

# Department of Alabama News & Views

July/August 2020



**Stay Safe  
Celebrate Your  
Freedom  
at Home**

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**Editor/Publisher  
Anita R. Perez**

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## Commander

Jerry D. Morgan

Most of the department chapters have cancelled their elections and are keeping the same elected officers. A new Officer's report will need to be sent in with the date of the 2019 election and the ending date in 2021. However, if a chapter does have an election after their normally scheduled month, the new Officer's report will be from the date of the election to the date of the next normal month for elections and not for a full year. The chapter will have an election at the normally scheduled date and month that they have been following since they were chartered.

Greetings Comrades,

National has cancelled the National Convention and Election in Dallas for the second time in its 100 years. The first time was during World War II. National is planning some 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities in the Cincinnati area in September once it is safe to do so. Update will be provided by National on the Website as they become available.

I hope that everyone is staying safe and have not had this COVID 19 virus that is causing so many problems and making history. We have had a chapter commander who passed away from the virus. If there has been another member who has passed from the virus they were not reported to the Adjutant or to me as the Commander.

For the first time in the history of the Department of Alabama DAV the convention was cancelled, and the elected officers will serve a second term. We are not alone in this. As of this writing there are 47 other DAV Departments out of the 52 Departments have also cancelled their conventions and elections.

We, your elected officers, have been working and having meetings by video and telephone. To date we have had two special called Executive Board Meetings to handle business that would have taken place at the scheduled Convention that was cancelled. There will be other called meetings as needed.

When a chapter is able or plans on having a fund raiser prior to the end of the calendar year and it will make over \$5000. send the information to the Adjutant as the Ways and Means Committee will have a called video/telephone meeting to look over your request and make a recommend action to the Executive Board for approval. If the fund raiser will make less than \$5000 just send the information to the adjutant with the dates and place of each fund raisers and good luck on them.

Some of the chapters' CSO offices are starting to reopen for face to face meeting with Veterans or family members to help with claims. Most CSOs have been working from their homes to do as much as possible to continue helping our brother and sister Veterans. I have been able to do claims from home on my computer by talking with the veteran and emailing the claims into the NSOs who are also working from home. This has been a learning experience for us with unexpected roadblocks that were unknown,

## 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.

unexpected, and just “what the heck” that we have had to overcome. i.e. unable to just call the NSO office for immediate help from an NSO or support staff. The adjutant and I have been able to talk several times a week and work with the NSO Supervisor, Mary Moore, on problems that CSOs have called us about as well as ensuring that they are resolved.

The Adjutant and I are working with the hotel to ensure that we will be able to have our Mid-Winter Training Conference in January 2021. The registration form has been sent to all chapter commanders and is on the Department’s website as well. We know that this will be a different type of conference than we have normally had in the past. However, who can say what the new normal will be.

As you know this is an election year and I remind you of the Dos and Don’ts that we must follow as a member of the DAV. Main thing is you have the right to support and vote for whomever you want to as an individual but you cannot do it as a member of the DAV and don’t wear your DAV hat or shirt to any rally.

Respectfully,

*Jerry Morgan*  
Commander  
Department of AL



## Senior Vice Commander

Eugene Zeigler

Greetings Comrades,

I have no input for this issue.

Respectfully,

*Eugene Zeigler*  
Senior Vice Commander

### News & Views Article Due Dates:

September Issue - Due 20 Aug 2020

November Issue - Due 20 Oct 2020

January Issue – Due 15 Dec 2020

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.

# STAY SAFE

## STANDARD PRECAUTIONS



Clean your hands often with soap and water and/or hand sanitizer.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact, putting distance between yourself and other people.



Stay home if you’re sick, except to get medical care.



Cover coughs and sneezes.



Wear a face mask if you are sick.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

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

Earl Lee Frazier

(2<sup>nd</sup> District)

Comrades,

Let's give a big round of applause to our new fiscal year 2020-2021. Also, as we welcome in our DAV Department of Alabama elected and appointed officers, let us continue to work together during these unprecedented times. Although COVID-19 slowed down membership for the DAV as a whole membership wise, we were able to maintain our rolls. That is attributed to each member doing their part for our success. Thank you, everybody, every member, and every veteran for your service. During the upcoming issues for News and Views, District 2 will look at each chapter's location and humble beginnings. The first chapter is Chapter 1.

Tuscaloosa, the location for Chapter 1 is in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. It is in west-central Alabama and is the fifth-largest city in the state of Alabama. It was named after Tuscaloosa the chief of the Muskogean speaking Indians. The population of Tuscaloosa is estimated to be around 100,000 plus people (around 16,000 veterans). Tuscaloosa also originally served as Alabama's capital from 1826 to 1846. Tuscaloosa is also home to the Tuscaloosa Veteran VA Medical Center, The University of Alabama ("Roll Tide"), Stillman College, and Shelton State Community College. So, if you are visiting Chapter 1 there are plenty of attractions to see and education facilities to choose from in Tuscaloosa. Commander George will expound upon the history of the chapter a little later.

The following is also 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. If you are from the DAV MALT (Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Tennessee) and on behalf of District 2, Chapter Commanders and chapter members are invited to our meetings because this is positively Department of Alabama DAV/District 2:

Chapter 1: ("T-town"-Tuscaloosa) - (Submitted by Commander George):

On November 18, 1948, the National Executive Committee of DAV certified and granted a charter to local Chapter #1 of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It started with 17 original members but at present, it has a roster of 908 members. Meeting places for the chapter began in Tuscaloosa but then moved to the old National Guard building in Northport. From there it went to Reform where the chapter Commander lived. It then moved back to Tuscaloosa to the VA Medical Center. Since the year 2000, the chapter has resided in the Highway 69 South Storage building in Tuscaloosa where it occupies five offices on the ground floor. Since 2015 the chapter has also maintained a satellite office at the University of Alabama where it helps students, staff, and faculty who have served. The chapter has six dedicated CSO's who help veterans navigate the claims process and provide a myriad of other services. It has approximately eight other members who assist with fundraising to help our Veterans and their families in their time of need. The chapter's overarching goal is to target and recruit younger (under 60 years of age) veterans who have shown an interest in becoming a "player" in chapter operations and leadership rather than a "spectator."

The chapter's meetings are held quarterly at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. Usually, 10-25 people attend these meetings. No fundraising events to report currently.

Chapter4: ("Magic City"-Birmingham) Commander Hampton and Chapter/Unit 4 have suspended chapter operations effective March 19, 2020, due to COVID-19. Their normal membership meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month starting at 6:30 p.m. They will continue to assist veterans with claims and utilizing their chapter food bank with meals for homeless veterans in their community once restrictions have been lifted and will utilize social distancing. No fundraising events to report. Speaking of Birmingham, the Birmingham VA Medical Center Video Connect (Telehealth) appointments have increased by 1000% since COVID-19. All construction upgrades to the Birmingham VA are moving right along nicely.

Chapter 21: (Piedmont) – Commander Hilburn and Chapter/Unit 21 have suspended chapter operations due to COVID-19. No fundraising activities are schedule to date. Their normal meeting times are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Chapter 27: (Pell City) – (Submitted by Commander Varner):

First, compliments to the creativeness of - probably Editor Anita Perez – for "*placing face masks*" on our News and Views Officers in the last issue. While it was entertaining and humorous, it was also a 'reminder' to everyone how important it is to cover our facial orifices.

Thank you NSO Mary Stovall for your informative instructions for us on June 10th when you answered several important questions presented from the CSOs. We appreciate your time and expertise. I hope more web-based meetings like that can be orchestrated while we continue to deal with the social distancing requirements of Covid-19.

Even though we are still under governmental social distancing restrictions, Chapter 27 continues to find ways to reach out and help those in need. While we cannot help in the 'money level' we are accustomed to, we continue to utilize our monthly discretionary funds for emergencies of Veterans who have not been called back to work yet. Right now, one of our concerns for the future is being able to resume fundraising activities so we can continue helping Veterans and their families.

And speaking of the future, who would have ever guessed ALL the changes 'one' virus could force. Recently, 1st Junior Vice Commander Frazier challenged us with two words: "Remember When". This certainly got us to thinking about the past as we compared it to our future.

Here are a few of our Chapter "Remember When's". Remember when we met every month – not just to conduct business – but to hug everyone in social welcome and greeting? Remember when we worked tireless hours at Golden Corral so we could collect necessary funds for military children to go to camp during the summer months? Remember when we gathered on sidewalks and streets during Memorial Day to pay our respects to our Fallen Comrades and remind their families, we have not forgotten them? Remember when we could visit our Veterans living in Veterans Homes and Nursing Facilities? Remember when we could talk to numerous Veterans or Veteran family members in front of Walmart or Tractor Supply while hoping for donations to help other Veterans? Wow. How easy it was to take these wonderful moments for "granted". We don't know about you, but we are looking forward to meeting and seeing each other again. Hopefully, it will be 'sooner' versus later. Stay SAFE – because our Veterans are "precious" commodities – Past, Present, and Future!!

Note: Chapter 27 has suspended chapter operations due to COVID-19. No fundraising activities are schedule to date. Their normal meeting times are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Chapter 28: (Blount/Cullman) - Commander Cannon and Chapter /Unit 28

Since our last newsletter Chapter 28 has continued to serve veterans in Blount and Cullman Counties despite the severe limitations. Claims have continued but have been limited to the telephone until the end of May. We opened our Cullman, Hayden, and Blount offices one day a week and have increased the number of veterans being helped. The chapter has been an integral part of the planning and coordination of another Blount/ Cullman County Honor Flight. It was originally scheduled for this September but is being moved until sometime later

next year. The chapter is helping the Blount County Museum and Operation Grateful Heart get the word out. Many of the chapter's activities in both counties have been canceled and rescheduled, but we are still alive and well.

Sadly, we had to cancel all our fundraisers with Golden Corral but will resume those as soon as we are able. We are going to try to have a meeting on July 11 at the Blountsville American Legion Post barring any further restrictions on gatherings. Even if we must "social distance", we still have enough room for a meeting.

Chapter 28 and Chapter 18 have had an unwritten partnership for several years now and continued that relationship with the passing of Commander Edwin Allison. The chapter has provided what assistance it could for Chapter 18's new election and installation of officers.

Chapter 33: (Clanton) - Commander White and Chapter 33 have suspended operations for Chapter 33 due to the COVID-19 and Thursday claims at the Chilton County courthouse. They will resume normal membership meetings as soon as it is safe to do so on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. No fundraising activities are scheduled thus far.

Chapter 78: (Talladega) – (Submitted by Commander Nelson): I hope and trust your Father's Day was great. I am a little behind on emails. Chapter 78 will be canceling the POW/MIA banquet for 2020, and hopefully, resume in 2021. We have suspended meetings until the standards change about the pandemic and the Mabre Recreation Center reopens. I (we) are still processing claims for Veterans.

Note: Chapter/Unit 78 normal membership meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. No fundraising activities scheduled at this time.

Chapter 98: (Anniston/Oxford)- Commander Cobb and Chapter/Unit 98 are closed due to COVID-19. They will resume normal membership meetings as soon as restrictions are lifted starting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. No fundraising activities are scheduled at this time

Comments:  
That wraps it up for this edition of news and views from District 2. Although COVID-19 has changed some things we normally would do, continue to support each other and the DAV. Continue to push membership using safe practices of social distancing. We also owe it to ourselves to attend the Department of Alabama, monthly Town Hall Meetings on the fourth Saturday of each month starting at 8:00 a.m. The info given out and discussed will keep you updated. The number to call is (319) 527-4759, it would be well worth your time.

Once again, "Thank you for your service!" "Airborne!" Enjoy the rest of your morning or evening. May God continue to bless each of you and your families.

Respectfully,

*Earl Lee Frazier*  
First Junior Vice Commander



STAY HOME STAY SAFE

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

Joseph Donaldson

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

Comrades,

I hope and pray that all are doing well and protecting yourselves I hope and pray that all are doing well and protecting yourselves from the COVID 19 virus.

It is with a heavy heart that I begin my district report with the news of the loss of one of our Chapter Commanders. I was informed that Commander Cherry Bynum, Commander of Chapter 40, Eufaula, AL transitioned (died) on May 16, 2020. On behalf of the Department of Alabama, DAV I extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Mrs. Barbara Bynum and the remainder of the Bynum family.

As a result of our current situation, most chapters are taking the necessary steps to protect their members by following the suggested distancing guidelines.

Chapter 12 – There were no meetings held. The Executive Board maintained contact by telephone and email in order to take care of the Chapter's business.

Chapter 13 – Held a meeting on June 15, 2020. The Chapter made nominations and elections of new officers. The new commander for Chapter 13 is Fred Pearson.

In addition, Chapter 13 was presented with an award for 75 years of service from our National Adjutant Marc Burgess. The award was presented by our own State Adjutant, Hugo Perez.

Chapter 14 – Commander Radley resumed his meeting by conference call on June 14, 2020. No election was conducted.

Chapter 31 – No meetings were held due to the pandemic. Executive Board communicates telephonically. No elections were held.

Chapter 61 – Commander reported no meetings were held. Executive Board communicates telephonically. No elections were held.

Chapter 66 - No meetings were held due to the pandemic. Executive Board communicates telephonically. No elections were held.

Chapter 95 – Commander Benford states he is conducting his meetings online. No elections have been held.

Chapter 100 – Commander reports no meetings being held. No election conducted. Commander communicates with Executive Board telephonically.

To the Chapters of District 3, stay vigilant, maintain focus and we will move forward together.

Respectfully,

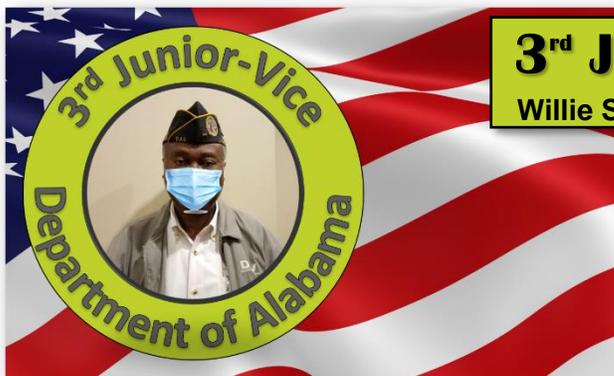
*Joe Donaldson*

Second Junior Vice Commander



Chapter 13 being presented with a plaque recognizing their 75 years of service. Disclaimer - They only stood this close for the picture. Please note the hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and box of masks on the table. They also did not have a meal before the meeting to reduce contact.





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

Willie Scott

(1<sup>st</sup> District)

Greetings Comrades,

I have no input for this issue.

Respectfully,

*Willie Scott*

Third Junior Vice Commander



### US Holidays

4 July	Independence Day
15 July	Tax Day
22 July	Parents' Day
27 July	Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
4 August	Coast Guard Birthday
7 August	Purple Heart Day
19 August	National Aviation Day
21 August	Senior Citizens Day
26 August	Women's Equality Day



### Department Meetings

#### ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE TRAINING

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

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



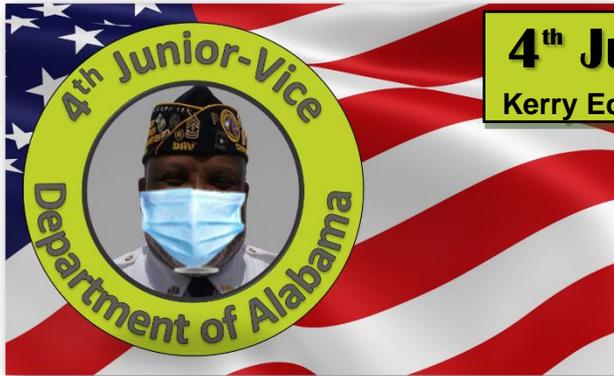
<https://join.startmeeting.com/debbwalk32>

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?

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Junior Vice Commander

Kerry Edwards

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

### Greetings Comrades,

Hope to find all doing well. As DAV adapts its practices in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while continuing as many of our critical services as possible. While DAV has shared guidance from the CDC on the things are changing day by day. While we are concerned about the impact this could have on veterans who rely upon our assistance, our priority is the health and safety of our volunteers and those we serve. I want to personally thank each one of you for your continued devotion to our mission and the men and women who served. Your dedication and commitment to care for the nations heroes and families is unmatched.

There were some chapters that made it happen. Chapter 9 held their monthly meeting June 11, 2020 and opened their office on an appointment basis. Chapter/Unit 87 hosted a luncheon June 6, 2020 at the Dothan VA Clinic for veterans and staff. Meals were donated by Bojangles, Chick-Fil-A, and Panera's. Also, Unit 87 hosted a luncheon for Nurses Week May 15, 2020 at the Dothan VA Clinic. Some members of Chapter 7 under the LVAP program, are making masks for the VA Clinic and the Vet Center in Mobile AL. I had the honor of installing the 2020-2021 officers of Chapter 99 May 22, 2020 in New Brockton, AL.

Due to COVID-19, the Department of Alabama June Convention has been cancelled. All Department Officers will remain in their current positions unless someone steps down or cannot resume their duties.

The 2020 National Convention which would had been held in Dallas TX in august this year has been Cancelled due to COVID-19.

I urge everyone to participate in the Monthly Town Hall and Training every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month @0800. This is the time that you can put in your input on any issue. The next town meeting will be June 27, 2020, July 25, 2020, August 22, 2020, September 26, 2020. October 24, 2020, November 28, 2020, December 26, 2020

Annual Finance Reports are still due September 30, 2020. All chapters, please do not miss the deadline. Let's get it in asap. If you need help contact me @ [kedwards30378@sw.rr.com](mailto:kedwards30378@sw.rr.com) or call me at 334-596-5217 or 334-648-5894.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

District Veterans of the year nominations due to 4th JVC  
December 1, 2020

Time and Place bids due 4th JVC December 1, 2020

Ways and Means fund raising requests due Department Adjutant  
December 1, 2020

Ads due for Mid-Winter booklet Department Adjutant  
December 1, 2020

Department of Alabama 2021 Mid-Winter Conference January 7-9 2021

Be Blessed,

*Kerry Edwards*

4<sup>th</sup> Junior Vice Commander

To learn more about the  
National Korean War  
Armistice Day  
Observance click [HERE](#).





## Department Adjutant

Hugo A. Perez

Greetings Comrades,

Well, it is June, and we are still under the COVID-19 watch. Today, our chapters are opening their doors to CSO work as well as regular meetings with much success, and as always following the social distancing guidelines. On June 12, we had an NSO-CSO question and answer session online. Our NSO Mary Stovall-Moore clarified some of the confusion within the CSO's, and I asked that we have such a question and answer forum every two months to keep the CSO's informed of updates as well as new forms and procedures that are implemented.

Our Town Hall meetings have been highly informative, and our director of training is always looking for subjects and instructors. If you have a topic that you would like to share with the department, please contact PDC Debb Walker or her assistant Scott Shoemaker.

Our Mid-Winter Registration form is online, and this Mid-Winter we will have the usual CSO training, but we will finish with all the other training on Saturday by 2:00 p.m. This will allow the members that live on the other side of the state the opportunity to leave early enough, and at the same time, saving the chapters, as well as the department, money. Our Department C&A training will proceed as planned with a date TBA as well as location.

As we all know, with the end of June, the financial report task begins. In the June Town Hall, our Treasurer, Anita Perez will go over the changes and the procedures to follow for a successful report.

On June 18, Commander Morgan, the Junior Vices, and I attended a teleconference with the Birmingham VA Director, Stacey Vasquez and the other Veteran Service Organizations in the state. Ms. Vasquez stated that the VA is at 14.1% above the national average in COVID-19 infections. At the Birmingham VAMC 70% of the ICU and acute care beds are occupied, and she can increase the number within

48 to 72 hours. They have two tests that they can administer. One is a Cephin test that can produce results in one to two hours. The other must be sent to Columbus which takes about a week to get the results. The rapid test will only be used in critical care or for patients admitted to the hospital. She also stated that she had ordered five walk-up booths, for COVID-19 testing. The process is simple. A staff member will be inside the booth with PPE on, and the person wanting to be tested walks up gets swabbed. At no time will the staff member have direct contact with the patient. These booths will be sent out to different locations. Presently there are three deployed. One booth is in the parking garage at the Birmingham VA, another one will be at the Huntsville VA and one is in the Main hospital. Presently the Director has not decided where the other ones will be placed.

Ms. Vasquez stated that currently, the VA has seen 477,418 Video visits and that slowly they are opening the clinics and are taking all the precautions necessary. The shuttle busses are in operation. They have limited the number of people they transport, and they clean the shuttle after each ride. Ms. Vasquez asked if the DAV leadership can speak to her about allowing our transportation network to resume, and she wanted to know what safety measures we had in place. I sent her the policy letter that the Commander sent out on March 10, 2020. As far as the construction in the hospital, they are done, and the DAV has a new office in the Birmingham VAMC. The last thing she spoke to us about was that she would like to establish a fund that would help with the caskets for Veterans that pass in the hospital and have no family.

That is all, for now, stay safe and as always "WAR EAGLE."

*Hugo A Perez*  
Department Adjutant



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## Benefits Protection Team Leader

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond

Greetings Comrades,

There has not been a lot of change since our last issue of News and Views. COVID-19 has really altered our way of life, including legislation, both at State and National level. The State Legislature convened on February 4 and adjourned on May 18. There are rumors of a special called session, but nothing for sure. If the Governor does call one, it will be most likely that it will be after the new July 15 Income Tax deadline.

Only two pieces of legislation were enacted by the Alabama legislature before the adjournment. <https://legiscan.com/AL/bill/HB66/2020> HB66, Authority for Economic Development Around Maxwell AFB (Act 2020-72) and <https://legiscan.com/AL/bill/SB143/2020> SB143, In-Bound Military Child Eligibility for Virtual School Programs (Act 2020-68). There are still seven pieces of legislation that did not pass.

Though it is not legislation, I am involved in a program called "The Governor's Challenge". The Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families is a United States Department of Veteran Affairs initiative to assist states in implementing state-wide suicide prevention best practices. The Alabama team, comprised of leaders from state agencies, the National Guard, universities, service organizations and veteran advocates, will work in conjunction with the Alabama Task Force on Veteran Suicide to tailor a plan specific to the needs of Alabama service members, veterans, and their families. There are more than twenty of us trying to examine the potential causes of veteran suicide, programs that are available and where the shortcomings are. With

COVID-19 still in existence, we meet via teleconferences. What would have originally taken us about a week to accomplish in Montgomery and Washington DC is now taking us several months. We are learning a lot about video technology in the process. Along with this President Trump has unveiled the roadmap for PREVENTS, to cut down on veterans suicides (<https://www.va.gov/prevents/>) This program hopefully will provide the necessary emphasis on veteran suicide that will enable some funding for it. Unfortunately, Alabama leads the nation in veteran suicide, so this is an especially important program.

For the Second session of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, DAV is working on the achievement of its five critical goals. ([https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_Critical\\_Policy\\_Goals\\_Full.pdf](https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_Critical_Policy_Goals_Full.pdf)) A couple of the key issues that the DAV National Legislative Office is putting emphasis on are H.R. 7111/S. 3899, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020 and H.R. 6933, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2020. The full list of DAV's Key Legislation can be found at <https://dav.quorum.us/bills/>. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of the DAV's legislative efforts have been via teleconference, as well, including an interview of Executive Director Randy Reese and House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano on the impact of the Corona Virus on DAV's members and programs. The legislative staff have also

Lastly, the VA's MISSION ACT implementation is way behind being totally implemented. Some of this can be blamed on COVID, but a lot of it cannot. Go to <https://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2020/va-mission-act-update/?print=pdf> to view the update.

That is all for now. Stay safe, stay healthy, take care of yourself and your family.

Respectfully,

*Charles "Chad" D. Richmond*

Benefits Protection Team Leader



[Contact your House Representative](#)



[Contact your Senate Representative](#)



## DAV Upcoming Events

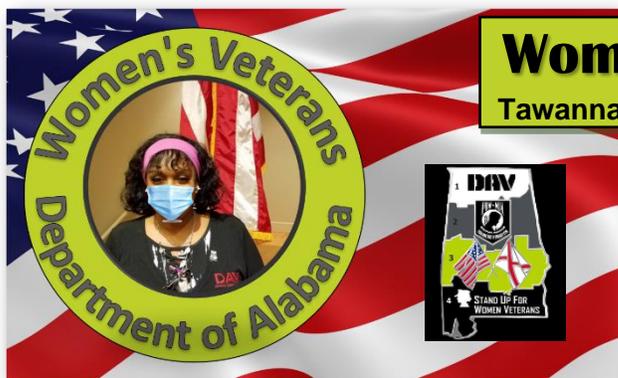
July 31-August 4, 2020: National Convention, Dallas, TX - Cancelled

January 7-9, 2021: Department of Alabama Mid-Winter Conference, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National, Opelika, AL

July 24-27, 2021: National Convention, Reno, NV

August 5-9, 2022: National Convention, Orlando, FL

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



## Women Veteran Coordinator

Tawanna Jones



Greetings to my DAV Family and Friends,

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

*Tawanna*

Women's Veteran Coordinator

# WE ARE NOT INVISIBLE



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## Department Chaplain

Debra Varner

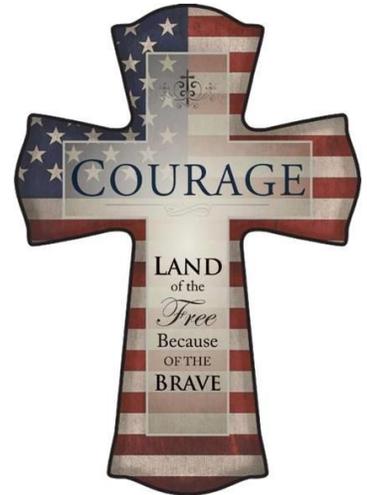
and protect you from deadly disease 4-He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection

We are in a strange season of not knowing what to do or to whom to turn too. According to the scripture above, we have a hiding place in God. Let us take confidence in His promises of protecting us from the deadly diseases-in order for us to be protected we must use wisdom.

Wisdom tells us to remain at home or a safe place, unless it is necessary to leave (job, food, or medical reasons). Wisdom also tells us to keep social distance whenever you are out and about, check on your love ones and neighbors far and near. Our trust and faith in God is "this too will pass". Let us continue to pray for the families whose loved ones has transition, due to a natural death or due to COVID-19.

"Let's Stay Safe" We can do this together

The Blessings of the Lord



*Debra H. Varner*

DAV Chaplain,  
Department of Alabama

From the Chaplain Corner

"Together"

Psalms 91:1-4 NLT-1 Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2-This I declare about the Lord He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.3-For he will rescue you from every trap

## MY FATHER ...

Loves me - John 3:16

Cares for Me - Psalms 103

Renews Me - Isaiah 40:31

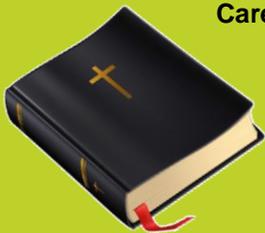
Protects Me - Psalms 23:4

Redeems Me - Job 19:25

Is Preparing a Place for Me - Psalms 139

Understands & Accepts Me - Psalms 139

Guides & Teaches Me - Psalms 25:9



## DAVA Commander

Linda Doss

I want to thank everyone in all positions for their promptness in answering the mail outs, emails and hard copy mail to get everything set up for the new 2020-2021 year. It may not seem like very much, but it is essential to get all of this done in time for National Convention with representatives from our state to attend so we have a vote!

We are going to have Mid-Winter Conference in January of 2021. It will be at the same location as the last one at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National from 7-9 January 2021. Be sure to get registered early so there will be no problems with rooms being available for those who want to attend. The rates have gone up so take that into consideration when you ask your unit members to attend. I hope this does not hinder anyone from attending. We need all the participation we can get to bolster our funds this go around. Our State Junior Vice is ready and willing to do her job, so let us help.

Greetings to all Auxiliary members,

Here we go again for round two. Because of the so-called pandemic, we are making history all the way around.

As we get back into our normal routines before the crisis, remember to follow the rules in our by-laws and constitution. It is important to continue even if new elections are not held right away. Keep in mind the yearly financial report is due at the same time every year. Do not forget to get this one done and in on time! If you need help with the financial report, DON'T HESITATE to call and get help, please do not flounder and miss the deadline. The Adjutant, Treasurer and State Commander are willing to help. We always need to keep National happy. If they are not happy, we will not be happy either. We have managed to do well so far, let us keep up the good work!

I will be doing some traveling and I hope to be able to do some visiting with units this year. Keep watch with the emails sent, letters and mail outs from our State Adjutant and face book (if needs be) from National to keep up on the happenings with the Auxiliary. Just received word that the National Convention has been cancelled. If you have reservations, be sure to call and cancel them. Again, history repeating itself. We will carry on regardless of these new happenings!

Looking forward to a great year with no crisis. Be safe, healthy and start planning for Mid-Winter.

Respectfully,

*Linda P. Doss*

State Commander  
DAV Department of Alabama Auxiliary



## **DAVA Past State Commander, Mrs. Margaret Ann Powell 1948 – 2020**

Mrs. Powell passed away on Friday, June 26, 2020 at her residence. She was born on September 12, 1948 in Clay County, Alabama to Ernest Wilkerson and Eunice Twilley DeLoach. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church. Mrs. Powell enjoyed spending time with her family and grandchildren, traveling, dancing with her groom, celebrating Christmas and having cookouts at her pool. Her hobbies included playing cards, gardening and sewing. She enjoyed helping veterans and their families and working in the local DAVA chapter in Alexander City.





## NSO Supervisor

Mary Stovall-Moore

members or caregivers assist them in this user-friendly process, whether it's helping set up the iPad/computer, or supporting access to a cell phone. Veterans should feel comfortable participating in their Board hearing, and the VA is here to help.

### HOW DO VETERANS REQUEST A BOARD VIRTUAL HEARING?

Veterans will request a virtual hearing the same way they would request other Board hearing options.

1. When filling out the Board Appeals form (VA form 10182)/Notice of Disagreement, select the choice "11C" under Part II of the form, "Hearing with a Veterans Law Judge..."
2. Once the Notice of Disagreement is filed, Veterans will receive a letter from the Board informing them of the available hearing options. In their response to the correspondence, Veterans can elect to have a virtual hearing. Please note that the Board schedules hearings in docket order (the order in which they receive appeals).

### WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE VIRTUAL HEARING?

Veterans will receive a notice in the mail at least 30 days before the hearing is scheduled. The email will provide Veterans with the date, time, and location of their hearing, along with a link for accessing the Board Hearing online platform.

### Internet/ Device Requirements

It is recommended virtual hearing users use a personal computer or laptop with a secure WIFI or ethernet connection in a private setting (e.g. office, within a home). Users may use an Android or Apple Mobile Devices in a private setting, with a secure and reliable WIFI connection or cellular service.

The preferred browser, and the one that works best, for both personal computers, laptops and Android devices is Google Chrome. If access to Google Chrome is not available, Internet Explorer is a comparable alternative browser.

Apple devices require the VA Video Connect application ("app"). Learn more about VA Video connect on the VA mobile website.

All devices must have a camera and microphone for video/audio capabilities.

Android devices require no application as the session will launch automatically in a web browser after the session link is selected from the email invitation. The Board hearing team members are available to support and assist.

Greetings Comrades,

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) is making changes to keep Veterans safe from exposure to COVID-19 while continuing its mission of providing hearings and deciding appeals.

The Board temporarily suspended all in-person (travel board, video and Central Office) hearings. Virtual hearings remain available. The Board continues to assess the situation in partnership with Veterans Service Organizations and representatives and will resume in-person hearings as soon as possible.

More information on Virtual Hearings as provided on the Board of Veterans Appeals website at [https://www.bva.va.gov/docs/VirtualHearing\\_FactSheet.pdf](https://www.bva.va.gov/docs/VirtualHearing_FactSheet.pdf) is listed below:

### VIRTUAL HEARINGS

#### WHAT ARE VIRTUAL HEARINGS?

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) has launched a new virtual hearing option, providing Veterans with the flexibility, convenience, and access of attending Board hearings with Veterans Law Judges (VLJs) and Veteran representatives from a personal computer or mobile device. Virtual hearings are just like video hearings, except the Veteran can participate from their phone, tablet, or computer. **NO TRAVEL NEEDED!**

#### WHERE CAN VETERANS HAVE A VIRTUAL HEARING?

Anywhere with a WIFI connection—it is entirely up to the Veteran!

The Tele-hearing Modernization Act, signed by President Trump on April 10, 2020, gives Veterans the choice of location for their hearing. Veterans can also have those around them such as family

## Rescheduling or Withdrawing a Board Hearing Request

To reschedule, send a written request to the Board—at least two weeks before the hearing— providing good cause to reschedule the hearing. Include the Veteran's name, the VA file number, and the reason why a new hearing date is needed.

If the hearing is less than two weeks away, Veterans will need to file a motion explaining the need to reschedule.

### To withdraw:

Send a written request to the Board at least two weeks before the hearing and include the Veteran's name, the VA file number for the appeal, and the reason why a withdrawal is needed.

- Veterans still have the option to submit new evidence to the Board within 90 days of withdrawing the hearing request.

To mail or fax a written request to reschedule, withdraw a Board hearing, or submit new evidence for the judge to review (within 90 days of the hearing):

- **Mail to: Board of Veterans' Appeals**  
PO Box 27063  
Washington, DC 20038

- **Or, fax the request to (844) 678-8979.**

### National Service Office Contact information:

To contact a National Service Officer (NSO) please dial **(859) 888-9414** to get the status of a claim, appeal, file a claim etc.

The Montgomery DAV National Service Office email address is [dav.vbamgy@va.gov](mailto:dav.vbamgy@va.gov).

Respectfully,

*Mary Stovall-Moore*  
NSO Supervisor



## A Century of Service to Veterans

### 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

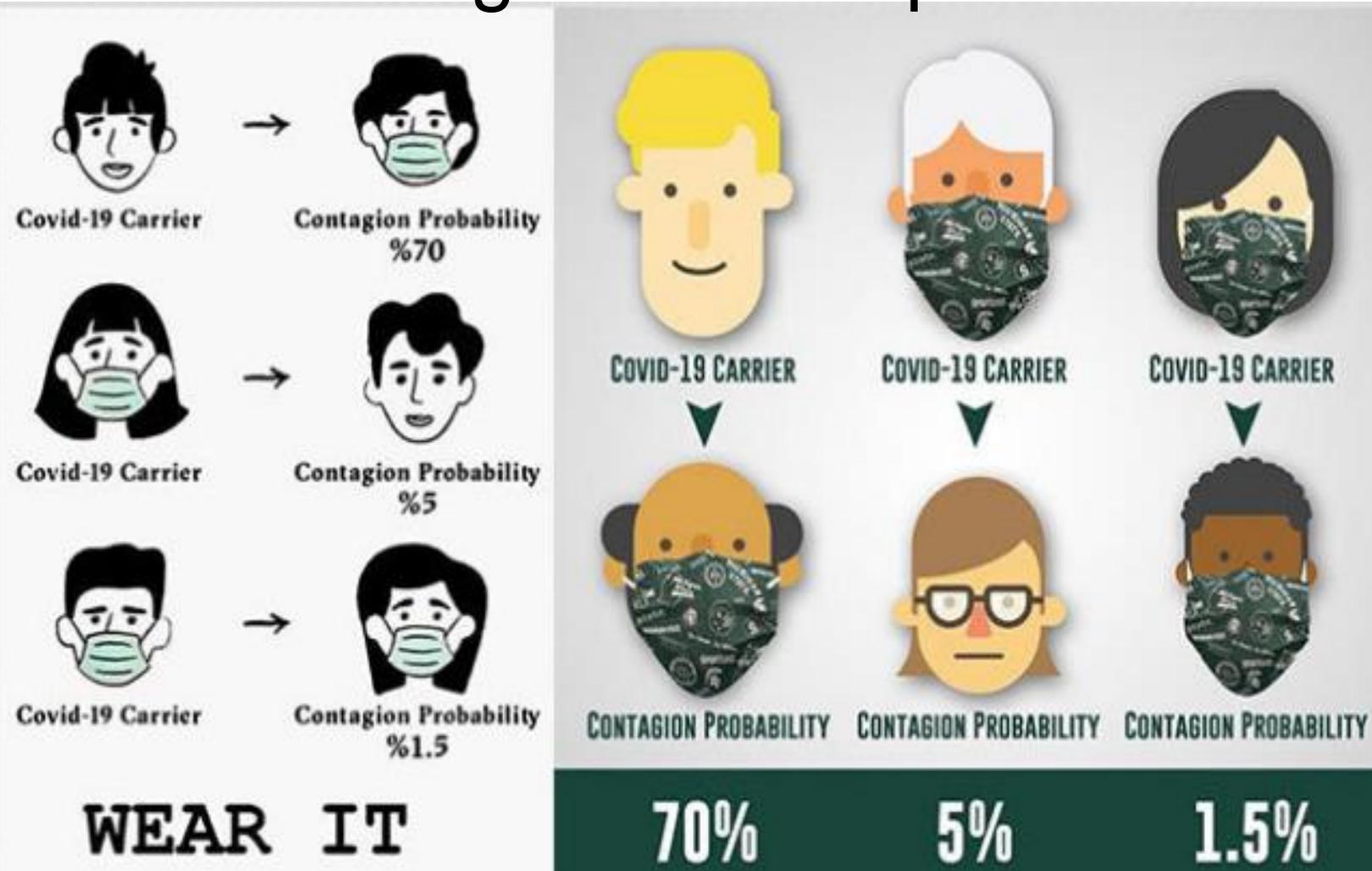
NSO Office hours for NSO contact/Interview:

By Appointment: Office closed.

Office hours for telephone calls:

Office is currently closed due to COVID 19.

## Let's protect each other by always wearing a mask in public.



### Department Contacts

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