

Department of Alabama News & Views

March/April 2021



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Editor/Publisher
Anita R. Perez

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HONORING THEIR SERVICE

Women's History Month





Commander

Jerry D. Morgan

requirements for having the Convention in their facilities. To help with this I have appointed a "Compliance Safety Officer," Mr. William "Billy" Newman, a member of chapter 13 in Alex City, AL.

Mr. Newman is the first Certified COVID 19 Compliance Officer in the state of Alabama. There have been other people who have graduated from the training program in the state now, but we are proud that a DAV Veteran is the first one. I know he must be an Army Veteran. More about him during the Convention on how he can help your chapter.

Greetings Comrades,

I hope that everyone is staying safe from the COVID Virus and warm from the wayward weather that the North has sent down to the South so it can warm up before going home.

Even though we, the Department Staff, have not been able to travel or have "Normal" meetings we have been kept busy with the day-to-day operation required of us. We have learned how to have meetings using our computers and phones. I know that the Director of Training did not know that our computer training site would be used so much during, what I hope is not the new normal, to carry on with business as needed. It has been a great tool for us so a great big **THANK YOU** to PDC Walker for her work on getting this site set up as a user-friendly site that even I can use. Since the last News and Views, we have needed to hold three Executive Board meetings and a staff training meeting getting ready for our upcoming Convention on May 21 – 22 in Opelika, Alabama.

The Convention on May 21 – 22 in Opelika, Alabama will be one like never held before. To hold this Convention, we are required to meet all of the State' COVID 19 precautions as well as the Hotel's

I hope that each chapter has received the information about the Convention and are planning on having someone from you chapter to represent your chapter in this important time of the Department Election our next Commander and staff for this upcoming year. Anyone who wants to run for a position on the Department Staff needs to get you information into the Department Adjutant as soon as possible.

Also, the Junior Vices have been instructed to get nominations from each district for members for all the committees that will be meeting during the Convention. There will be one position for a three-year appointment from District Two and one position for a four-year appointment from District Three for the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee positions are normally for a four-year appointment with one person rotating off each year by Districts. As we did not have a convention in 2020 and District Two appointee was the District due to rotate off, everyone stayed for an additional year. This is district Three's normal year to rotate off so is why we will need the two positions this year to get us back on scheduled.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Convention and really hope that all 32 chapters are represented for this very important Convention.

Jerry Morgan

Department Commander

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

you attend this department convention, you will see that new safety rules are in place, to protect you.

We are asking for your prayers, for 3rd Junior Vice Commander Willie Scott, Jr and his family. Also, for 4th Junior Kerry Edwards and his family. May God bless them during these time of illness.

I want to thank you for, your support that you have given me as your Department Sr. Vice Commander. I will continue to work to increase our membership, and I hope you will join me. I am asking for your support and your vote as the next Department Commander. I will give you my very best and together we will continue to move Alabama Department forward.

Respectfully

Eugene Zeigler

Senior Vice Commander

News & Views Article Due Dates:

May Issue – Due 20 Apr 2021

July Issue – Due 20 Jun 2021

September Issue – Due 20 Aug 2021

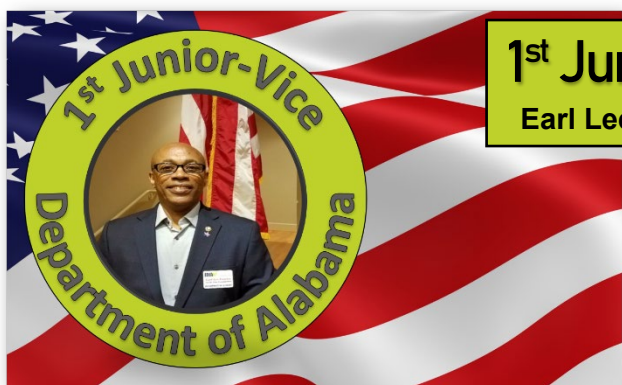
All Articles due the 20th of the month prior to the publishing of the newsletter except for the January Issue! Check dates above.

Greetings Comrades,

Service Officers and Their Responsibilities

Certified Department and Chapter Services Officers (Department Service Officers and Chapters Service Officers) provide one of the most important links in the organization. They are responsible for providing information about benefits and gathering information to assist in obtaining benefits and services available to veterans, their dependents and survivors. The responsibility of DSOs and CSOs is to advise, instruct and counsel claimants and to aid in the preparation of claims for various benefits to which claimants may be entitled. When an injury is taken or after an appropriate form is properly completed, such information must immediately be forwarded to the national service office of jurisdiction.

The department convention is fast approaching and I am looking for a great turnout. If you are concerned about our department you must get involved. When



1st Junior Vice Commander

Earl Lee Frazier

(2nd District)

distancing as you go through your daily movements. As we prepare for the upcoming DAV Department of Alabama convention in May, remember to bring a face covering to not only protect you but also others. Congratulations to the chapters whom have made mission and thank you to the ones whom continue to service veterans by filing claims, van rides for appointments, referrals/doctor appointments to the VA, food banks or through contributions to veterans in your neighborhoods.

Comrades,

Let's continue to check on each other and pray for DAV members either hospitalized or going through or recovering from surgeries. Payers for speedy recovery to the two whom I know of, Commander(s) Scott and Edwards. Follow the CDC guidelines and the State of Alabama mandated mask coverings and social

During this edition of news and views let's take a look at DAV Department of Alabama/Chapter 27 located in Pell City, Alabama situated in St. Clair County. The city is located along interstate 20, leading east to Atlanta, Georgia and west to Birmingham, Alabama. It is known as the gateway to Logan Martin Lake. Pell City has a population of (+) or (-) 13,700 citizens. Pell City also has a large population of military personnel whom served in Vietnam, 1.05 greater than any other conflict.

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Located within Pell City is the Colonel Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home, a nursing home and long-term care facility that serves the entire county veterans as well as the State of Alabama. The veteran home is a 280-bed facility built in a neighborhood-style of several cottage clusters, instead of one large institution. The veteran home is named for Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Robert L. Howard.

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

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

Chapter #1 would like to offer up prayers for 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Willie Scott and 4th Jr. Vice Commander Kerry Edwards. We hope each day finds you feeling better. Chapter #1 has met its goal in recruitment for the State and continues to recruit new members. SBP (from DFAS) and DIC (from the VA). On January 1, 2021, Congress enacted changes to the Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP). The SBP annuity payment issued by DFAS will be reduced (offset) by no more than two-thirds of the amount of Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) rather than by the entire amount of DIC, even though eligible Surviving spouse will continue to receive full amount of DIC from VA. Then in January 2022, one-third of the amount of SBP and in January 2023, SBP will no longer be offset by DIC. Spouses will receive full SBP and full DIC. As a reminder Tuscaloosa VAMC is offering the COVID-19 vaccine the telephone number is (205) 554-2010 the clinic operates six days a week and is located in Building 137 (Sports Atrium).

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

Commander Hampton and Chapter/Unit 4 continues to serve veterans in the Birmingham area and generally the community. Commander Hampton and Chapter 4 has have helped so many people during these trying times. By providing free food on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, providing claims assistance, file claims over the telephone (leaving out personal identifiers, letting them fill that in and send them on to Montgomery DAV regional office). Our chapter is made of older veterans. So, to a large degree we have limited face to face contact. If we can

help, please email us at davbirchap04@gmail.com or call. Blessings to everyone, stay safe.

The Birmingham VAMC is open with limited in-person visits. The Birmingham VAMC care teams will contact veterans directly to schedule an appointment when the COVID vaccine is available, based on each veteran's personal risk factors. More info can be found at: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>. The number to call is (205) 933-8101 extension 2881.

Chapter 21: E. J. Kirkpatrick (Piedmont) -

Chapter 21/Unit 21 has no new updates to report at this time.

Chapter 27: A. L. McLaughlin (Pell City) – Submitted by Commander Varner

Thanks to three local libraries – Pell City, Trussville and Moody – the Chapter 27 CSOs are able to continue working compensation cases for Veterans. Not only do these libraries provide a safe social distancing place to help Veterans, it also provides internet and copying capabilities for all the pertinent forms. What a great interface opportunity between the community and DAV. Recently, Chapter 27 presented and hoisted a new US Flag at Meadowview Nursing Home after a resident Veteran noticed the facility did not have one. Just one more example of community and DAV coming together.

With the COVID vaccines finally reaching some of our Veterans, Chapter 27 is hoping we can resume meeting real soon.

Chapter 28: (Blount/Cullman County) -

Chapter 28 continues to have regular meetings and is able to comply with all COVID-19 restrictions during those meetings.

Chapter 33: Chilton County (Clanton) -

Commander White has suspended operations for Chapter 33 due to the COVID-19 but assists veterans when called upon.

Chapter 78: George Washington Carver (Talladega) submitted by Commander Nelson

1. Battle checked on members, weekly.
 2. Dropped off food for needed member on Wednesdays of each week.
 3. Shuttled members to the VA Clinic in Birmingham for COVID Vaccine shots.
 4. Assisted in repairs on two Veterans roof tops.
 5. Assisted one Veteran with getting to a family member funeral out of state.
 6. Assisted with shuttling veterans to special election in order to vote.
- No in person meetings as of yet due to the Virus.

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

We are hopefully back to holding our regular meetings on 2nd Tuesday after canceling for almost a year. We have re-arranged our meeting area to be in compliance with the CDC and local guidelines for social distancing. Thanks to Calhoun County Commission and Probate Judge for the supplies furnished

in order to keep our Chapter home sanitized. We partnered with local Elks Lodge with a grant they received to assist Homeless Veterans in our area with basic survival items placed in a backpack. Those bags were then distributed to area agency's (police, fire, and ambulance services) that are in contact with Homeless Veterans. This is our second year to partner with the Elks on such a grant and both have been successful. Thanks to those from the Elks and Chapter who assisted with the purchase of items, packing of bags, and delivery of the backpacks. Membership is a slow go due to not being in contact with veterans and not being able to conduct Fund Raisers. Our Chapter Officer elections are coming up in April and we are

looking forward to that. Hopefully, we will get some young members with new ideas involved in the upcoming year.

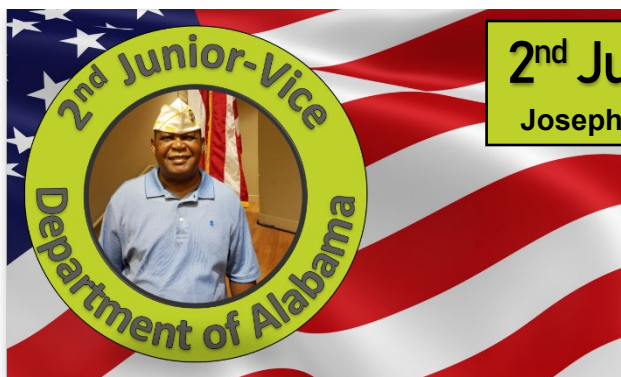
Closing Comments:

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. May God continue keep us safe throughout this year and keep in contact with a fellow vet.

Respectfully,

Earl L. Frazier

First Junior Vice Commander



2nd Junior Vice Commander

Joseph Donaldson

(3rd District)

Chapter 31 – Commander Stallings reports executive board meetings are being held telephonically. No chapter meetings are being held at this time.

Chapter 61 – Commander Chapelle reported his executive board meetings are being held telephonically and his chapter meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. He reported no significant activity this quarter.

Chapter 66 - Commander Epps reported he is conducting monthly meetings. His CSO's are doing claims by appointment. Significant activities for the quarter. The chapter donated socks, gloves, hats and underwear to the residence of the Tender Loving Care Nursing Home.

Chapter 95 – Commander Benford reports his executive board meetings are being held telephonically and chapter meetings are conducted virtually. Reports his CSO's are doing claims as needed. He stated there is no significant activity during the quarter.

Chapter 100 – Commander Bowie reports the executive board meetings are being held telephonically. No chapter meetings are being held to the pandemic.

Respectfully,

Joseph Donaldson

Second Junior Vice Commander

On behalf of the men and women of District 3, I extend our well wishes for Commander Willie Scott and Commander Kerry Edwards.

Chapter 12 – Senior Vice Commander Eugene Zeigler reports that executive board meetings are being held telephonically and chapter meetings are being held virtually. He reports no significant activity this quarter.

Chapter 13 – Chapter 13's application for a van for the Transportation Network was accepted by DAV National. They are not conducting executive board meetings or regular chapter meetings.

Chapter 14 – Commander Rackley reports he is conducting executive board meetings as needed. He conducts chapter meetings on the second Sunday of each month. He stated there have been no significant activity this quarter.

Department Meetings

ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE TRAINING



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

When: Every 4th Saturday 0800

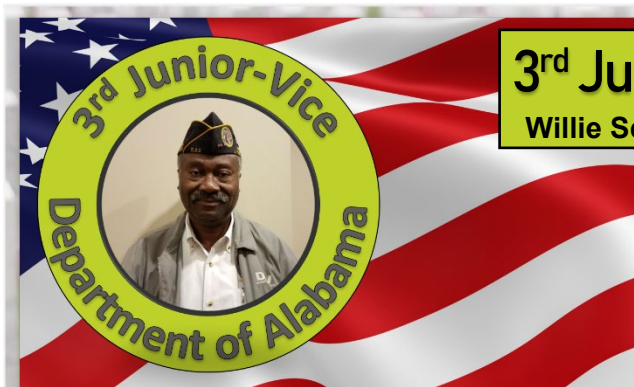
Tired of feeling in the dark?

How: Call (319) 527-4759

Want to know what is going on in the Department?

No access code needed

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



3rd Junior Vice Commander

Willie Scott

(1st District)

Rest in Peace Commander Scott.

Sunday, 7 Mar 2021

Visitation @ Ross-Clayton Funeral Home
2:30 pm-3:30 pm
1412 Adams Ave. Montgomery, Ala 36104
334 262-3889

Monday, 8 Mar 2021

Memorial @ Alabama National Cemetery
11:00 AM
3133 Highway 119
Montevallo, Shelby County, Alabama, 35115

If you would like to follow the procession from the funeral home to the National Cemetery it will begin between 915 AM and 930AM on Monday the 8th, if not be at the National Cemetery at 11 AM.

Comrades,

On behalf of the Commanders from District 1, we are sending prayers of recovery and support for Commanders Scott and Edwards. Continue to stay safe and to social distance. Don't forget the Department of Alabama convention is May 21st and 22nd 2021 in Auburn/ Opelika.

Earl Frazier

First Junior Vice Commander.

Chapter 18 has a very limited report.

1. The Chapter had no meeting as the Church we meet at will not allow gatherings at this time.

2. We had no relief request for grants.

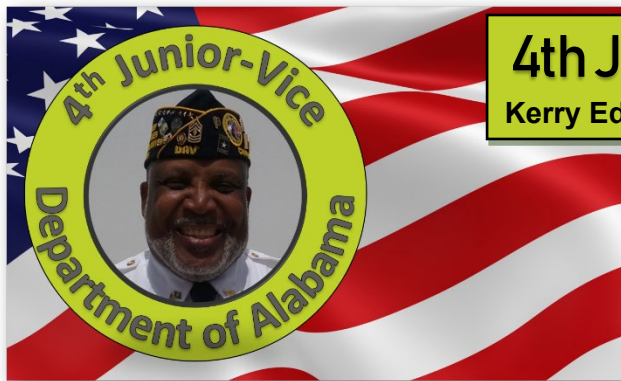
3. I had a total of 2 claims started and are not complete at this time.

4. I had neck surgery on Feb 3rd and have limitations until my Doctor's appointment on Feb 19th.

5. I am not sure if this is a good thing that we are having slow times, with little money coming in and little going out. We can hang on for a time yet!

Randy Vissers

Commander, Chapter 18



4th Junior Vice Commander

Kerry Edwards

(4th District)

On behalf of the men and women of District 4 we would like to offer well wishes to our Junior Vice Commander Kerry Edwards.

Chapter 6 - Commander Zegarski reports his chapter is conducting meetings on the first Saturday of the month. He reports that there were no significant activities during this quarter.

Chapter 7 - Commander Pate reports that the Executive Board meets the first Tuesday of each month telephonically. There are no chapter meetings being held due to the pandemic.

Chapter 9 - Commander Merrihew reports his chapter meets on the second Thursday of each month. He also reports that monthly executive board meetings are being held. Reports no significant activity during the quarter.

Chapter 35 - Commander Grove reports no meetings being held due to pandemic. Executive board meetings are being conducted by phone. Reports no significant activities this quarter.

Chapter 45 – Submitted by Commander Steadman

U.S. & AL State Holidays March/April

March is Women's History Month

14 March	Daylight Savings Time begins
17 March	St. Patrick's Day
28 March	Palm Sunday
29 March	Vietnam War Veterans Day
2 April	Good Friday
4 April	Easter Sunday
13 April	Thomas Jefferson's birthday
15 April	Tax Day
19 April	Patriot's Day

Several of our members have been attending monthly meetings of a Veteran Connect Social and Roundtable hosted by the 3 Circle Church for discussions regarding issues of interest to Veterans. We have been able to assist some of the Veterans with their claims and recruited 2 new members. Other participants have also expressed an interest in our chapter and/or our Unit.

Our Service Officers made and received 466 phone calls, sent or received 174 emails, filed 16 VA forms and spent 119 hrs. volunteer hours.

We have also partnered with other organizations to build a wheelchair ramp for one Veteran and are currently in the process of building another one for another Veteran.

We assisted a homeless Veteran by paying for a week stay at a local motel and finding additional help from the community. Four of our members also gave a fifty-dollar gift card to the Veteran to buy food.

We donated 2 tractors to the Antique Tractor Club which they restore and auction off. The proceeds of the auction are then divided between DAV Chapter 6, DAV Chapter 45, and St Jude Hospital.

We received a Donation from the local Humana Agents in the amount of \$1000 dollars.

Chapter 53 – Commander Obregon reports he is not conducting executive board meetings or chapter meetings due to the pandemic. Significant Activity: Reported chapter donated blankets to the Sheriff's Boys Ranch in January. Reported the death of the chapter Adjutant Bernard White. Cause of death not given.

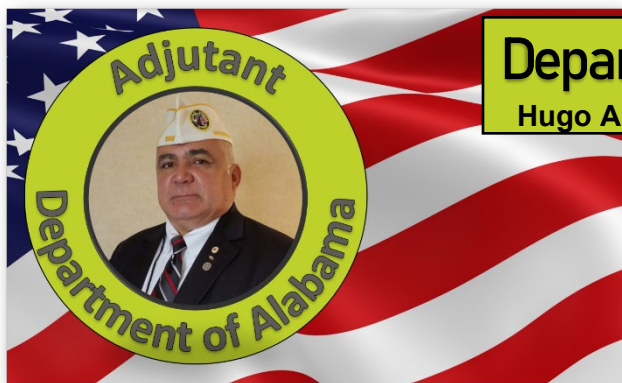
Chapter 72 – No contact made.

Chapter 87 – Commander Blackman reports he will conduct the first chapter meeting beginning in March 2021. Reported he has had three chapter members to pass in the last 3 months, one from COVID 19.

Chapter 94 – Commander Miller reports that her chapter is conducting monthly DAV meetings and monthly executive board meetings. Reported the chapter members are waiting for the weather to change in order to install POW/MIA flags.

Chapter 99 – Commander Vance reports he is conducting DAV meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Stated Chapter is currently accepting scholarship applications from qualified applicants.

Joseph Donaldson
Second Junior Vice Commander



Department Adjutant

Hugo A. Perez

Hello Comrades,

Well, the holidays have passed, COVID numbers are steady, we have a new administration, and we have a date for our convention. Our State Convention will be from May 21 - 22, 2021. We had to have those dates because all June dates were taken. This convention will be modified because of COVID. We will NOT have a banquet or a commander's reception. While at the convention, we will follow the strict CDC, state, and city guidelines. Commander Morgan has selected Comrade William "Billy" Newman as our compliance officer. He will ensure that we follow the guidelines (Face covers, disinfecting, social distance, etc.).

During our Convention we will have the following committees: Veteran of the year, ways and means, nominations of officers, and the selection of an 8th NEC.

Our Finance committee meeting will be held on Thursday May 20, 2021 at 4:30PM.

If you plan on running for a leadership position, please fill and send me an officer candidate form along with a short BIO no later than April 15, 2021.

In other news had a great meeting telephonically with the Director of the Birmingham VA. Below is what was put out by the Director:

The Birmingham VA Health Care System (BVAHCS) has partnered with United Way to expand its COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic beginning Monday, January 25, 2021.

The BVAHCS Vaccine Clinic will be moved to the United Way Building, 3600 8th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35222, and will administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Veterans 65 years and older by appointment only.

If you are a Veteran 65 years and older and want the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:

- Call the Birmingham VA Call Center at 866-487-4243 to schedule an appointment or
- Call your local CBOC to schedule an appointment.

If you are a Veteran younger than 65 years old and are interested in getting the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:

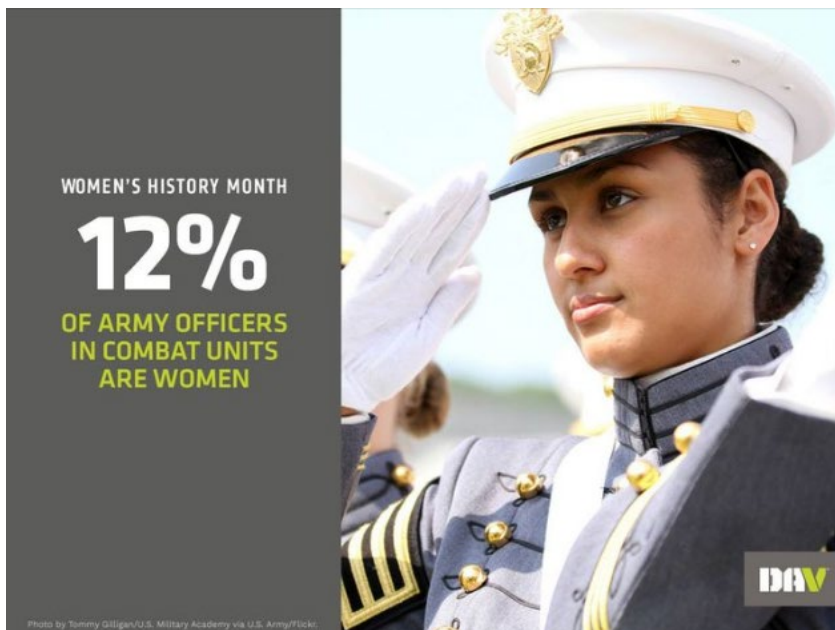
- Complete the COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Survey here: [COVID-19 vaccines: Stay informed and help us prepare | Veterans Affairs](#) or
- Call your local CBOC to complete a patient interest note.

Veterans seeking additional information should visit the [VA COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#), contact their care team, or visit the facility website at www.birmingham.va.gov.

Lastly, I have asked the Junior Vice commanders to keep in touch with the chapters in their district and ensure they are safe. I ask all of you to keep our brothers and sisters in arms and their families in Texas as they deal with the historic freezing temperatures. The last time they had freezing temperatures was in 1989.

As always stay safe, check on each other and**WAR EAGLE!!**

Hugo Perez
Department Adjutant





DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA



FACT SHEET FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICER CANDIDATES

NAME OF CANDIDATE: _____

(Legal)

ADDRESS _____

(Street/PO Box)

(City, State, Zip)

DAV MEMBER NUMBER: _____ YEARS AS MEMBER _____

CHAPTER NAME & NO. _____

DEPARTMENT OFFICE SEEKING: Commander Sr. Vice Commander 1st JVC 2nd JVC
 3rd JVC 4th JVC Judge Advocate Chaplain Treasurer

OFFICES PREVIOUSLY HELD (ELECTED/APPOINTED)

CHAPTER _____

DEPARTMENT _____

NATIONAL _____

ARE YOU HOLDING ANY CHAPTER OR DEPARTMENT ELECTED OFFICE NOW? YES _____ NO _____

IF YES, PLEASE SPECIFY _____

I do hereby certify I am eligible in accordance with DAV National and Department Constitution and Bylaws and I will serve to the best of my ability if I am elected or appointed to a department position of responsibility.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Any member, in good standing, of the Disabled American Veterans, is eligible to seek any elected or appointed office of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Alabama. Candidates may attach statements of aspirations, accomplishments, personal talents, general or unique qualifications, including ability and willingness to serve.

THIS FORM AND ANY ATTACHMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE STATE CONVENTION. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT.



Department of Alabama 94th Annual Convention
May 21-22, 2021
Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference
Center at Grand National
3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail,
Opelika, AL 36801



For pre-registrations postmarked before April 1, 2021:

Conference \$35.00

For registrations postmarked on or after April 1, 2021:

Conference \$40.00

Women's Empowerment luncheon:

Before April 1, 2021 \$10.00

On or after April 1, 2021 \$15.00

Please complete a separate registration form for each individual!

NAME _____ DAV _____ DAVA _____

CHAPTER OR UNIT# _____ POSITION _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Select as many as you want: Conference Women's Luncheon

Hospitality Room Donations (coffee, sodas, water, snacks, etc.) \$ _____

Date Paid _____ Total Paid _____ Check # _____

Please make check payable to: **DAV, Department of Alabama**

Mail to: **DAV, Department of Alabama**

655 Halliana Rd.

Alexander City, AL 35010

BOOK EARLY!

Please let the hotel know if you need a handicapped accessible room.

For reservations at The Auburn Marriott Opelika and Conference Center call

1(800) 593-6456

Ask for the "Disabled American Veterans Convention". Rate is
\$129.00 - \$159.00 per night, plus tax or, to book online Click here:

[Book your group rate for Disabled American Veterans Annual Convention](#)

Questions regarding this convention

Contact Adjutant Hugo A. Perez at: (719) 229-5026 or (256) 596-3907



Department of Alabama 94TH Annual Convention
Opelika, Alabama
May 21 – May 22, 2021

COVID 19 Precautions are in place during Convention.
Wearing of mask during convention is mandatory.

Thursday, May 20, 2021

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Registration Desk Open - Foyer
Finance Committee Meeting - Conference Suite 303
Hospitality Room Open – Room 400

Friday, May 21, 2021

6:00 am - 9:00 am
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
9:00 am - 9:40 am

Hospitality Room Open – Room 400
NSO Claims Assistance - Meeting Room 3
Health Fair – Foyer
DAV/DAVA Joint Opening Session - GN-ABC
Welcome by Commander Jerry Morgan, Department of AL
Invocation by Department Chaplain Debra Varner
Posting of Colors by - TBA
National Anthem by - TBA
Pledge of Allegiance led by Adjutant Hugo Perez
Mission Statement by SVC Eugene Zeigler
Introductions by DAV Commander Jerry Morgan
MS Representative
LA Representative
TN Representative
Introductions by DAVA Commander Linda Doss
Introduction of Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller by Commander Jerry Morgan
Welcome by Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller
Welcome by Opelika Tourism Director
Welcome by Hotel Manager
Compliance briefing - William “Billy” Newman

9:40 am - 10:00 am

Recess

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Registration Desk Open - Foyer

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Announcements - Adjutant Hugo Perez
Changes to Convention Agenda - Adjutant Hugo Perez
Convention Rules Report - Adjutant Hugo Perez
Roll Call and First Credentials Report - Adjutant Hugo Perez
Committee Appointments and Changes - Adjutant Hugo Perez
Commander's Report on the Department - Commander Jerry Morgan
Finance Committee/ Budget Report – Richard Patterson

10:30 am - 10:45 am

Recess

10:45 am – 11:50 am

Presentation of awards by:
Commander Jerry Morgan
SVC Eugene Zeigler
1st JVC Earl Frazier (District 2)
2nd JVC Joseph Donaldson (District 3)
3rd JVC Willie Scott (District 1)
4th JVC Kerry Edwards (District 4)
LVAP Director Report – Chris Jones
Special Awards – Adjutant Hugo Perez

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch - Hospitality Room - Room 400 or on your own
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm **Women Empowerment Luncheon** - Camelia Room
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm **PDC Luncheon** - TBA
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Nominating Committee - Grand Ball Room
 Ways and Means Committee - Opelika Board Room
 Veteran of the Year – Meeting Room 1

Saturday, May 22, 2021

6:00 am - 9:00 am Hospitality Room Open - Room 400
 8:00 am - 8:50 am Memorial Service – GN ABC - Chaplain Varner and Chaplain Turner
 8:00 am - 3:00 pm **NSO Claims Assistance - Meeting Room 3**

9:00 am **Business Session & Committee Reports** - GN-ABC
Roll Call and 2nd Credentials Report - Adjutant Hugo Perez
 National Legislative Update - BPTL/PDC Chad Richmond
 Unfinished Business
 New Business

9:45 am -10:00 am Recess

10:00 am – 11:00 am **Final Credentials Report** - Adjutant Hugo Perez
 Committee reports –
 Finance District new members District 2 and 3
 Veteran of the Year Report - Chairman Annie Byrd
 Ways and Means Report - Chairman Dan Turner

Lunch?

9:00 am -11:30 pm Registration- Foyer
 Hospitality Room Open - Room 400

1:00 pm **Business Session Continued** -
 Nominating Committee Report - Chairman PDC Bill Baker
 Nomination and Election of Department Officers - Commander Jerry Morgan
 Installation of Officers – PDC Chad Richmond
 Exchange Ceremony – PDC Chad Richmond
 New Commander’s Comments
 8th NEC Election
 Adjourn Convention

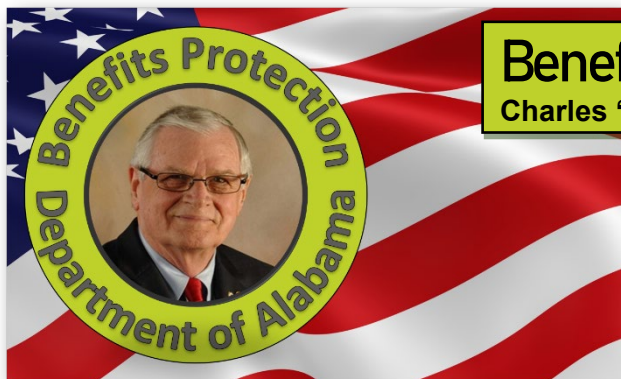
Recess

Department Executive Committee Meeting -
 Adjourn

DAV Upcoming Events

Apr 24, 2021, War Memorial Building, Jackson, MS
 May 12-15, 2021: Dept of LA State Convention, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA
 May 21-22, 2021: Dept of AL State Convention, Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa, Opelika, AL
 Jun 27-29, 2021: National C&A Orientation, Cold Springs, KY
 Jul 24-27, 2021: National Convention, Reno, NV

Feb 27 – Mar 2, 2022: National Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA
 Aug 6-9, 2022: National Convention, Orlando, FL
 Feb 12-15, 2023: National Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA
 Aug 5-8, 2023: National Convention, Atlantic City, NJ



Benefits Protection Team Leader

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond

handling the claim is to include a physician's opinion that a service-connected disability contributed to the death. Not being a service officer, I don't know if that is already being done.

Along those same lines, here's something passed on by Adjutant Perez: Families can be reimbursed up to \$7,000 for funeral expenses, retroactive to January 20, 2020. Those who apply will need to submit identifying documentation of the person who died, as well as a death certificate. Click on the link below to read information on reimbursement to families for COVID funerals as reported on WJLA.

[FEMA to reimburse families for COVID funerals | WJLA](#)

Another Burn Pit Bill will be introduced during this congressional session. It was also pointed out that claims being submitted for the three new presumptive diseases for Agent Orange are slowly being processed for much the same reasons that the ten new presumptive diseases in 2010 were. They are being deferred by VA until they have more authority to grant the disability claims. This is addressed in the round robin video.

As we all know there is the \$1.9 trillion relief bill before the Congress. That hopefully will be finalized by the end of February. One of the measures that is included in that bill, but doesn't get much mention, is approximately \$1.7 billion in new Veterans Affairs funding. The hot issue right now (2/20/2021) is the use of the military for vaccine distribution and delivery and distribution to veterans.

A link that Legislative Director Joy Ilem sent me will enable everyone to stay current on the issue of COVID vaccines through the VA. It can be seen at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed>.

State wise, there are several bills that have been put before the State Legislature. Some of these are: SB16 Teacher Certification of Former Military, SB83 which is a clarification of In-State tuition for Military and Dependents, SB103 Authorize Charter Schools for Military Dependents, SB104, Reduced Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License and SB123/HB135. This is a very important bill to all of us. These bills concern employment as County Service Officers. In order to even apply you must be a wartime veteran and live in the county in which the position is open. These requirements would be removed. The bills will also further define the provisions such as parking and the ability to purchase promotional items.

There are several bills that would make licensure in certain specialties in one state be transferrable to Alabama, such as teacher's certificates. I sure could have used that in 1988. It would have made things a lot simpler for me.

HJR28 is a very important Resolution that would align the efforts of the Alabama Task Force of Veteran Suicide with the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Their Families. This is a program that many of us in the state are a part of, which falls under the partnership of the VA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health

The COVID pandemic has wreaked havoc on legislative issues during the past couple of months and continues to do so. Plus, we just went through a Presidential election which has resulted in a complete change of governmental leaders and several of our legislators have changed as well. This has slowed down a lot of the legislative process.

The DAV's National Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, DC was cancelled due to COVID, but our National Legislative Headquarters put together some good training sessions to take the place of the conference. These presentations can be accessed at [2021 Mid-Winter Conference - DAV](#). It will take a couple of hours of your time to view everything, but it will be worth it. National Commander Butch Whitehead will be making his testimony to the Veterans Affairs Committee on March 3 at 10:00. A link to view that testimony will also be on the DAV website once it has been scheduled. Senator Tommy Tuberville has been appointed to the Senate's Committee and Representative Barry Moore to the House, so we do have some representation for the first time in many years. Senator Tuberville visited Ft. Rucker as well as Austal in Mobile this past week. Barry Moor knows all about how important Ft. Rucker is to the Wiregrass and Alabama.

The DAV has published its Critical goals for 2021 and these can be viewed at https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/2021_CriticalPolicyGoals_Full_D6w.pdf. These are the issues that our Senators and Representatives need to hear from us on. Key legislation currently before Congress can be seen at <https://www.dav.org/learn-more/legislation/join-action-network-take-action/bills/>.

One issue that was brought up yesterday in the round-robin concerned deaths among veterans who had COVID-19, to which the death was contributed. It was pointed out that trying to get the Death Certificate changed to reflect that there was an underlying cause from an existing disability is a very difficult and time-consuming process. The more efficient way of

Services Administration (SAMHSA). I am a part of the Governor's Challenge team.

We still need DAV members to sign up for the Commanders Action Network (CAN) so you can be informed on what is happening concerning our government's handling of veteran issues and gives you a direct line to our Senators and your Congressional Representative. You do not have to be a BPTL to be a part of CAN. Go to [DAV | Commander's Action Network \(quorum.us\)](http://DAV | Commander's Action Network (quorum.us)) to register and see some of the latest videos. We need more of our voices to be heard in Washington and this is the easiest way to do it. And, our voices need to be heard in Montgomery, as well, especially since they meet so infrequently. You can follow the actions of the State Legislature on [Alabama Legislature | 2021 | Regular Session | LegiScan](#).

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond
Benefits Protection Team Leader



[Contact your Senate Representative](#)

[Contact your House Representative](#)



Women Veteran Coordinator

Tawanna Jones

The Department of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) First Woman Veteran National Commander

Delphine Metcalf-Foster
August 2017 – July 2018



Greetings to my DAV Family and Friends,

First, I give Honor and Glory to my Heavenly Father, Thank You LORD for another day to serve.

Thank You to all the Veteran Women that are still volunteering to serve our Veterans and their families during this COVID-19 Pandemic. **Thank You** for no longer taking a **Back Seat**, **Thank You** for being a Voice, **Thank You** for your Strength, **Thank You** for your knowledge, **Thank you** for your Courage, **Thank You** for your Prayers, and **Thank You** for refusing to be **INVISIBLE!!!** **Thank You** for making a difference in a Veteran and their family life.

Women Veteran step up as members of Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

The Alabama State Department DAV First Woman Veteran Department Commander

Deborah “Debb” Walker
July 2017 – June 2018



The Alabama State Department DAV First Woman Veteran of the Year!

Annie Byrd
2020



The Alabama State Department DAV First Woman Veteran Department Treasurer

Anita R. Perez
July 2018 – Present



I also want to give a big shout out to all the Women Veterans who are making a difference in the DAV Department of Alabama and the Chapters. Thank you for all you do!!!

Chapter Commanders

Carol Varner – Chap. 27
Barbara White – Chap. 33
Cherry Bynum – Chap. 40
Jessie Bowie – Chap. 100

Chapter Adjutants

Lisa McDay – Chap. 100
Barbara Bynum – Chap. 40
Annie Byrd – Chap. 1
Janine Jordan – Chap. 11
Ardelia Johnson – Chap. 26

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

PDC Deborah Walker

DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT

Mattie D. Harper

WEBMASTER

Lisbeth Emerson

HOMELESS VET COORDINATOR

Delenta Jackson

The Alabama State Department DAV First Woman Veteran Department Chaplain

Debra H. Varner
July 2019 – Present



NEWS AND VIEWS EDITOR/PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Anita Robbin Perez

DAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE SUPERVISOR– ALABAMA

Mary Stovall-Moore

These are just a few of our Women Veterans that are serving other Veterans throughout the State of Alabama DAV. Thank you for all you do.

Respectfully,

Jawanna

Women's Veteran Coordinator

“A job is never just a job, but an opportunity to love and serve other”

AMERICAN WOMEN VETERANS





Department Chaplain

Debra Varner

strongholds of being free. It is our task to share and demonstrate this love of being helpers of one another. It may seem 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 failed them but keep the light of hope and love burning for those coming behind us.

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

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 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;

Debra H. Varner
Department Chaplain

MY FATHER ...

Loves me - [John 3:16](#)

Cares for Me - [Psalm 103](#)

Renews Me - [Isaiah 40:31](#)

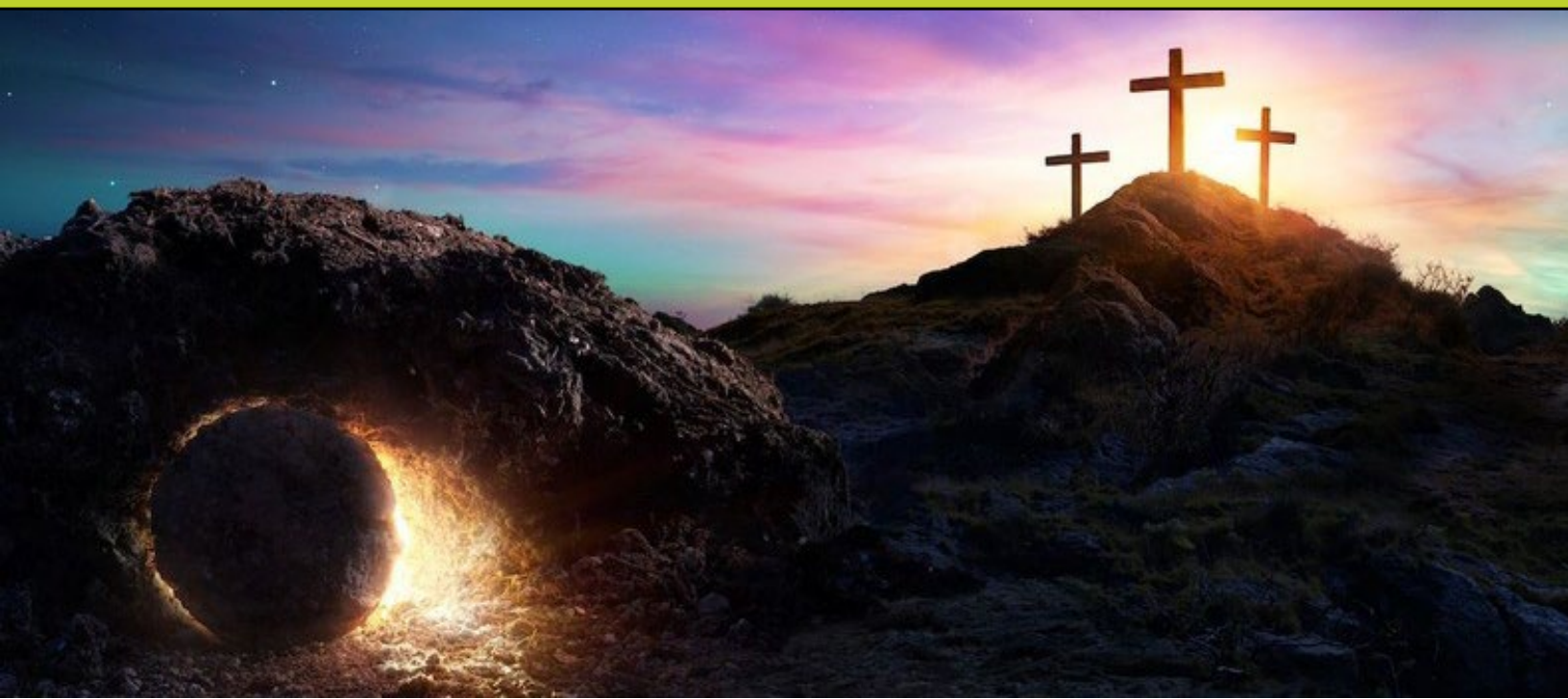
Protects Me - [Psalm 23:4](#)

Redeems Me - [Job 19:25](#)

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

Understands & Accepts Me - [Psalm 139](#)

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





DAVA Commander

Linda Doss

As always, continue praying for one another during these times. We have several units and chapters that have members who are on the sick list with serious illnesses that need your prayer support. Cards and phone calls help to encourage those who are facing these difficult times and we need to support one another continuously keeping us strong and healthy in order to complete our prime directive to our veterans.

Greetings to All,

The year is moving fast as usual. The month of February is more than half gone and March just around the corner. I hope everyone is in good spirits and on the upswing with unit meetings and activities even though the COVID-19 is still around making things difficult. Get your COVID-19 shot now so you can attend the convention feeling more secure about the situation and enjoy the convention.

Plans are already in the works for the Convention for 2021 to take place this year. It will be at Opelika with quite a few changes. Things will be shortened and spread out so that all of our agenda can be done. This year will be shorter than usual. Do make your reservations for the hotel early and get your registration in so that an accurate count can be made. This will help the Department in insuring that we have the room needed for us to meet and follow the guidelines in doing so.

The reports will be due all too soon. Do your best to complete them and turn them in. We know that a lot of the forms will be skimpy and bare, but do turn them in. If you have Juniors that are eligible for scholarship funds, do try to get the applications completed and turned in. The hours that go on the LVAP forms can be used as volunteer hours for the Jessie Brown Scholarship award.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the convention in May. Many things have changed during the time I have been the State Commander. We have said goodbye to too many of our friends, family and neighbors. Hopefully times will be better and we can move forward with the new year ahead. "Strength in Unity."

Take care and be safe.
Respectfully,

Linda P. Doss,
State Commander
DAVA State of Alabama



e-Benefits Info

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

[Click here for eBenefits.](#)



NSO Hours

VA Regional Office
345 Perry Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36109

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

NSO Office hours for NSO contact/Interview:

By Appointment: Office closed.

Office hours for telephone calls:

Office is currently closed due to COVID 19.



NSO Supervisor

Mary Stovall-Moore

Greetings Comrades,

There are some changes the Montgomery National Service Office would like you all to be aware of regarding new Agent Orange presumptive conditions, changes in knee/hip replacements convalescence periods, e-benefits changes, and dependents of some disabled veterans flying Space-A.

NEW AGENT ORANGE PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS

Issued date: January 6, 2021

VA presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service. This is because of the unique circumstances of a specific Veteran's military service. If a presumed condition is diagnosed in a Veteran in a certain group, they can be awarded disability compensation. Veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange include [Veterans who served in different locations](#), including Vietnam, the [Korean Demilitarized Zone](#), on Thai Air Force bases, at other locations, and who flew on or worked on C-123 Aircraft.

The **National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA) (H.R.6395)** added three (3) more conditions to the [Agent Orange presumptive-conditions list](#) wherein Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange may qualify for benefits:

- bladder cancer,
- hypothyroidism, and
- Parkinsonism, or Parkinson-like symptoms.

KNEE/HIP REPLACEMENT UPDATE

A temporary 100 percent for knee replacement and hip replacement will be paid for **4 months** instead of **13 months** effective **February 7, 2021**.

E-BENEFITS MOVING TO VA.GOV

After many years of using e-Benefits for a variety of services, e-Benefits is moving to VA.gov. Migrating [eBenefits](#) to [VA.gov](#) began in FY 2017 so that users

can visit one site instead of multiple sites. The majority of VBA features in e-Benefits have been moved to [VA.gov](#) with the final features transitioning by the end of **April 2021**. Most key features are currently only available at [VA.gov](#), to include: **filing a claim, claims status, Chapter 36, direct deposit, payment history and uploading evidence**. VBA is working with our partners and stakeholders, such as VSOs, to communicate the [eBenefits](#) migration to [VA.gov](#) to their members, customers and clients. VBA will provide guidance to all [eBenefits](#) users (Veterans, service members, spouses, care givers and other stakeholders) to visit [www.va.gov](#) and the option to create a new credential using the ID.me site provided on [VA.gov](#).

DEPENDENTS of SOME DISABLED VETERANS CAN NOW FLY SPACE-A

In Oct. 23, 2020, a change to [DoDI 4515.13](#) updated the eligibility requirements for Space-A travel, adding dependents of permanently and totally disabled veterans.

In 2019, those Veterans [became eligible](#) to fly Space-A on regularly scheduled military passenger aircraft, joining retirees and their [spouses](#); [National Guard](#) and Reserve members on the Active Status List; and surviving spouses of those who died on active duty. However, the dependents of those disabled veterans were not allowed to accompany them on Space-A flights.

The regulation change states that dependents of permanently and totally disabled Veterans may accompany the Veteran on flights within the continental United States (CONUS) or on flights between CONUS and Alaska, Hawaii or U.S. territories. Dependents cannot travel without the veteran sponsor.

[Related: Who Is Eligible for Space-A Flights?](#)

[Space-available flights](#), also known as military hops, allow eligible passengers to fill unused seats on Defense Department-owned or -controlled aircraft. Space-A passengers can fly only after all the space-required passengers and cargo have been accommodated. Space-A passengers are then loaded by priority group; those on emergency leave are the top priority, or category 1, and **retirees and disabled Veterans are the lowest priority, or category 6**.

Other categories of Space-A travelers include those on environmental and morale leave (EML), house-hunting leave, or other mission-critical or official travel.

For up-to-date information and details, check out the [Air Mobility Command's Space-A travel website](#).

We pray that you and your families are continuing to stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stovall-Moore
NSO Supervisor

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LVAP Coordinator

Chris Jones

We have a very close contest for LVAP: the small chapters are within 50 hours of each other; the medium chapters are within 100 hours of each other; and the large chapters are within 200 hours of each other as of the February turn in for hours.

Keep up the great work you are doing for your communities and the Department of Alabama remember as of December we have saved the taxpayers over \$500,000 by volunteering.

To my fellow comrades.

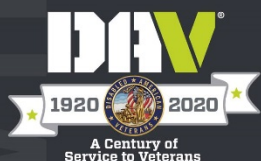
Keep up the great work you are doing as volunteers.

Respectfully,

Chris Jones

Director LVAP

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY



MARCH 29TH
VIETNAM VETERANS DAY



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