

Department of Alabama News & Views



March/April 2019



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Editor/Publisher
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Volume 23 | Number 5



You are invited to the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

for the new

Mobile VA Clinic

Monday, March 18, 2019 | 11 a.m.

4444 Demetropolis Road

Mobile, AL 36619

VA

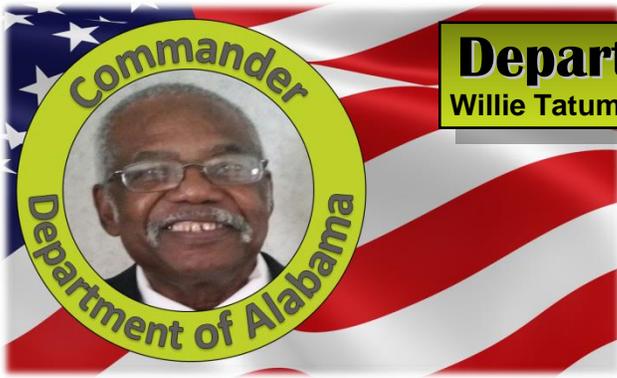


U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

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Tell staff taking photos or video if you do not want to be photographed or recorded.

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Department Commander

Willie Tatum

Greetings Comrades,

I hope that everyone had a fruitful holiday season. First let me thank everyone who worked to make our Mid-Winter Conference a success. A special thank you to those chapters and members who contributed to make sure that our hospitality room was a success. As always PDC'S Art & Faye Miller made sure that it was a success and a special thank you from all of us. I know that when you start naming individuals you always leave someone out and that is never my intention. You know who you are and know that I truly appreciate your help.

We had annual certification for both level I and level II. Thanks for our NSO'S for putting on an outstanding program. It has been my honor to represent Alabama at the Mid-Winter Conference and Conventions of the members of the M.A.L.T. It is important that we support each other in what we do and I want to thank them for supporting us as well. I know that by now everyone already knows that we have made our state recruiting goal for the year. Thank you to all those chapters who have already

made their goal. We have a ways to go so let's keep pushing. I hope that all of our chapters make their goal. That would truly be an outstanding accomplishment. By the time this newsletter is published we will have had our National Mid-Winter Conference in DC, where the National Commander will present our list of critical goals for the upcoming congress.

I am still asking all of our members to become members of the Commanders Action Network. That gives us all a voice when those issues come up before congress. Let your voice be heard. I want to encourage all of you CSO'S to submit your monthly report to the Director of Services by the 5th of each month.

I want to apologize for any misunderstanding about our Town Hall and Training sessions on the 2nd & 4th Saturday. During our executive meeting at Mid-Winter it was decided that we would cancel those meetings until we got feedback from the chapters concerning which Saturday they would like to have a combined meeting. From the feedback from our chapters the 4th Saturday came out on top. I understand that we can't satisfy everyone, although we try. My hope is that by combining them into one Saturday it will increase the participation.

In closing let me remind you that you have D.E.C.M.'S from each District. Let them work for you. Contact them when you have a problem. You might find out that you really don't have a problem. Let us continue to march.

Semper fi

Willie Tatum

Commander



Senior Vice Commander

Jerry D. Morgan

Greetings Comrades,

I hope that everyone is back in the swing of working hard for the DAV after the great Mid-Winter Training Conference that we had the first of January. I know, as for me, I really enjoyed and learned new changes that the VA has on filing new claims, some new

requirements and some new forms, or should I say new changes to old forms. For the past 7 years I have been helping as a CSO/DSO with claims, I think that the VA has made some great improvements in the claim process for the better. I really feel that we in the DAV have made an impact in the claim process and how the Veterans are treated by the VA.

If you as a veteran doing claims, a Department or Chapter Officer, or just a member of the DAV you need to be a member of the National Commander's Action Network (CAN) to keep up with what is going on at National DAV and what is going on with our elected officials. It is very easy to sign up. Just go to DAV.ORG, type Commander's Action Network in the search space and read the information. You will need to click on "read More" to read the whole article, then go down to the bottom of the page and click on sign up for Commander's Action Network. Fill out the needed information about yourself and you will start receiving the updates of what is going on in Washington and how you can make your voice heard.

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.



From all the information that I can find this is the fourth year since Alabama DAV was chartered in 1932 that we have made our recruitment goal. We have made goal and already are over goal, by 25 new members, as of February 10, 2019. Also, nineteen of the thirty-two chapters have made goal for the year and all chapters within the second district have made goal. A big WELL DONE to everyone for this great work.

The ribbon cutting for the new VA Clinic (CBOC) in Mobile is scheduled for March 18, 2019 at 11 am with everyone invited to attend and take a tour of the new facility. I am hoping that the clinic will be able to provide the care that the veterans need without so many having to go to Biloxi, MS or to Pensacola, FL for the needed care.

Respectfully,

Jerry Morgan
Senior Vice Commander

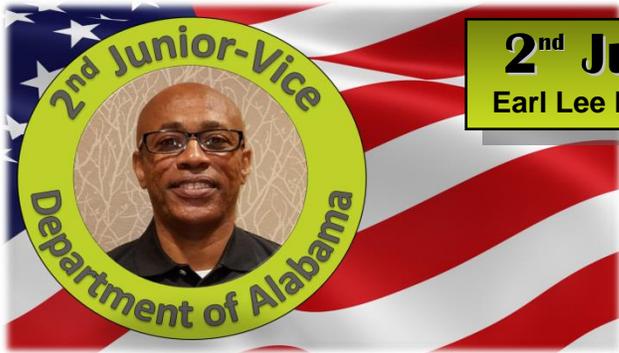
News & Views Article Due Dates:

May Issue – Due 20 Apr 2019

July Issue – Due 20 Jun 2019

September Issue -- Due 20 Aug 2019

All Articles due the 20th of the month prior to the publishing of the newsletter.



2nd Junior Vice Commander Earl Lee Frazier

Once again thanks to all chapters ahead of time for your future support in the Department of Alabama fund-raising activities. Thank you for your service. "Airborne" and be safe.

Respectfully,

Earl L. Frazier
2nd Junior Vice Commander

Comrades,

As we begin 2019, Happy New Year and on behalf of the Department of Alabama "carry on" with the great fundraising activities you have already scheduled for this year. On Wednesday February 6, 2019, DAV National along with the Montgomery Central Alabama Veteran Healthcare System (CAVHS) sponsored the Veteran Experience, at Crampton Bowl multi-plex center, the first of its kind for the capital city. It was a success. We had mass participation from veterans from all around the river region and other surrounding states. Thanks goes out to Commander Scott and Chapter 12 members whom had a booth set up for membership along with NSO Mary Stovall and her staff for supporting this vital cause for veterans. 2019 has already started on a good note. Keep doing what you are doing to gain membership, support and informing vets.

Two weeks from now is National DAV Mid-Winter in Washington D.C. This is the time for our voices to be heard. If you cannot attend remember to sign up for the Commanders Action Network (CAN), to ensure your voice is heard in support of legislative issues pertaining to veterans.

The Department of Alabama's Annual Convention is only a few months away, plan ahead in order to book a room in Opelika.



NATIONAL WELCOME HOME
VIETNAM VETERANS



DAY

29 March 2019

Department Meetings

ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE TRAINING

When: Every 4th 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

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond

Comrades,

First of all, congratulations to Mary Stovall-Moore on her selection as National Service Office Supervisor. Mary and her staff did a great job with our Mid-Winter Conference and our CSO/DSO certification training. We had a total of 142 CSO's and DSO's certified. And thanks to Juniorette PDC Debb Walker for putting together one of the most ambitious training sessions we have ever had. Hopefully it was some meaningful training for all.

I'm sorry that I missed a lot of the training as Debb Walker, Charles Waugh and I were in Montgomery finishing up the process of hiring a new Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner for Alabama. The selectee was Rear Admiral (Ret) W. Kent Davis. Admiral Davis has more than thirty years total service, including service with the US Army. His record is very impressive, and he begins his official duties on February 19. As Vice Chairman of the Board, I look forward to working with him.

At our Executive Committee Meeting during the Mid-Winter Conference we made the decision to have only one town hall meeting per month, with it being a combined staff meeting and training. After receiving input from the staff and the chapters, it was decided that we will have our monthly town hall meetings at 8:00 AM on the fourth Saturday of every month. Juniorette PDC Debb Walker will get all the bugs worked out on a conference provider and get the info to us on how to sign up. Hopefully this will enable us to have more participation in our monthly meetings.

I know that we just completed our Mid-Winter Conference, but our convention is just around the corner. At Mid-Winter, we experienced the thinnest conference booklet that we have ever had since we have been doing the booklet. We actually lost money in its production. For the last eight or nine years we have had a 10% rebate program for recruited ads. Your chapter will get a 10% bonus for every business ad that you recruit for the booklet. In the last year we have only had five recruited ads and those were all from my chapter. Other than Golden Corral, these are the only fundraisers that the Department has

throughout the year, so we need your help. Ad information is on the Department website. Recruiting for these ads gives you the opportunity to introduce yourself to your community businesses and leaders and gives you a way of talking about the DAV and what we do. We are our own worst enemies when it comes to publicity of what we do for veterans and our communities. Ads are due to me NLT May 1. We need your help.

Site selection for the fifth State Veterans home is still ongoing, but it will definitely be in the Wiregrass area of the state. I know we have a lot of members who are personally involved in that process. We will just have to wait and see. We will know more after the April 5 State Board meeting.

Congratulations to everyone who has had a part in recruiting new members this year! SVC Jerry Morgan has really been busy gathering and distributing net prospect lists, hot lists and working with the chapters in refining their recruitment procedures. It looks like there will be a fierce competition for Small Chapter of the Year, as there are three chapters fighting it out.

National Veterans Day is a long time from now, but there are a lot of things that are planned well in advance by the National Veterans Day Foundation Executive Committee. As a member of that committee, I coordinate all of the DAV's activities for that event. This year we have decided to do away with the World Peace Luncheon on Veterans Day. Even though it had a lot of significance concerning Veterans day, it saves us a lot of money and gives us more time to get things ready for the parade. All of the Veteran of the Year awards will be given at the Awards Banquet on November 10. In order to help with planning, I need to know how many of our members plan to attend that banquet and plan to be in the parade on Veterans Day. That helps us plan for tickets for the banquet and also how many rooms we will need at the Sheraton/Marriott Hotel. It also lets Gary Clements know how many vehicles to expect for the parade lineup. This year the DAV is the sponsoring organization, so our National SVC will be the featured speaker at the banquet.

As I write this, I am preparing for the National Mid-Winter Conference in Alexandria, VA. This is a very critical visit that DAV will be making this year, with many issues that are new. It looks like we will have a good group participating in the conference with several first timers going. That is always a great thing to see. PDC Culver is still working on our visit schedule, with several of our legislators not committing themselves to a day and a time until the last minute. But I guess that there are a lot of things happening in the Capitol right now that make the DAV low on the priority charts. You can help in our legislative efforts, however by signing up for the DAV Commander's Action Network. Just go to <https://www.dav.org/learn-more/legislation/join-action-network-take-action/> and sign up.

Respectfully,

Chad Richmond

Adjutant

Department of Alabama



Benefits Protection Team Leader

Laird Culver

Please, get involved at your chapter and in the department with benefits protection. If you do not want to lose your benefits, you need to be voice in the community, state and country. The best way you can be involved in what DAV National is involved in legislatively, join the [Commander's Action Network](#).

I hope everyone is well and it will be good to see you when our paths cross again.

Hello,

By the time you read this, we will have returned from Washington, DC where we just visited with the representatives of this fine state of ours. I thank all of you who were able to attend and there were some good policy goals discussed.

Laird Culver

BPTL

Preview of Critical Policy Goals 2019 discussed at National Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, DC

Sufficient Budget for FY 2020—Ensure VA is provided sufficient resources to meet health care needs of all enrolled veterans, while also fully, faithfully and timely implementing the VA MISSION Act—to include: Increasing VA health care capacity; modernization of capital infrastructure; IT development; improvements to hiring and retention efforts to fill VA's 45,000 employee vacancies; and implementation of a new VADOD joint electronic health record.

Implementation of the VA MISSION Act—Promote full and faithful implementation of the VA MISSION Act, including: provisions strengthening VA health care system; establishment of Veterans Community Care Program; and Caregiver Program improvements and expansion.

Women Veterans Health Program Improvements—Advocate for introduction and approval of legislation based on key recommendations from DAV's 2018 Report—Women Veterans: The Journey Ahead.

Burn Pits—Advocate for introduction and approval of legislation to strengthen research, improve documentation, and provide a "concession of exposure" to airborne toxins for veterans from all eras who served in locations that had active burn pits.

Improve Spouses and Survivor Benefits—Advocate for introduction and approval of legislation to improve benefits and services for spouses and survivors of serviceconnected disabled veterans to include elimination of Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset; lowering DIC remarriage age; and reducing 10- year rule for DIC.

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans—Advocate for passage of legislation to grant herbicide exposure to Vietnam veterans who served in the waters offshore of Vietnam.



[Critical Policy Goals 2019 - FULL](#)



[Contact your House Representative](#)

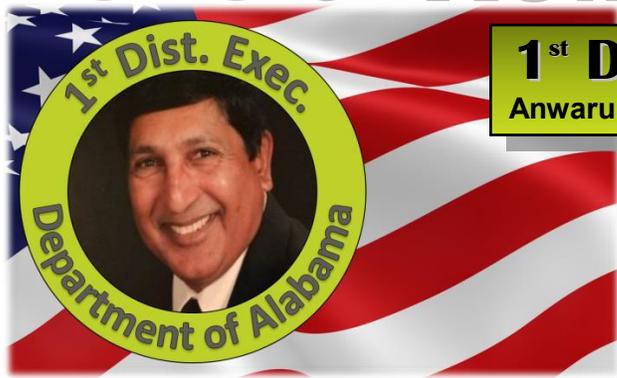


[Contact your Senate Representative](#)

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DAV Upcoming Events

- March 5, 2019: MSO Van Chapter 63, Sheffield, AL
- March 6, 2019: MSO Van, Chapter 78, Chamber of Commerce, Talladega, AL
- March 7, 2019: MSO Van, Birmingham Chapter 4, Birmingham, AL
- March 18, 2019: Ribbon Cutting for Mobile CBOC, 4444 Demetropolis Road, Mobile, AL
- March 28, 2019: Veterans Town Hall and Resource Fair, Birmingham VA Medical Center, Birmingham, AL
- March 31-April 5, 2019: Winter Sports Clinic, Snowmass Village, CO
- April-June, 2019: Just Be Kids Fundraiser, Golden Corral
- April 4, 2019: DAV/Recruit Military Job Fair, Von Braun Center, Huntsville, AL
- April 5, 2019: State Board of Veterans Affairs Meeting, Montgomery, AL
- April 13, 2019: National Commander Testimonial Dinner, San Antonio, TX
- April 27, 2019: DAVA National Commander Testimonial Dinner, Albuquerque, NM
- May 2-5, 2019: Department of Mississippi Convention, Drury Inn, Meridian, MS
- May 15-19, 2019: Department of Louisiana Convention, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA
- May 30-June 2, 2019: Department of Alabama Convention, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National
- June 19-22, 2019: Department of Tennessee Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN
- June 29-July 2, 2019: State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation, Embassy Suites, Cold Spring, KY
- August 1, 2019: DAV/Recruit Military Job Fair, McWane Center, Birmingham, AL
- August 3-7, 2019: National Convention, Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, FL
- October-November, 2019: Veterans Appreciation Fundraiser, Golden Corral
- December 15, 2019: Wreaths Across America
- January 9-12, 2020: Department of Alabama Mid-Winter Conference, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center At Grand National
- February 23-26, 2020: DAV National Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Alexandria, VA
- June 4-7, 2020: Department of Alabama Convention, TBA
- July 31-August 4, 2020: National Convention, Hilton Anatole, Dallas, TX
- February 21-24, 2021: National Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Alexandria, VA
- July 24-27, 2021: National Convention, Grand Sierra Casino and Resort, Reno, NV
- August 5-9, 2022: National Convention, Hyatt Regency, Orlando, FL
- August 5-8, 2023: National Convention, Harrah's, Atlantic City, NJ
- August 3-6, 2024: National Convention, Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, AZ



1st District Executive Committeeman Anwarul "Andy" Haq

Comrades,

The District one chapters are in full swing with their activities. Great things are happening:

Chapter 18 continues to operate its van and transporting veterans from the local VA clinic to the Birmingham VAMC for appointments. At the end of December they had transported 483 veterans in 175 trips logging 25,935 miles for calendar year 2018. This Chapter has a Joint DAV/DAVA Committee for Suicide Awareness, Intervention and Prevention, Commander Allison is actively pursuing this project. They have already briefed Chapter 28 on the Suicide Awareness, Intervention and Prevention program and got very good results. Chad is making arrangements for Pat Washburn to brief Marc Burgess at National Mid-Winter this year. The Chapter is in negotiations for office space across the county in an effort to open a CSO office in every town in Marshall County. DECM Andy Haq visited them and congratulated them on the great things this chapter is doing.

Chapter 11 is in the process of streamlining their current building and making improvements. The chapter always opens their meetings by honoring the POW/MIA's. This keeps members remembering that there are still POW/MIA's that need our help. The chapter provided food and financial assistance for lodging for two homeless veterans and are now assisting them with getting jobs. The chapter is also combining forces with their DAVA unit to bring attention to the Suicide Awareness, Intervention and Prevention program. DECM Andy Haq visited and congratulated the recent Chapter Service Officers.



Chapter 51 has come a long way. Their Chapter commander had to resign in the midst of pressing personnel and family needs. Financial assistance was offered by other chapters in the District, however, Chapter 51 decided to do this on their own. The chapter struggled and rose back up. They did fund raisers to bring much needed monies to run the daily operations. I am glad that the chapter did all this on their own. Chapter requested and was provided assistance by DAV State of Alabama for some assistance in getting the daily administrative operation back to good standards. DECM Andy Haq initiated the oath

of office for the new officers.

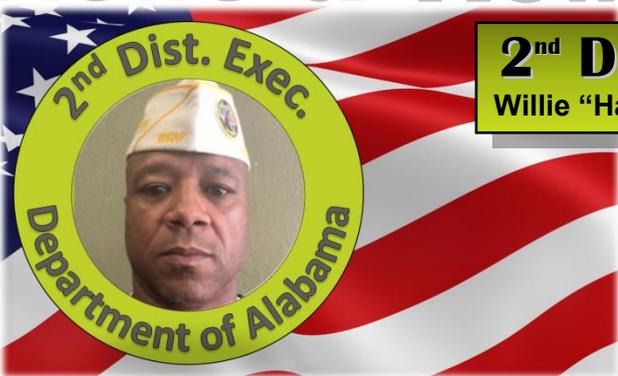
Chapter 63 continues to do fundraisers and their daily operations with success.

Chapter 26 is on the leading edge of this District. They provided more than \$5000 to assist veterans with financial needs (rent, electric bills etc.). The chapter continues to lead in helping veterans, their families and widows with disability claims. This chapter has combined forces with their DAVA unit and continue to visit State Veterans Homes and celebrate monthly Birthday parties for veterans. This cooperation's also provides Coffee and Cookies to the VA clinic at Huntsville. The chapter has combined forces with local organizations such as Raytheon, Saint Vincent DePaul Society and various other churches in assisting Veterans and their families with food boxes, financial assistance and helping some veterans get computers. They regularly team up with these and some other veteran organization to lay wreaths at Veterans' graves. The chapter is active at local colleges and universities in awareness of the Disabled American Veterans. University of Alabama A&M asked and chapter Chaplin did the honors for coin toss at the beginning of the home game at Huntsville, Alabama. The Chapter also visited Congressman Mo Brooks.

Respectfully,

Andy Haq
DECM -1st District





2nd District Executive Committeeman

Willie "Hamp" Hampton

Chapter 4

The Chapter continues to serve the immediate community and anyone in need. They service a lot of veterans every Tuesday by providing claims assistance. This Chapter is very proud of the food it provides to the public generally and our veterans specifically. If you know of anyone that needs food and can come to the Chapter, please email the Chapter at davbirchap04@gmail.com this is the best way to reach them. Chapter 4 will hold its elections on Thursday February 21 2019 at their monthly membership meeting.

Greetings Comrades,

I pray all is well with everyone. I hope everyone is having a great new year so far. The Mid-Winter Conference was refreshing at the new venue. When warmer weather comes in, I can't wait to get a round of golf in there. I attended a gala for an organization called the Letterman's two weeks ago. It is a veteran's organization that also serves veterans. There were a lot of veteran groups in attendance. I was able to meet and network with some great people, to better aid our veterans. We have months until our next convention, but I look forward to seeing everyone. In the meantime, if you need me please feel free to call on me. Blessings to all of you from the Hampton Family.

The following are some updates of the things going on around District two.

Chapter 4 will host the MSO van on March 7 2019. At the Chapter the address is 238 2nd Ave North Birmingham, AL 35204.

Chapter 21

Commander Freeman says the Chapter is looking forward the program for Memorial Day. They have been working with the city council on the particulars. Last year's program was a big success. The program will take place on Monday May 27, 2019, at 10:00. It will be held at the Piedmont Veterans Park. They will have six Ministers who will speak at this event. Commander Freeman says they really try to get the young veterans and the community involved. The Chapter's elections will be held on the second Tuesday in May at their monthly membership meeting. The city will vote on February 19, 2019, on a Fourth of July DAV Chapter 21 Appreciation Day at the Piedmont Aquatics Center. If approved that day will begin at 10:00 am and will end with a big firework show.

The Chapter reports there have been a large number of sick Comrades, but that they are beginning to return to their meetings.



Chapter 27 - On January 16th, **twenty eight** Square Dancers (from 11 area clubs) entertained the Veterans at the Robert L Howard Veterans Home in Pell City AL. Almost "**half**" of these dancers served in the military. Joining this event was the Alabama Artillery Group, all members of Chapter 27. The ALA Artillery Group recently performed their famous "Cannon Salute" at the Wreaths Across America (Dec 15) at Jefferson Memorial in Trussville. This group is available to perform "Cannon Salutes and Volleys" at many events. If you are interesting in having this group at a function, call Past Chapter Commander Joe Johnson at 205-451-3999.



After the exhibition, Chapter 27 Commander Carol Varner (above left) enjoys a quick chat with one of the Chapter's members, Alfonzo Burke. Amanda Herndon (above right), daughter of the Chapter's Junior Vice Commander Andy Austin, poses with Chapter member Ken Scoggins. Alfonzo Burke and Ken Scoggins both live at the Veterans Home – and rarely miss attending meetings at Chapter 27. Amanda works at the Robert L. Howard Veterans Home. The next Square Dance Exhibition at the Veterans Home is scheduled for March 27th. Notice: Chapter 27 is looking for a 'good' used car at a reasonable price to help a Disabled Veteran return to work. If you have any leads, please contact us at civ883@gmail.com THANKS

Chapter 28

The Chapter reports they really been busy during the last two months contacting all of their "new" members who came to them from the merger with Chapter 76. They state they have gained some really active members in the process. Commander Frank Cannon and Assistant Adjutant Gary Clements have been talking with business owners and local elected officials in Cullman County to let them know who they are.

The reception has been great and it appears they are going to have at least two service offices in Cullman County. Commander Cannon has been coordinating with the Golden Corral Manager for support of Just Be Kids so that they can give them as much support as they can.

Elections will be held in March with Department Commander Willie Tatum installing our new officers.

They are currently in a dead heat race with Chapter 33 and Chapter 13 for Small Chapter recruiting honors. Chapter 13 is making it really challenging, but that's great for the Department.

Chapter 33

Commander White reports that there is no new news at this time, but they continue to serve the veterans in that area.

Chapter 78

Commander Nelson reports that they will have the MSO Van on MARCH 6 2019. This year's Black and White banquet will be held on September 14 2019, 7:00 pm at the Talladega Family Life Center. The address is 405 West Battle Street Talladega, AL 35160. He will have tickets at our next convention. They had a Valentine's Day Ball and it was a nice event. The Chapter partnered with the 100 Men Community Support Group. This will become another annual event for them.

Chapter 78 is also partnering with the Talladega Career Center to help veterans get jobs. They also mentor and tutor teenagers and young adults to obtain technical skills. They also assist the local Armed forces Recruiting Center to help recruit for the military.

Commander Nelson is currently assisting an 80-year-old veteran to get admitted into the Col Robert L. Howard Veterans Home in Pell City, AL.

Chapter 98

Congratulations to all the Chapters in District 2 for meeting their membership goal.

Our CSO's are doing an outstanding job with claims assistance. It makes everyone involved feel good when a veteran tells you that a Chapter CSO assisted them with getting their claim settled, or that they got an increase in benefits due to the CSO's help. Thanks to our Chapter CSO's who do not punch a time clock, they miss lunch meals, and go out of their way in order to provide assistance to requesting veteran or veteran's family member.

We are preparing for our yearly fundraisers that will begin when warmer weather gets here.

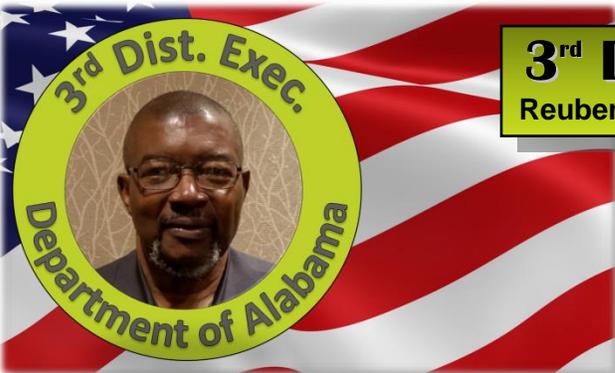
Our Chaplain Don Pilcher has also been very busy with visitations to veterans in the local hospital.

An unknown number of our members have been under the weather due to having the flu or flu related problems and we wish them a speedy recovery. This crazy weather is not helping things.

In service.
Respectfully,

Willie "Hamp" Hampton

2nd DECM
Commander Chapter 4



3rd District Executive Committeeman

Reuben Redd

AL. Also, NSO Michael Smith brought the Mobile Van out to the event.

I thank the 3rd District Members for working hard on recruitment of new members. Please do not stop your efforts because membership is the life blood of our organization.

Now it's time to start thinking about election of Officers in your Chapters. Contact me at 334-467-8036.

Sincerely,

Reuben E. Redd

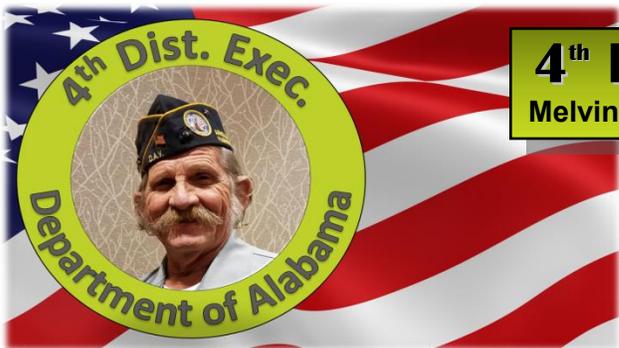
3rd. DEC



Greetings from the DAV 3rd. District of Alabama,

We had a wonderful time at Mid-Winter Conference in Opelika, Alabama, at the Marriott Hotel located at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course. The Service Officer Recertification Training was great. I commend NSO Supervisor Mary Moore and her staff for the informative training session.

During February 2019, the Montgomery Regional Office held a claims event for veterans at the Metro-Plex Crampton Bowl, Montgomery, AL. I participated in the event along with Chapter 12 from Montgomery,



4th District Executive Committeeman

Melvin P. "Mel" Apley

Festival held on the 1st weekend of March. Stop by if you are in the area. Plans for summer activities are in the works. An especial "Tip of the Hat" goes to Service Van Coordinator **Andrew Leon**. He has overseen the pickups, drop-offs and their seven (7) van drivers for several years.

PDC Juniorette/Adjutant Deb Walker reports that Chapter 7 will receive a new Service Van in April. Also, members will participate in two (2) fund raisers on May 4th. One will be at the **Bel-Air Mall Belk Charity Sale** with proceeds going to the local **Patriot Guard** in order to assist with operation expenses. The other is the **Spring Ride** to assist with CSO expenses. Another accomplishment is a new computer for their service office at the Mobile Vet Center. They are still working on a printer/scanner and the installation of separate phone and WIFI lines as Vet Center. Regulations will not allow use of VA phone lines.

Chapter 9's **Commander Tom Ferguson** advises that the chapter has moved their breakfast meetings to **Po-Folks Restaurant** in Enterprise. Same day at the same time on March 2nd and April 27th

Fusacky's of Saraland, AL has pledged a very generous donation toward the purchase of Chapter 35's new Service Van. This will be their first and they still have a lot to do before it can be delivered. Plans include a membership drive and a Forget -Me-Not fundraiser. However, dates have not been set yet.

FROM THE TRUNK OF THE ROLLING OFFICE,

Others have penned about all that there is to be said concerning our Mid-Winter Conference so suffice to add that old friends were afforded the opportunity to catch up on life, acquaintances were renewed and new attendees were introduced to a multitude of members. As always, questions were answered, problems were resolved. Through it all, District 4's Chapters were well represented and came home with 55 CSO's, including **new CSO's Steve Browning Ch 7; Terry Brooks, Tom Grandinetti, Don Haplin, & Steve Resteivo Ch 9; Leon Grove Ch 35; Alan Barnes Ch 45; Wayne Maddox Ch 87; and Larry Cochran Ch 94.** Congratulations to all.

Chapter 6 plans to again hold a membership drive/fundraiser during the **Elberta, AL Sausage**



On Jan. 17th, **Commander Rick Steadman** and **DAVA Commander Linda Steadman** attended the **North Baldwin Career Center Veterans Job Fair**. On the 18th, they were invited to a veteran's appreciation celebration prior to the grand opening of the only **Buc-ees** outside of Texas. This company gives employment preference to veterans. April 13-16 is the **Annual Strawberry Festival** at **Loxley, AL** during which Chapter 45 will hold a **Forget-Me-Not** drive. Proceeds will assist local veterans. On May 4, the chapter is planning to attend the **Malbis Mall Belk Charity Sale**.



Commander Val Obergon reports that rewiring of Chapter 53's office is now completed. All that remains is installation of Hot-Spot and setup of system.

Chapter 87 hosted a **Women Veterans Forum** on February 16th. Although attendance was less than expected, **Commander Dan Blackman** feels that this first event provides a good foundation for future forums. Ticket sales are moving along on their **Henry Rifle Drawing** to be held in June. Members have been invited to attend **PDC Art Millers' Pork Roast Sales** to benefit the **VVA's Homeless Veterans** program. Working together for the benefit of others!

Commander Fay Miller of Chapter 94 reports that their new office has helped to enhance the community perspective of DAV's quality service work. She now has a new staff and the executive officers are stepping up to the plate. All things are moving along smoothly.

New Brockton Chapter 99 will hold **Forget-Me-Not** events on Mar 16th at the **Elba Food Giant** and the **Geneva Wal-Mart**. Proceeds are earmarked for Hurricane relief in Northwest Florida. They also will be serving their 6th annual **Breakfast for Veterans** during the 4 day **Spring Rally** known as **Thundering Woods**. This is held in Jack, AL from May 24th through May 27th.

As of today, there still has not been any paperwork or applications submitted concerning any of the new positions for Department Officers. It is hard to believe that of all the active members in the largest District, only one person has shown any interest. It would be most unfortunate to have the 4th District represented by someone from one another part of the state whose main interest lies within their area. Paperwork must be submitted to **Chad Richmond** no later than **May 1**.

Now for the Good Stuff! Chapter 45 will be hosting a **4th District Luncheon on Friday, April 5th**, at the **Loxley Community Center, Loxley AL**. Hours are from 10:00am until 2:00pm. As this is an "unofficial" meeting, open-forum topics are planned. This is going to cost, so please advise **Commander Rick Steadman** of how many of your members will attend. More info will be given to Chapter Commanders.

Looks like this year is starting off just as busy as last year ended! So down the road with the Rolling Office.

Stay Safe

Melvin P. Apley
4th DEC





Women's Veterans of Alabama

Tawanna Jones



#1 stood up for Women Veterans.

I also want to send out a BIG THANK YOU to Dothan Chapter #87 for the invitation to do a Women Veterans Workshop. The event was awesome; the workshop took place Saturday, February 16, 2019 at the Mixon Business Center, Dothan, Alabama. Commander Blackman also gave us a tour and an oral presentation of their daily operations. The Women Veterans in attendance were very appreciative and were excited about receiving information about their benefits. The workshop consisted of a presentation, questions and answers session about State and Federal Benefits, lunch (provided by Chapter 87), and compensation claims being done on the spot. The Women Veterans also signed up for their e-benefit accounts. Thank You DAV Chapter #87, Dothan Alabama for "Standing up behind Women Veterans".

Greetings to my DAV Family and Friends,

First, I give Honor and Glory to my Heavenly Father, God for all that I am.

Happy New Year to all my DAV family and Veterans. I enjoyed seeing you all at the DAV Mid-Winter Conference. The question was asked "Are You Ready?" and the response was AWESOME! Thank you for all the feedback. It is time to get to work for our Women Veterans. There are over 44,000 Women Veterans in the State of Alabama. Yes! We are Ready, and as a team we can work together to help Women Veterans overcome the barriers that prevent many of our Women Veterans from accessing their State and Federal Benefits they have earned through their military service. Let's continue to have Women Veterans Workshops and educate them on their benefits as a Veteran. Yes, Women are Veterans Too! We still have Women Veterans that feel they're not a Veteran or have been treated as if they're not a Veteran. Call out to all the Alabama Chapters to continue to stand up for women Veterans.



Sending out a BIG THANK YOU to Tuscaloosa Chapter #1 for their support of box lunches for the "Go Red for Women" Healthy Heart Event at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. Tuscaloosa Chapter

Finally, I want to give BIG THANK YOU to Annie Byrd of DAV Chapter #1, Tuscaloosa Alabama for all her help and support. Annie Byrd (Retired Coast Guard) A WOMAN VETERAN STANDS UP FOR WOMEN VETERANS. Thank You!!!



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March is Women History Month. I just want to give a shout out and a BIG THANK YOU to two Women Veterans who made history with The Department of Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Delphine Metcalf-Foster, the first Women Veteran National Commander August 2017 – July 2018, and Debb Walker First Women Veteran Commander for the Alabama State Department, DAV, July 2017 – June 2018. Thank you for your service.

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

Respectfully,

Jawanna

Women’s Veteran Coordinator



AMERICAN WOMEN VETERANS





Department Chaplain

Debra Varner

From the Chaplain's Corner

Greetings to all,

As we began this New Year 2019, keep in mind that we should encourage one another along the pathway of life. Hardship, trials and difficulties are a regular part of life for every person. The Apostle Paul compares Christian life to a race he endured by keeping the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). To fight the good fight of faith means that we stand firmly anchored in the Word in the power of the Spirit, reckoning ourselves dead to our feelings and our human reasoning, not letting sin rule in our mortal body by obeying its lusts.

It can be painful to watch a friend or family member go through trials and become discouraged. While you

may not be able to fix someone's circumstances, your encouragement can be instrumental in changing their perspective. Ultimately, a person's perspective controls the way they feel and react to situations.

As you listen to friends, family, and fellow comrades, you can remind them and yourself the word of encouragement in John 16:33. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Acknowledging another person's experiences goes a long way in helping them feel valued. Help them focus on God's perspective of earthly trials. 1 Peter 5:10 declares that "the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

There are many uplifting words you can share, but God's words are "life to those that find them and they heal the whole body." (Proverbs 4:22)

Be Encouraged,

Debra H. Varner

DAV Chaplain.



MY FATHER ...

Loves me [John 3:16](#)

Cares for Me [Psalm 103](#)

Renews Me [Isaiah 40:31](#)

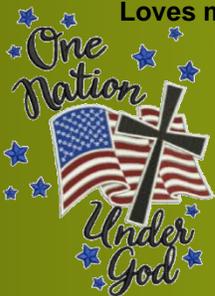
Protects Me [Psalm 23:4](#)

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

Marilyn Todd Edwards

BUILD...BUILD....BUILD!!!

Hello ALL!

My hat is off to all the Units and DAVA Department staff that made Mid-Winter Conference an enormous success!!! Everyone's participation in the

training and support of our fundraising efforts was great!!! Thank you, Units for your donations for fundraiser. Great job Jr. Vice Commander Green for all you did to bring it all off.

Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center At Grand National
3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail
Opelika AL 36801

Congratulations Alabama Units for being one of the first states to make quota this year! Give yourselves a hand for all your hard work! We were able to add two quota ribbons to our flag at conference.

Remember Auxiliary members, it is time to BUILD! Build our units; build our membership so that we can build our efforts in assisting veterans and their families. So let's continue to BUILD...BUILD....BUILD!!!

Well May/June for 2019 DAV/DAVA 2019 Convention will be here before you know it, so let's start working towards it. Hopefully the Mid-winter training prepared you for completing documents so that they can be clearly judged when submitted. Now is a good time to start thinking about who will be appointed as the delegates and/or alternates for convention.

DON'T FORGET YOUR JUNIORS!

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (334) 596-9610 or mari36305@hotmail.com.

Marilyn D. Edwards
Commander



Upcoming Events:

DAV/DAVA Department of Alabama 2019 93rd Convention: May 30 – June 2, 2019,



NSO Supervisor Mary Stovall-Moore

Greetings Comrades,

Appeals Modernization Act

New/Updated VA Forms

The new Appeal Modernization Act went into effect on February 19, 2019. The new guidelines are listed below:

Listed below are the new forms that must be used when filing for VA benefits effective February 19, 2019.

If you are unsatisfied with any issues decided in the VA decision, you have one year to choose from the following **THREE** options. If you would like to proceed with any of the three options, please complete the appropriate VA Form within **one year** of the VA rating decision to maintain your eligibility to receive the earliest possible effective date. It's important to note, if there is more than one issue in the decision in question with which you disagree, you are required to choose a specific option for each issue you wish to pursue. Choosing one of the review options described does not exclude you from choosing another review option after a new decision is issued.

VA Form 21-22 Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative

OPTION 1: Supplemental Claim

VA Form 21-0995 Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim

This option requires the production of additional evidence that is New and Relevant to your claim. New and relevant evidence is evidence not previously considered and is related to the disputed issue. You have one year to present new and relevant evidence with VA Form 20-0995 to preserve your effective date.

VA Form 21-0996 Decision Review Request: Higher Level Review

OPTION 2: Higher-Level Review

VA Form 21-686c Application Request to Add or Remove Dependents

If you have no new evidence and believe that an error exists in your decision, you can elect this option by filling out a VA Form 20-0996. The VA will review the same evidence of record and make an entirely new decision. It is important to understand that no new evidence can be presented with

VA Form 21-526EZ Application for Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits

this option. An Informal Hearing Conference via telephone is available under the Higher-Level Review process. The purpose of the conference is to point out specific errors in the case. The VA will not take new evidence in the informal conference.

will make a decision on the appeal considering the evidentiary record and testimony provided at the hearing, as well as any new evidence. If you have any questions regarding the Appeals Modernization Act, please call our office at (334) 213-3365 and we will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Mary Stoval-Moore
NSO Supervisor

OPTION 3: Board of Veterans' Appeals

You may elect to appeal the decision to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) by completing VA Form 10182. You are required to choose from one of three options:

LANE 1: Direct Option

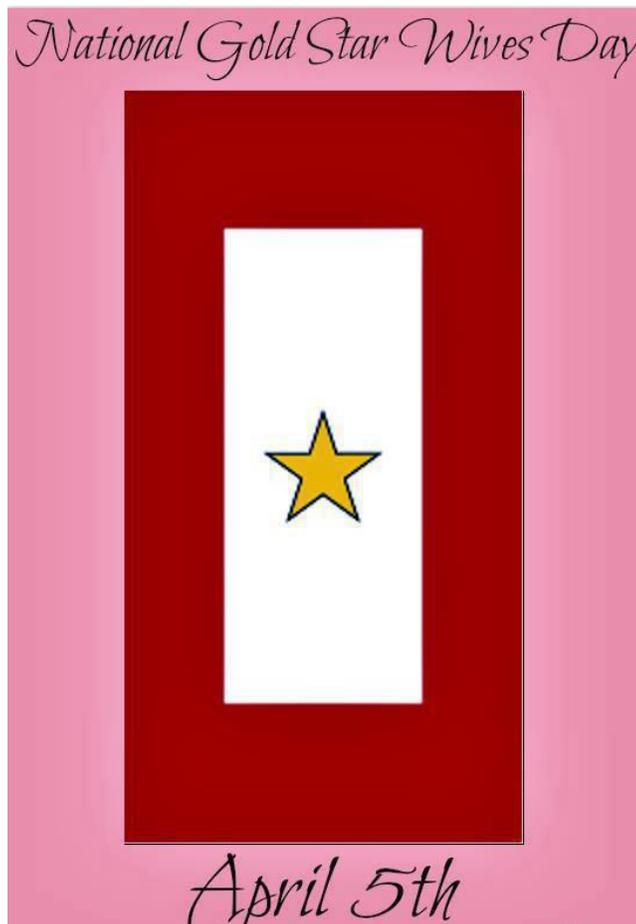
If you have no new evidence and believe that an error exists in your decision, you can elect this option. The BVA will review the same evidence of record and make an entirely new decision. It is important to understand that no new evidence can be presented with this option.

LANE 2: Evidence Option

Choose this option if you have new evidence and want the BVA to consider that evidence and issue a new decision. You will have 90 days from the date that your appeal was filed to provide the new evidence. It is important to understand that after the 90-day period has elapsed, the BVA can render a decision on the appeal whether additional evidence has been presented or not.

LANE 3: In-Person Hearing Option

You can elect to appear before a veterans' law judge either in person at the BVA office in Washington, D.C., or via live video teleconference from your local VA regional office. You will also have 90 days from the date that your hearing is conducted to present any new evidence to support your appeal. The BVA



NSO Hours

eBenefits 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.](#)



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: Call office phone

Office hours for telephone calls:
Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM



23 April 1908



3 March 1915



5 March 1942



13 March 1942



14 April 1948



Happy Birthday

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