

# Department of Alabama News & Views

May/June 2021



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**Editor/Publisher**

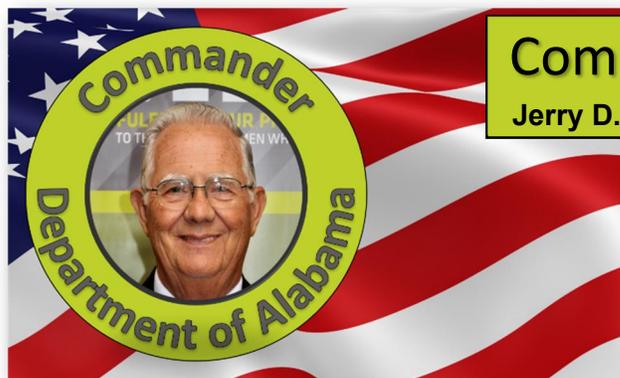
**Anita R. Perez**

[anita.perez13@outlook.com](mailto:anita.perez13@outlook.com)

# Always Remember...



Memorial Day  
31 May 2021  
REMEMBER AND HONOR



## Commander

Jerry D. Morgan

Sadly, we have lost some Chapter Commanders or other elected officers that the chapter had to replace following the chapter's Constitution and By Laws. If guidance was requested, the Junior Vice for their district provided the help on behalf of the Department.

At the Department level we lost the 3rd Junior Vice to the Covid 19 virus. The Department, following the Department and National Constitution and By Laws, had the current 4th Junior Vice moved up to the 3rd Junior Vice position. Having just a little over two months left to election we chose not to replace the 4th Junior Vice. Since the 1st Junior Vice was already helping the 3rd Junior Vice during the time he was ill, the decision was made to let the 1st Junior Vice continue handling the 1st District along with 2nd District.

Now, for some very excellent news coming out of Chapter 26 located in Huntsville. The chapter will be working with the city of Huntsville in setting up a Homeless Veterans program for the area. More information will be coming as the program is put into operation.

After 5 years of having input to the Department's News and Views this will be my last input. I want to thank everyone for their support during this time. It has been a real honor that you allowed me to work for you during this time. I have learned so much about the DAV and the Department, information that I will continue to use to help Veterans.

*Jerry Morgan*  
Department Commander

Greetings Comrades,

As I write this it is a little bit sad and happy at the same time. I became your Department Commander for a year almost two years ago. If anyone had said you know that this will be for two years and not just the one year that has been normal for the past 93 years.+ I would have laughed and said, you are crazy.+ By the way do we really know what was or is normal anymore?

As my journey started out as your Commander, the new Adjutant and I started working to improve and add to the changes that had been started for the good of the Department. We were able to make changes to the Mid-Winter Conference to reduce the cost for the chapters and the Department by cutting out the Saturday night Banquet and ending the conference on Saturday afternoon rather than Sunday morning. We joined the other Departments in the MALT+which are also doing this. We also cut out or reduced the reports by the Executive Staff to make room for additional training on subjects requested by the chapters.

We were able complete the combining of the virtual 2nd Saturday Town Hall Meeting and the 4th Saturday Training Sessions each month to just one Saturday a month. The training was also improved by having subjects that were requested by the chapters rather than just what the Department wanted to put out. The number of people who are now attending the meeting has almost doubled from the number attending either one of the prior two Saturday meetings.

We welcomed Chapter 100 in January 2020 as our newest chapter. They are the first new chapter since June 2011. They were chartered with 25 first time members and 3 transfer for a total of 28 members. Since January 2020 they have lost 4 members to death but currently have 38 members on their roll. We are proud of them and the way that they have stepped up and are serving Veterans in their area. They currently have 3 CSOs helping do claims.



## Disabled American Veterans Mission Statement

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

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



## Senior Vice Commander

Eugene Zeigler

Duty service who enlisted after September 7, 1980 and those commissioned after October 16, 1981 must have served a minimum 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called and be honorably discharged. Active duty service means full-time service other than Active Duty for Training. A DD-214 or equivalent must be included in the application package.

- Veterans with war-time service are given preference for admission prior to peace time veterans.
- Must meet the qualification as set forth by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs criteria for skilled nursing care or domiciliary/assisted living.
- Must have been a resident of the State of Alabama during the immediate past 12 months. (Proof of residency may be required).
- Must have had a medical examination by a physician that shows that veteran does not have, a medical or nursing care needs that the Home is not equipped or staffed to provide.
  - Services Provided
  - 24 Hour Nursing Coverage
  - Physician on Call 24 Hours

Greetings Comrades,

If all goes as planned, this will be my last News and Views article as your Senior Vice Commander. I want to thank those who have worked with us so hard to make our goals of helping veterans. We have tried some new methods that may not have been as successful as we hoped. My hope is that we see more younger members stepping up to become leaders in our department. Let us encourage them to do so.

On February 25, 2021 I attended a Putting Green dedication at the Colonel Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home located in Pell City. To be eligible for care from any Alabama State Veterans Home the veterans must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be honorably discharged from military service with a minimum of 90 days of Active

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- Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy on Site
- Pharmacy Services on Site
- Activities Program on Site
- Dietary Services
- Social Services.

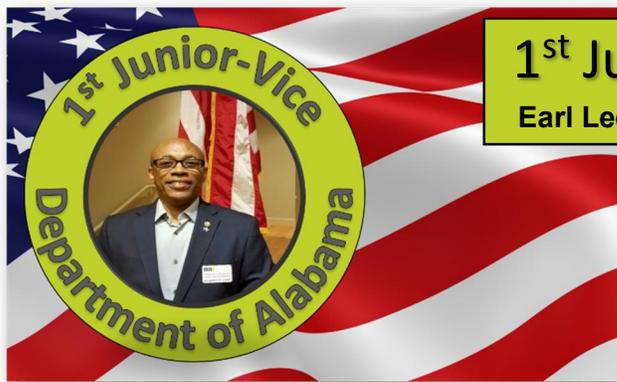
If you can meet the above requirements, then you can be accepted in this Veterans Home.

I want to let you all know that it has been my honor to serve as your Department Senior Vice Commander. I am asking for your support and your vote as the next Department Commander. I promise you that I will give you my very best and together we will continue to move the Department of Alabama forward. May God bless us all.

**Respectfully**

*Eugene Zeigler*

Senior Vice Commander



**1<sup>st</sup> District**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander

**Earl Lee Frazier**

**(1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

### **Chapter 26: (Huntsville) Submitted by Commander Jerome Anderson**

Commander Anderson / Chapter 26 continues to serve Veterans in North Alabama and the community. We continue to hold monthly meetings in compliance with CDC and local guidance.

Current operations:

1. Homeless camps: distributed several hundred coats, socks and blankets, under garments and other clothing items to five homeless camps around the city.
2. Continuing our partnership & collaboration with the Birmingham HUDVASH mgr. in providing mattresses for our Veterans in need. Currently housing over 400 sheet sets . ready for issue.
3. Relief committee. Continue to provide monthly support: financial assistance provided to (4) clients in need of utility and rent support.
4. Successfully conducted our 1<sup>st</sup> Women's Veteran Initiative with a kickoff virtual lunch & learn with Raytheon.
5. Interviewed w/3 different local radio stations sharing our DAV mission & outreach within the community.
6. Currently working on collaboration with Madison county Mayor's office to organize an outreach event to bring awareness of benefits to Veterans employed by the city of Madison.
7. CDR conducted DIC/benefits class after monthly meeting. Largest attendance since the pandemic (23).
8. Chapter 26 continues to partner with local agencies/church to provide food.
9. Handed out over 100 bags of food.
10. Re-launched our Spiritual Assistance team.
11. Re-engaged & updated our Chapters face book.

Comrades,

As we prepare for our annual DAV, Department of Alabama Convention a moment of silence for our fallen comrades we have lost this year. May they rest in peace. Continue to pray for their families as they go through these difficult times. Commander Scott was the Junior Vice Commander for District 1 and will be greatly missed. I had an opportunity to not only work with him for many years as he was the Commander for Chapter 12 in Montgomery. He was one of the reasons I connected back with DAV when I got back to Alabama after retiring from the military. We also worked together in law enforcement, although different divisions the greater good was achieved by working together as a team.

Although there is no new input from District 1 Commanders thus far but a snapshot view of the district will be presented during the state convention. The Commander, chapter members and auxiliaries continue to service veterans in their respective chapters. Thank you to all for what you do. Continuing to serve.

Respectively,

*Earl L. Frazier*

1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander

- 12. Ch 26 exceeded fund-raising goals for fourth quarter.
- 13. Ch 26 Life members continuing to increase, for District 1

Very Thankful for the commitment and support of our Volunteers!

Teamwork makes the Dream Work!

*Jerome Anderson*

Commander, Chapter 26

## 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Comrades,

By the time this issue of News and Views has circulated we will only be days away from our annual DAV Department of Alabama Convention so as we prepare remember to bring a face covering to not only protect you but also others. I would like to welcome our brothers and sisters in arms from the MALT, we hope the Auburn & Opelika area provides you a good staycation.

Congratulations to the chapters who have made mission and thank you to the ones who continue to service veterans while also bringing new members to the organization as a whole. During this edition of News and Views let's take a look at DAV Department of Alabama/Chapters 28/33/78 & 98 location. Thanks to all the Commanders and chapter members for all their hard work during the past year or so. Round of applause to our new chapter CSOs that have been trained, welcome to the ranks. A snapshot view of the district progress will be briefed during the annual convention.

So, if you are from the DAV/MALT (Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Tennessee) and on behalf of DAV Department of Alabama, District 2 Chapter Commanders and chapter members you are invited to our meetings because this is positively Department of Alabama DAV/District 2. The following is a consolidated list of events that chapters in District 2 have participated in or are going to participate in until the next issue of news and views:

### Chapter 1: ("T-town" - Tuscaloosa)

Chapter 1 has elected new officers for the upcoming year as follows (Commander) Annie Byrd, (Senior Vice Commander) Doug Taylor, (Junior Vice Commander) Linda Lee, (Treasurer), (Adjutant) Linda Champion & (Chaplain) Tawanna Jones.



Congratulations to all. I would like to thank outgoing Commander George and the previous line officer for a job well done the past year or so.



Past Commander Michael George recognized for his service

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#### **Chapter 4: (“Magic City” - Birmingham)**

Commander Hampton and Chapter/Unit 4 continues to serve veterans in the Birmingham area and generally the community. Commander Hampton and Chapter 4 has continued providing free food on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month, providing claims assistance, file claims over the telephone (leaving out personal identifiers, letting them fill that in and send them on to Montgomery DAV regional office). Our chapter is made of older veterans. If they can help please email them at [davbirchap04@gmail.com](mailto:davbirchap04@gmail.com) or call.

The Birmingham VAMC is open with limited in-person visits. The Birmingham VAMC care teams will contact veterans directly to schedule an appointment when the COVID vaccine is available, based on each veteran’s personal risk factors. More info can be found at: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>. The number to call is (205) 933-8101 extension 2881.

#### **Chapter 21: E. J. Kirkpatrick (Piedmont)**

Chapter 21/Unit 21 has no new updates to report at this time.

#### **Chapter 27: A. L. McLaughlin (Pell City)**

Commander Varner and Chapter 27 due to COVID-19 has prevented them from meeting at the community center but have utilized an alternate location. No new updates at this time.

#### **Chapter 28: (Blount/Cullman County) - Commander Cannon & PDC/Adjutant Richmond**

Chapter 28 elected a new slate of officers at their March meeting. Officers are: Frank Cannon-(Commander), Jerry Mortz (SVC), Dan Turner (JVC), Carl Frey (Treasurer), Larry Powell (Chaplain). Though not intended, Chad Richmond continued as Adjutant. Chapter 28 is very much involved in the planning of Oneonta’s Memorial Day ceremony on May 29. Adjutant Richmond will be the Emcee for the event which will host ADVA Commissioner RADM Ret. Kent Davis as the featured speaker. Planning and coordination with Golden Corral is ongoing to get ready for some fundraising throughout the remainder of the year, especially for Kids Corral.

The chapter continues to support the COL Robert L. Howard’s Memory Care unit with supplies for their arts and craft activities. In the near future, construction will begin on the Blount County Veterans Memorial Park which has been spearheaded by Chapter 28. It will be the fruition of a project that is more than ten years old. We are looking at the establishment of a similar park in Cullman County in the future.

Claims services have been ongoing throughout the pandemic and hopefully will get back to full speed by this summer. The chapter currently has four separate offices open in three different counties to serve veterans.

Chapter 28 is located in Blountsville (Blount County) at the intersection of County Highway 26 and U.S. Highway 231. Alabama Highway 79 runs through the southern corner of Blountsville leading northeast to Guntersville and southwest to Birmingham. According to <https://datausa.io> Blountsville has a large military population who served in the Gulf War, 1.1 times greater than any conflict: Gulf War (32), Vietnam era (29), Korea era (11) and WWII (6).

#### **Chapter 33: Chilton County (Clanton)**

Commander White has suspended operations for Chapter 33 due to the COVID-19 but assist veterans when called upon. No new updates.



Comrades Andy Haydu and Van Butler being presented Certificates of Appreciation.

Chapter 33 is located in Chilton County. The city is located in the central part of the state along interstate 65 with Birmingham (53 miles, north) and Montgomery (40 miles, southwest). It is also the former location for the Department of Alabama, DAV Commanders and Adjutant training. According to <https://datausa.io> Clanton has a large population of military personnel who served in Vietnam, 1.7 times greater than any conflict: Vietnam (172), Gulf War (37) and WWII (11).

## **Chapter 78: George Washington Carver (Talladega)**

Talladega is the county seat for Talladega, Alabama. The city is home of the followings: Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, The Talladega Superspeedway, The International Motorsports Hall of Fame and Talladega College. Located near east central Alabama along State Routes 21, 77 and 275. The Talladega name is derived from a Muskogee (Creek) Native American word meaning town and border indicating its location on the border between the Creeks and the Natchez. According to <https://datausa.io> Talladega, Alabama has a large military population of military personnel who served in Vietnam, 3.03 times greater than any other conflict: Vietnam (2,199), Gulf War (726), Korea (726), Korea (252) and WWI (182).

## **Chapter 98: (Anniston/Oxford)**

Chapter 98 is located in Anniston, Alabama (Calhoun County), at the southernmost length of the Blue Ridge, part of the Appalachian Mountains and is one of two urban centers/ principal cities included in the Anniston-Oxford Metropolitan area. Nicknamed "The Model City". Portion of the former site of Fort McClellan located nearby is now the home of the Alabama National Guard Training Center, Longleaf National Refugee and the Department of Homeland Security. The following highways run through Anniston: U.S. Highway 431, State Route 21 and State Route 202. Amtrak serves Anniston operating from New Orleans and New York. According to <https://datausa.io> Anniston, Alabama has a large population of military personnel who served Vietnam, 1.97 times greater than any conflict: Vietnam (846), Gulf War (430), Korea (124) and WWII (60).

### **Closing Comments:**

That wraps it up for this edition of news and views from district 2. I will be seeking higher office and would appreciate your vote during the annual convention. Once again thank you for your service!+ Airborne!+ Enjoy the rest of your morning or evening. May God continue keep us safe throughout this year and keep in contact with a fellow vet.

Respectfully,

*Earl L. Frazier*

First Junior Vice Commander



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander**

**Joseph Donaldson**

**(3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

No input for this issue.

Respectfully,

*Joseph Donaldson*

Second Junior Vice Commander

**We look forward to seeing**

**everyone at the**

**Auburn Marriott Opelika**

**Resort & Spa**

**21-22 May 2021**

**Department of Alabama's 94<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Convention**

### **News & Views Article Due Dates:**

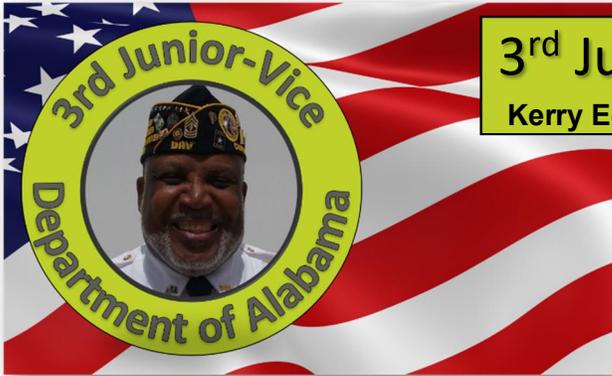
**July Issue – Due 20 June 2021**

**September Issue – Due 20 August 2021**

**November Issue – Due 20 October 2021**

**All Articles due the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publishing of the newsletter except for the January Issue! Check dates above.**

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Junior Vice Commander

Kerry Edwards

(4<sup>th</sup> District)

hospitality and a great time visiting. I would like to also recognize Chapter 9 enterprise Coffee County for reaching their recruiting goal and reaching a milestone of 2015 members. The following chapters have resumed their regular meetings and fund raisers: Chapter 6, Chapter 7, Chapter 9, chapter 45, chapter 87, chapter 94, chapter 99.

I hope everyone is looking forward to the 2021 DAV Department of Alabama convention which will be held in Opelika, Alabama June 21st -22nd of May. Elections for Department officers will be held at this time. For chapters to be able to vote for their candidate, you need to make sure you turn in your delegate fees. I hope to see everyone there.

Please everyone stay safe. Be blessed.

*Kerry M Edwards*

3<sup>rd</sup> Junior Vice Commander

Greetings, Comrades

I hope that everyone is doing fine. I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes during my surgery and recovery.

I had the opportunity to swear in the new officers of chapter 45 in Loxley on the 6 April 2021. I would like to thank commander Richard Steadman for his



## Department Meetings

<https://join.startmeeting.com/debbwalk32>

ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE  
TRAINING

When: Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 0800

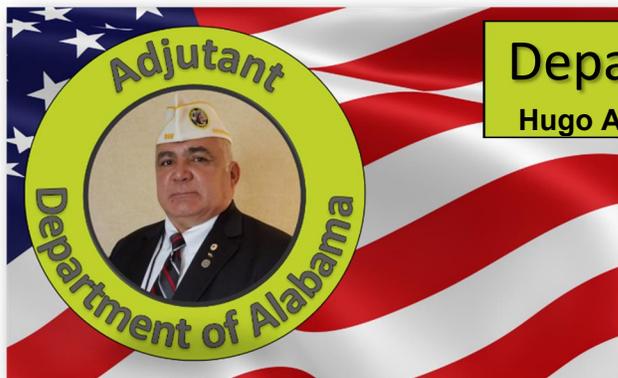
How: Call (319) 527-4759  
No access code needed



Tired of feeling in the dark?

Want to know what is going on in the Department?

Would you like a little more help in conducting DAV business?



## Department Adjutant

Hugo A. Perez

I want to thank Commander Morgan for his guidance and wisdom during these trying times. I look forward to seeing everyone and working with the new commander and executive committee. And lastly, don't ever forget .....**WAR EAGLE!!!**

Respectfully,

*Hugo A. Perez*  
Department Adjutant



Comrades,

As we approach our convention, I reflect on all the planning and re-planning we had to do and the steps we had to take to stay safe. The dates are fast approaching, and I am excited to see everyone in person. We had a pandemic that affected all of us, some more than others. We lost some friends and made new ones, but above all, we stayed strong and focused on our mission to help Veterans.

Next year, hopefully, will be back to normal, and we can have our fundraisers and membership drives like before. I encourage all the chapters to visit each other if you can and see how others conduct business. Reach out to the neighboring chapter commanders and offer help if needed or attend their fundraisers and show support.

I know this is our first convention since COVID, but we must also start thinking in the future. Our Mid-Winter will be on January 6-8, 2022. We will have our CSO as well as some other training.



## DAV Upcoming Events

May 12-15, 2021: Dept of LA State Convention, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA

May 21-22, 2021: Dept of AL State Convention, Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa, Opelika, AL

Jun 3-5, 2021: Dept of TN State Convention, Doubletree, Murfreesboro, TN

Jun 27-29, 2021: National C&A Orientation, Cold Springs, KY

Jul 24-27, 2021: National Convention, Tampa, FL

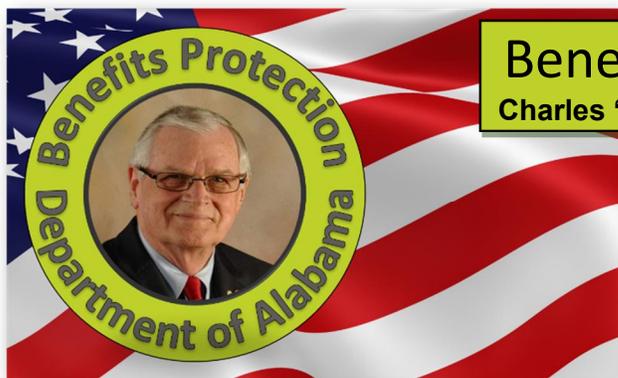
Jan 6-8, 2022: Dept of AL Mid-Winter Conference, Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa, Opelika, AL

Feb 27 . Mar 2, 2022: National Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA

Aug 6-9, 2022: National Convention, Orlando, FL

Feb 12-15, 2023: National Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA

Aug 5-8, 2023: National Convention, Atlantic City, NJ



## Benefits Protection Team Leader

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond

The Alabama Task Force for the VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Their Families continues to meet virtually and work on their program for Alabama's veterans. I am proud to continue as a member of that Task Force under the leadership of RADM Ret. Kent Davis and MG Ret. Paulette Risher. This past week we completed three days of video conferencing with the VA and SAMHSA's leadership and the Task Forces from six other states. I hope to have Kent Davis and Paulette Risher take my spot on the Department Convention program and bring everyone up to date on the mission of the task Force.

The State Board of Veterans Affairs and the ADVA are getting closer to the construction of the fifth veterans home, to be built in Enterprise. We will be conducting our July Board meeting in Enterprise and will announce the name of the new home, as well as be able to show some architectural drawings of what the home will look like. I am excited about that meeting.

While on the topic of the SBVA, one of the nominations we will have at our convention on May 22 will be the nomination for members of the State Board of Veterans Affairs to represent the DAV. Currently Deborah Walker, Charles Waugh and I serve on the SBVA. Debb serves on the Cemetery Committee and Charles serves on the Homes Committee. I can tell you that both of them are tremendous assets to the SBVA and work hard to make it serve Alabama's veterans' best interest. As the Vice Chairman of the Board, I serve as an ex-officio member of all the committees and would certainly be proud to be able to continue to be a member of that Board. All our current terms end on September 30 of this year and we, the DAV, have the requirement to nominate three persons for each of our positions on the board. These nine names will then be submitted to Governor Ivey's Appointments Secretary for the Governor's ultimate appointments.

On the State level there has been quite a few pieces of legislation that concern Alabama's veterans. The SBVA has been very active in advising and briefing the State Legislature on what we feel is best for veterans and have largely been successful. We are still fighting to get the residency requirement (SB123/HR225) for County VSOs changed so any fully qualified veteran could be considered for any County VSO position regardless of their current residency. Another piece of legislation (HJR28) will align the Governor's Task Force on Veteran Suicide with the Governor's Challenge. Both have the same common goal. One of the most critical pieces of legislation (SB364) would have a serious impact on the Alabama GI Dependent Scholarship Program. As it is currently proposed, we as a Board violently oppose the bill, as written, and I have submitted a letter, on the SBVA's behalf, telling them that. Hopefully they will consider the recommended changes.

Grant funding for the next expansion of the Alabama State Cemetery (HJR27) passed smoothly. SB104/HB156 would provide reduced lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for all Alabama veterans with 40% or higher disability rating.

Legislative battles continue at the national level by our legislative staff in Washington. S.810 and HR.1972, Fair Care For Vietnam Veterans Act 2021 would add hypertension and MGUS as presumptive diseases from Agent Orange. If you haven't done so, please contact your representatives at [dav.quorum.us/campaign/32438/](http://dav.quorum.us/campaign/32438/).

Another issue that has been around for a long time is concurrent receipt. S.344, The Major Richard Star Act allows concurrent receipt for combat medically retired veterans with under 20 years of service & VA disability compensation. Contact your Senators at [dav.quorum.us/campaign/32408/](http://dav.quorum.us/campaign/32408/).



[Contact your Senate Representative](#)

[Contact your House Representative](#)

On April 15, 2021, DAV's Marquis Barefield testified before the House VA Subcommittee on Health on women veterans and other pending legislation. You can read his Statement at [bit.ly/3n1r81P](https://bit.ly/3n1r81P).

Another DAV Action Alert is support of H.R. 912, the American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act. Contact your Representative using [dav.quorum.us/campaign/32318/](https://dav.quorum.us/campaign/32318/).

I know that many of you still have not joined the DAV's Commander Action Network (DAV CAN). I highly encourage you to do so at <https://dav.quorum.us/>.

This will take you to the signup page as well as allow you to click on the latest issues affecting veterans. Please join so your voice can be heard.

Lastly, the National Convention has been changed to July 31-August 3 in Tampa. Info on the convention can be found at [2021 National Convention - DAV](#).

Everyone please stay safe and take care of each other.

Respectfully,

**Chad Richmond**

Benefits Protection Team Leader



## Women Veteran Coordinator

Tawanna Jones

**The number to call when you don't know who to call: Want to Speak to a live agent?**  
**When you call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0, you will reach a live agent for immediate assistance or connection to the right VA experts.**

Greetings to my DAV Family and Friends,

First, I give Honor and Glory to my Heavenly Father, Thank You LORD for another day to serve.

It's that time of the year for us to re-new or for the first timer to take the White Ribbon VA pledge for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. As a show of unity and commitment, I Tawanna Jones are asking you to join me and raise your right hands and take the White Ribbon VA pledge along with me: %p (state your name), pledge to never commit, excuse or stay silent about sexual harassment, sexual assault or domestic violence against others.+ Go to the website: <https://www.whiteribbonusa.org/whiteribbon-va-pledge> . Come join me, my DAV Comrades and let's do it. Let do our part in sexual or domestic violence against our fellow Veterans and family member.

I want to share this Resource Guide with you all on how to help our Veterans when it comes to try to find the right answers for Veterans Affairs issues not deal direct to DAV.

**You have questions. VA has answers.**

**Call VA today.**

**1-800-MyVA411**

**(1-800-698-2411)**



Call for helpful information on:

- COVID-19 general information and updates
- Health care eligibility and enrollment
- VA benefits, such as disability, compensation and pension, education programs, caregiver support, insurance, home loans, and burial headstones and markers, among others
- The nearest VA medical centers, benefits offices, or cemeteries to Veterans
- Directory assistance and connection to all VA contact centers and VA Medical Centers
- Technical support for VA.gov

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- + Debt and payment options
- + Immediate transfer to the Veterans Crisis Line or the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

Take this page and keep it handy, it is an awesome tool to have, it a quick reference to a Veteran or family member question outside of compensation and pension claim.

## Jawanna

Women's Veteran Coordinator

*"Every day we live is a priceless gift of God, Loaded with Possibilities to learn Something new, to gain Fresh insights"*

# AMERICAN WOMEN VETERANS



Click here to chat online with the **WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER**



## Department Chaplain Debra Varner

From the Chaplain's Corner

### Spring Forth+

A season to plant faith, grow, and renew hope again. To my fellow comrades and families, in this season of springtime let us be encouraged again. In the spring of the year newness of life began for people and many things. The year 2020 brought many seed of doubts, worries, fears, troubles, and even death. There is still

time to sow seeds of hope, and faith if we are to trust and believe that the best is still yet to come.

**Isaiah 61:11**-For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so, the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. As we plant our faith in the one, we or you may trust and believe in, allow that faith and confidence to build hope and confidence in the garden of your heart. That which is sown in faith will yield a harvest to spring forth in the newness of life.

The God of your faith will cause your praise to be one of thanksgiving. The darkness of 2020 that caused many deaths due to the pandemic is almost gone. **Isaiah 42:9** - Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth, I tell you of them. Behold the Pandemic came to pass, not to remain. Let us with a new vision of hope, continue to encourage one another, pray for one another and the families who suffered loss. Together we have become that one body of strength and power. We are one nation under God, together we are the DAV.

You may reach out to me by [dhvarner3@gmail.com](mailto:dhvarner3@gmail.com) or 205-586-2419

Humbly Submitted  
DAV Chaplain of Alabama  
*Debra H. Varner*

## MY FATHER ...

Loves me - [John 3:16](#)

Cares for Me - [Psalm 103](#)

Renews Me - [Isaiah 40:31](#)

Protects Me - [Psalm 23:4](#)

Redeems Me - [Job 19:25](#)

Is Preparing a Place for Me - [Psalm 139](#)

Understands & Accepts Me - [Psalm 139](#)

Guides & Teaches Me - [Psalm 25:9](#)





## DAVA Commander

Linda Doss

During this pandemic we have lost many friends, family and chapter/unit members and gone through many trials that seemed impossible to continue on. It is imperative that we remember to pray for one another as we strive to do our best to do an excellent job in their memory. I challenge all of you to keep a stiff upper lip, get your Covid-19 shots and come to the Convention on 21-22 May 2021, at the Marriott Opelika Grand National Hotel. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the convention, getting reacquainted, making new friends and continuing on in the fine form we have always done. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Greetings to All,

This will be the last letter for the News and Views from your Commander. It has been a long, challenging and great learning experience for me, and I am sure for you as well. This was definitely a strength in unity event to make sure our mission for the benefit and betterment of our veterans was not hindered in any way.

Covid-19 really changed our program for one and a half years. As things are now starting to get back to some normalcy, it is necessary that we continue to follow some guidelines and restrictions placed on everyone during this time.

As the year is coming to a close, make sure the delegate form is completed and sent in on time. This is to ensure the units will have a voice (vote) at the Convention in May. We have accomplished much during this time with new, innovative methods of communications and meetings. You met the challenge with vim and vigor and let nothing stand in our way. Thanks to all of you for your efforts in making this last year a success.

Take care and be safe.  
Respectfully,

*Linda P. Doss,*  
State Commander  
DAVA State of Alabama



## NSO Supervisor

Mary Stovall-Moore

No input for this issue.

Respectfully,

*Mary Stovall-Moore*  
NSO Supervisor

### DO

- Refer all claimant inquiries to the appropriate DAV NSO.
- Forward all pertinent communication with the claimant to the DAV NSO immediately.
- Submit complete and current information regarding the claimant.
- Remember, when in doubt, contact your DAV NSO.
- Keep it simple and concise.

### DON'T

- Maintain any files on claimants.
- Attempt to fill out any VA forms with which you are not familiar.
- Submit any claimant correspondence directly to the VA.
- Promise anything.



Fifteen new Service Officers were trained on 25-26 March 2021 by new NSO Assistant Supervisor John Karuza in Montgomery at J. Paul Pitts Chapter 12.

Thank you, Senior Vice Commander Zeigler, for the use of your chapter and your hospitality. Thanks to NSO Mary Stovall-Moore for setting up the training and ensuring the location was within COVID Compliance standards. Thanks to John Karuza for being an engaging instructor and inspiring these new CSO's.



## e-Benefits Info

Once a decision is rendered in either a claim or an appeal, we will have the opportunity to review the decision prior to your notification. If the decision is in accordance with the law, we will release the decision to the VA and provide you with an unofficial notification by mail. You can track the status of your claim through e-Benefits by signing up at:

[Click here for eBenefits.](#)



## NSO Hours

VA Regional Office  
345 Perry Hill Road  
Montgomery, AL 36109

Office: 334-213-3365  
Fax: 334-213-5661

NSO Office hours for NSO contact/Interview:

By Appointment: Office closed.

Office hours for telephone calls:

Office is currently closed due to COVID 19.



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# MEMORIAL DAY

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REMEMBER & HONOR



## Department Contacts

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