NEC	Gerald J. Cowan 2006/08
Colo Trust	Leonard F. Humes 2006/08

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS HAD THE FOLLOWING POPULATION SUMMARY AS OF, 8/17/2006:

Life Members	58,275
Part Life Members	22,412
Total Members	80,687

This years GOAL for full paid life members is:

Goal	61,004
Goal percentage as of 8/14/2006	95.53

Members to make goal 2,729

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.



I had the opportunity to visit the National Headquarters in Cold Springs, KY and met with our National personnel who I found to be very helpful as well as providing me with some excellent information. I also had the privilege of visiting with Tony Baskerville who is the National Membership Chairman. We discussed the program I had put in last months Bulletin suggesting that members owning under \$100.00 dollars get their temporary membership paid off. Then the state of Texas could move up to #1 in region one instead of #7. I cannot recall as long as I have been involved with DAV TX where we have ever finished higher than 3rd place. Maybe if we can get TX to start this program the rest of the Nation will follow suit. Mr. Baskerville stated that if all 7 regions would do a program like this no chapter of the DAV would not make their goal. There are so many in the state that just

getting this program started could push the Dept. of TX very close to our set goal.

Doug Herrle

Membership Chairman

ADJUTANT'S COMMENTS

At the Commanders and Adjutants meeting held in July at National Headquarters and at the National Convention in Chicago, the National Inspector General asked that all Chapters be requested to review their Bylaws annually. There are chapters still operating on bylaws that are more than ten years old. Sample bylaws are available on the DAV website. He also reminds chapters of the need to comply with Article 18 of the bylaws and NEC Regulation 7, otherwise known as the "3 times rule". If you are required to submit a spend down plan, it should be completed within five years.

It's nearing the deadline date to submit one of only two required chapter reports. Annual Financial Reports are to be submitted by 30 September on forms provided by National. Please send the Department copy to the current Department address in Grand Prairie.

At the National Convention in Chicago, Texas had more DAV registered delegates than any other state with a total of 79 at last count on Monday. Good on us! An attempt was made to obtain a corresponding count of Texas Auxiliary delegates but that was not possible by publication time.

Don't throw away your National Constitution, Bylaws, and Regulations book as amended by the National Convention in 2005! Why you ask? This is one of the very few years that there were no resolutions to change a part of that book. You should have seen the big smile on the face of the C&Blaws committee chairman, Ken Musselmann when he gave his committee report. Short and sweet! I would expect that a new book will soon be published to document the location of this years convention and the officers of the organization, but with no changes being made, the old book will still be useful.

Eldon Armstrong

Department Adjutant / Treasurer

DISTRICT I

Just to let everyone know I'm a lot better than last month but still have some health issues being worked on.

Disabled American Veterans

Just a reminder at the District Convention, Johnnie Qualls and Chapter 48 volunteered to purchase a District Flag, alter cloth, and a bible. I am sure that they would appreciate a contribution to help defray the cost. Remember this is your District.

It has come to my attention that a lot of veterans are not getting their affairs in order so when they pass away, as we all must, their loved ones have no idea where their pertinent data is located, ie. DD-214, insurance papers etc.

As was brought out at the last District convention, attendance has been dwindling so please start making plans to get as many of your chapter members as you can to attend 2007's convention in Amarillo. When a hotel and date has been set, all will be notified. The more that are present the more and better ideas will come up. And don't forget your auxiliary's. By car pooling we would save on gas cost and help each other out.

For those of you that have internet access www.vawatchdog.org and military.com are the two best sites to get the latest news on VA and legislative affairs. One person in each chapter and unit could download pertinent information and pass it along at their meetings.

W. "Ted" Monette
Commander, District I

DISTRICT II

Hello Texas!!!

It is now that time of the year when some of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Units are having their Americanism Programs. To date Miss Judy and I were fortunate to be able to attend two of these Patriotic Programs.

On July 22, we attended an Americanism Program hosted by Unit #20 in Fort Worth. We were provided with some very informative information pertaining to the history of our Government and presented a booklet pertaining to the U.S. Constitution and the Amendments. And, to top it off, we were given a test (open book—thank you).

On August 5, we were able to attend the American Program hosted by Unit #11 in Dallas. At this program, we were entertained with some patriotic music rendered by our past District II Commander, Ken Hackney. We learned another history lesson, given by the Cowpens Camp of the Heroes of '76. They showed us the formation of the American flag by adding stripes and then stars, denoting when each state entered the Union.

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We attended an excellent Korean War Program at the Dallas VA Medical Center. U.S. Representative, Sam Johnson, was the key speaker.

As I write this article, we are in Chicago at the 85th National Convention. I am very pleased to report that Texas is well represented. I wish that everyone could be here and take part in this convention and see the beautiful city of Chicago.

Remember our troops and their families in your prayers.

God bless each of you and God bless America!

Yours in service,
Gerald Cowan

Commander, District II

DISTRICT III

School starts this month for all of the children of the state of Texas. I would like to both challenge and encourage you to visit your local neighborhood school. If you have time, volunteering in a school would be greatly appreciated by both the students and the faculty. Your experiences, talents, and love are gifts that are needed by these children desperately. As a veteran, sharing your positive experiences in the military can be of great interest to them. Many of them lack role models and attention; they thrive when someone demonstrates they care. Be a "Shining Star" for some child so that they will not become a "Lost Soul."

Speaking of school, many citizens are of the opinion that schools no longer honor our country! Did you know? TEA, the Texas Education Agency, mandates these three (3) things each day for ALL schools, the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance, the saying of the Texas pledge, and a moment of silence.

Please be safe during the month and stay cool. Drink plenty of water! As you know, I am only a telephone call away, (512) 255-2969 or call Adjutant Gholson-Dopkant, (512) 251-9747. Have a blessed month.

Yours in Comradeship,
James Prochnow
Commander, District III

DISTRICT IV

Why we need Veterans Organizations

We need the DAV because we need a united voice to combat the concerted effort, by a political

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elite in Washington, to reduce and eliminate the Veterans Benefits we have earned. This effort will affect both monetary benefits and health benefits for Veterans and their dependents.

One proposal is to eliminate Presumptive Disabilities. This would affect former Prisoners of War, Veterans exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, Veterans exposed to Radiation and Veterans of the 1st Gulf War exposed to Environmental Toxins. All these individuals would be forced to prove their disabilities began during their period of active duty. This would absolve the government of responsibility for many of our Veterans' most serious illnesses.

Another proposal would fix the disability percentage at the level of disability at discharge with no allowance for progression of disease symptoms or secondary problems. This means if you leave the service with mild blood pressure the rating would be 0% and if the disease got worse and you had a stroke your rating would still be 0%. You would be totally disabled due a disease process and receive \$0.

The result of these 2 proposals would be:

A. Very few 100% ratings which would save money in payments to Veterans.

B. Very few 100% ratings which would save money on payments to widows and minor children.

C. Very few 100% ratings which would eliminate most free Service Disabled life insurance policies.

D. Very few 100% ratings which would eliminate college education benefits for most dependents.

E. Very few 100% ratings which would eliminate health benefits for most dependents.

F. Very few 100% ratings which would eliminate Dental services for most Veterans.

G. Very few high percent ratings which would result in more co-pays for the healthcare system.

H. More 0% ratings which would result in low priority for healthcare services and, therefore, exclusion from the VA healthcare system.

If we do not hang together in an organized (DAV) manner we can say goodbye to our benefits. Surely the benefits of membership can be explained to our Veteran comrades.

Yours in Comradeship,
Wolf Biedenfeld
Commander, District IV

DISTRICT V

This article is composed of information gleaned from several recently published articles regarding

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veteran related issues. Excerpt of issues from some of the articles follows.

The Senate recently passed the Defense Authorization Bill for 2007. One issue of considerable interest was the call to accelerate full restoration of retired pay to military retirees rated as "unemployable" by the VA. Several years ago Congress voted to end the ban on Concurrent Receipt of both military retirement and VA disability compensation for retirees rated 100 percent disabled. Excluded from that decision, and maintained under a different formula that phases out the retirement offset, were about 20,000 retirees rated unemployable. Specifically, the Senate voted to make the effective date retroactive to 1 January 2005, instead of the currently planned 2009.

It should be noted the House and Senate took different paths regarding Concurrent Receipt. For example, while the Senate pushed to allow full Concurrent Receipt for unemployable disabled retirees, the House remained silent on the issue.

Other differences include the White House's Office of Management and Budget criticism of the Senate's SBP-DIC offset which exist, it said, to avoid "duplication" of two fully funded federal government benefits.

On a more positive note, President Bush signed into law a bill to improve housing opportunities and job benefits for disabled veterans. The bill authorizes VA grants of \$2000 to \$14000 to help families modify and adapt their homes for temporary housing of severely disabled veterans. The benefit will now accommodate young veterans with life altering injuries who live with their parents versus the requirement of owning their homes.

Lastly, and most unfortunately, recently some attempted to convince veterans that security issues surrounding the stolen laptop with sensitive data on approximately 30M veterans and beneficiaries benefits had finally been resolved. However, we just learned that a desk top computer with similar sensitive information on more than 35,000 veterans is now missing from a contractor. While the VA tries to remedy the situation, I suggest all must continue doing whatever is possible to protect against misuse or abuse of their personal information.

Until next time----

James Scott
Commander, District V

BPT / LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The U.S. Senate unanimously approved on 3 August, Senate Bill 2694, the "Veterans' Choice of Representation and Benefits Enhancement Act of 2006." If adopted by the House, the legislation will overturn a policy that denies veterans the right to hire attorneys to help them seek benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Under current law, a veteran has to exhaust the VA process - which may take years - before hiring an attorney. Attorney fees cannot start until that time. If the proposed legislation passes, attorney fees can start when the attorney is hired which means more bucks out of the veterans pocket. And, what is the success rate now? In 2005, the average BVA allowance rate among veterans service organizations was 21.7 percent while the rate for attorneys was 21.1 percent. The DAV is noted for it's quality of service by the National Service Officers. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

The VA is opposed to this bill as is the DAV and some other veteran organizations because it will most probably cost the veteran more out of pocket money, create an even greater backlog, and further delay the processing of claims.

Concerned veterans should contact their members of congress and ask that this bill not be passed into law.

Jim Roos

BPT/Legislative Chairman

VAVS REPORT

Fellow vets,

I must first apologize for not bending your ears the last two months. Life does happen and goes on no matter what we think.

In past letters I extolled to you the virtues of being a volunteer. At the Department Convention in June, our then Commander, Duke Hendershot, told of meeting a 100 year old veteran at the Kerrville VA. I'd like to expand on that meeting. The gentleman was proud of all the awards and letters he had received from various politicians and others due to his century of life. He laughed as he told us why he has big feet (raised in the Ozarks) and made us all smile. As we were about to move on to others, he told us to gather around him and pray. THIS MAN PRAYED FOR US! Not in silence, out loud. Comforting goes both ways.

Kirk Bennett

Department VAVS Chairman

Women Veteran's Representative

I touched on the fact that the women veteran population is expected to grow tremendously by 2010 in my last article. Out of curiosity I felt the need to get an accurate number of women veterans by state. The Department of Veteran Affairs has a very good web page for women veterans which is where I got this information. It is interesting to me just how many women have chosen to become a part of the military, of course it may seem amazing because in the early 1970's it seemed we were such a small group.....but look how our numbers have grown! You will also notice that Texas is in the largest number of women veterans.

**Women Veterans Population
October 2005**

The total veteran population in the United States and Puerto Rico, as of October 2005, is estimated 24.4. The population of women veterans numbered at almost 1.7 million. States with the largest number of women veterans were California, Florida, Texas, Virginia and New York. State-by-state totals (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and the Territories), follows:

Alabama	31,043	Montana	7,015
Alaska	6,945	Nebraska	10,765
Arizona	42,565	Nevada	19,155
Arkansas	17,797	New Hampshire	8,330
California	165,012	New Jersey	30,487
Colorado	35,843	New Mexico	14,625
Connecticut	14,803	New York	66,958
Delaware	5,848	North Carolina	60,337
D.C.	3,319	North Dakota	3,590
Florida	131,098	Ohio	62,485
Georgia	68,133	Oklahoma	23,697
Hawaii	8,487	Oregon	25,141
Idaho	9,436	Pennsylvania	62,922
Illinois	52,990	Puerto Rico	7,044
Indiana	32,085	Rhode Island	5,402
Iowa	13,675	South Carolina	32,016
Kansas	15,956	South Dakota	4,990
Kentucky	22,067	Tennessee	37,037
Louisiana	27,062	Texas	132,539
Maine	9,296	Utah	9,132
Maryland	43,666	Vermont	3,748
Massachusetts	28,295	Virginia	74,329
Michigan	47,558	Washington	49,930
Minnesota	22,879	West Va.	10,427
Mississippi	17,965	Wisconsin	27,213
Missouri	34,759	Wyoming	
3,808			
Terr./Foreign	10,399		

Disabled American Veterans

Total Women Veterans 1,712,117

Total 24,387,036

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, VetPop04, Version 1, at www.va.gov/vetdata.

I run into women veterans from time to time that have no idea what benefits are available to them, they know nothing about the DAV, they have no clue where to get answers to their questions and problems. We must work together to assist these veterans to obtain all of their benefits as well as make sure the ones that are eligible to join the Disabled American Veterans are given the opportunity to become a part of this great organization. In my opinion, as a member of DAV it is not only my responsibility, it is my honor to assist all veterans in these areas. In closing I would like to share with you a quote from Secretary of Defense Dr. William J. Perry from the Women in Military Service in America Groundbreaking June 22, 1995.

"The ground they broke was hard soil indeed. But with great heart and true grit, they plowed right through the prejudice and presumption, cutting a path for their daughters and granddaughters to serve their country in uniform."

Ladies, that is your proud heritage!

Yours in service

Teresa Johniken

Women's Veteran Department Appointee

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER



I must admit that this year attending the DAVA National Convention certainly started out with a bang! The day we left was the day the airports went on "Red Alert" due to the discovery of the plot by terrorist to blow up airplanes leaving the U.K. and flying to America. Instructions as to what would be "allowed" on board, and what had to be in checked baggage, even down to many medications, had people in long lines going through their carry-on bags and removing many items that ended up in large bins along the halls. Yes, they even got some of my things! But once in Chicago things quickly smoothed out and we met many fellow DAVA'ers at Walgreens cosmetic counter replacing those all-important make up and toiletries.

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As always, our Texas delegation jumped right in and quickly volunteered to serve on the various committees. My thanks to Mary Burns Michael, Americanism; Joyce Humes, Community Service; Angelyn Scott, Hospital; Priscilla Dupree, Jr. Activities; Mary Bergeron, Legislation; Chris Easley, VAVS and Mary Choate-Patterson, History for their service. I served on the Mae Holmes committee.

Betty Hall was elected to be our representative on the nominating committee and Louise Rapisand was elected to the Constitution and By-Laws committee. Other members sat in on various committee meetings to observe and learn. I think that is an excellent thing to do and I thank those who took their time to attend them.

At the Joint Opening Ceremony Texas once again proved that we have Outstanding Auxiliary Members when our own Mary Burns Michael was honored as the **Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year!** (Be sure you read the 2-page article about her in the July/August DAV Magazine)

And Texas is also very proud that Patti Rapisand was elected as the **National 4th Junior Vice Commander!** Terri Herrle was elected as our National Executive Committee representative and Mary Choate-Patterson was elected Alternate National Executive Committee representative. Our State will be well represented by these ladies and our Congratulations go out to each of them!

Our NEC Ruth Gates served in so many activities and did a terrific job! She really stayed busy! Jr. member Abby Gates did her share also, serving as "Security Guard of the Purses" when our members were busy and could not have their belongings right with them for a while. Thanks Abby!

Our hats are off to Jim and Angelyn Scott for the wonderful job they did hosting the Hospitality Room. They even served Texas shaped chips.

Other notable news from Convention includes the donation from Ford Motor Company of 11 new DAV Vans and a contribution of \$50,000 to the Jesse Brown Scholarship Fund, and, a donation of \$1,000,000.00 by the Harley-Davidson Corp., a new partner with the DAV.

Golden Corral announced their continuing support of the Disabled Veterans with their sponsorship of the Military Appreciation Monday-free dinner and with involvement with the DAV Air Shows and NASCAR events.

Gary Sinise, aka "Cap't Dan", and who is seen weekly on CSI: New York, and his band rocked the hotel with music on Fun Night.

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There is so much more news, please ask your delegates and members who attended the convention to fill you in.

Congratulations again to our outstanding auxiliary men and women who attended and served with dignity, time, and dedication and made it known that TEXAS stands tall in the saddle for our Veterans!

Alice Armstrong
Commander, DAV Auxiliary

AUXILIARY NEWS

2006-2007 Auxiliary National Officers

Commander Donna Tanner, Massachusetts
SR. Vice Commander Kathryn Wiley, Washington
1st Jr. Vice Commander Sandy Dobmeier, N Dakota
2nd Jr. Vice Commander Kay Egan, Florida
3rd Jr. Vice Commander Susan Henry, Tennessee
4th Jr. Vice Commander Patrice Rapisand, Texas
Chaplain Judy Uetterling, Ohio
Judge Advocate Carol Grey, Michigan.
Texas NEC Teresa Herrle
Texas Alternate NEC Mary Choate-Patterson

National Constitution and By Laws

Eight changes were approved to our National By-Laws and they affect the National Education Loan fund, Duel memberships, National Mandates (2), Fidelity Bonds (2), State Executive Committees, and Duties of the Unit Junior Vice Commander. These changes will be covered at our School of Instruction and will be in the new National Constitution and By-Laws book. Every Unit, no matter how large or how small, should order copies each year of the National Constitution book for each of their officers so that you are aware of the changes and comply with them. The books are printed as soon as possible following each National Convention and are often available at the National Fall Conference. All members would benefit from having their own copy as well.

Unit Awards

Congratulations to Unit #234, Stephenville, for winning the Americanism Award and to Unit #32, Oak Cliff, for the winning the VAVS Award. These Units went the extra mile to uphold the ideals of our organization and for dedicated service to their communities and to all Veterans.

Fall Conference Oct 5th - 7th

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If you think you might attend the Fall Conference in Cincinnati, October 5th through 7th, call and reserve your room today by calling direct to the hotel 513-752-4400. Be sure you tell them you are with the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary or DAVA for the special rate. If you call the 800 number you may be told that there are no rooms left. And from what we hear, they are really nearing that status now. You have time to cancel, but time is running out to get a room reserved. Remember last year many people had to stay in other hotels and commute back and forth as the conference hotel was full.

October is a beautiful time of the year to travel and the conference is where you may ask questions and get answers from the National Officers. It's a win-win trip to take and we hope you will be join us there.

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary had the following Population Summary as of 8/17/2006:

Life Members	5,919
Total Members	6,461

THIS YEARS GOAL is:

Goal	7,053
Goal percentage	91.61
UNDER Goal	592

BORDERLAND UNIT #10, EL PASO CONGRATULATES OUR VERY OWN PATTI RAPISAND

Upon her election as Fourth National Junior Vice Commander, she is very deserving and will do our unit proud. Patti is eligible through her husband, David, her brother Chris Barone, and her late father Salvatore Barone who was a Japanese Prisoner of war for three and a half years in WW II. Patti has served the State of Texas for over 25 years as Assistant Adjutant and the past 15 years as State Adjutant/Treasurer.

Patti and David have three grown sons Jason, Travis, and Ryan who are all graduates of the University of Texas at Austin. She is employed by Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth. We all wish you well, Patti, in your travels and work as our National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. We are very proud of you and our Love will be with you.

BODERLAND UNIT #10-EL PASO

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

A Chapter recently tried to use a Texas State Sales Tax Exempt form at Sam's to obtain a business membership. Sam's told the chapter they

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would be required to obtain a statement from the State Comptroller's office. This is the first time that I am aware of that such a requirement has been placed on a chapter. If your chapter encounters a like problem, call the Comptroller of Public Accounts at their toll free number 800-531-5441 extension 32097 for assistance.

The National Membership Director is asking that all pamphlets and Membership Applications that have a place to enter the person's SSN be destroyed. New pamphlets and applications are available from National that do not ask for this sensitive information. With the recent loss of computer data and the thieves who seek out such data, the DAV does not wish to become a target. Until such time as programs are developed to prevent personal data useful to thieves, this is a necessary step that must be taken.

The VA cemetery gravesite locator (<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>), online since April 2004, helps veterans' families, former comrades-in-arms and others find the cemeteries where veterans are buried. With the new online feature, people enter a veteran's name to search then click on the "Buried at" (burial location) link, and a map of the national cemetery is displayed, showing the section where the grave is located.

Received from: Alma Fuentes

**Address: 8750 N Central Expwy Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75231 phone 214-891-5778**

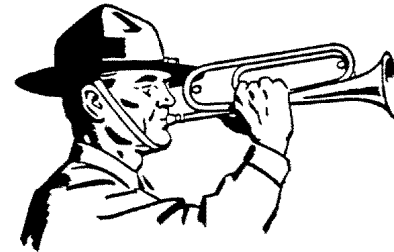
We have a small group that rebuilds homes for the needy in Dallas, TX (I think that's Habitat for Humanity) and we would like to see if it's possible to speak to someone in our area that may know of a veteran/family that could use help in building a ramp and fixing up their home. We typically will send the family out on a full day of fun while we work on the house and have them return that same day. alma.fuentes@richards.com

In order to save money in the publication and distribution of the DAV magazine, the intent is to mail only one copy per address. If more than one copy of the magazine is mailed to your home, please call the National membership office on their toll free number (877-426-2838) and report it.

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Let's use our DAV dollars for service to veterans where possible.

We elect out representatives and senators to govern our country. We, as veterans, have special issues that we would like supported. If you ask a person if he/she will support your interest and you determine that he/she is not willing to support you and your interest in veteran affairs, then cast your vote for one that will.



TAPS

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

Earl P. Huff, Ch 22 passed 7/24/06

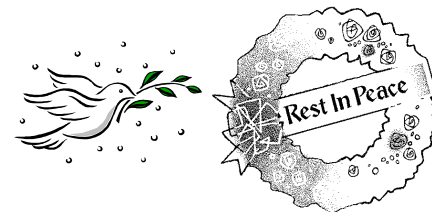
William D. Cater, Ch 14 passed 7/24/06

Russell L. Anderlitch, Ch 14 passed 5/18/06

Herbert H. Holmes, Ch 14 passed 5/5/06

Ernest E. Starr, Ch 14 passed 6/28/06

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.



JOIN COMMANDER'S ACTION NETWORK

Each day, members of the House of Representatives and the Senate receive hundreds of letters and e-mails from large corporations and well-funded special interest groups. It takes a concerted effort and a large number of letters, phone calls, e-mail messages, and telegrams to show elected representatives that there is a groundswell of concern about pending legislation. That's what DAV CAN is all about, getting lawmakers to act in the best interest of veterans.

"DAV CAN is the acronym of the DAV Commander's Action Network and it's like lightning in a bottle," DAV National Legislative Director Joseph A Violante said. "DAV members and their families who join DAV CAN are able to directly contact their elected representatives using language that will get their attention."

The Commander's Action Network will augment and use the tremendously successful DAV legislative issues web site. In the last seven months, DAV members used the site to send 17,000 e-mail messages to Congress and more than 1,200 people registered to become DAV grassroots activists. The DAV CAN will help increase that number through a coordinated, dedicated, vigorous grassroots campaign. By signing up members, supplying them with solid, factual information on critical veterans issues, DAV CAN becomes a coordinated, strategic, and goal oriented program.

"DAV CAN will remind members of Congress and their legislative aides that veterans remain a strong, vital political force in this country," the DAV National Commander said. "The DAV, through this network, will be able to bring to bear the collective clout of our members on issues that are critical to veterans."

The DAV CAN program will help DAV activists keep their elected representatives on notice that veterans issues are important to their constituents. DAV members, their families, and others who join DAV CAN will receive a package of information that includes postcards, sample letters, suggested letters to newspaper editors, phone calling information, and other materials to make them a vital part of the network. Those with computers can access the DAV web site (www.dav.org) to use the DAV Legislative Action site to send letters or e-mail messages to each of their elected representatives.

"It is through the dedication and perseverance of noble Americans like these that issues of honor are decided," Mr. Violante said. "Their commitment to serve disabled veterans and their families continues the tradition to repay the tremendous debt owed to the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our nation's freedom and each citizen's personal liberties."

"By becoming a valued member of DAV CAN, you demonstrate your dedication and commitment to improving the lives of our nation's service-connected disabled veterans and their families," DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman said. "By your active participation in DAV CAN, you will become an integral part of the DAV's grassroots legislative team."

To become a part of DAV CAN, contact:

**Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director
Disabled American Veterans
National Service and Legislative Headquarters
807 Maine Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024 or call (202) 554-3501**

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Grand Prairie, TX 75051-4896

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Permit #269

To:

TEXAS CONGRATULATES OUR NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICERS



DAV National 2nd Jr. Vice Commander
Roberto "Bobby" Barrera



DAVA National 4th Jr. Vice Commander
Patrice "Patti" Rapisand