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Editor/Publisher
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NATIONAL WELCOME HOME
VIETNAM VETERANS
DAY

March 29, 2020



Commander

Jerry D. Morgan

Greetings Comrades,

I want to start off with, "Where has this year gone?" I only have three months left as your commander. This year has really been a learning experience for me and a year that I will never forget.

I hope that everyone had a good time at the Mid-Winter Training Conference that we just completed. I feel that the DSO/CSO training was successful with fewer problems this year. We will do a better job on getting the number of people that will be able to attend the level two training at the next training conference worked out where most people will be in the level that they should attend.

How did you like the changes we made to the Friday night entertaining? The big change for next year is we will not have a banquet on Saturday night. We will be through with the training by noon on Saturday and have the Executive Board Meeting, that is normally on Sunday morning, on Saturday afternoon. After that everyone will be free to go home. Just work with us and together we can try to improve your experience and use of your time as well as saving

money for the department, the chapters and each individual in attendance. Everyone needs to start planning on attending the Department Convention starting on June 5th at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National. You need to go ahead and make your reservation at the hotel and send in registration for the convention.

Anyone who wants to run for a Department position needs to get your request in to the Adjutant by May 1st. The forms for registration and to apply for a position are on the department web site. If you are holding an elected position now and you want the same or higher position you still must reapply. This is nothing new but based on the number of applications we received last year, and may have this year, we need to plan on the time required to get everyone interviewed before the nomination committee.

I want to welcome our newest chapter, Chapter 100, to the family. The new commander was certified as a CSO at the training and is currently working on helping veterans file claims. I also want to thank the 25 new members that signed up in order to start the chapter. Since the first of the year the new chapter has already recruited two new members.

I attended a meeting at the Birmingham VA Medical Center where we were informed that Oxford/Anniston and Muscle Shoals are both getting a new VA clinic. The clinics will be the new type where the veteran will go to one room and the Doctor and anyone else required will come to that room to take care of the veteran rather than the veteran moving from room to room.

Respectfully,

Jerry Morgan

Commander

Department of Alabama

Disabled American Veterans Mission Statement

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

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



Senior Vice Commander

Eugene Zeigler

Greetings Comrades,

On February 5, 2020 I attended the VAVS meeting with the Birmingham VA Medical Center. We were welcomed by the Director Stacy J. Vasquez. The Director gave an overview about the process that is taking place with the Birmingham VA Medical Center.

The Vision Statement of the Birmingham VA is as following:

“Birmingham VA Health Care System will modernize care, advance research, partner with high quality affiliates and invest in developing employing so they provide the best care for Veterans.

Mission Statement:

To provide quality patient-centered care for America’s Veterans.

Strategic plan methodology

Birmingham VA leadership team attended a strategic planning summit-outlined goals and plans for achieving them in the next three years.

Initiatives were identified as facility priorities by front line Managers and Service Chiefs.

Initial development of the action plans accomplished: found value in engaging employees at all levels to move these goals forward.

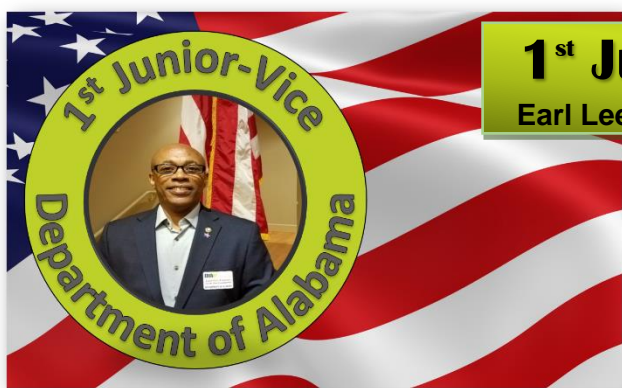
Developed an application process for energetic and passionate employees who want to participate in a workgroup to further develop an initiative.

Congratulations to the chapter who have made their goals for this year; Bill Nichols Chapter #13, Tuscaloosa Chapter #1, Blount-Cullman County #28. We encourage all other chapters to continue working on their goal, just remember membership is our lifeline.

Respectfully

Eugene Zeigler

Senior Vice Commander
Department of Alabama



1st Junior Vice Commander

Earl Lee Frazier

(2nd District)

Comrades,

For many of you whom I haven’t had an opportunity to say, “Happy New Year”, the year 2020 has finally arrived. We are already a few months into the year. The Department of Alabama midwinter was a success in Opelika with CSO attendees coming from all over the MALT to get certified as a Chapter

Service Officer. For those you whom have never been to our midwinter conference you have been missing out. Try to attend next year. As we progress into the New Year, I look forward to the town hall meetings via conference call, district 2 luncheon, election/installation of officers and membership drives. I along with Commander Morgan, Adjutant Perez, 3rd JVC Donaldson and Chaplain Varner attend our second meeting with the Birmingham VAMC Director Ms. Stacy Vasquez on Wednesday February 5th, 2020, to discuss future additions for healthcare and infrastructures. I also had another opportunity to visit chapter 33 to discuss the duties of elected and appointed officers within a chapter. Let us work hard together to make the department and district 2 chapters- mission for membership. Thank you district 2 for the hard work you have done and are about to do.

The following is a consolidated list of events that chapters in District 2 have participated in or are going to participate in until the next issue of news and views. If you are from the DAV/MALT (Mississippi, Alabama,

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Louisiana, and Tennessee) and on behalf of District 2 Chapter Commanders and chapter members you are invited to our meetings because this is positively Department of Alabama DAV/District 2:



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

- 12-16-2019 - Chapter 1 annual Christmas party.
- 1-7-2019 - Commander George & SVC attended Tuscaloosa Veteran Affairs Medical Center monthly meeting.
- 1-9-2020 to 1-10-2020 – Commander George & members of Chapter 1- attended the Department of Alabama CSO training in Opelika (two level 2 and six level 1).
- 1-15-2020 - Junior Vice Commander Haydu and Treasurer Butler attended CSO training in Murfreesboro, Tennessee during Department of Tennessee midwinter conference.
- 1- 21-2020 - Chapter 1 conducted their quarterly chapter meeting.
- 1-28-2020 - Commander George attended VAMC voluntary Service Committee meeting.
- 2-4-2020 - Commander George attended TVAMC monthly meeting.

- 2-5-2020 - Chapter 1 helped fellow veteran by writing a check for \$348 for Tuscaloosa VAMC catered lunch for 50 female veterans for the “ Go Red for Women “ program (www.womenhealth.va.gov) .
- On 3-3-2019 - Commander George will attend the TVAMC monthly meeting.
- On 4-19-2020 - Chapter 1 will hold their chapter election/installation of officers, 1st JVC Frazier will attend to preside.
- Adjutant Byrd leads the Department in membership applicant efforts, “Good Job”.

Chapter 4: (“Magic City”- Birmingham)

Chapter 4 has numerous events coming up in the months ahead. For instance, Birmingham VAMC is planning a new mental health facility in the fall of 2021 to be located at 7901 Crestwood Blvd, to provide veterans with high quality and reliable health care. Next, on Thursday March 5th, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a Veteran Career Fair and Diversity Job Expo. The location will be the Hilton Birmingham at UAB (www.reservationcounter.com/Hilton/Birmingham). Finally, on Thursday, March 26th, 2020, there will a veteran town hall and resource fair at the Birmingham VA Medical Center from 11 a.m. -12 p.m. in the 9th floor auditorium.

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. If anyone within the Department of Alabama /DAV knows of anyone, Chapter 4 can help contact them via email at: davbirchap04@gmsil.com

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is actively seeking candidates for Jefferson County assistant veteran service officer. For information and application procedures, please visit ADVA at: <https://va.alabama.gov/employment/>.

Chapter 21: (Piedmont) – Commander Hilburn, and Chapter 21 continues to provide needed claim services to veterans in the Piedmont area. If you have never visited Chapter 21 please do so their chapter is a meeting place and a museum with artifacts, pictures and memorabilia from members past and present within their chapter. From Purple Heart to Medal of Valor recipients take time one day and ask if you can go by for a tour.

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

It has been a long time since we got to share news with all of you. So, Chapter 27 (Pell City) is going to backtrack a little to cover some of our special times and events – starting with Thanksgiving 2019. Hope everyone had a wonderful ‘Thanksgiving Gathering’ with family, friends and other Veterans. With “gatherings” in mind, we also hope all of you celebrated some “Great Gatherings” during the Christmas and New Year Holidays. The ‘holidays’ can be very depressing for many families – especially our Veterans. During your holiday events, we sincerely hope you took a little time to reach out in some way to a Veteran’s family

Chapter 27 enjoyed a big hit on Sunday, November 10th when we participated in Hardin’s Chapel Annual Veterans Day Program. We rendered Rifle Salute, TAPS and presented the United States Flag and the Military Service Flags. Our Chapter Junior Vice Commander, Anthony

“Andy” Austin, was the guest speaker for this wonderful program. After the program, the Church mimicked ‘Golden Corral’ and provided a fantastic feast for all. Thank you, Andy, for professionally representing the DAV during this event. And thank you Hardin’s Chapel for “Remembering Our Veterans” in such a thoughtful way. We look forward to being a part of your next program - Memorial Day 2020.

We are so proud of the members of Chapter 27 that make up the Alabama Artillery Group. Once again, they participated in the DAV Section of the Annual Veterans Day Parade in Birmingham on Monday, November 11th. Their “Cannons” – as always – were a huge hit with the crowds. Thank you, Alabama Artillery Group, for what you do in representing the presence of the Disabled American Veterans. Rounding out the celebrations of Veterans Day – was the huge ‘gathering’ of Veterans that got to “eat free” at the Golden Corral locations. Thank you, Golden Corral, for not only a delicious meal – but a “free” one.

Two great events: On December 10th, 2019 and January 21st, 2020, Judge Streety and the Jefferson County Veterans Treatment Court system proudly graduated more Veterans. Ms. Linda Morris, a representative for the Upward Bound Educational Program at Gadsden State College, was on hand for the ceremony and encouraged these recovering Veterans to go to school, or ‘back’ to school. She shared details about this program and provided informational pamphlets. We were pleased to see four Veterans immediately interact with her for more guidance. When a Veteran graduates from the Veterans Treatment Court program, they are given an opportunity to share their thoughts with other participating Veterans. It is so gratifying to listen to the graduating Veteran explain their successful journey through this valuable program. Of course, as mentors for this program – we always strive to be a positive influence and a ray of “hope” for these Veterans. But what a profound impact the “Graduating Veteran” has as he/she stands with the Judge and faces his peers to emphasize how the program changed their life by providing a “second chance”. Recently, there have been some changes in the ‘staff’ involved with the program. These “new staff” members are bringing ‘new ideas’ to the table – in the form of “Gift Incentives” - and so far, it’s manifesting some encouraging results. In the past, Chapter 27 provided incentives by helping Veterans purchase a car, pay a utility bill or assist with housing needs. It is so rewarding to see the benefit of these actions. For example, one of the ‘graduating Veterans’ came back to the program as a Mentor – and rode a bicycle to get to court to help us. We

found a good vehicle for him and assisted with the purchase. With dependable transportation, this Veteran has now secured a good paying job with Mercedes. On the December 10th, we shared in the ‘Spirit of Giving for Christmas’ when we “paid” for the cost of a HUD application so another Veteran could obtain housing – just in time for Christmas. To become a more “positive” influence in this Veteran Treatment Program, Chapter 27 plans to provide “other” gift incentives such as “Food cards, Visa cards and Uber Transportation cards”. We desperately need one or two more mentors. Please consider helping. It is only ONCE a month for approximately 2 hours. If you think you might be interested in this ‘heart-warming’ process, please contact our Chief Mentor Dale Onstine at hdbear@yahoo.com

On Saturday, December 14th, the Alabama Artillery Group and other members of Chapter 27, participated in ‘Wreaths across America’ at Jefferson Memorial in Trussville AL (Jefferson County). Once again - - the Alabama Artillery Group exceeded all expectations with the firing of Cannon volleys - -and our Chapter Senior Vice Commander, Hubert Stapler, rendered TAPS. Next year, Chapter 27 plans to ‘expand’ our support and involvement in this worthwhile endeavor by participating in ‘Wreaths across America’ in “St Clair County”.

Not all of the Veterans we help are local. Often, we receive request from Veterans passing through our area. This was the case on January 13-14, 2020 when a Veteran and his wife, also a Veteran, broke down in Ft Payne, AL. They were traveling from Port Arthur, TX to Wilmington, NC when their motorhome caught fire. Chapter 27 transported them and their 14-year-old cat to Murphy, NC, provided 2 nights in a hotel, a phone card, groceries and money for this family. Thank you Chapter 98 (Anniston) for helping us with the money provided to this family.

Did you make any New Year’s Resolutions 2020??? Try this!! Consider making an encouraging phone call, card or letter, fruit basket, meal delivered, meal out, leaves raked or a gift card to a Veteran and their family.

Chapter 28: (Blount/Cullman)



Commander Cannon, Adjutant Richmond and several members of Chapter 28 attended CSO training in Opelika. Chapter 28 (Commander Cannon, Adjutant Richmond and Sergeant-at-arms Dan Turner) presented a check January 14th, 2020 to all four veteran homes.

Chapter 28 hosted a Veterans Benefits Seminar in Cullman, AL on February 11. There were 45 visitors for the seminar by the DAV NSO office, State Department of Veterans Affairs, Wallace State College, Birmingham VAMC, Alabama National Cemetery and Chapter 28. Thanks go out to Northbrook Baptist Church for the use of their fantastic facility. We would like to thank Commissioner Kent Davis and Assistant Commissioner Bob Horton for stopping by our seminar. We are looking at doing another in Oneonta this summer.

Chapter 28 has gone five over their membership goal for the current year and Commander Cannon is currently in third place among recruiters.

Chapter 28 will be working with the Cullman Golden Corral again for the upcoming Camp Corral fundraiser. It will be April through June.

Chapter Officers will be elected in March and will be installed by 1st JVC Earl Frazier.

The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is actively seeking candidates for Cullman County assistant veteran service officer. For information and application procedures, please visit ADVA at: <https://va.alabama.gov/employment/>. Commander Cannon also continues to lead the department with membership applicant efforts, "Good Job".

Chapter 33: (Clanton)

Chapter 33 lost two veteran members at the beginning of the year: Donald Frazier and Ray West- please take a moment of silence to remember our fallen comrades. The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is

actively seeking candidates for Chilton County veteran service officer. For information and application procedures, please visit ADVA at: <https://va.alabama.gov/employment/>. On Saturday May 9th, 2020, Chapter 33 will conduct their installations of chapter officers, 1st JVC Frazier will be presiding.

Chapter 78: (Talladega) (submitted by Commander Nelson)

Commander Nelson assisted a Veteran with shelter after a fire and helped another veteran with utility bills. He also attended Mid-Winter Conference CSO training and it was awesome. He attended Talladega's local Valentine banquet for 100 men of Talladega County and visited Colonel Robert Howard Veterans Home in Pell City. Commander Nelson has been selected as a member on the National Veterans Day Parade committee replacing PDC Chad Richmond and serves as a career coach for the high school students in Talladega County.

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

Chapter 98 continues to provide free van service for Veterans in the Calhoun County to their VA appointments at the Birmingham VA Medical Center. They also continue to provide assistance with claims. On Tuesday April 14th. Chapter 98 will have their officer's election, followed by May 12th, 2020 installation ceremony.

Closing Comments:

That wraps it up for this edition of news and views from district 2. Once again "Thank you for your service!" "Airborne!" Enjoy the rest of your morning or evening.

Respectfully,

Earl Lee Frazier

1st Junior Vice Commander
Department of Alabama



2nd Junior Vice Commander

Joseph Donaldson

(3rd District)

No input for this edition of News & Views.

Respectfully

Joe Donaldson

2nd Junior Vice Commander

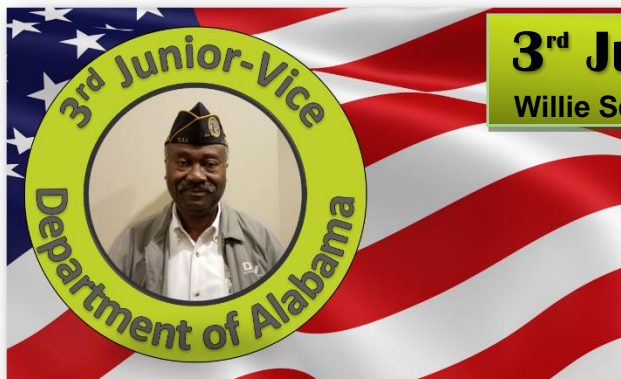
News & Views Article Due Dates:

May/June Issue - Due 20 Apr 2020

July/August Issue – Due 15 Jun 2020

September/October Issue – Due 20 Aug 2020

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



3rd Junior Vice Commander

Willie Scott

(1st District)

Veteran has had to have a 100 percent disability rating in order to use the MWR. Veteran Service Organizations and our allies in Congress kept fighting for change and change happened. I remember the bills asking Congress for Veterans to use the BX/PX and Commissary. Well as of 1 January 2020 a service-connected disabled Veteran with less than 100 percent can use the named stores. I have talked to management at the Maxwell Base Exchange and they tell me that sales have gone up.

Hello Comrades Department of Alabama,

On 18 January 2020 I traveled to Hayneville, AL to install Chapter 100 officers and it was a grand event. The attendance for this first event was outstanding. The veterans and non-veterans that were present were all happy. The local TV station covered this ceremony. Chapter 100 Commander and I were interviewed by the TV reporter.

I may be biased when I say DAV has always been at the front of the Veteran Service Organizations that endorsed bills that help veterans. For many years a

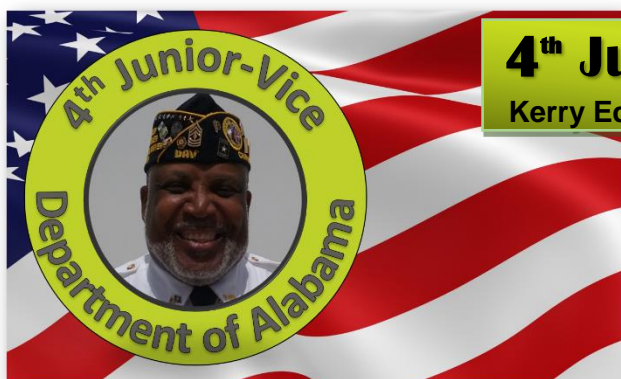
I urge everyone to always check out the Commanders Action Network (CAN). It will pay off.

I talked by phone to the chapter commanders in the district and I traveled to Huntsville, AL Chapter 26. I also attended Chapter 11's meeting in Decatur, AL on 17 February 2020.

I will be running for higher officer.

Willie J. Scott, Jr.

3rd Junior Vice Commander
Department of Alabama



4th Junior Vice Commander

Kerry Edwards

(4th District)

No input for this edition of News & Views.

Department Meetings

ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE TRAINING

When: Every 4th Saturday 0800

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



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

Tired of feeling in the dark?

Want to know what is going on in the Department?

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

Chapter 45: (Loxley) – submitted by Commander Rick Steadman

Activities of Chapter/Unit 45 since the last News and Views.

They assisted the town of Loxley in setting up for the annual Veterans appreciation dinner. They also provided some of the food and door prizes for the event.

Some of their members serve on the Blue Star Salute planning committee at the Battleship Alabama Park. They also attend monthly networking meetings at the South Alabama Veterans Council.

Some of their members volunteer at the Mobile VA Clinic every week.

They conducted their annual Walmart fundraising event on November 7th and 8th.

Two of their members received hand-made quilts for their service from the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Their Vietnam Era Veterans received Vietnam Medallions from the Veterans Day Council and a Vietnam themed survival bracelet from the American Legion.



Pictured holding the small afghan is Horace Gilbert. Holding the large afghan is (left to right) Lamar Giles, Pat Burke and Med Apley. Picture by Linda Steadman.



Chapter 87: (Dothan) – submitted by Commander Dan Blackman

DAV Chapter 87 completed our office move in late January 2020 and we are now back in the business of assisting Veterans. Our new location is: 301 West Lafayette St. Dothan, AL 36301. Our new office phone number is: (334) 446-0866 email unchanged.

Thanks to all Chapter members that assisted with the move, and WDHN Channel 18 for publishing our move and informing the community.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter moves to new location

by: [Brantley Weatherford](#)

Posted: Jan 29, 2020 / 05:34 PM CST / Updated: Jan 29, 2020 / 05:48 PM CST

DOTHAN, Ala. (WDHN) — The Disabled American Veterans Dothan organization has moved to a new location. They were originally on 545 West Main St.

They moved to the Saliba Family Services Center on 301 west Lafayette Street on January 21. In the past, people didn't know about the DAV in Dothan, but now they have a public phone listed in the phone book.

"The new phone number is 334-446-0866. So, even if you don't remember this number just call 411, ask for Dothan Chapter 87 and they'll tell you the address," Commander Daniel Blackman said.

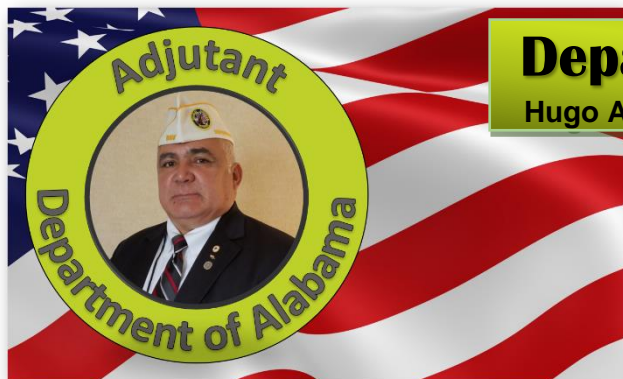
Veterans can also call the 411 number and they'll give you the chapter's number.

Hospitality Room



My wife Harshila and I would like to thank all of you who came to the hospitality room for our Grand Opening. We enjoyed your compliments and the comradery. Now we must ask something of all of you. We would like your input as to what you would like us to try and provide for the meals. Send recommendations to (mr_shoemaker@hotmail.com). This ad will run until May 2020. We look forward to your input.

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Department Adjutant

Hugo A. Perez

During the beginning of February, the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commanders and I attended a meeting with Stacy Vasquez, the Director of the Birmingham VA Medical Center. She showed us plans of the new Mental Health Center that will break ground soon and she gave us a tour of the new facility and the progress of the hospital. I must say, since she took over, I have seen a lot of great changes in the way the hospital personnel take care of us Veterans and the advancement in the renovation of the facility.

Hello Comrades,

First and foremost, I would like to thank all that helped with the training during our Mid-Winter Conference. All the instructors showed professionalism and talent and I thank you. Don't be surprised if PDC Debb Walker calls on you again to teach a class. We had a total of 135 CSO's trained including 12 from the Department of Florida, 2 from Tennessee one from Mississippi. Also, during our Mid-Winter, we had the privilege to have our National 4th Junior Vice Commander, Daniel Contreras as our guest. He expressed that he had a lot of fun meeting members of our department as well as members of the state of Florida and the MALT, and of course beating PDC and Adjutant of Louisiana, Paul Herman at golf. He sent me the following note.

Dear Adjutant Perez:

Congratulations on the success of your recent Mid-Winter Conference. The program was very informative, and the hospitality extended was superb.

In addition, the banquet, hospitality room, and the "Tex-Mex" Commander's Reception were all well done. Thank you for the beautiful Alabama Clay Eagle, I have it proudly displayed in my office.

It truly was an honor to be invited as the National Commander's Representative. It was great to connect with many of my friends and make new ones.

Please convey my accolades and appreciation to all Department and Auxiliary members.

Sincerely,

Daniel Contreras, PSC

DAV National 4th Jr. Vice Commander

CEO-Adjutant

DAV Department of California

Other important issues that will impact most of us that have Tricare is that more than 200,000 Tricare beneficiaries will no longer be seen at 37 military health clinics across the country in the coming years. Here in Alabama are two facilities that will be impacted and one in nearby Georgia.

- 42nd Medical Group, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL
- Army Health Clinic Fox-Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL
- The North Columbus Community Based Medical Home, Fort Benning, GA

For full details of this story please click on the link below:

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/02/19/these-military-clinics-will-stop-taking-200000-non-active-duty-patients-heres-the-list/>

As you all know the National Midwinter is at the end of February and we will be meeting with our representatives in Washington, DC we expect a good turnout.

Lastly the new candidate for in online and I have also sent it out to all chapters. If you are running for a position please complete the form and send it to me, with a resume, no later than 1 MAY 2020.

And as always War Eagle.

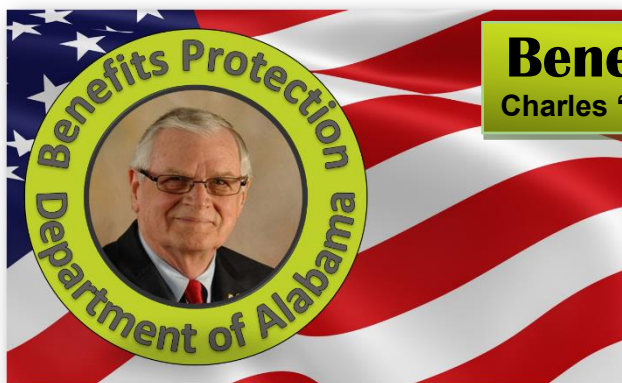
Respectfully,

Hugo A. Perez

Adjutant
Department of
Alabama



Birmingham VAMC Front Entrance Progress



Benefits Protection Team Leader

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond

3. Fully and Faithfully Implement the VA MISSION Act
4. Strengthen Veterans Mental Health Care and Suicide Prevention Programs
5. Enact Legislation to Address Gaps and Inequities in the VA's Women Veterans Health Care Program

Greetings Comrades,

In two days eleven of us will be traveling to Arlington, VA and Washington, DC for the 2020 National Mid-Winter Conference. Trying to get times scheduled for office visits is like pulling hen's teeth. I still do not have all of them scheduled. It seems that four of our representatives have also moved their offices in the last year, as well as hired new staff members. PDC Culver provided me with a lot of good contact info, but sadly, only about half of it turned out to be true. This is an annual exercise that Washington seems to go through. There are a lot of good issues for us to be fighting for this trip and these are the things our three teams will be discussing as they visit our legislators:

1. Ensure Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances Receive Full and Timely Benefits, Particularly for Burn Pits, Agent Orange and Other Known Exposures 2.
2. Enhance Veterans' Survivor Benefits

These goals were provided to each of the legislators' offices in Washington and I distributed these critical goals to the chapter BPTL's. Plus it is on the DAV's website: <https://www.dav.org/learn-more/legislation/>. Everyone needs to contact the local office of our Congressional Representatives and Senators plus get on the Commander's Action Network and make your voices heard. Another thing I have discovered is that e-mails are just about the only effective means of communication with those offices. You can also stay abreast with BPTL Issues if you go to "BPTL" on Facebook and join. There is a lot of good info on that site concerning what is going on in Washington and what is being done by our Legislative Staff. Joy Ilem and all her folks put in a lot of hour attending committee meetings and testifying before those committees representing the welfare of all veterans and their families.

There are many issues before our State Legislature, which began its session on February 4. State Commissioner Kent Davis had the pleasure of letting the Legislature know exactly what the State Department of Veterans Affairs does. Here are the main items. Just control/click on the number and you can read everything about the proposed bill.

SB51 - Allowing military dependents to maintain in-state tuition even if the sponsor is relocated

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SB53 - Allowing for tax benefits for developments adjacent to Maxwell Air Force Base

SB99 - Requiring notification of the state military department before granting permits for erecting tall structures

SB105 - Requiring school systems to allow military families the opportunity to apply for magnet schools

SB106 - Allowing for the formation of charter schools on or near military installations

SB88 was also introduced which authorizes the State Board of Education to issue alternate certifications to certain members of the armed forces.

On February 18, the State Military and Veterans Affairs Committee held a hearing regarding **SB143**, which allows military dependents to enroll in virtual schools upon receipt of orders to relocate to Alabama, and **SB163**, which would expand the Alabama Armory Commission from nine members to fifteen members.

On February 19 the Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee met regarding **SB8**, which would increase Survivor Benefits for members of the National Guard.

In the House, the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee held a hearing on February 19 regarding three pieces of legislation:

HB40 - Providing for lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for veterans

HB100 - Allowing military dependents to enroll in virtual schools upon receipt of orders to relocate to Alabama

HB115 - Extending the application of USERRA to active members of all uniformed services.

In other State news, Governor Ivey has encouraged the US and Alabama Secretaries of Labor to recruit and hire Alabama veterans.

Though it is not a BPTL issue, putting on my hat as the Vice Chairman for the State Board of Veterans Affairs, it is my pleasure to announce that the City of Enterprise was chosen by the Board as the site for the fifth State Veterans Home. All of us on the Board are really excited about it and I know the City of Enterprise is, as well. It will take us a couple of years to get it done, but it will be well worth the wait.

Respectfully,

Charles D. Richmond

Benefits Protection Team Leader
Department of Alabama



Click here for: [Legislative goals for the new year](#)



[Contact your House Representative](#)



[Contact your Senate Representative](#)

DAV[®] Dos & Don'ts FOR MEMBERS DURING ELECTION YEAR CAMPAIGNS

DAV encourages you, as an individual, to register to vote, to vote in elections and to actively support the candidates of your choice. However, as a member of DAV, you have the responsibility to ensure your activities as a private citizen do not give the appearance that DAV supports or opposes any political candidate. To do so would violate our congressional charter, national Constitution and Bylaws and the law and regulations governing DAV's tax exempt status.

Dos and Don'ts

- DO** get involved in political campaigns, rallies, forums and town hall meetings, as an individual. It's your right as an American citizen—and a disabled veteran—to support the candidate of your choice.
- DON'T** support a candidate, or attend political events in support of a candidate, in the name of DAV, nor should you give the appearance that DAV is supporting a particular candidate. Wearing DAV caps and shirts can give the appearance of support by the organization.
- DO** hold open candidate forums or town hall meetings so the candidates can discuss their positions on issues affecting disabled veterans, their families and survivors.
- DON'T** forget to invite all candidates to the open forum/town hall meeting and make reasonable attempts to accommodate their schedules. It is not necessary that all candidates accept the invitation or attend for you to hold the event or that the candidates appear on the same day or at the same time.
- DO** make candidates aware of the issues facing wounded, injured and ill veterans, their families and survivors, either as an individual or as a member/leader of DAV or its subdivision.
- DON'T** forget to review DAV's national resolutions to ensure your position is in line with—and not contrary to or unsupported by—DAV's adopted resolutions when speaking on behalf of the organization.
- DON'T** forget that, while DAV provides services to all veterans, our legislative goals focus on the betterment of wartime disabled veterans their families and survivors.

DAV National Policies

- "The corporation [DAV] shall be nonpolitical and nonsectarian, and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office." Title 36 U.S.C. § 50306.
- Under the law and regulations governing the Internal Revenue Service (Title 26 U.S.C.), the federal tax-exempt status of certain charitable, nonprofit organizations, including DAV, shall be withheld or removed if they: "Participate or intervene, directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf or in opposition to any candidate for public office...Activities which constitute participation or intervention in a political campaign in behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the making of oral or written statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate.
- DAV National Constitution, Article II - Purpose: "...to advance the interests and work for the betterment of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans..."
- DAV National Bylaws, Article 2, Section 2.1—Nonpartisanship: The Organization shall be non-political and non-sectarian and the name of this Organization or name of any subdivision thereof shall not be used in representing the desires or wishes of its membership in any political, sectarian or labor dispute, except as provided hereinafter...the forgoing shall not prevent this Organization or any subdivision thereof from participating in political issues which have a direct bearing upon the welfare of America's disabled veterans."
- DAV National Bylaws, Article 2, Section 2.2,—Legislative Activities, Para. 1: No member shall speak in the name of the DAV taking a position contrary to a standing resolution.
- DAV National Bylaws, Article 2, Section 2.2, Para. 2: Federal legislation cannot be sponsored or endorsed without a resolution.

Check out DAV's Legislative Program and approved resolutions at: dav.org/learn-more/legislation/resolutions



DAV Upcoming Events

March 21, 2020: DAV Auxiliary National Commander Testimonial Dinner, The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, Orlando, FL

March 29 – April 3, 2020: Winter Sports Clinic, Snowmass Village, CO

April 30 – May 3, 2020: Department of Mississippi Annual Convention, Treasure Bay Casino & Hotel, Biloxi, MS

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

June 6, 2020: DAV National Commander Testimonial Dinner, Embassy Suites Bloomington, Bloomington, MN

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 11-14, 2020: State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation, Embassy Suites, Cold Spring, KY

July 31-August 4, 2020: National Convention (100 Year Anniversary), Hilton Anatole, 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

NSO Office Information

eBenefits Information

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:



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



Women Veteran Coordinator

Tawanna Jones

Greetings to my DAV Family and Friends,

First, I give Honor and Glory to my Heavenly Father,
Thank You LORD!

Hello my Comrades,

It's was good see you all at the 2020 Mid-Winter conference, I enjoyed you all and learned a lot. Thank you for all that took part in the "Women Veterans survey". The result of the survey shows that we (DAV member) would like to have more training in the area of "Women Health issues, Burial, Vocational Rehabilitation, and employment" benefits, plus there were a high response to have a Women's Empowerment Luncheon at even the State Department mid-winter or annual conference. I am excited about all of feedback I received, and no time should be wasted putting it in to action. At the 94th Annual Department of Alabama Convention we will have our 1st annual Women's Empowerment Luncheon with a dynamite speaker speaking on women's health. It's time for change, to give you what you want to hear more information on. The goal is to educate and refresh us on our Veterans Benefits. Yes, most of us know about compensation and pension and the other VA benefits that we as Veterans are missing out on. The plans are in motion to execute a new direction for Women's Veterans training. The training will be for both male and female, We ALL ARE VETERANS AND WE ALL SERVED!



Here are some highlights from the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference



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February is “Go Red for Women” – American Heart month. Cardiovascular diseases continue to be Women’s greatest health threat. Make a commitment to yourself, to take better care of “YOU”. Signs and Symptoms of Heart Attack
If you have any of these signs, call 9-1-1 and get to a hospital right away.

1. Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest. It lasts more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back.
2. Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
3. Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.
4. Other signs such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

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5. As with men, women’s most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain.

Please take these symptoms seriously, it can make a difference that can save or end your life.



I want to send out a BIG THANK YOU to Tuscaloosa Chapter 1 for their support for the “Go Red Event”.

Respectfully,

Jawanna

Women’s 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

impossible to some; but together we can and will accomplish great things to come as one people united. Many have given themselves to the cause of freedom; and passed the candle of light on for us to carry. Let us not fail them but keep the light of hope and love burning for those coming behind us.

As members of this great organization (Disabled American Veterans) we dedicate ourselves to strengthen, encourage and make a difference in another life no matter how large or small. We have learned that a little light outshines darkness in whatever manner it chooses to present itself. This great love is shed abroad in our heart for our country, family and friends. Choose to be someone's light today and shine bright.

Romans 5:5 – And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Sincerely,

D.H. Varner

Chaplain
Department of Alabama



From the Chaplain's Corner,

The Light

A note of encouragement to fellow comrades. We are not alone in our faith, love, liberty, freedom of thoughts and actions. It is a longing shared by people of all walks of life and all over the world. This shared love is one of a few remaining strongholds of being free. It is our task to share and demonstrate this love of being helpers of one another. It may seem

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](#)



No input for this Edition of News and Views.

DC Happenings





23 April 1908



3 March 1915



5 March 1942



13 March 1942



14 April 1948



Happy Birthday

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