

Department of Alabama News & Views

July/August 2021



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Volume 26 | Number 1



Let
Freedom
Ring



Commander

Eugene Zeigler

Congratulation to James Daniels Chapter 51 Athens AL, and newly elected Commander Alan Bridgewater who was installed by the Department Commander. I also visited Chapter 33 in Clanton, AL where Barbara White was reelected as Commander and was installed by Senior Vice Commander Earl Frazier.

All chapter service officer (CSO) reports are due no later than the 5th of each month, to Director of Service Joe Donaldson. These reports serve as a measure of progress achieved; used as a financial assessment tool that is based on how well chapter service officers implement the skills they learned and track chapter service officers' performances and progress. Chapter service officers' reports will be considered when selecting our Level II chapters service officers' students.

Hope to see you at the National Convention.

Greetings Comrades,

I want to thank Past Department Commander Jerry Morgan, for his leadership for the past two years. Once again, I want to thank God and all the comrades in the Department of Alabama for the opportunity to serve as your Department Commander for the State of Alabama.

We attended the Department of Tennessee 92nd annual State convention in Murfreesboro, TN. The National guest was Dough Wells, who shared some great information with us. We would like to thank our Adjutant Hugo Perez and Treasure Anita Perez, PDC, Charles Waugh, PDC, Deb Walker and Rick and Linda Steadman from Alabama.

Eugene Zeigler

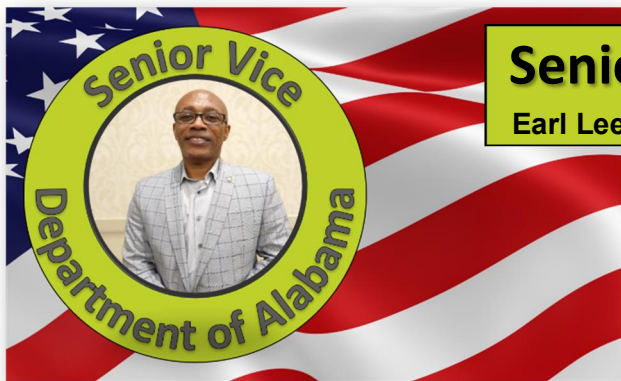
Department Commander



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

Earl Lee Frazier

Chapter 12 Treasure Hillard Means were present for their nomination/elections. I was able also to install their newly elected /appointed officers. Finally, on June 17th I visited Birmingham (Chapter 4). While there I was also able to install their newly elected/ appointed officers. Congratulations to all three chapter on their new elected and appointed officers. I enjoyed the camaraderie.

Comrades,

Thank you for vote of confidence for nominating me as your DAV, Department of Alabama Senior Vice Commander. Congratulations to all Department of Alabama newly elected/appointed officers. Once again, we have a strong staff, chapter commanders, members and auxiliary units that continue to put veterans first. Let's continue to stay safe as we go about our daily routine while creating a sense of peace and harmony with each other. It wasn't long after the state convention that I started to hit the road.

My first stop was in Enterprise (Chapter 9) on June 10th. I and 1st JVC Groves visited the chapter during their nominations and elections. I was able to install their newly elected/appointed officers. The next stop was in Clanton (Chapter 33) on June 12th. Along with several visiting members from Chapter 12 which included Department Commander Eugene Zeigler, Unit 12 Auxiliary Commander Delores Frazier and

July will start a New Year for membership goals, LVAP hours not only for DAV National it will also begin the New Year for the Department of Alabama. Congratulations to this year's award recipients from all categories at the state convention. Let's continue to focus on bringing new members and mentoring them as to what we do, how we do it and why we put our focus on veterans first. Mentoring is just as important as recruiting. July 4th is around the corner and is a time of celebration for our nation's independence. As we do so, be safe with the fireworks, enjoy your barbecues with family members along with the parades in your communities. DAV National convention is only few weeks away and as we send delegates remember to be safe as you travel to Tampa, Florida. Well, that raps it up for this edition of news and views.

May the grace of Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen+ (KJV)

Thank You for Your Service+ Airborne!+

Respectfully

Earl Lee Frazier
Senior Vice Commander



1st Junior Vice Commander

Leon Grove

(4th District)

Comrades,

Hello Veterans, I am excited to accept the position of 1st Junior Vice Commander serving the 4th District. I look forward to working with each of you as we move

forward in our effort to perfect our cause of helping Veterans. You should each be proud to be part of an organization that has the humanitarian factor . helping veterans, their widows, and orphans. I have had the pleasure to visit several of the Chapters already and I am genuinely excited about what I see happening in District 4.

On behalf of the Department of Alabama DAV and District 4, we present information from various DAV Chapters in District 4. Klug Smith Chapter #6 (Foley, AL) commanded by Harry Zegarski received several special guests for their June meeting; in attendance was the PDC Jerry Morgan, Mel Apply (Chapter 45 - Judge Advocate), and I was honored to present Joseph Jones (Adjutant) with the Veteran of the Year Award for the 4th District.





On June 16, 2021 . DAV Members of Chapter 7 Shehan-Pake, Mobile, AL accepted request to assist VA- MOPC {Mobile Outpatient Clinic} host a "Feeding the Gulf Coast" food distribution program extended to local veterans on First Come-First Serve basis.

Yolonda Wright, SVC, Recoa Russell, Bobby Bracy, Jerry Morgan, James Brye, Mae Reed, Lenora Reed, and Mildred Barnes volunteered to represent Chapter.7. The group was elated to have this opportunity as veterans to serve other veterans.

Our role was much like that of first responders, but of a lesser degree. Our day began @ 8:30am, helping to set up the distribution site in the front side parking lot @ MOPC, erecting canopy tents and setting up tables as workstations. Multiple cases of various food items were downloaded, and an assembly line was organized, and all, went to work pre-bagging groceries. The quality and quantity of food was remarkable such as: raisins, walnuts, canned beans, powdered milk, eggs, assorted breads. assorted pastries, cakes & pies, small rolls of ground beef, boxes of cheese, packages of de-boned chicken, fruit, just to name a few.

The event was well attended by local veterans in the drive-thru lines/ID checks were made. The clinic staff took charge of polling veterans about if any had COVID-19 Vaccinations or if any wanted an injection on site or get scheduled on another date.

Staff / volunteers had broken down boxes and discarded trash as the event progressed, so shortly

after all veterans had been served, the reverse process was done with tents and tables taken down.

Again, it was such a pleasure to enjoy this work fellowship. Hoorah!..



L-R: Mildred Barnes, Recoa Russel, Yolonda Wright, Lenora Reed, Mae Reed, & Jerry Morgan. Absent: Bobby Bracy & James Brye.

We (the SVC and the 1st JVC) had an opportunity to observe the election for Chapter #9 (Enterprise-Coffee), the changing of the guard and the Oath of Office was given by the DAV Department SVC Earl Frazier. Commander Gerry Merrihew (4th JVC) passes the touch to the incoming Commander.





There are a lot of great things going on at Chapter #9 and I am excited about their progress especially in increase membership and charitable fundraising opportunities.

News & Views Article Due Dates:

September Issue – Due 20 August 2021

November Issue – Due 20 October 2021

January Issue – Due 15 December 2021

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

Respectfully,

Leon Grove
1st Junior Vice Commander



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Congressman takes time to honor fallen warriors and reconnects with local military constituents -

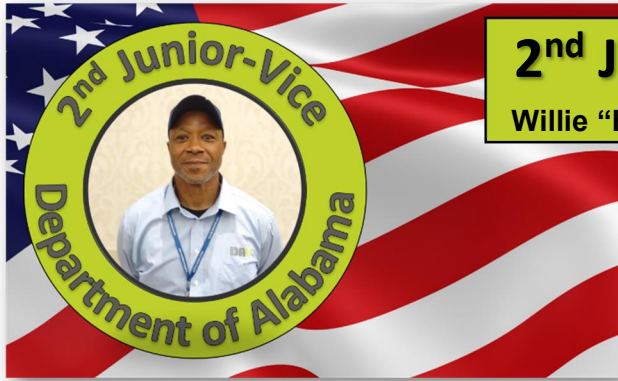
On Memorial Day - 2021, a memorial service was held at Sunset Memorial Park, Funeral Home and Crematory to honor the nations fallen heroes from all wars and conflicts. Mr. Robert Byrd, the owner of Sunset Memorial Park, hosted the event for the 15th year in a row which featured Congressman Barry Moore (AL-02), Dothan Mayor Mr. Mark Saliba and Afghanistan War veteran Mr. Brian Fleming who was featured as a motivational speaker for the event.

Congressman Moore took to the podium and gave a short prayer in which he gave tribute to the fallen and present-day veterans, both home and abroad. After the ceremonies, Congressman Moore made himself available to mingle and speak with many of his constituents and friends. Present among the attendees were two members of the Dothan Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Commander Daniel Blackman and Senior Vice Commander John Johnston of local Chapter-87.

Both Blackman and Johnston were briefed by Congressman Moore of an upcoming veterans workshop to be held locally on August 24th at the Harvest Church (2727 Fortner Street, Dothan, AL) from 8 am . noon. Discussions may include veterans access to critical care, survivors benefits, disability benefits and key locations that offer the COVID vaccinations to both veterans and their spouses.

Congressman Moore spoke with Blackman and Johnston about separate issues but emphasized his concerns for future military funding and how important it is for constituents to step up and get involved with their local government. The upcoming workshop will be an open forum-type format in which any concerned veterans, including local citizens who never served in the military, can voice their thoughts and suggestions for improvement. The service was concluded with a military flyover and participants placing flowers at the grave site of their chosen fallen hero.





2nd Junior Vice Commander

Willie "Hamp" Hampton

(2nd District)

Greetings Comrades,

Chapter 1
Commander Byrd

Chapter 1 is actively working in office Tuesdays-Thursdays from 9 am . 2 pm. The Chapter has four active Chapter Service Officers, unfortunately Mrs. Linda Champion had knee surgery and will be out approximately six weeks.

Upon our return to Tuscaloosa, we were interviewed by our local TV station WVUA giving praise for what we have accomplished throughout the year. Chapter 1 participated in the Memorial Day celebration which was held at Veterans Park and a table was set-up so the veterans would be able to receive pamphlets on Memorial Service and death benefits. We also passed out American flags and forget-me-not flowers. No fundraising events to report currently.

Lastly, we lost one of our previous CSO Jimmy Hildreth on May 31, 2021.

The Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center held their VA Stakeholders meeting on June 1, 2021, via Webinar and is currently in Phase 3. They talked about hiring of new employees and the wait time for appointments at the VA. Walk-in at TVAMC is from 8 am . 11 am. They have 47 new enrollees and 21 returning updates. They also have hired a Safety Manager and reconvened the Therapy Staff.

Annie L Byrd
Commander
Tuscaloosa Chapter #1

Chapter 4
Commander Hampton

The Senior Officers of Chapter 4 attended the Department Convention. Kudos to the Comrades who put in the work behind the scenes. We hang our hat on our Food Pantry. Two years before the pandemic, the chapter averaged 250-300 complete food boxes. We now average in excess of 400 boxes a month.

The Chapter provides food to Veterans even outside of Birmingham. If you know of a Veteran that needs food, we will try our best to get it to them. Our Food Pantry is a social distanced process. Our parking lot is sectioned off as to allow easy flow. As people drive up to the Chapter door a food box will be placed inside of the car.

The Pantry is our love, but we honor the duties of assisting our veterans. We provide CSO assistance every Tuesday during the hours of 9am to 1pm. Currently our process is for Veterans to call our Chapter at 205-202-4460. Our adjutant will make an appointment for whichever CSO requested. We are trying to keep down traffic for our CSOs until after things clear up. If we can assist in any way, we can please let us know.

Chapter Information
Phone: 205-202-4460
Email: davbirchap04@gmail.com

Chapter 28
Commander Cannon

Chapter 28 remains busy serving their surrounding communities. The Chapter held a fundraiser in the city of Clay. Commander reports they did fairly. Commander Cannon on 14 Jun 21, traveled and installed the new officers of Chapter 18.

Commander Cannon sends well wishes and says If he can be of any assistance, please let him know.

Chapter 33
Commander White

Chapter 33 recently reopened and held their first Meeting. The Chapter also held chapter elections.

Chapter 78
Commander Nelson

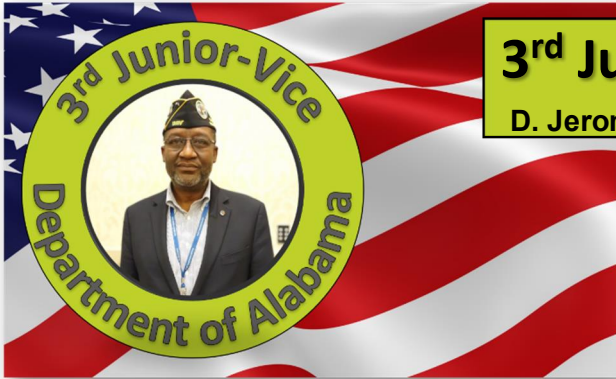
Chapter 78 has been very busy taking care of their Senior Veterans. They provide services such as the delivery of food boxes. They also provide transportation to doctors appointments for their veterans. They attended the Memorial Day services in Talladega and Pell City. They continue to visit their sick and shut-in veterans even assisting with yard work. They regularly attend council meetings in Talladega and Lincoln, AL to address their Veterans issues.

Commander Nelson sends his warmest regards.

Respectfully,

Willie "Hamp" Hampton
2nd Junior Vice Commander

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3rd Junior Vice Commander

D. Jerome Anderson

(1st District)

Commander Anderson / Ch 26 continues to serve Veterans in North Alabama and the community.

Teamwork makes the Dream Work!

Current operations:

- Ch 26 was selected to receive \$124K as a part of the Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) Program. This is an initiative of Mayor Tommy Battle, City of Huntsville and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist in eradicating Veteran homelessness. The funds will be utilized to provide homeless Veterans support and improve their current lifestyle.
- Partnered w/VA/CBOC HUDVASH team to facilitate a mobile Vaccine operation for 200 homeless veterans. Great success! Great volunteers Support!
- DAV 26 shared our mission & vision with District 5 Huntsville, Councilman John Meredith, and the Oakwood Chief of police. This briefing was coordinated to facilitate

support to continue our efforts to rally community support for our Veterans in need.

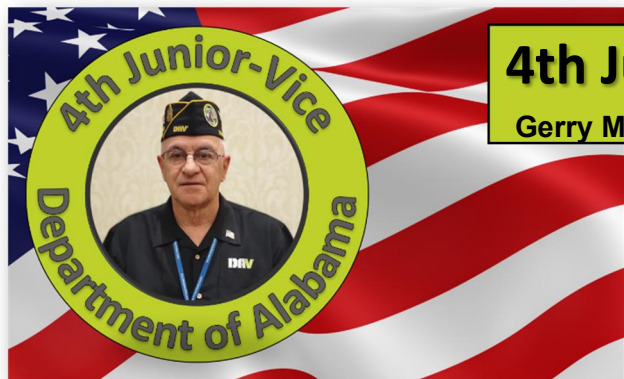
- Chaplain Baker completed training on Suicide Prevention. Continue to move forth with the spiritual team.
- Currently conducting initial training for a new CSO.
- Recently re-aligned w/ the North Alabama Veteran Fraternal Organization Coalition (NAVFOC). This organization serves as a conduit of Veteran support information sharing throughout North Alabama.
- Participated in the annual NAVFOC wreath Memorial ceremony 31 May.
- CH26 volunteers participated in the placing of flags during the Memorial Day celebration.
- We are partnering with the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers program to provide **Free** legal assistance for our Veterans. A few services offered: Power of Attorney, Will & Estates. .
- Veteran of the year! Big congrats to our CDR, Jerome Anderson. He was nominated and awarded Veteran of the year during the Alabama National convention. We are so Thankful & Appreciative of all the hard work & dedication to our chapter! Well Done - CDR Anderson!

Respectfully,

D. Jerome Anderson

3rd Junior Vice Commander





4th Junior Vice Commander

Gerry Merrihew

(3rd District)

Comrades,

I am honored to have been sworn in as 4th Junior Vice Commander, representing the 3rd district. (Chapters 12, 13, 14, 31, 40, 61, 66, 95, 100)

I look forward to visiting and working with all of our chapters within district 3.

I had the opportunity to visit chapter 95 this month, we had a great meeting.

Bill Nichols Chapter 13 & Auxiliary unit 13 are hosting a Car and Motorcycle show on November 13th, 2021.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Independence Day.



Gerry Merrihew

4th Junior Vice Commander

Bill Nichols State Veterans Home
16th Annual Veterans Day
Cars & Motorcycle Show

NOVEMBER 13TH 2021

Saturday
9am-5pm

ALL VETERAN GROUPS WELCOME

Live Music
Food & Craft Venders

Hosted by
Bill Nichols Chapter 13 & Auxiliary Unit 13

1685 Arena Road, Alexander City, AL 35010
www.facebook.com/BillNicholsChapter13 - (719)360-5027

www.facebook.com/BillNicholsChapter13

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?



Department Adjutant

Hugo A. Perez

National Convention will be held this year in Tampa, Florida. If you plan to attend and want to be a delegate, go on the DAV.ORG - Members only - quick links - Elected Officers Resources, and you can download the delegate form for your chapter. After completed, send to National Headquarters P.O. Box 145550 Cincinnati, OH 45250-5550.

Hope to see you all there.

Don't forget that every 4th Saturday we have Town-Hall at 8 A.M. If you have a topic you would like to discuss; please bring it to our director of Training PDC Debb Walker.

And lastly, don't ever forgetWAR EAGLE !!! !!

Respectfully,

Hugo A. Perez
Department Adjutant



Comrades,

We just finished our convention, and it was great to see all the familiar faces. Although we had to have a modified convention, it all went very well. We thanked our past Commander Jerry Morgan for his leadership in the last two years, and we welcomed our new Commander Eugene Zeigler. Congratulations to all the new line officers Earl Frasier our new Senior Vice Commander, as well as the four new Junior Vice Commanders, Leon Grove (1st JVC), Willie Hampton (2nd JVC), Jerome Anderson (3rd JVC), and Gerry Merrihew (4th JVC). Each of the JVCs was assigned the respective districts they will be responsible for.

Also elected was Chris Jones, our new Judge Advocate. I know that we will have a great work relationship, and we will always keep the Veterans we serve upfront. I brought the department a soon-to-come change in the location of our future Conventions, and it was received with great anticipation.

DAV Upcoming Events

Jul 31 . Aug 3, 2021: National Convention, Tampa, FL

Nov 4 . 7, 2021: Dept of MS Mid-Winter Conference, Place TBD

Nov 18 . 20, 2021: Dept of LA Mid-Winter Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Kenner, LA

Jan 6-8, 2022: Dept of AL Mid-Winter Conference, Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa, Opelika, AL

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

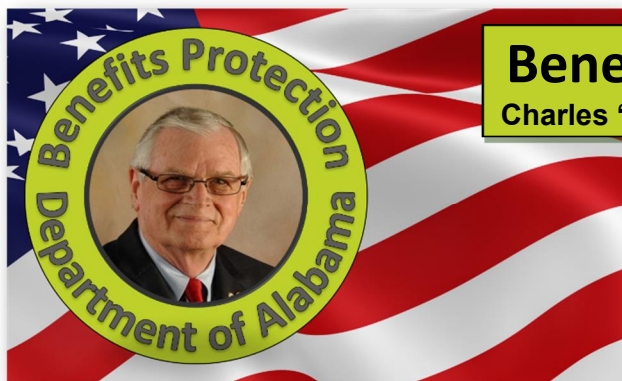
Aug 5-8, 2023: National Convention, Atlantic City, NJ

Feb 25-28, 2024: National Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA

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

Aug 9-12, 2025: National Convention Las Vegas, NV

Aug 1-4, 2026: National Convention Orlando, FL



Benefits Protection Team Leader

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond

days, as opposed to the normal 125 days. The pilot continues through August.

Did you know that the DAV National Headquarters is moving? I did not know it either until I received a letter from Membership saying to destroy all membership materials that had the 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY on them. They become obsolete in June due to the Headquarters moving to 800 Dolwick Avenue, Erlanger, KY 41018. A membership supplies order form was included with that letter. So, if you have not done that, please get on it. Along with that, a new membership system is supposed to be introduced at the National Convention July 31 . August 3 in Tampa. Hopefully, Commanders, Adjutants and SVCs will be able to access the information they need without contacting membership and requesting whatever report or roster they may need. It will sure eliminate a lot of phone calls and e-mails and time spent just making requests or waiting for responses.

My first item has nothing to do with benefits or government or legislation, but it is to honor Past National Commander Jim Sursely. COVID knows no boundaries when it chooses who to attack and it took Jim from us on May 31. If you knew Jim, you were blessed, as he was one of the finest persons on this earth and was a mentor and inspiration to many thousands of people, veteran, and non-veteran. A memorial to PNC Sursely can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QarIR0nPXP4>

On June 17, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano introduced his monumental *Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021* or the *Honoring our PACT Act* to the Committee. This act will be an even more detailed act concerning all possible exposures to any toxic materials and will also add more presumptive diseases to the existing lists.

The State Legislature got busy during their last few days in session and made some forward steps for veterans. On May 14, Governor Ivey announced publicly that the legislature's Task Force on Veterans' Suicide was being combined with the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families (SMVF). This effort will now be titled Alabama's Challenge and will receive additional funding from the State Legislature. I proudly serve as a member of that task Force.

On June 23, National Legislative Director Joy Ilem testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on 23 different pieces of legislation that the DAV is supporting. Go to <https://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/hearing-on-pending-legislation-6-23-2021> to view that testimony.

On August 1 access to Alabama National Guard facilities, including gas stations and post or base exchange will be expanded to certain veterans, which will include all service-disabled veterans and registered caregivers for those veterans.



Effective June 1 there is an expansion of Alabama National Guard Survivor Benefits. This includes an increase in benefits to the survivors of ANG members who die as a result of a service-related incident when on state active duty. Changes were also made to allow more access to the G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program.

[Contact your Senate Representative](#)

[Contact your House Representative](#)

Changes were also made to expand the eligibility requirements for applicants for the Veteran Service Officer positions throughout the state.

A pilot program has been launched by the VA in order to try to significantly reduce the time to review disability claims decisions. The CARS program (Claims Accuracy Request) will adjudicate claims within 30

H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act is currently before Congress, and it would eliminate veterans being punished monetarily for errors made by the VA. The DAV supports this legislation and even hopes that the end result is the elimination of co-pay by service-connected disabled veterans.

Senate Bill 1664, introduced by SEN Amy Klobuchar, has been sent to the Committee on Veterans Affairs. This is a very significant bill as it proposes to significantly reduce the time for the resolution and decision on PTSC disability claims. How many of us would that affect? Many, I am sure.

HR 1282, the Major Richard Star Act provides that combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation. This was introduced in the House in February and did not make it to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance until April. That's the last that was done on it.

If you are not a member of the Commanders Action Network, please go to the DAV National website and join. There you will find [DAV | Commander's Action Network \(quorum.us\)](http://www.dav.org) which will list all of the bills and

resolutions that are currently before the House and the Senate. I cannot cover all the legislation that is pending or has passed, but you can follow them here. After you peruse that list, you will wonder what our legislators in Washington are doing or have been doing during the last year and a half. [Bills Pending US Congress Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee | LegiScan](https://www.dav.org/bills-pending-us-congress-senate-veterans-affairs-committee-legiscan) will take you to an overall list of what is in the Senate. It will really open your eyes.

The 2022 National Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled for February 27-March 2, 2022, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Alexandria, VA. I know that is a long time away and may not even happen, but we must plan as if it will happen.

Here is another item that has nothing to do with BPTL, but it does have to do with the Alabama Challenge I mentioned in paragraph 2. For a short, but powerful, video on veteran suicide go to <https://fb.watch/6gFdYHaDgJ/> It is done by the current Commandant of the Air Staff College at Maxwell AFB and is his story.

Everyone stay healthy, stay safe and take care of your fellow veterans and their families.

Respectfully,

Chad Richmond

Benefits Protection Team Leader



Women Veteran Coordinator

Tawanna Jones

I appreciate all of you showing up and showing out. This is just the beginning of many more Women Veterans luncheon, the goal for the future is to keep all of you empowered and involved in what is new coming your way with your VA healthcare and federal benefits. Some of the topics we will be exploring will be Whole Health Care+, White Ribbon Initiative (Intimate Partner Violence)+, LGBTQ Care+, and Comprehensive Women's Health Care+ just to name a few.

Women's Veterans healthcare is unique, because of their needs and health care being more related to their military service and experiences. I am excited and cannot wait for our next Women's Veteran Empowerment luncheon. Be prepared to be ENERGIZED and EMPOWERED!!! The next Women's Veteran Empowerment Luncheon is scheduled January 2022, at the Department of Alabama Mid-Winter Conference. The cost is \$15.00 before December 1, 2021, \$20.00 thereafter. When registration has been completed for the conference, purchase your ticket for the Women's Veteran Empowerment luncheon too, purchase one for a guest. Yes everyone (Veteran or non-Veterans) is invited to purchase a ticket. Here are some highlights from our DAV members who attend Veteran Empowerment Luncheon and the Annual State Conference.

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.

Congratulations to all our newly elected officers!

Thank you all for another opportunity to serve another year as your State Department Women's Veteran Advisory Chairperson!

First Thing!!!

I just want to THANK everyone for your support for the First Women's Veteran Luncheon!!! THANK YOU!!!







Did you know, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established the Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) just for you? Any woman Veteran or person that has questions about services and benefits available to women Veterans in the VA may use the Women Veterans Call Center.



"The WVCC staff is trained to provide Women Veterans their families and caregivers about VA services and resources they are ready to respond to your concerns. The call is free, and you can call as often as you like. Find the answer if you have questions. The call center is available Monday through Fridays 8am - 10pm Eastern Standard time, and on Saturday from 8am - 6:30pm ET.

Respectfully,

Jawanna

Women Veteran Coordinator

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

From the Chaplain's Corner

Moving Forward+

God's peace be and abide with you and with all those whom you are called to serve and care for, even more so in these challenging and difficult days. It is in that sure and certain hope that we go about our tasks, not as though everything depended on our getting it all right but knowing that our gracious Lord is working in us and through us for the good of His people.

Although I cannot claim to know or understand all that you are facing and dealing with in this present time and the things in your personal life, I am aware of the stress and strain that confront many of you from day to day. Let us continue to face our struggles and act faithfully and responsibly with respect to our various callings and purposes in life. The Covid-19 pandemic and the various actions taken by the governing authorities to

slow the spread of this disease have required daily reevaluations of how best to love our neighbors in both body and soul. All of this is surely complicated by the wide diversity of opinions on every front, even among wise and reasonable men of integrity. It bears repeating that we are called, not only to honor the authorities that has been placed over us, but also to pray and intercede for them. We exercise patience with them, even where we disagree with their decisions and actions, as they carry out the duties entrusted to them with the intelligence, knowledge, wisdom, and abilities that has provided for them.

Allow the many challenges that we may face in life cause us to continue to move forward. May the Lord your God, guard and keep you and yours in safety, health, and peace, unto the Life.



Humbly Submitted
DAV Chaplain of Alabama
Debra H. Varner

MY FATHER ...

Loves me - John 3:16

Cares for Me - Psalms 103

Renews Me - Isaiah 40:31

Protects Me - Psalms 23:4

Redeems Me - Job 19:25

Is Preparing a Place for Me - Psalms 139

Understands & Accepts Me - Psalms 139

Guides & Teaches Me - Psalms 25:9



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DAVA Commander

Frederick Greene

Sincerely,

Frederick Green

State Commander

DAVA State Department of Alabama

Greetings,

I hope all is well with each of you. As I look back at all the things that have transpired in the last few days that I have been your State Commander. I am deeply honored to serve each of you in this capacity. I take this honor seriously; this is not just me but each of us together serving our veterans and their families. As your Auxiliary State Commander. I will be reaching out to the DAV Commander on ways to rebuild the bridge between the DAV and the Auxiliary. I am excited to start a new chapter in serving the veterans and their families.

I will be attending the National Convention in July. I am hoping as many of you will also be in attendance. It will be highly informative for us all. Also, I will attend the fall conference for the Auxiliary in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

I will be available for each of the units in any way possible. I am just a phone call away, to help with membership, monthly meetings, agendas, or to serve anywhere I am needed. We must think outside the box with meetings and getting young members to join the Auxiliary. We are still dealing with the pandemic so we must stay safe and respect each other while serving our veterans and their family. May God smile upon each of you and your family and give you peace is my prayer.

DAV Auxiliary National Fall Conference September 30 - October 2, 2021 DoubleTree by Hilton, Lawrenceburg 51 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Wednesday, September 29 -
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Registration

Thursday, October 30 -
9:00 am - 4:00 pm - Registration
4:00 pm - NEC Meeting
7:00 pm - Business Session - wear your red,
white and blue!

Friday, October 1 -
8:30 am - 12:00 pm - Registration
9:00 am - 11:30 am - Business Session
1:00 pm - 3:30 pm - Business Session
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Reception

Saturday, October 2 -
9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Business Session
6:00 pm - Dinner and Entertainment (**tickets
must be purchased no later than Sept. 15**)

Agenda Subject to Change

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 Assistant Supervisor

John Karuza

Greetings Everyone,

My name is John Karuza, and I am the new Assistant Supervisor at the Montgomery National Service Office. It is with great regret I inform you today that Mrs. Mary Stovall-Moore is leaving us. As with life, we will always live in constantly changing times, and I would like to take the time to reflect on and celebrate Mary's decade plus long career with the DAV.

For those of you that know Mary, there is a lot to tell, and you likely already know most of what I can say. There unfortunately isn't enough room in one article to do any justice. But she is a very hard-working supervisor that loved talking with the department's CSOs, assisting Veterans after hours, and a role model by example figure everyone could look up to and admire. We, in the Montgomery National Service Office, genuinely wish her the best of luck as she moves forward with her life and onward to new adventures. I would also like to personally say that she will be missed. Her contagious, positive, and uplifting character will surely be missed.



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