



In This Issue:

Commander	2
Senior Vice	4
1st Junior Vice	5
2nd Junior Vice	7
3rd Junior Vice	10
4th Junior Vice	11
Adjutant	12
Benefit Protection	13
Women's Vet	15
Chaplain	16
DAVA	17
NSO	18

Other Information

Due Dates	4
DAV Mission	6
Meetings	8
DAV Events	14
eBenefits Info	18
NSO Hours	18
Dept. Contacts	19
DAV Magazine	
al.dav.org	



Editor/Publisher
Anita R. Perez

anita.perez13@outlook.com



HONORING ALL WHO HAVE SERVED

VETERANS DAY 2019



DAV.ORG



[dav](https://www.facebook.com/dav)



[@davhq](https://twitter.com/davhq)



[davhq](https://www.instagram.com/davhq)



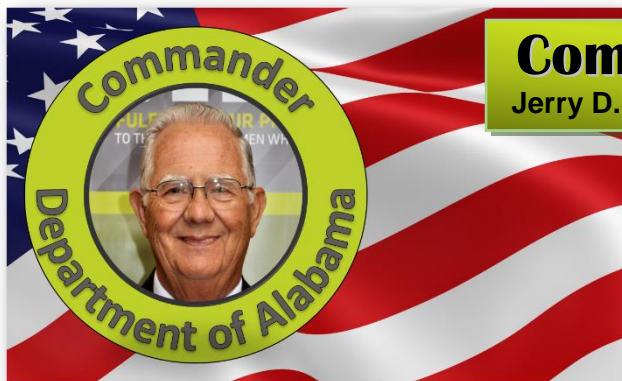
[company/davhq](https://www.linkedin.com/company/davhq)



[DAVeterans](https://www.pinterest.com/DAVeterans)



[DisabledVeterans](https://www.youtube.com/DisabledVeterans)



Commander Jerry D. Morgan

Greetings Comrades,

Congratulations to PDC Willie Tatum for his selection to be on the "Selection Board for 'Hall of Honor'" at the Marion Military Institute. He will be representing the Alabama Department of DAV.

The past five months since I was elected as your commander have gone by very fast and it has been a wonderful learning experience for me. I have been able to visit 7 chapters so far this year and each chapter is doing outstanding work in support of Veterans. The reception that I have received at each chapter was wonderful. My goal is to visit all 33 chapters this year, so I have some work to do. The Commander of Chapter 13 and I did an interview with a company, which had made a large donation to the chapter toward the purchase of a van to transport Veterans to appointments. News of their donation along with information from the interview was placed in their newsletter which goes all over the US and Canada. It was also placed on their website.

The Commander and Adjutant meeting was outstanding under the new concept of having some of the Past Department Commanders, PDCs, doing the presentation. We started off with PDC Waugh going over Constitution and Bylaws. He gave a great description of why each chapter needs to have a current copy of the Department and National Constitution and Bylaws to ensure that the chapter's C&BL meet all the changes by National and Department. If your C&BL has not been updated in the last two years, then you may not be meeting the new requirements. PDC Cobb, the Department IG, was up next with how important the chapter's sign-in roster, guest-sign in roster, chapter reports and the minutes of the meeting are in the event the IG has to make an inspection visit to your chapter because of a complaint or having missed a suspense date for a chapter reports. I learned that most chapter reports need to be kept for seven years. PDC Richmond was next with the

importance of committees and fundraisers and how they serve as an opportunity to get new members involved in the chapter and feel a part of the chapter. PDC Culver went over the importance and requirements of Officers, LVAP, CSO, Chaplain and Financial reports. He went over the basics of filling out the reports along with the suspense date of each. PDC Baker was next with the importance of chapter officers and members need attending Department and National Conventions and Mid-winter training.

Women Veterans Advisor Jones gave a great program about the needs of women veterans for medical care and application for benefits. The number of young women veterans is growing every year and the number of older male veterans is decreasing due to their death so the total percent of women veterans will only get higher. The need for additional women Chapter Service Officers is a must for every chapter.

If you missed this year's program, please plan on attending next year's program.

Veterans Day is only a few days away and I know that several chapters have programs, parades and other activities that you will be involved in to honor Veterans. Take pictures of what your chapter is doing and send them in to Comrade Anita Perez to include in the next News and Views. However, we must remember that our mission is to support all veterans every day of the year by providing service to them and not just one day of the year.

The Mid-Winter Training Conference is fast approaching with CSO training starting on Thursday January 9th at 0800. Remember, to ensure that your people will be certified you must have your list of attendees to the Department Adjutant and to the NSO office by December 1st in order that training material and certificates can be ordered for both primary and advance classes.

The Friday night Commander's reception at Mid-Winter is being changed to "Friday Night Fun Night." You will need to be here to see and be involved in the changes, such as the auction will be on Friday night rather than Saturday night.

Also, well the rest is a surprise that you don't want to miss. Remember that lifetime membership dues will go up on January 1st to \$300 for age 18 – 79 and age 80 up will still be free. This is the first increase in membership cost in over 30 years.

Respectfully,

Jerry Morgan
Commander
Department of
Alabama



MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION MONTH NOVEMBER



dodea

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

[Table of Contents](#)



Senior Vice Commander

Eugene Zeigler

Greetings Comrades,

On September 14, 2019 I attended the Willie A. Pruitt Memorial POW*MIA Black & White Banquet in Talladega, Alabama. Commander James A. Nelson along with Chapter 78 did an outstanding job.

I also would like to remind all veterans that the VA health care facilities are now a smoke-free facility for all employees, patients, visitors, contractors, volunteers and vendors. The new policy applies to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and/or any form of combustion of tobacco, including, but not limited to electronic or e-cigarettes, vaping previously considered a viable substitute for smoking tobacco. Research, funded in part by VA, added to the growing body of knowledge suggesting that e-cigarette vapors may not be as safe as originally believed.

On September 19, 2019 The Alabama Department of DAV met with Director Stacy J. Vasquez of the Birmingham VA Medical Center and Community Based Outpatient Clinics which include the following Clinics: Jasper, Huntsville, Anniston/Oxford, Gadsden, Shoals Area, Bessemer, Decatur/Madison, Childersburg and Guntersville. The Director informed the group about a Women's Resiliency Study: Purpose: To understand how sensory cues are processed and how hormones and genes contribute to or protect against posttraumatic stress symptoms following military sexual trauma to improve the care for women in the future.

Eligibility: Female veterans under the age of 70 with past military sexual trauma who meets eligibility criteria.

Participation: Three private study visits scheduled at your convenience and you will be able to receive \$40.00 for each visit. The participation has no impact on your VA healthcare or benefits. Please call Kela Leatherwood, 205-554-2000 ext. 2337, or Dr. Lori Davis 205-554-3919.

DAV membership as of September 30, 2019 is doing good, but we need to do better. Please remember that membership is our lifeline.

In order to expedite benefits delivery, Veterans seeking a VA benefit for the first time must submit a copy of their service discharge form (DD-214, DD-215, or for World War 11 Veterans, a WD form). Documents should include service dates and types of discharge and provide full names, military service number, branch and dates of service. The Veteran's service discharge form should be kept in a safe location accessible to the Veteran and next of kin or representative.

We would like to thank all who participated in the Department of Alabama Commanders and Adjutants Training in Montgomery, Alabama. Special thanks to our Training Director Deborah Walker and Assistant Training Director Scott Shoemaker.

Respectfully

Eugene Zeigler

Senior Vice Commander
Department of Alabama



**Happy Birthday
United States Marine Corps
10 November 2019
244 years young**

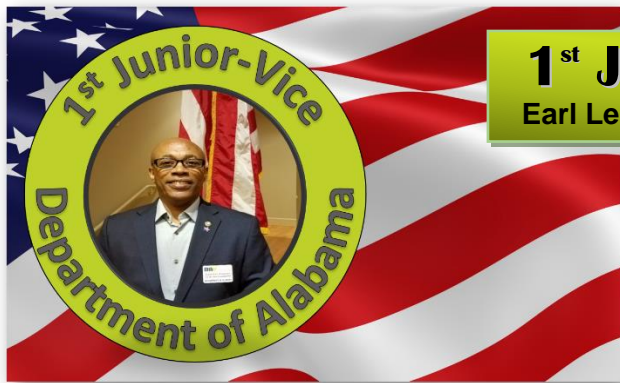
News & Views Article Due Dates:

January Issue – Due 15 Dec 2019

March Issue – Due 20 Feb 2020

May Issue – Due 20 Mar 2020

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



1st Junior Vice Commander Earl Lee Frazier (2nd District)

going to participate in till the next issue of news and views. If you are from the DAV/MALT (Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Tennessee) and on behalf of the Chapter Commanders and chapter members in District 2 you are invited to our meetings because this is positively Department of Alabama /DAV events. Also if you are in search of a chapter or know someone who wants to join feel free to choose from any within the MALT, we will be glad to have you as a member:

Comrades,

First of all "Thank you for your service". As we approach our first six months of our New Year thank you for all the hard work in the membership aspect and fundraising activities. To all district two-chapter commanders, unit commanders and chapter members in supporting the DAV mission and the Department of Alabama keep pushing on. You are doing a great job, thank you as well. Let's continue to bring in new members and help our brother and sister disabled veterans. Recently, I and other members of the Department of Alabama attended the black and white banquet in September. It was well represented by Chapter 78 and the community in Talladega. Congrats to Commander Nelson and Chapter 78 for doing a good job on the banquet and paying special tribute to our nation's fallen POW/MIA comrades. Winston Churchill once wrote "A nation that forgets its past has no future". Speaking of paying tribute to all veterans, November 11th 2019 is Veteran's Day. Take the time to thank a veteran, any veteran for their service. Of the 327 million people in the United States only about 7 percent have served in the United States Armed Forces at some point in their life.

The following is a consolidated list of events that chapters in District 2 have participated in or are

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

- In August Chapter 1 provided a check in the amount of \$299.50 to the Tuscaloosa VAMC for a catered lunch for approximately 50 veteran men who attended the VA Men's Health Fair.
- In September Chapter 1 hosted the DAV MSO van at Veterans Memorial Park in the heart of Tuscaloosa. A total of 26 veterans were served.
- In September Chapter 1 participated in three University of Alabama Office of Veterans and Military Affairs outreach events. Two were conducted in the evening and one late afternoon. The purpose of the events was to educate on-campus veterans (students, staff, and faculty) with their veterans' benefits and the role the university and DAV play in their delivery.

Chapter 4: ("Magic City"-Birmingham) – (Submitted by Commander Hampton)

Chapter 4 is open for claims assistance every Tuesday from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. and services a high number of veterans monthly. Currently chapter 4 is fundraising at Golden Corral in Hoover and doing well. The Birmingham community area veterans are distributed free food on the 1st and 2nd Wednesday of the month from 8 a.m. until all food distribution is depleted. Chapter 4 has also held bi-weekly seminars for the past two months. Senior Vice Commander Harper held an outreach seminar at her local senior center on October 12th 2019. Topics Day Parade held

annually in Birmingham. We are so proud to announce that the members of our Chapter that make up the Alabama Artillery Group will once again be participating in the DAV Section of the Veterans Day Parade. Their "Cannons" are always a huge hit with the crowds. Hope to see you at this year's parade.

Another big hit in our area is the Hardin's Chapel Veterans Day Program. Several of our Chapter members are also members of the Saint Clair County Honor Guard. The Honor Guard participates in their program with a Rifle Salute, TAPS and a presentation of the Military Service Flags. After the program, the Church provides a fantastic feast for the Honor Guard, congregation and guests. If you happen to be in the vicinity of Hardin's Chapel (Ragland AL) on Sunday November 10th, stop by at 10:00am and enjoy the program and all the food.

Mark your calendars: On December 14th, Alabama Artillery Group and other members of our Chapter will be participating in Wreaths Across America at Jefferson Memorial in Trussville AL. Once again - the Alabama Artillery Group will be firing a sequence of Cannon volleys - -and our Chapter will be providing TAPS. Hope you will plan to attend.

Chapter 28 :(Blount/Cullman) – (Submitted by Commander Cannon and Adjutant Richmond)

1. Started working Golden Corral in Cullman on October 1st and will work through November 11th.
2. Worked a booth at the Cullman County Fair October 3rd -12th 2019.
3. Planning a Cullman County Veterans Benefits Seminar.

4. Recruited 14 new life members since July 1st 2019.
5. Commander Cannon currently tied for lead recruiter for Department.
6. Recruited 14 new life members since July 1st 2019.
7. Commander Cannon currently tied for lead recruiter for Department.
8. Chapter sponsored one table for the Black and White Banquet.
9. Chapter sponsoring one table for the National Veterans Day Awards Banquet.
10. Hosted State Veterans Department Commissioner Kent Davis at September meeting.
11. Participated in the annual Commanders and Adjutants Seminar in Montgomery.
12. Participating in the Blount County Veterans Day parade honoring Vietnam Veterans.
13. Established partnership with Frank L. Bradford Chapter 18 for assisting veterans.

Chapter 33: (Clanton) - (submitted by Commander White)

Advised the DAV MSO van made its rounds into Clanton and was well attended along with 15 personnel from the VA, our NSO office from Montgomery and the state veteran office. Chapter33 also continues to service claims and assist veterans in their area.

Chapter 78: (Talladega) - (Submitted by Commander Nelson)

GWC Chapter 78, Talladega had a recruitment drive on Saturday October 12th, 2019 at the local Wal-Mart. We received three new members and \$430.00 in donations. The Chapter provided assistance to one family who house was a total loss.

Chapter 78 would like to thank everyone for their support of the 19th Annual WILLIE A PRUITT POW-MIA BANQUET, again Thank You. Chapter 78, also assisted one veteran with Nursing Home accommodations.

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.

Chapter 98: (Anniston/Oxford) – (submitted by Commander Cobb)

Commander Cobb and Chapter 98, continues to provide service for claims, free van rides for VA appointments and commitments to their communities in the Anniston & Oxford area.

On Saturday October 19th 2019 conducted Commanders and Adjutant training in Montgomery, Alabama. Thanks to Senior Vice Commander Zeigler for hosting the event in his church. The training event was well attended. Commander Morgan, PDC

Walker, Comrade Shoemaker and all the presenters from the training session presented much needed information to members of the department whom attended. As we prepare for the Golden Corral fundraiser, continue to support DAV, your chapters and our fellow disabled veterans because without you or them none of this is possible.

Once again “Thank you for your service!”
“Airborne!”

Enjoy the rest of your morning or evening.

Earl Lee Frazier

1st Junior Vice Commander
Department of Alabama



2nd Junior Vice Commander

Joseph Donaldson

(3rd District)

annual Oktoberfest in Alexander City, AL.

November 9, 2019 the Chapter will be participating in the 14th Annual Veterans Day Cookout, Car and Motorcycle Show in Alexander City at the Bill Nichols State Veterans Home from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

I would like to commend Commander Shoemaker and his Chapter and keep moving forward.

Comrades,

I would like to thank all the commanders in District 3. Due to medical concerns I was unable to travel (drive) for the first 3 months of my tenure. However, I've been cleared to travel and I've had a very busy two months. I had the opportunity to meet the Commanders, their staff and members of Chapters 13, 95, 31, 50, 14 and 61.

Chapter 13: Alexander City

I attended the monthly meeting on 9/16/19. Commander Shoemaker and his staff and chapter members made me feel welcome. The meeting was well attended. I had the opportunity to talk to the Department Adjutant and Treasurer while attending this meeting.

Commander Shoemaker and I discussed the annual report requirements as stated in the Department Constitution and By Laws. I am pleased to say that Chapter 13 is in full compliance with the Department Reporting Requirements.

Fundraisers: Commander Shoemaker reported that the raffle for the gun was going great. The first 1000 tickets were sold (Aug 19, 2019 minutes).

October 5, 2019 the Chapter participated in the Fall Festival in Dadeville, AL.

October 12, 2019 the Chapter participated in the 39th

Chapter 95: Opelika

I visited Chapter 95 on 9/17/19. I would like to thank Commander Benford for the warm welcome and the tour. We went to one of the areas that was affected by the tornados earlier this year. I was pleased to see the recovery efforts being made after such a tragic event.

I attended the Chapter's monthly meeting where Commander Benford addressed some key concerns for his Chapter. He requested that each member in attendance contact a former member and ask that they return to the DAV meetings. He stated that all new members are welcome as well.

Fundraisers: Oct 5 – Nov 15, 2019 Golden Corral in Opelika, AL.

Upcoming Event: Planning for Veterans Day is in progress.

Keep up the good work Chapter 95. Chapter 95 is in compliance with the Department of Alabama Reporting Requirements.

Chapter 31: Demopolis

Commander Stallings conducted his monthly meeting on Sep 24, 2019. Commander Stallings informed me that he is trying diligently to increase his membership and train his staff in order to function in accordance with State Constitution and By Laws. Commander Stallings and I discussed these reports that are required by the Department. He appeared to be eager to learn and willing to accept advice. He stated that he would like to start a program “Take on a Vet”. He wants to identify and help veterans in his area.

Commander Stallings was given the phone number for the monthly teleconference. In addition, all reports that are required by the Department were received. He requested that I return to the Chapter to check on their progress.

Fundraiser: No date set for any fundraisers.

Gook luck to you and your staff. Keep up the good work

Chapter 50: Butler

I visited Chapter 50 on Oct 5, 2019. I was informed that the Chapter had not submitted their Finance Report. I was assured by the Commander that his Finance Report will be forwarded this week. Commander Brandon Bailey explained that his primary objective is to renovate the DAV meeting facility, which was donated by the city of Butler, Alabama. The building is in a bad state of repair. All efforts are being made in order for the Chapter to be able to meet there.

Problems: Low membership participation in Chapter meetings. Chapter 50 (Butler, AL) has very few fundraising sites.

Projects: Renovation of Chapter meeting building and restoring and recruiting members.

Note: Stay focused command; help is a phone call away.

Chapter 14: Tuskegee

I attended Chapter 14's monthly meeting on Oct 13, 2019. I was late getting to the meeting due to a traffic jam. I was greeted by Commander Rackley and introduced to those staff members present and the members in attendance. Several questions were asked to the Junior Vice concerning personal health issues. In addition, there was a question raised about Tri-West. I recommended they take their complaints to the Patient Representative at their local Healthcare Facility.

Commander Rackley and I reviewed his report compliance form. Commander noted that he did not have a tax exempt form.

Fundraisers: There are no fundraisers scheduled for the next 3 months.

Projects: Periodic visits to veterans in the hospital, Veteran's Day parade in Tuskegee and support of Annual Labor Day Carnival.

Chapter 61: Selma

Commander Chappell conducted his monthly DAV meeting on Oct 14, 2019. He informed me that his Chapter conducted a fundraiser on Sep 7, 2019 with Long Lewis Chevrolet which was a success. He also stated he had a successful visit from the NSO mobile van on Sep 10, 2019. There were a total of 18 people requesting assistance.

Commander Chappell stated that he has no major problems at this time, however, he and his Chapter members are working on getting more members to attend meetings and new membership. Chapter 61 is in compliance with the Department of Alabama DAV Report Requirements.

Projects: Chapter 61 is in the planning stages for Veterans Day activities with the city of Selma. The Chapter is involved in a cleanup of Highway 80 with the city.

Comment: Keep up the good work Chapter 61.

Chapter 12: Montgomery

Note: I was informed by Commander Scott, Chapter 12 that he will not be conducting any meetings in November and December due to the holidays.

I plan to visit Chapter 66 and 40 in November and December 2019.

Respectfully

Joe Donaldson
2nd Junior Vice Commander
Department of Alabama



Department Meetings

Call Me Alabama!

ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE TRAINING

When: Every 4th Saturday 0800

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



Tired of feeling in the dark?

Want to know what is going on in the Department?

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

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



Happy Birthday
US Air Force Civil Air Patrol
1 December 1941
77 years young
[Learn more](#)



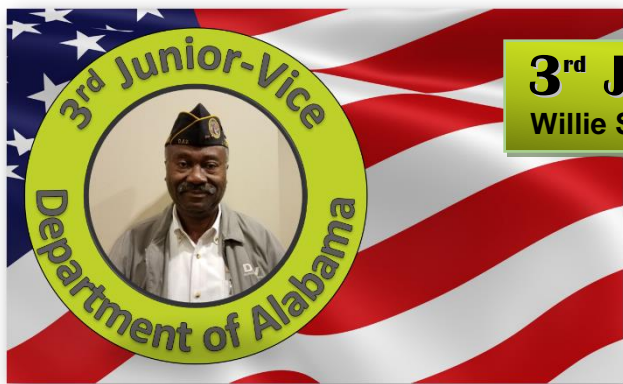
Happy Birthday
US Air Force Civil Air Patrol
13 December ??
Dates back to 1636
[Learn more](#)

A large banner for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The top half features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The text "December 7" is in the top right corner. Below that, "PEARL HARBOR" is written in large, bold, white letters, and "REMEMBRANCE DAY" is written in smaller white letters below it. The bottom half of the banner shows a black and white photograph of the attack on Pearl Harbor, with ships and buildings in the water and smoke rising in the background.

December 7

PEARL HARBOR
REMEMBRANCE DAY

[Listen to President FDR's speech](#)



3rd Junior Vice Commander

Willie Scott

(1st District)

Chapter 18: (Guntersville) submitted by Commander Edwin Allison

The Chapter continues working fundraising efforts to support our projects and programs, plus, membership drives to get the word out so the communities know there is still a local DAV Chapter here to help our veterans. We had a successful Forget-Me-Not Drive On August 31st. We had a booth at the 62nd VFW Marshall County Fair September 17th – 21st. Then we had another booth at the 56th Annual Boaz Harvest Festival October 4th – 5th where we had a second Forget-Me-Not and Membership Drive.

We continue to operate our independent van transporting veterans to their appointments at the Birmingham VAMC. We have added several new drivers and are actively recruiting more. We had a very successful 9th Annual DAV Charity Golf Tournament to finance the van's operations, maintenance and future replacement on September 6th. We are already planning next year's 10th Annual Tournament scheduled for 9/11. Come join us!

I and my wife were guests of Chapter 28 Commander Frank Cannon and lovely wife at the 19th Annual Black and White Banquet on September 14th. We were honored to share the table with Department Commander Jerry Morgan, his lovely wife, and PDC/Past Department Adjutant Chad Richmond and his lovely wife.

Our CSOs, working out of the county's public libraries and doing house calls, continue assisting veterans file claims and fill out other paperwork. We are continuously exploring multiple fundraising venues for all our projects and programs, including our Suicide Awareness, Intervention and Prevention program "Suicide safer Communities."

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It's hard to believe five months has already passed since we last met in Opelika and it won't be long before we're starting to get ready for next year's conference. Veterans Day, Christmas, New Year and the mid-winter conference are just around the corner. This past week October 14-18, 2019, the U.S. House passed three bills that will help give homeless veterans and their families the financial assistance they need. It will also make VA's websites more accessible and ensure veterans are remembered and memorialized with honor. The three bills which now await Senate action are as follows:

H.R.95: Ensures that children of homeless veterans are included in the calculation of the amounts of specific per diem grants.

H.R.238: Permits the V.A. to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the veteran's legacy program.

H.R.1199: Directs VA to conduct a study regarding the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities.

I was given a tour on Friday 18 October 2019 of two veterans' homes here in Montgomery along with Senior Vice Commander Zeigler and I must say these two homes were outstanding and that is including the VA staff, home owners and the physicals plant.

Happy Birthday to the U.S. Navy! 244 years.

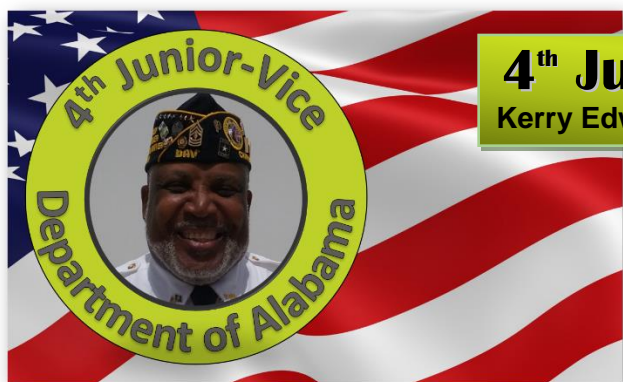
Remember all as of 1 October 2019 NO SMOKING ON VA PROPERTY.

"Have a Wolf-Pack Day"

Willie T. Scott, Jr.
3rd Junior Vice Commander
Department of Alabama



It could be colder!



4th Junior Vice Commander

Kerry Edwards

(4th District)

Greetings, Comrades, hope to find all doing well.

Well it has been a busy couple of months, a lot of traveling. So far, I've visited 4 Chapters: 9, 87, 94, and 99. I do not have a lot to report that I am recovering well after having foot surgery the 16th of September 2019. I should be running marathons within the next month. It was announced that my wife and I was in a vehicle accident on the 7th of October 22, 2019. The car was totaled but we walked away just fine. I will be visiting the chapters in the Mobile area in November.

Starting January 1, 2020 all service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart Recipients, former POWs and primary caregivers will be eligible to shop at commissaries and exchanges. The newly eligible customers will be able to use certain morale, welfare, and recreation activities.

I urge everyone to participate in the Monthly Town Hall and Training every 4th 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 November 23, 2019

Annual Finance Reports were due September 30, 2019. It was brought to my attention that some chapters missed the dead line. Let's get it in asap. If you need help contact me @ kedwards30378@sw.rr.com or call me at 334-596-5217

Don't Forget

National Veterans Day, Birmingham, AL
November 10-11, 2019

Military Appreciation Monday, Golden Corral, Nationwide
November 11, 2019

District Veterans of the year nominations due to 4th JVC
December 1, 2019

Time and Place bids due 4th JVC
December 1, 2019

Ways and Means fund raising requests due Department Adjutant
December 1, 2019

Employment awards nominations due 4thJVC
December 1, 2019

Ads due for Mid-Winter booklet Department Adjutant
December 1, 2019

New and Views input due
December 21, 2019

District Meeting and Department of Alabama CSO Certification Training and Mid-Winter Conference
January 8-12, 2020

Continue to be blessed.

Kerry Edwards
4th Junior Vice Commander
Department of Alabama

Click [here](#) for a full list.



[Table of Contents](#)



Department Adjutant

Hugo A. Perez

Hello fellow comrades,

Well, "winter is coming". Yes it's almost coat and sweater weather and soon will be at our very own Mid-Winter Conference and CSO training, YAY!! But first, it's Golden Corral time. By now you should have reached out to the managers of the stores and are working on, starting, or have started already with the fundraiser. Good luck to all.

On the October 19th we had our Commander and Adjutant training in Montgomery and it was very informative. We had 18 chapters represented. As for the other chapters that did not attend, you missed a great opportunity for a very good training session. If you think that every year is the same training, you are mistaken. There is always something new to learn and this year did not disappoint. I would like to personally thank all the PDC's that took the time to come out and share their knowledge with us and to PDC Walker for setting up the training. She promises more training to follow at Mid-Winter so don't miss out.

Speaking of Mid-Winter, as you all know some upcoming deadlines are approaching fast: Ways and Means, Time and Place, as well as ads for the book. Now, this year I extended a challenge to all the chapters, kind of a fundraiser for all. That challenge is the chapter that sells the highest dollar amount of ads wins. But don't be discouraged there is also room for second and third place, plus remember that you get 10% for each ad you sell so it's a win, win.

This is what you will win:

First place: FREE FULL PAGE AD for your chapter.
Second place: FREE Half page ad for your chapter.
Third place: FREE Quarter page ad for your chapter.

The winning chapters will have the free page advertised in our convention ad book in June 2020.

Chapters willing to participate let me know when you send your ads to me.

Every year some of us go to the National Convention and not only do we learn about new changes that are coming, we get to meet and mingle with other Departments and learn how they do things. One of the other things that we do at National Convention is exchange Department pins. This year after Convention, Commander Morgan stated that we needed a new Department pin, so here is another challenge for all chapters who would like to participate. I know that amongst us there is a wealth of talent. Some can sing, some can dance, and some can draw. So find someone who can draw and design a new pin. One entry per chapter is allowed so I suggest you have an in house contest first.

Here are the instructions:

- Must have the DAV and DAVA logo or letters
- Must be full color and it should be on a paper at least 8 ½ X 11 or bigger so we can see it clearly.

We will sell tickets during Mid-Winter for \$5/ticket which will equal one vote. Then we will count the number of tickets to determine the winner. The winner will be announced at the banquet and will have the choice of half the money raised from voting or 100 pins. After Conference I will send the link to all chapters so they can order pins for themselves so if any chapter member decides to go to National Convention and would like to trade pins at they can.

Another event that will be happening at the Mid-Winter Conference is our Department Meeting. It is imperative that the Commander or a representative of every chapter be present because we have to discuss and vote on changes within the Department. This and our monthly town hall meetings are how we get information to our members.

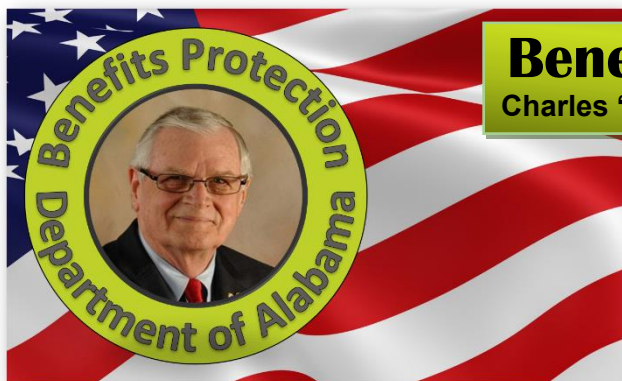
Get your registration in before the December 1st cutoff in order to avoid the additional \$5 charge. We are expecting great things from our fresh young hosts of the hospitality room, Scott and Harshila Shoemaker so donate if you can and come check it out. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Opelika in January and welcoming a brand new chapter, (Chapter 100, Hayneville) to the Department of Alabama.

So, in the meantime, set your clocks back, go vote, Happy Veterans Day, Happy Thanksgiving and this November and Merry Hanukkah, Kwanza and Christmas in December. I wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season. And as always..... WAR EAGLE!

Respectfully,

Hugo A. Perez
Adjutant
Department of Alabama





Benefits Protection Team Leader

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond

Greetings Comrades,

To some, this may seem a little off the beaten path, but for others, it will have some real meaning. Even though it has nothing to do with benefits protection, I think it is important to us a disabled veterans, since we seem to be a prime target. That status alone puts us toward the top of the list for scam artists, and for those of us who are older than dirt, we especially top that list. The subject is robo calls and other electronic scams. Cell phones have some pretty good controls to help us eliminate those nuisance calls, but not so for landlines. Many of us still require landlines because of poor or non-existing cell coverage. I average twenty scam or spoof calls a day. I have complained to Congressman Gary Palmer, both in person and by e-mail on the subject. He assures me that it is receiving attention in the Congress, but how much, I don't know. He did give me a website address that I have been using and they are very responsive. Whenever you receive one of these calls, let it run its course and take notes. You need the caller ID, phone number, name of the caller, the phone number they tell you to call, and the subject of the call. This will enable you to fill out the form on the FCC website. Here is the quote from Congressman Palmer: **"If you receive a call that you suspect has been spoofed, you can file a complaint with the FCC at <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov> or by phone at 1-888-225-5322."**

On October 11, the DAV's Legislative staff presented a seminar on the legislative process. That seminar is now available at <https://dav.wistia.com/medias/b1zjgb6ibi>. All of the seminars that concern BPTL can be accessed at <https://www.dav.org/learn-more/legislation/legislative-resources/>. There's a lot of very good information contained there.

Here are a few items off the DAV CAN:

There is some good news coming out of

Washington. On September 26, 2019, President Trump signed Public Law 116-58, which provides a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase of 1.6 percent, effective December 1, 2019, for veterans disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for survivors and certain other benefits.

On July 30, 2019, Representative Raul Ruiz (CA), introduced H.R. 4137-the Jennifer Kepner Healthcare for Open Air Burn Pit Exposure Act. If a veteran is not eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care based on service-connected disabilities, current statutes allow veterans treatment for diseases related to specific toxic exposures. However, exposure to burn pits is not one of the accepted toxic exposures. H.R. 4137 would amend that statute to allow veterans who served at locations with an open air burn pit on or after January 1, 1990, to be eligible for VA medical care.

Representative Joe Cunningham (SC) has introduced H.R. 2982, Women Veterans Health Care Accountability Act, to identify and remedy barriers women veterans face when trying to access VA health care. The legislation would require the VA Secretary to survey women veterans-both those who use VA health care and those who do not-to understand their reasons for not using VA services. The survey will question women veterans about their perceptions of safety in VA facilities, access to services, and stigmas they may express about seeking treatment for sensitive issues such as military sexual trauma, mental health or substance abuse disorders. The legislation would then require VA to identify strategies for addressing any issues identified by the survey.

We need you to take action today and let your Senators know that we want them to end the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, which is effectively a "widow's tax." Now that Congress has returned from summer recess, lawmakers are working to pass the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. The House authorization bill that was passed in July included a provision that would eliminate the SBP/DIC offset; the Senate version did not. Now the Senate and House must agree on what will end up in the final version of this bill. It is up to us to let the Senate know that we want the SBP/DIC offset provision to be included with the final version of the NDAA.

Congressman Raul Ruiz introduced H.R. 4451, the Support Our Services to Veterans' Caregivers Act. The bill would amend the law to allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to assist caregivers who are supporting the needs of veterans with serious illnesses related to military service. Such illnesses of veterans might include amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease), cancer or other devastating illnesses due to toxic and environmental exposures in the military that can leave veterans completely dependent upon others for help.

These are all bills that we need to keep on our legislators to make sure they co-sponsor and support. You can easily do this through DAV CAN,

[Table of Contents](#)

as well as keep yourself current on what is going on in Washington.

On the home front, though the State Legislature does not reconvene until February, but one of the issues that needs looking at is the definition of homeless. According to which criterion is used, the numbers of homeless veterans in the state could change drastically. And, the critical part of that group is women veterans. It could have a disastrous effect on the assistance of female single parent veterans. The SDVA is already planning to keep a close monitor on our state legislators.

If you plan to attend the National Mid-Winter Conference, be sure I have your contact information

so I can be sure you have all the info you need to make our trip a successful one. Go to <https://www.dav.org/events/2020-mid-winter-conference/> for information.

If you are not following BPTL on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/100626453961615/> to do so. It is very current and very informative on the latest issues.

Respectfully,

Charles "Chad" Richmond
Benefits Protection Team Leader
Department of Alabama



DAV Upcoming Events

November 10, 2019: National Veterans Award Reception/Dinner, Sheraton Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

November 11, 2019: Veterans Memorial Service, 8:30 a.m. Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham, AL

November 11, 2019: National Veterans Day Parade, 1:30 p.m. Birmingham Parade Route

November 14-17, 2019: Department of Louisiana Mid-Winter Conference, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA

December 14, 2019 – National Wreaths Across America Day

January 9-12, 2020: Department of Alabama Mid-Winter Conference, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National, Opelika, AL

January 16-19, 2020: Department of Tennessee Mid-Winter Conference, Doubletree, Murfreesboro, TN

February 23-26, 2020: National Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA

May 14-17, 2020: Department of Louisiana Annual Convention, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA

June 4-7, 2020: Department of Alabama Convention, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National, Opelika, AL

June 17-21, 2020: Department of Tennessee Convention, Doubletree, Murfreesboro, TN

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

August 3-6, 2024: National Convention, Phoenix, AZ



Women Veteran Coordinator

Tawanna Jones

Take control of your health and reduce your cancer risk. Know yourself, and your family history. Take charge and get regular check-ups and cancer screening tests.

October is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month, "According to the VA Women's Health Services Office, one third of Women Veteran's experience Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in their lifetime, compared with less than a quarter of civilian women."

As always, I give Thanks to God for His strength that lead and guide me through this chapter of my life.

Greetings to all my DAV Family,

The Department of Alabama DAV did it again, what an AWESOME time I had The Department of Alabama Leadership Seminar on Saturday, October 19, 2019. I enjoyed seeing you all at the seminar.



Women Veterans it that time of the year,

Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

Breast cancer is the most common cancer that most women face in a lifetime. One in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Two of three invasive breast cancers are found in women ages 55 or older. The best defense to find breast cancer as early as possible:

- ✚ Women should have mammograms each year starting at age 40,
- ✚ Breast exam should be part of regular health exam
- ✚ Women should know how their breasts normally look and feel, report any breast changes to your doctor right away.

Some health tips in prevent the risk of breast cancer:

- ✚ Being at a healthy weight,
- ✚ Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables
- ✚ Stay away from tobacco,
- ✚ Being physically active,
- ✚ Avoiding alcohol,



Intimate partner violence (IPV), which is often called domestic violence, occurs when a current or former intimate partner (e.g., boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse) harms, threatens to harm, or stalks their partner. IPV is prevalent among women Veterans, active duty women, and women living in the U.S. overall. Women who have experienced IPV may have short and long-term health effects. They may experience short-term health effects such as physical injuries like stab wounds or broken bones or sexually transmitted infections. They may also experience long-term health effects such as obesity; problems with their heart, stomach, or digestive systems; difficulties with pregnancies; chronic pain; and other stress-related difficulties such as headaches. They may also experience mental health issues such as depression, substance abuse, posttraumatic stress disorder, and thoughts of hurting themselves.

Intimate Partner Violence: Let Veterans Affairs Medical Center - Women Veterans Health Care Help. Ask your VA Provider or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233.



[Table of Contents](#)



Respectfully,

Jawanna

Women Veteran Coordinator
Department of Alabama

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



Department Chaplain Debra Varner

dedicated and unselfish men and women in the US Military believing in something greater than themselves. They were willing to sacrifice and serve other, realizing without their help, other may never be free.

"Thank You", for it was and it is the real people like these who protect our precious freedom each and every day; our Dads, Moms, spouses, brothers, sisters, neighbors, son, daughters, friends, cousins, and co-workers.

Remember behind each one of those Veterans, there is a family who sacrifice a lot while their loved ones serve and defended our country. We salute and remember our fellow comrade past, present, and future...Thank You

From the Chaplain's Corner:

"The Gift of Remembering"

Greetings:

The month of November for us is a time of reflections; a day set aside to honor fellow comrade who fought the battles strong. We reflect and honor those soldiers of war for what they have done and the sacrifices they have made, including their lives, to ensure a safe way of life for many. Those that have served have a fundamental belief they are the protectors of our great country. Consider those that are away from their families for months and years at a time and yet they are willing to fight for what they believe and treasure in their heart what is waiting for them at home.

We reflect on and remember these words "Thank You". They are and were the brave, honorable

The Blessings of the Lord

Debra H. Varner

DAV Chaplain,
Department of Alabama

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



MY FATHER ...

Loves me [John 3:16](#)

Cares for Me [Psalm 103](#)

Renews Me [Isaiah 40:31](#)

Protects Me [Psalm 23:4](#)

Redeems Me [Job 19:25](#)

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

Understands & Accepts Me [Psalm 139](#)

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





DAVA Commander

Linda Doss

Greetings to All,

The hot weather has finally pushed on and the cool fall temperatures have moved in. It is so nice not to use the air conditioner! Hope everyone had a good summer with family and friends in between all the travel and activities with the DAV/DAVA.

Fall Conference was great. There was definitely much to learn and the national officers did a super job of presenting the how to's for the various committees and programs that are offered. The emphasis was definitely stressed...the UNIT members make the decisions for what is spent and done by the unit. EVERYTHING has to be brought before the unit, and put into a motion, seconded, discussed, voted on and documented in the meeting minutes. If a question arises at a later meeting or the audit, the documentation is there to answer all questions. I also suggest that each unit obtain a Fall Conference Book. This is an essential tool for all units and officers to get the fresh update on all information needed for any subject. The book should be made available to all members upon request. Keep it in house!

The National DAV Commander spoke on the morning of the last session. He was quite impressed with the attendance, support and participation during all activities. Commander Whitehead came away with a definite knowledge of how the Auxiliary works!

I hope all units have gotten their financial reports in to national and the state adjutant. Getting things done on time or before the time sure makes it easier for the units to go about their business during the year. Also don't forget to file the electronic 990 before November 15th. This is another one of the

definite date requirements. Last year Ann Glende did a huge number of the 990's for units that had not done theirs yet to save the bacon so to speak. Let's get ours done before the time and save our own bacon and much precious time for Ann Glende.

Keep up the good work on membership this year. We did a great job last year and were the first state to make quota. Let's see if we can't do it again! Get out and make yourselves known/noticed in the community. Wear the DAVA apparel when you go out. It doesn't have to be meeting day or a special event. People do notice the logo on the shirt, but most will not ask the question. Just who or what is the DAVA? Be ready anytime to speak up and answer that question. Who knows, you just may have a new member. Don't forget the price change in January 2020, so do your best to recruit this year at the lower rate. Our current forms are good till 31 Dec 2019, and then toss them. New ones will be required, so order early.

Veteran's Day ceremonies are approaching fast. Be sure to participate in any and all activities that will honor our veterans who are serving now in harm's way. Wear your Auxiliary apparel to these events wherever they are with pride and honor our veterans.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are just around the corner. Be safe and travel with care to see family during these times. Most units and chapters will be observing these holidays during their regular meeting times. Again, be careful and have a good time with friends. This would be an opportunity to invite a possible new member to visit the unit and see firsthand how things are done.

Keep your eyes and ears open for any bills that will affect the benefits and health of our veterans. Be sure to answer I Support OR No Way for those bills that will do harm for the health and welfare of our veterans in any form. Our representatives need our input to be able to make the correct decisions or choices that they have to make for the support and passage of very important bills that affect our veterans. They don't always know what is really important unless we give that information to them by way of letters, phone calls, e-mails, or the Commander's I CAN network. It is important that we make our voices heard. The louder we are, the better the chances of passage OR stopping something that will affect our veterans negatively.

Have a safe, enjoyable holiday season.

Linda P. Doss,
State Commander
DAVA Department of Alabama
Linda P. Doss, State Commander
DAV Department of Alabama Auxiliary





NSO Supervisor

Mary Stovall-Moore

The NSO Supervisor has no input for this issue as she is as busy as one of Santa's elves working on our CSO training for the Mid-Winter Conference. She wishes all a safe and joyous holiday season.

Mary Stovall-Moore

NSO Supervisor



NSO Hours

eBenefits Info

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

[Click here for eBenefits.](#)



VA Regional Office
345 Perry Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36109

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

NSO Office hours for NSO contact/Interview:

By Appointment: Call office phone

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



2020 HAPPY NEW YEAR

Department Contacts

Commander
Jerry D. Morgan
Tel: 251-345-0440
Cell: 256-343-4340
jam415jam@att.net

Senior Vice Commander
Eugene Zeigler
Tel: 334-277-8789
Cell: 334-651-2147
zeigler1@bellsouth.net

1st Jr. Vice Commander
Earl Lee Frazier
Tel: 334-277-7917
Cell: 334-451-0155
elfrazier357@aol.com

2nd Jr. Vice Commander
Joseph S. Donaldson
Tel: 251-342-3234
Cell: 251-234-8051
josephadonaldson@yahoo.com

3rd Jr. Vice Commander
Willie Tom Scott, Jr.
Tel: 334-271-5077
Cell: 334-306-6412
scottalmc@msn.com

4th Jr. Vice Commander
Kerry M. Edwards
Tel: 334-593-5217
Cell: 334-596-5217
kedwards30378@sw.rr.com

Department Adjutant
Hugo A. Perez
Tel: 256-596-3907
Cell: 719-229-5026
aldavadj@outlook.com

Benefits Protection Team Lead
Charles Richmond
Tel: 205-681-2352
Cell: 205-613-4230
aldavadj@earthlink.net

Women's Veteran of Alabama
Tawanna Jones
Tel: 205-561-6069
Cell: 305-401-6935
jonesrtawanna_DAV@aol.com

Department Chaplain
Debra Varner
Tel: 205-731-2628
Cell: 205-586-2419
godisone@bellsouth.net

Auxiliary Commander
Linda Doss
Tel: 334-701-1754
daliipd67@reagan.com

