

Department of Alabama News & Views

September/October
2018



CELEBRATE VICTORIES ON VETERANS DAY

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Editor/Publisher

Anita R. Perez

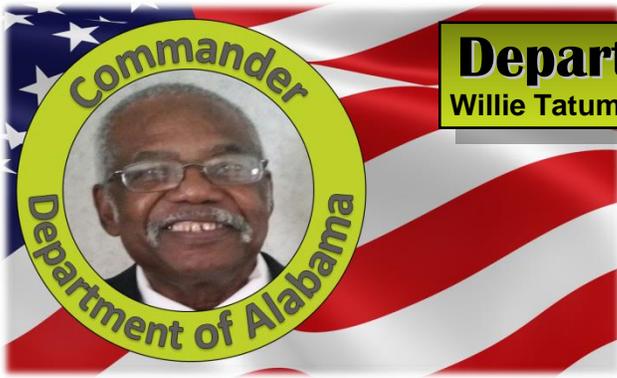
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Volume 23 | Number 3



Disabled American Veterans

2018



Department Commander

Willie Tatum

Greetings Comrades;

We are well into the new membership year and we are off to a great start recruiting new members. Thank you for what you are doing and keep up the good work. It is very much appreciated by us all. I am again requesting that all members go to DAV.org and sign up for the Commanders Action Network. It is very important that we get as many people as possible involved in supporting our veterans' causes. It is easy to do and very worthwhile. Remember that we are fighting for the rights of veterans past, present and future. Also, we are asking that you sign up at volunteerforveterans.org to help veterans in your community. When volunteering through this network, your time spent volunteering will be reported directly to National. This means you don't have to report that time on your LVAP report.

We have completed our annual Commanders and Adjutants Conference in Montgomery, AL. Although we had 115 attendees present, it only represented half of our chapters. The information presented at this conference was a refresher for some and maybe new for others but the purpose of this session was to help you make your chapter better. This is not possible without the cooperation of us all. I want to personally thank all those who attended, and I hope that it was beneficial to you. And for those who for whatever reason were not able to attend I hope that you will find a way to participate in future Department activities. We will accomplish more if we have the participation of all. My heartfelt thanks to those chapters who made a monetary donation to help us with the lunch. To our 1st Jr Vice Commander and pastor Eugene Zeigler of the Bible Missionary Baptist Church, I want to thank you and your members for the wonderful hospitality shown to us during our conference. Your members did an outstanding job preparing and serving the food. Again, thanks to you and all your members for helping us have a successful event.

We continually hear complaints of lack of communications from the Department to the

chapters. We'll take a look at the participation at our C&A which was put on for the chapters. There was 50% representation present. Were you there and have you complained about lack of communications? On the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 8-9 a.m. we held a town hall meeting and a training session, yet most of the time less than half of the chapters are represented. What I am saying is that communication is a two way street. If you have a subject that you would like to have taught or teach it yourself don't hesitate to contact the Director of Training, PDC Debb Walker. Commanders, if you are unable to attend these sessions designate one of your officers to represent you. It does not have to be the same person each time. These sessions normally last less than one hour.

Now, next thing up is our Mid-Winter conference and CSO certification held at the Auburn Marriott Grand National Hotel and Conference Center (Opelika, AL) January 3-6, 2019. Please get your registrations in early. This is very important for planning purposes. Also, make sure that the Adjutant and the NSO Supervisor have the names of those attending the certification training so that they may get the training material ordered. If they are not on the list they will not be able to attend the training.

This is for those chapters who are not submitting monthly CSO and LVAP reports. It is requested that those reports be submitted to the Director of Services Joe Donaldson no later than the 5th of the month. I know that there are some who are doing the work and just not reporting, but that information serves a purpose and we need you to start reporting it. There should be a person in each chapter responsible for collecting and reporting that information.

On October 5th I had the opportunity to address the State Board of Veterans Affairs. I pointed out some of the accomplishments of the DAV this past year. I wanted to show that the work done by our CSO's HSC's, van drivers and members in general is known. I also wanted to thank them for their past support and ask for their future support.

In closing I just want to say that I feel strongly about how we treat one another. I think it is important to remember that we are all grown men and women, and we do what we do because we want to. We are not being paid and we don't have to do it. The least we can do is treat each other with dignity and respect. Remember; treat people the way you want to be treated.

Thank you all for what you do. See you at Mid-Winter.

Semper Fi

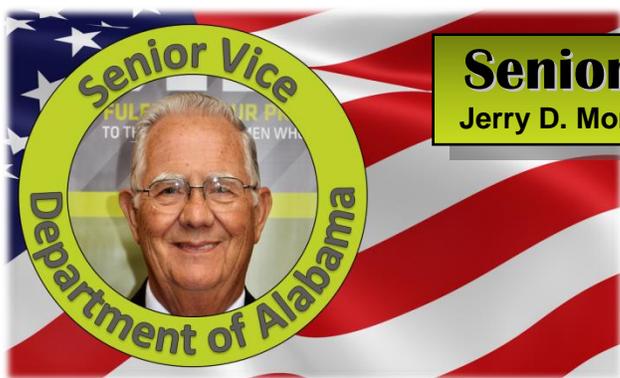
Willie Tatum



Disabled American Veterans Mission

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

Jerry D. Morgan

state. Thanks to Director of Training PDC Walker and everyone on the program for an outstanding program. I feel that the program answered many of the questions that were brought out last year in the Town hall/fellowship meeting at each district. It also gave an insight to the training that you can expect at the Mid-Winter Conference in January 2019 and for the monthly Department training held the 4th Saturday of each month.

Greetings Comrades,

This report period my chapter lost a very good friend and one of the hardest working members of the chapter in Chaplain Edward Charles Turner on September 26, 2018. Chaplain Turner was the chaplain for about 7 years and was always available to call or visit anyone in the chapter who was sick or in the hospital. He could look at you and tell when you were down and always had an encouraging word for you. It did not matter how bad he felt or how sick he was he was always there for our chapter members and he will be missed very much.

If you missed the Commander and Adjutant training on October 13th, you missed an excellent training and fellowship with other members from all over the

I want to give everyone a big thank you for the hard work that you have been doing on recruiting for this fiscal year. There are 9 chapters that have met goal already for the year and about the same numbers are near their goal. There are 4 chapters who have recruited additional members over their goal for year. With this hard work the department is already half way to their goal for the year. This year no chapter needs more than two new members to make goal based on size of membership. Think what it would mean to show National DAV that the great state of Alabama had all chapters to make goal for the year. I am sure that having all chapters in a state making goal would be a first in the history of DAV.

Any Chapter Commander who would like to have a one on one with me on recruiting or have me come and talk with your chapter about recruiting I am more than glad to do it. Just call or text me at 256-343-4340 or e-mail at jam415jam@att.net with a date, time and place and I

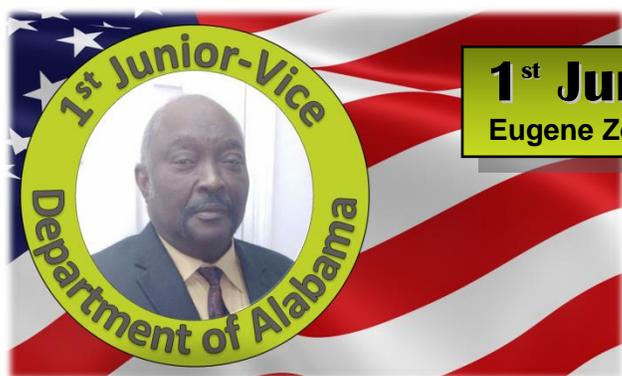
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will do everything that I can to be there on the date you want.

I am looking forward to the CSO training and Mid-Winter Conference and training in January. It would be something to report that the Department has met their recruitment goal for the year. So don't stop working and keep looking for new members.

Respectfully,

Jerry Morgan



1st Junior Vice Commander Eugene Zeigler

Greetings Comrades;

Chapter Commander and Adjutant orientation which was held at the Bible Missionary Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL. It was truly a great Commander and Adjutant conference. Detailed instructional information was given by each presenter.

This information reminded of the mission of DAV: 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 and other agencies of government.

Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their family specifically.

Representing the interest 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. Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

Good Wheels for Veterans

October 1, 2018 – November 9, 2018, donate your new to gently used bicycle to any Goodwill location in Montgomery, AL or Prattville, AL. Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, still serving veterans, Goodwill industries, and Alabama Department of Rehabilitation services welcomes you to donate your new and used bicycles for veterans in need. All bicycles will go to helping a Homeless Veterans in the River Region, for more information contact David Wynn at 334 314 1763 and davidwynn3@va.gov.

Respectfully

Eugene Zeigler

News & Views Article Due Dates:

January Issue – Due 15 Dec 2018

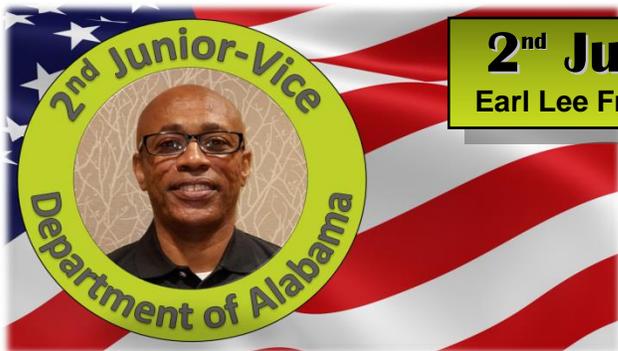
March Issue – Due 20 Feb 2019

May Issue -- Due 20 Apr 2019

All Articles due the 20th of the month prior to the publishing of the newsletter. (January due December 15th, due to the Holiday season)



WORLD WAR I CENTENARY 1918 ARMISTICE DAY 2018



2nd Junior Vice Commander

Earl Lee Frazier

Comrades,

As we approach the last couple of months of 2018 and on behalf of the Department of Alabama we appreciate all the great fundraising ideas from all chapters. Being mindful of one of the single purposes of DAV, "empowering veterans to live high-quality lives with dignity and respect" is a true attribute of being a veteran participant in this organization. I also want to thank the chapters I have already visited and look forward to the ones I have not.

Chapter 12 started my next leg of travel with their fundraising from August 27th to 31st 2018 at Golden Corral in Montgomery. Commander Scott, DECM Redd and members of Chapter 12 contacted various members of the public as well as veteran military comrades from all around the tri-county area spreading the word about DAV's mission.

On September 15th, 2018, I attended Chapter 78 for their annual Black and White POW/MIA Banquet in Talladega. Commander Nelson and Chapter 78 members rolled out the red carpet for all whom attended. It was a great tribute to the sacrifices of POW/MIA veterans who did not return home. PDC Walker was the guest speaker and gave an inspiring speech. I also had an opportunity to break bread with

members of Talladega, Birmingham, Ozark chapters as well as auxiliary members.

On Thursday October 11th 2018 members of Chapter 12 and other veterans in the Montgomery area attended a free AARP Dinner for veterans, a precursor tribute for Veterans Day. Kudos to Comrade Jan Hoffman for coordinating the function. The informative dinner focused on a project Auburn High School in Auburn, Alabama is doing called a veteran project, compiling various interviews and experiences from veterans who were in the military. Information can be found on www.auburnveteransproject.weebly.com. It is free for all veterans no matter what era you have served and it's voluntary to participate.

Saturday October 13th 2018 was date for the Commander's and Adjutant training in Montgomery. Thanks to 1st Jr. Vice Commander Zeigler for sponsoring the site and the lunch was good. Commander Tatum, Adjutant Richmond and PDC Walker put together and informative group of instructors to give classes and ensured the information was explained. Looking forward to the Golden Corral fundraising efforts coming up in November. Remember November 12th is Veterans Appreciation Day Monday, don't forget to thank a fellow comrade for their service.

The Mid-Winter Conference/CSO Certification is around the corner January 3rd to 6th 2019. Remember to make your hotel and conference reservations now. Once again I would like to thank all chapters ahead of time for your future support in the Department of Alabama fundraising efforts. Thank you for your service. Happy Thanksgiving, Holidays, New Year and "Airborne".

Respectfully,

Earl L. Frazier



Happy Veterans Day!

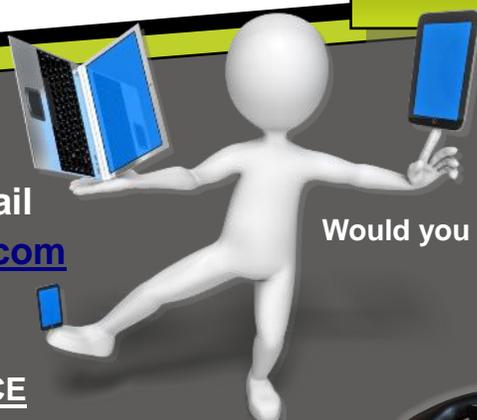
Department Meetings

For an invite, email
culverla1@yahoo.com

TOWNHALL
TELECONFERENCE

When: Every 2nd Saturday

How: Call (641) 715-3273
Access Code: 991969#



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?

ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE
TRAINING

When: Every 4th Saturday

How: Call (323) 920-0091
Access Code: 3727660#





Department Adjutant Charles "Chad" D. Richmond

Comrades,

We just finished a very successful Commanders and Adjutants orientation in Montgomery, with 115 members in attendance. I think we got a lot accomplished, had a lot of really good exchanges of ideas and suggestions and got a lot of questions answered. Sadly, only half of our chapters were represented. Just think what we could have gotten done if we'd had everyone there. One of the things pointed out by Director of Services Joe Donaldson was the number of chapters that are not reporting their CSO work. If you are not reporting, please start doing so. We need those numbers. Many thanks to 1st JVC Eugene Zeigler for again letting us use his church as our venue and to his church members for their gracious hospitality. And thanks to all of the chapters that donated funds to offset the cost of a fabulous meal and a lot of fat pills and caffeine to help us get the day started. This was Juniorette PDC Debb Walker's first major undertaking in her new role as Director of Training, and it was truly successful. This training session was her way of illustrating to our chapters that we, at the Department, do listen to suggestions and requests. She made that promise as Commander and followed through with it in our training.



As we approach the end of the year, there are numerous events on the near horizon that we need to be preparing for. Right now we are in the annual Golden Corral Veterans Appreciation fundraiser period and I hope everyone is supporting their stores and working with them through November 12. This

will be the annual Veteran Appreciation Monday. It was reported to me that Chapter 87 has a great start money wise that will make all of those who turn this into a competition start to scramble. Remember, this is for service to our veterans.

National Veterans Day is November 11, and I hope everyone will be supporting their local activities. I know some will be on November 3 because of the actual holiday being on Sunday, November 11. That, plus major construction downtown has really got everything messed up in Birmingham. But, we will survive! National Senior Vice Commander Butch Whitehead will be our National guest, along with Jerry Bratton, 8th NEC, from Mississippi. DAV Auxiliary Commander Ellen Timmerman is not able to come, but the Auxiliary will be represented by our very own Carolyn Harris, DAVA 8th NEC.

If you haven't gotten your reservations in for the Department of Louisiana Mid-Winter Conference/8th District Meeting, you may have trouble getting reservations at the Bentley Hotel. This may be the largest Mid-Winter that Louisiana has seen in a long time. Time is running out to make reservations for Mississippi's Mid-Winter, as well.

Our Department Mid-Winter Conference is coming up the first weekend in January, and with it we have our annual DSO/CSO/HSC certification training. Our NSO office and I need to have your lists of who you plan to get certified NLT November 15. So far, I only have CSO addendums from fourteen of the thirty-two chapters. We need that list so Mary Stovall-Moore can order the training manuals. December 1 is the deadline for all committee submissions: Ways and Means, Time and Place, District Veteran of the Year, as well as any ads that you want published. Remember, any ads from businesses that chapters recruit, the chapter gets a 10% rebate. There are plenty of rooms available at the Marriott, because there are only 75 rooms reserved at this time. This Mid-Winter we will be without the services of NSO Supervisor Mike Michelotti. Effective December 1, Mike will be officially assigned to the St. Petersburg, FL NSO Office.

We need to have an idea of how many of our members plan to attend the National Mid-Winter Conference, schedule for February 23-27 in Alexandria, VA. If you plan to attend, please let PDC Laird Culver and me know. The link for the proposed schedule of events for the conference and hotel information can be found on the [National web site](#).

This past summer Governor Ivey appointed me to the Alabama Task Force on Veterans and Opioids. We will be meeting shortly and I will let you know the outcome and where the task force will be headed.

At the last quarterly meeting of the State Board of Veterans Affairs, the Board approved the construction of a fifth veterans' home, to be located in the Wiregrass area of Alabama, better known as District 6. Now starts the process of trying to find some land that is appropriate for that home. If you or anyone you know has some land they would like to donate to the State, please contact the State Department of Veterans Affairs.

At that same meeting Commissioner Marsh announced his retirement after thirteen years as Commissioner. He has been a dynamic leader and excellent administrator, not only in the State of Alabama, but Nationally, as well. He will truly be missed. The Board has appointed a search committee to interview prospective candidates for the position. Resumes may be submitted up to November 30.

Lastly, I know we are rapidly approaching mid-term elections, especially the Governor's election. Remember, the DAV is non-partisan and we cannot openly support any party, candidate or program as the DAV. I know in some cases there is a lot at stake, but we cannot afford to violate Article 2 of the National Bylaws.

Respectfully,

Chad Richmond,
Adjutant



Benefits Protection Team Leader

Laird Culver



Good day to you, DAV members and friends!

I would remind each of you that the elections are upon us and you need to look at how your vote is cast. Is your choice for representative a Veteran-friendly sort of individual? How do the vote on Veteran issues? What kind of communication have they conducted with the Veteran community and families of Veterans? These are questions you need to be asking yourselves as you go to the polls to vote in the coming days! Vote for the good of your community, its people and more importantly the Veterans who have served and sacrificed so much for the country.

Commanders, I would like to remind each of you that your BPT Leaders' contact information needs to make it my way. I have about four BPT Leaders listed on emails that I send out and we have 30+ DAV Chapters listed on the DAV Department of Alabama rolls. Get the information to me as quickly as you can by sending me an email at culverla1@yahoo.com.

Here is a reminder for those who are not keeping track! [DAV National Midwinter](#) will be upon us quicker than you think. The conference is at the Crystal Gateway Marriot in Arlington,

VA and the dates of the conference will be 24-27 February 2019. Reservations for the hotel can be made by clicking on the hyperlink above and following the instructions, or by [doing it online](#). Click [tentative schedule](#) to see what is going to be happening! I will be making appointments with our State of Alabama representatives after the elections. It would be nice if we could have at least one DAV member from each of the eight Congressional Districts in Alabama to attend and visit with their respective representative. You will be provided talking points and given a time and place to meet with our State Representatives during the day we go out on Capitol Hill promoting the four or five issues the DAV National Legislative Committee deems most important. If you are planning to attend, please, let me know so I can start squaring away the list concerning visitation!

As always! Get registered on the DAV Commanders Action Network for the most up to date information related to your benefits, issues related to caregivers, VA healthcare issues and other matters of importance being tossed around like a ragdoll in the halls in Washington, D.C.!

Thanks for all you do in service to those Men and Women Who Served!

Laird Culver
BPTL

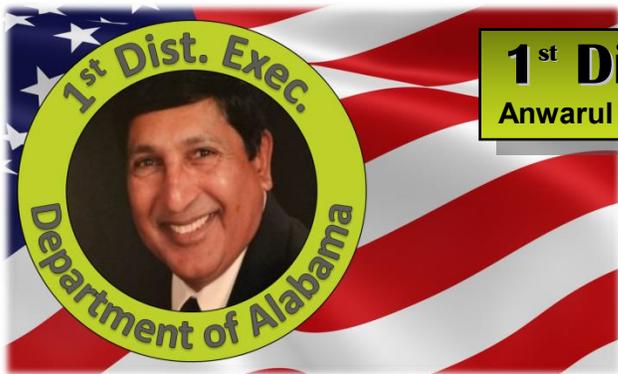
[Contact your House Representative](#)

[Contact your Senate Representative](#)



DAV Upcoming Events

- November 5, 2018: MSO Van, Chapter 45, Loxley, AL
- November 6, 2018: MSO Van, Chapter 99, New Brockton, AL
- November 6, 2018: Elections. GET OUT AND VOTE
- November 7, 2018: MSO Van, Chapter 66, Phenix City, AL
- November 8, 2018: MSO Van, Chapter 95, Opelika, AL
- November 10, 2018: DAV 5k, Atlanta, GA
- November 11, 2018: Veterans Day
- November 11, 2018: National Veterans Day Awards Banquet, Sheraton Hotel, Birmingham, AL
- November 12, 2018: Veterans Day World Peace Luncheon and Parade, Birmingham, AL
- November 12, 2018: Veterans Appreciation Monday, Golden Corral, Statewide
- November 15-18, 2018: Department of Louisiana Mid-Winter Conference, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA
- November 16, 2018: Korean War Veterans Ambassador For Peace Medal Ceremony, Troy University
- November 29-December 2, 2018: Department of Mississippi Mid-Winter Conference, Drury Inn, Meridian, MS
- December 15, 2018: National Wreaths Across America Day
- January 3-6, 2019: Department of Alabama Mid-Winter Conference, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center At Grand National, Opelika, AL
- January 17-19, 2019: Department of Tennessee Mid-Winter Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN
- February 24-27, 2019: National Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Alexandria, VA
- 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 3-7, 2019: National Convention, Orlando, FL
- January 9-12, 2020: Department of Alabama Convention, TBA
- June 4-7, 2020: Department of Alabama Convention, TBA
- July 31-August 4, 2020: National Convention, Dallas, TX
- 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



1st District Executive Committeeman Anwarul "Andy" Haq

Comrades,

I was out of Country and did not get to visit all the Chapters in District one during this time period. I will continue to visit the chapters. However, there are couple chapters that are struggling and not operating with full capacity.

Chapter 18 has had success utilizing their Van and is continuing to serve Veterans. The Van has made several trips and transported Veterans to the Birmingham VA. This Chapter also recruited new members. The Chapter continues working with the Veterans in the Court System in Marshall County, Justice for Vets.

Chapter 11 and Chapter 63 are doing ok, however, they have been delinquent with reporting their fund raisers status at Golden Corral. This needs to be taken care immediately and the report sent to the Adjutant DAV state of Alabama.

Chapter 26 donated \$100 towards the Adjutant and Commanders Training in Montgomery. They are gearing up to a month of fund raisers. They plan for a Forget Me Not drive to help with their budget for Veterans Financial Assistance (Rent, Utilities bills etc.), So far this year they have given out \$2000 to about 7 needy veterans. They are also planning for their annual Golden Corral fund raiser. This chapter was a leader in helping with the Annual Military Retiree week at Redstone Arsenal. The chapter is also planning to participate in the Travelling Vietnam Wall, known as the "The Wall That Heals" (TWTH). Chapter members are going to be taking part in the Honor Guard to Raise the U.S Flag. They also will be volunteering as Safety and Security for this event. The Chapter did a similar assistance to Veterans at the annual Redstone October Fest. DECM Andy Haq will be organizing and executing the Madison County Veterans Day Parade. This is the biggest Veterans Day Parade in Alabama. Chapter 26 will be taking part in this Parade.

Chapter 51 is not doing well with their finances and administration. There are very few folks who are working hard to help the chapter during their struggle.

The DAV- Auxiliary Units are really helping the Chapters to be successful

Respectfully,

Andy Haq
DECM -1st District



2nd District Executive Committeeman Willie "Hamp" Hampton

Greetings Comrades,

I hope all is well with you and yours. Thanks to all that represented our district at the Commander's and Adjutant's training. I felt it was very productive. It was also a good opportunity to fellowship with other Comrades of the State of Alabama. Thank you for your continued support. I attended Chapter 78's annual Black and White Banquet and as always it was first class. My wife Tiffany and I had a great time. The weather is changing and I for one welcome it.

It's a nice time of year, not too hot not too cold. Please be safe and blessings to you all.

The following are some updates of the things going on around our District. If you ever need me please don't hesitate to call on me.

Chapter 1 - Report they have sent \$100.00 to the National Relief Fund for the aid of hurricane Florence victims. They have also made plans to send aid to hurricane Michael's victims as well.

Chapter 4 - Reports they are currently participating in fundraising efforts leading up to Veteran's Appreciation Day at the Golden Corral in Hoover, AL. They have received verbal appreciation for helping several veterans receive their earned benefits from the VA, even some which served in the Vietnam War.

Chapter 21 - Sent \$500.00 to the National Relief fund for the victims of hurricane Michael.

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Chapter 27

Chapter 28 - Blount-Cullman County Chapter 28 has started its Veterans Appreciation period with the Cullman Golden Corral and is getting ready for the annual Veterans Day Parade in Oneonta, November 3, along with the Veterans Appreciation dinner on November 2. The chapter is enjoying their new meeting place in Blountsville and has over 40 members attending each meeting. Dalton Wester retired as the Chapter's Treasurer and Carl Frey graciously volunteered to fill the slot until the upcoming annual election. The chapter met its membership goal but continues to recruit. Commander Frank Cannon currently leads the Department's recruiting effort. Plans are underway to open two more CSO offices to provide better assistance to Blount and Cullman veterans.

Chapter 33 - Chapter 33 reports that they spend a lot of time at the Cedar Ridge and Hatley Nursing homes. At these facilities they have small ceremonies and provide plaques to the veterans living there, honoring them for their service to our country. They have also been preparing gallon size bags full of supplies and sending them to the areas affected by the recent hurricanes. They also visit known housebound veterans in the area on a regular basis.

Chapter 78 - Reports they are doing well and there is nothing to report at this time.

Chapter 98 - Chapter 98 has been busy since the last article with a lot of activities. They have been present at three different Veterans Outreach projects in the

Anniston/Oxford area, have held six fundraisers, was present at Oxford and Gadsden Clinic with snacks and drinks for the Veterans visiting the clinics on "flu shot day", had a key exchange ceremony with Birmingham VA presenting them with the new van and all the while preparing for Golden Corral Fund Raiser, and CSO's were busy at the office with Veterans Assistance.

The new Van has been well received by all involved, especially the drivers. The van was displayed a day or two at several major donors locations before being put into operation in order for them to see where their donation went with a Thank You poster visible for all to see.

Framed Certificates of Appreciation to those donors are ready and will be presented once a date and time is determined by donors. Paul and Carolyn Brouillette, two of our volunteer van drivers, were also presented certificates of appreciation for devoting, over a period of years according to VA records, over 14,000 volunteer hours while logging 180,000 driving miles between them transporting veterans.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart" Elizabeth Andrew

Until next edition

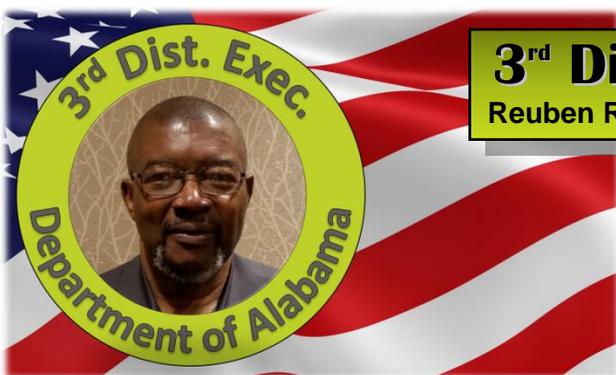
In service.
Respectfully,

Willie "Hamp" Hampton

2nd DECM
Commander Chapter 4
Birmingham, AL



HAPPY VETERANS DAY



3rd District Executive Committeeman

Reuben Redd

No input from 3rd District for this edition.

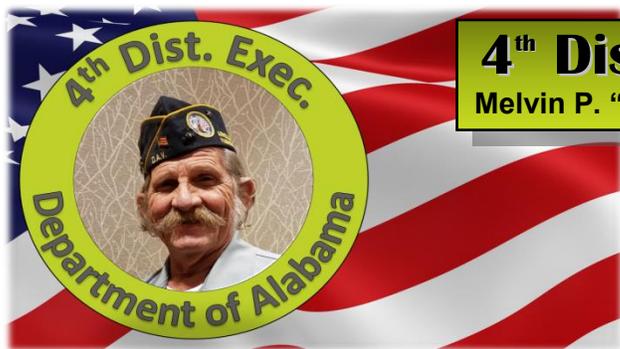
The Origins of Veterans Day

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

[\(read more here\)](#)



4th District Executive Committeeman

Melvin P. "Mel" Apley

FROM THE TRUNK OF THE ROLLING OFFICE

Now comes another opportunity to tantalize the senses of you, the worthy reader. Seems that the O' Flip Phone decided to take a swim in a pan of diesel fuel. Don't ask! Just believe that rice and fuel oil are NOT what one would call very agreeable with each other. After a couple of weeks drying out under a sun lamp and several visits to AT&T, they were able to salvage just over half of the contacts. Add to this the Silicone Valley Brain who decided that my laptop contact list was using too much space. Last update wiped out all names and phone numbers. All that remained were over 200 E-mail addresses with no idea of who is who. All this just to extend a very special thank you to Adjutant Chad Richmond and most of the District 4 Chapter Commanders for their assistance in the recovery of lost information.

While on the subject of phone numbers, here is something to think about. Harry Zergarski, Commander of Chapter 6, decided that it might be a good idea to call members on the roster who were never attending meetings just to find out how "things were going". The result was 15 more attendees at their last meeting! Many had never been to a meeting before, including a 92 year old WWII veteran. Several of them seemed to be enthused with the thought of having something to do by becoming involved with Chapter events. As of this writing, some are assisting the Chapter at the Elberta Sausage Festival.

According to Senior Vice Commander Jerry Morgan, Chapter 7 fund raisers at area Wal-Marts and the Belk Charity Ticket Sale proved to be quite successful. Along with a large donation from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 701, they are well on the way toward the purchase of a new service van. Although Chapter 7 is saddened by the loss of Chaplain Edward Turner, all are encouraged by the knowledge that he is with OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST and we shall see him again. AMEN.

Tom Ferguson reports that plans are in place at Chapter 9 for Veterans Day and all else is going well. As this is written, he is hosting an impromptu meeting of area CSO's for the purpose of exchanging ideas

and tips with each other so that all can achieve a higher degree of improved service work.

The Veterans Inaugural Ball, presented by Chapter 35, was a complete success! The Banquet prepared by Head Chef Douglas of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Mobile, was acclaimed by all who were in attendance as TOP NOTCH! To anyone who opted out, you missed an extremely wonderful beginning to what needs to be a long standing tradition. Congratulations to Chairman Leon Groves and your committee for a job well done. The proceeds should go a long way toward establishing Chapter 35's Van Program.

Chapter 45's booth at the Baldwin County Fair netted 2 applications, 2 transfers and a few more new claims. Time well spent. A weather event delayed the installation of Officers of their new Auxiliary. However, the ceremony was finally conducted in October. Welcome Linda Steadman as the newest DAVA Commander. The DAV Service Van will be in Loxley on Nov. 5th and the Chapter is planning for their Forget-Me-Not fundraiser at area Wal-Marts over Veterans Day weekend as well as other activities.

Commander Val Obergon reports that work is moving along nicely on the refurbishing of Chapter 53's service office. They are waiting on Wi-Fi installation. JVCO/ Webmaster Irvin Turberville of Chapter 45 is setting up the communication system.

Yours truly had the honor of performing the Installation of Officers for Chapter 87 on the 18th of Oct. at the Doug Tew Recreation Center. Congratulation to new Commander Daniel Blackman! Past Commander Larry Castleman will serve as Treasurer. PDC Art Miller was present and Chapter 94 Commander Fay Miller was special guest. The chapter is again doing the Golden Corral Fund Raiser and has additional plans for Veterans Day.

PDC Art Miller (Chapter 87) officiated the Installation of Officers for Chapter 94 on the 20th. Commander Fay Miller reports that their new office has now been completed with the addition of new tables and a "very large desk" which was donated by a local business. The Chapter will be hosting a Veterans Day Event at the Lakewood Memorial Cemetery.

Members of Chapter 99, New Brockton, will Host the DAV Service Van on the 6th of November and for the 5TH year, will be participating in a Veterans Breakfast at the Troy Civic Center on Veterans Day. Other events include the Marine Corps Birthday on the 10th. SEMPER-FI

Enjoy Veterans Day. Don't eat too much turkey & dressing. If traveling, stay safe. Remember that JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON---Merry Christmas. Hope to see you in January.

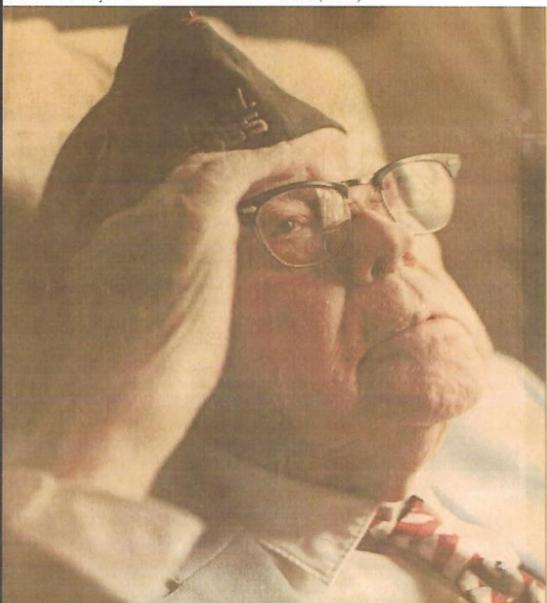
Keeping the Promise,

Melvin P. "Mel" Apley

4th DEC

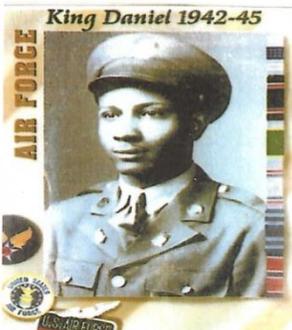
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DAV Ch. 35
LEO DUBOSE 2018 INAUGURAL BALL
OCTOBER 6, 2018 SARALAND, AL
Leo Dubose Chapter 35 – Disabled American Veterans (DAV)



DAV
FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

PAGE 9 SARALAND, AL
Founder/Organizer of the Leo Dubose DAV Chapter 35



King Daniel 1942-45
TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

King Daniel (Unk) a native of Linden, AL and a resident of Axis, AL was born October 10, 1919 to the union of the late Wash and Annie Daniel and he exchanged this life for eternity on April 29, 2007 at his resident. He was a DAV Commander for a number of years, he organized chapter 34 and chapter 35 district commander, he was a eight year veteran of the year chief of staff (1974), and he was a (VFW) Tuskegee Airman. We honor and thank Comrade Daniel & his family for their contribution, bravery, and sacrifice to our Nation and to this chapter.

LEO DUBOSE 2018 INAUGURAL BALL PAGE 4

The Leo Dubose DAV Chapter 35 introduces speaker for their 2018 Inaugural Ball:



Barry Lee Booth, D.M.D. likes to say he runs a "Honky Tonk Filling Station". In fact, he has practiced dentistry for 52 years, 48 of which have been in the community of Spanish Fort, Alabama.

A native of Charleston, West Virginia, Dr. Booth worked his way through Auburn University (1962) and the University of Alabama, School of Dentistry (1966). He was accepted in the Naval Reserve through the Direct Commissioning Program for Medical Professionals in 1963. Upon Dental School graduation in 1966 and receipt of active duty orders as a Lieutenant, he was assigned to the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot, San Diego. Volunteering for Vietnam and following Field Medical School at Camp Pendleton, he was deployed to the Naval Support Activity, US Naval Hospital, DaNang, Republic of Vietnam. During 1967, at the time of the Defense Department's "Hearts and Minds Program", he volunteered for duty as a Medical Civil Action Patrol (MEDCAP) dental officer with the 3rd Marine Division and US Army 5th Special Forces.

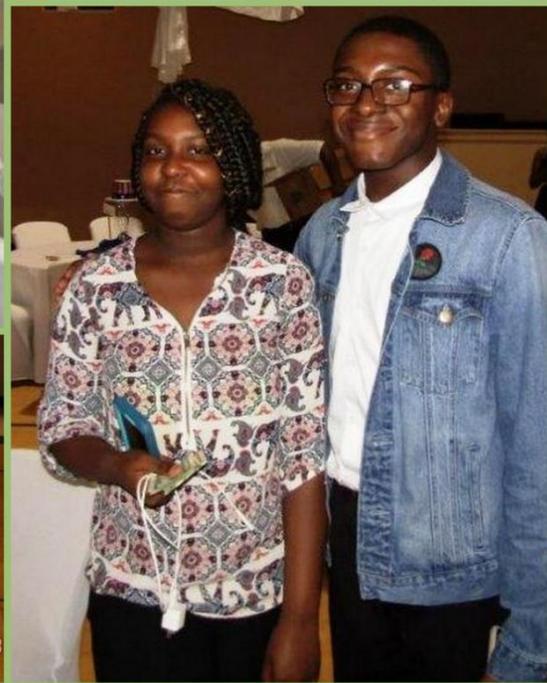
MEDCAP assignments throughout I Corps sent him to Hill 55, Hue, Phu Bai, Khe Sanh and the Special Forces A Camp at Kham Duc. He was a volunteer Dental Officer at NON NUOC Prisoner Of War Camp (Marble Mountain) and the DaNang Central Hospital which served both Army of the Republic of Vietnam troops and Vietnamese civilians.

Rotating from Vietnam in December of 1967, he was assigned to the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Norfolk, Virginia. During this time he attended Basic Naval Parachute School at Lakehurst, New Jersey and earned his Gold Parachutist Device while at Little Creek. His other awards include the US Navy Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign with Device and the National Defense Service Medal. He was honorably discharged from the United States Navy in July, 1969 and headed home to Alabama.

Dr. Booth is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 864, Sons of the American Revolution Galvez Chapter, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans Shehan-Pake Chapter 7 and a life member of the American Legion Post 199. In 2005 Governor Bob Riley appointed him to the USS Alabama Battleship Commission and he continues to serve in that capacity as chairman of the Memorial and Recognition committee. He has also served on the Board of the Spanish Fort Education Enrichment Foundation.

Leo Dubose
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Chapter 35

Commander- Gregory B. Morris, Sr.
Senior Vice Commander – Joseph Allen
Junior Vice Commander – Willie Harrison
Adjutant – Kennedy Austin
Treasurer – Delenta Jackson
Benefits Protection Team Leader – Robert Johnson
Master at Arms – Joe Clark
Chaplain – Isaac Jones
CSO's – Delenta Jackson, Kennedy Austin



**Leo Dubose 2018 Inaugural Ball
October 6, 2018
Saraland, AL**



Women's Veterans of Alabama

Tawanna Jones

screenings for breast cancer. Routine screenings can often find breast cancer early and make treatment more successful.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and the leading cause of cancer-related death in women in the U.S., but because of the work being put into the research, improved equipment, educating women about breast cancer and all-around support.

There is great news!! The survival rate has steadily increased since 1989.

By changing those risk factors that we have control of, such as,

1. Getting screened. If you are 45 or older get yearly breast cancer screening tests.
2. Talk with your provider about your breast cancer risk, to include your medical and family history to find out if you need to start testing earlier.
3. Be physically active
4. Limit sedentary behavior
5. Limit Alcohol use: no more than 1 drink a day for women (2 drinks a day for men).

We could continue to see the Breast Cancer survival rate increase.

Together, we have done a "Great" job supporting our families and friends and we need to continue this work, so that Breast Cancer is no longer the most common cancer or the leading cancer related death among women in the U.S.

By talking to your Veterans Affairs health care provider and knowing the proper precautions to take, you and your loved ones can live healthy lives. Remember that early detection is the key in helping your chances of surviving breast cancer.

You can get more information about breast cancer on the American Cancer Society website (www.cancer.org).

Until next time, be blessed,

Tawanna

"Every day we live is a priceless gift of God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights"

Greetings to my DAV Family,

First, I give Honor and Glory to my LORD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, for all that I am.

Let's Talk! It that time of the year! Calling all My Women Veterans! It is October!

"BREAST CANCER AWARENESS" month



Theme for this year is **"Making Strides Against Breast Cancer"**

For more than 21 years the Veteran Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC) has led the nation in breast cancer screenings and has focused on coordination of care and improving access to screenings.

VAMC recommends all women begin getting yearly mammograms by age 45, and every other year beginning at age 55. A mammogram is an x-ray of the breast and is one of the most common





Department Chaplain

Debra Varner

Greetings,

“Let’s do it together”

Being a part of this great DAV organization, there are many things that I have observed that are very important to us all. It is the importance of possessing the power of praying together as one. In all of our

meetings and gatherings we begin and end with prayer. On purpose and with intent is to seek not only God’s guidance and help but to endeavor to accomplish the plans and ideas to make this organization great. We pray and ask for His blessings upon ourselves, families, friends and our nation. Our desire is to always be in His will. It is also our desire to fulfill His purpose in being our brother’s keeper, knowing this desire is never out of reach. God being the author and the finisher of our faith allows us to stand on His word and His promise – Hebrews 13:5 – “I will never leave you nor forsake you”

With His promise and our faith in Him, we will remain stronger and united together.

Continue to pray for one another, our country, our communities, families and friends will once again become “One Nation Under God” – we can do it together.

The Blessings of the Lord be with you always,

D. H. Varner,
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

Hello, Auxiliaries!

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

Happy Fall to all! Reports were that DAV Auxiliary National Fall Conference in Lexington was a huge success! Lots to learn and much information was provided. For those that were unable to attend, you can go online on DAV.org at the website below and download the booklet for all the information that was presented.

https://auxiliary.dav.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018_Fall_Conference_Packet.pdf



Upcoming Events:

2019 Mid-Winter Conference: January 3 – 6, 2019, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center At Grand National 3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail Opelika AL 36801

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Below is a note from our DAV Auxiliary National Commander Ellen L. Timmerman:



Serving veterans and families

"It's an honor to have been elected as your DAV Auxiliary national commander, and I am looking forward to continuing to serve veterans and families alongside each of you.

I mentioned to several members at our recent convention in Reno, Nev., the importance of the Auxiliary's Caregiver Initiative Program. In the coming year, I hope you will join me as we work to expand this program beyond adaptive sports events. The Auxiliary has already showcased just how effective a program like this is at the annual National Disabled Veterans TEE (Training, Exposure, Experience) Tournament in Iowa City, Iowa. I know many of us

have a passion for caregivers as well as being caregivers ourselves. Expanding the capabilities of this program will help us support these men and women, who are heroes in their own right, as they tirelessly care for our nation's ill and injured veterans.

I also hope you will join me as I focus on Auxiliary membership. There are many families and veteran supporters in our hometowns who simply aren't aware of DAV or the Auxiliary. I intend to "put ourselves out there" and invite everyone to do the same. As many of us already know, it's often the spouses or immediate family members of a veteran who take the first steps in getting involved with our organization. One method that works for me is staying in constant contact with a national, department or chapter service officer in the local area who can assist with gathering information to give to a veteran's family and make them aware of the benefits they may have.

Together, we can get our noble work done while we spread a message of unity, kindness and empathy to the veterans and families we serve. I'm honored and looking forward to serving with all of you."

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

Again, I want to thank all the Auxiliary members for their vote of confidence. 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



NSO Office Assistant Supervisor

Mary Stovall-Moore

2019 Mid-Winter Conference

The 2019 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National from January 3, 2019, through January 6, 2019. The registration form can be found on the department website at <http://www.davmembersportal.org/al/default.aspx>. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mobile Service Office (MSO) Run

NSO Michael Smith and NSO Mitchell Johnson will be traveling to the following areas from November 5, 2018, through November 8, 2018, from **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** to assist Veterans with claims etc.:

Monday, November 5, 2018

Loxley Community Center
4198 Municipal Park Drive
Loxley, AL 36551

Greetings Comrades,

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

On October 9, 2018, President Trump signed Public Law 115-258, which provides a COLA increase of 2.8 percent, effective December 1, 2018, for Veterans disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for survivors. The increase will be reflected on the first check to be paid on December 31, 2018.

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

New Brockton Town Hall
706 East McKinnon Street
New Brockton, AL 36351

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

R. George Isaacs Jr. Chapter #66
1407 28th Avenue
Phoenix City, AL 36869

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Golden Corral
2301 Birmingham Highway
Opelika, AL 36801

If we do not currently represent a Veteran, we will not have access to that Veteran's claims file. Any Veteran who is not currently represented by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will need to bring paperwork pertaining to their visit in order for our NSOs to give you the proper advice regarding your claim, appeal, dependency claim etc. If you have received a decision from the VARO, please bring it with you. If you have an e-benefits

account and would like our organization to be their representative, you can appoint the DAV as your representative through e-benefits electronically prior to November 5, 2018, which will assist the NSOs to have access to your claims file.

We look forward to assisting any Veteran who needs assistance during this MSO run.

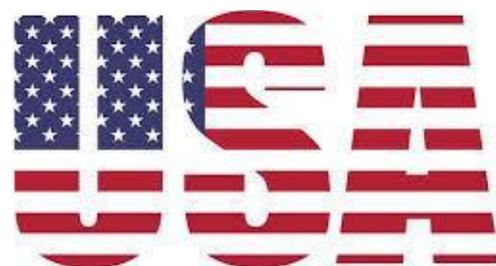
Veterans Day is **November 11, 2018**. Thank you all for your service to our country!

"Our soldiers have nobly fought to protect freedom since our country's birth, and have fought to protect those that could not protect themselves, even in foreign lands when called upon."

John Linder

Respectfully,

Mary Stovall-Moore
Assistant NSO Supervisor



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.](#)



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: Call office phone

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

SAVE THE DATE!
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH 2018
5PM – 9PM

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT FAQs

Q: What is the date for 2018?

A: Monday, November 12, 2018.

Q: Who is eligible for the free “thank you” dinner?

A: Any person who has served in the US Military (retirees, veterans, active duty, National Guard or Reserves).

Q: Why does Golden Corral provide this dinner?

A: Our Corporation is very proud of the men and women who are serving and who have served, and we are honored to offer this special night to congratulate them in person.

Q: Can I bring my family?

A: We know that spouses, children, mothers and fathers deserve a heart-felt thank you, too, for their own personal sacrifices here at home. Family and friends are welcome to come join the celebration for our military heroes; however, the free ‘thank you’ dinner is for the person who served. Other guests will pay the regular dinner menu pricing.

Q: Can I have a rain check for another night?

A: There are no rain checks for November 12. We hope you can arrange your schedule to join us.

Q: Can I have my free “thank you” meal as a take-out meal?

A: There are no take-out meals associated with this dinner as most veterans feel that this is a great opportunity to renew old friendships, make new friends, and simply enjoy the evening as Golden Corral’s special guest.

Q: How many meals has Golden Corral served over the past 17 years?

A: Golden Corral restaurants have served nearly 5.4 million free ‘thank you’ meals to our heroes in the military over the past 17 years.



[Click here for more Veterans Day appreciation offers.](#)



Looking forward to seeing you all at the Mid-Winter Conference

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