



DAV Chapter 9
Enterprise-Coffee County
PO Box 310972
Enterprise, AL 36330
334 308-2480
dav9news@hotmail.com

Monthly Meeting
1st Saturday 8:30 AM
201 W. Watts Street



▶ COMMANDER'S NOTES,
CHAPLAINS VESPERS,
MEETINGS AND ITEMS OF
INTEREST..... 1



▶ SENIOR VICE COMMENTS,
DAV DRIVER'S
TRANSMISSION, 2

▶ DEPARTMENT CRIER,
DAV AUXILIARY ITEMS OF
INTEREST..... 3



▶ OUR SPONSORS AND
RECRUITMENT POSTER 4

Boll Weevil reveille



ADDRESSING ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR VETERANS
IN ENTERPRISE AND THE WIREGRASS AREAS.

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...

Commanders Notes!

Greetings fellow Veterans and members of Chapter 9

Charlene Swann

First and foremost, I want to begin by saying "THANK YOU" to each member in the chapter. Throughout the month there were numerous supportive efforts, encouragement, decision making and collaboration displayed as we came together as a chapter to produce a community spirit in serving Veterans and the DAV with distinction.

As Commander I will continually encourage each of you to come out and support the Zaxby's DAV Fundraiser night held every 3rd Tuesday. My Thanks again to those members and their families who dined together to support and help Veterans in need. Mark your calendars for next month's Zaxby's DAV fundraiser evening from 5-8pm on October 21.

The Enterprise Chamber Of Commerce 73rd Annual Membership Banquet was held on Sept.

25. I and more than 10 other DAV members attended the event. The chapter recognized our very own Dr. Theron Covin with the "Boll Weevil Award. Be it known that it is the community spirit that inspired DAV Chapter 9 to recognize Dr. Covin for his dedication of hundreds of personal hours in the support of Wiregrass Veterans and their families.

At our last meeting we appointed a Fundraising Chairperson, Gail Stewart, and members volunteered to form a fundraising committee to work together. Organization for Veterans Day is taking place. National Peanut Festival begins October 31st. Members are needed for these opportunities to help the chapter.

In closing I would like to give a "Hearty Salute" to, Sherman Key for a generous donation and Bill Baker presenting the chapter with checks from two events conducted recently.



Chaplain's Vespers

Bill Baker

Prayers go out to the family of Comrade Rex Bass who took point this past month. He will be missed as a comrade and as one of our dedicated van drivers. Keep Sr Vice Commander Edwards and JAG Franco in your prayers for their continued and quick recovery after surgeries.

Come visit our website at <http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/al/09/default.aspx> or  on Facebook

Senior Vice and Membership News

Kerry Edwards



...new members can sign up as a DAV member online for only \$10...

Due to his surgery and ongoing recovery, the SVC was unable to contribute this month. However, I am sure he would be quick to remind you to get out there and talk up our organization and the good it does. You should also ask potential members if they would like to join our ranks!



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Van Driver's Transmission

Bill Voht

As most of you already know I am currently doing some serious dealing with Prostate Cancer due to exposure to Agent Orange, twice as it turns out! I was exposed when I was in Korea in the mid-sixties in the Infantry and again in Viet Nam in the late sixties and seventies. I never thought I would be a "Friendly Fire" victim. We are beginning to get a "thin" on healthy, up-to-date drivers. I had surgery last Wednesday and am still trying to recover. Four of our nine drivers are currently not driving due to serious health issues.

A big thank you to you five who have stepped up and driven the van, often on short notice, more than your usual 2

times a month. Also, a special thanks to Buddy Keen and Tom Ferguson for pitching in to help out the or three Dothan van program last month when they were down to one driver. The best outcome would be that all four of us recover fully and resume driving. In several cases this does look promising. On a positive note, Mike Arnold is in the final stages of completion in his qualification to drive. We need to recruit a couple of new drivers so talk about the van program with your friends and if they show any interest invite them ride along for an orientation.

Driver	Trips	Miles	Hrs	Vets
Buddy Keen	4*	944	48	24
Lyle McMullen	2	472	24	13
Tom Ferguson	3*	708	36	16
Paul Skyles	3	708	36	9
Jon Langhammer	2	472	24	13
Bill Voht	3*	708	31	5
TOTALS	15	3540	292	80

The Department Crier

Chad Richmond

September 24, 2014

New Process Will Reduce Processing Times and Improve Quality

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it is introducing a uniformed disability claims form to better serve Veterans, families and survivors. Standardizing the process by which Veterans file claims and initiate appeals will make it easier for Veterans and their survivors to clearly state what benefits they are seeking from VA and provide information that is necessary to process their claims and appeals. The new forms eliminate applicant guesswork, which often leads to delays in decisions and ultimately delays in receiving benefits. The new regulations go into effect in late March 2015.

"We must do everything that we can to make it as fast and easy as possible for Veterans and their survivors to file for and receive an accurate decision on their claim," said VA Secretary Robert McDonald. "Our Veterans and survivors will know, at the outset of the claims process, what is needed, which removes subjective interpretation from the process. We want to eliminate any barriers that make it difficult for our Veterans or survivors to receive benefits to which they are entitled." In the past, a Veteran or survivor did not have to use a certain form to seek compensation or other benefits from VA. Claims or appeals (Notice of Disagreement) could be submitted on any piece of paper which caused delays due to missing information.

By using standard forms for all disability claims, VA can more quickly and accurately identify what the Veteran is claiming or appealing. This will allow VA to immediately move on to next steps in the evidence-gathering and decision-making process, which saves administrative processing time and

speeds the delivery of earned benefits. The existing process is also inconsistent with most, if not all, other government and non-government application processes, such as applying for social security, applying for a driver's license, applying for a job or filing for an income tax refund.

"These days, government agencies and private businesses rely on standard forms to deliver faster and more accurate customer service," said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "VA's ability to deliver better customer service requires the use of standard forms as well. That is why we worked extensively with our partners in the Veterans community to streamline the way we process claims while preserving the effective date rules concerning informal claims through the creation of a new intent to file a claim process."

The updated process also includes standardizing the traditional informal claims process by employing a new "Intent to File a Claim" process which affords the Veteran or survivor one year to compile the necessary documentation or evidence to support the claim while preserving an effective date of claim.

More information about VA Forms [21-526EZ](#), [21-527EZ](#), [21-534EZ](#) or VA Form [21-0958](#), Notice of Disagreement, may be found at www.ebenefits.va.gov or www.va.gov/vaforms/.

The Auxiliary Update

Anonymous DAV Auxiliary Member

The chapter voted to provide our auxiliary with \$300 for gifts for those Veterans and family members of Veterans in the nursing home on Veterans Day. We also voted to support them in their Americanism efforts with a donation of \$300 for the purchase of flags for schools.



Commissioned By: The Healthy Caregiver Community Foundation's "Women Veterans Research Consortium" (C) 2010

DAV Chapter 9 Enterprise-Coffee County

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Chapter #9 Officers DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

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Commander	Charlene Swann	334 470-7809	swanneer.river@gmail.com
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Fundraising Chair	Gail Stewart		



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October 2014

October 2014							November 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Sep 28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
Sep 28 - Oct 4							8:30am 10:00am Membership Meeting (201 W. Watts Street)
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Oct 5 - 11							8:00am 9:00am Department Town Hall Meeting (Teleconference 805 360-1000 Access Code 991969#)
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Oct 12 - 18		Columbus Day (United States)	6:30pm 8:00pm Chapter 94 Meeting (Ozark)		6:30pm 8:30pm Chapter 87 Meeting (Dothan)	National Veterans Day	8:00am 3:00pm City of Enterprise Fall Festival (Main Street) 9:00am 3:00pm DAV/DAVA Department of Alab
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Oct 19 - 25			5:00pm 8:00pm Zaxby's Give Back (Zaxby's Enterprise Location)		6:00pm 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00pm 8:30pm Chapter 99 Meeting		8:00am 9:00am Department Training (Anymeeting.com)
	26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
Oct 26 - Nov 1						Halloween (United States) 3:30pm 12:00am National Peanut Festival Starts (NPF Fairgrounds Dothan)	

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 by:

- 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.

OFFICE HOURS/READING FILE: The office is currently open Mon thru Thurs, 9:00 – 11:00 AM. Service officer assistance is appointment only. Contact the Commander or Service Officer ...telephone numbers provided in the newsletter.

Chapter Reading File: In the office for you to stop by and read. The office is also open during each executive meeting for you to come by and visit.

DAV VAN (Enterprise to Tuskegee): Our DAV Van operates from Enterprise to Tuskegee, departing Hardees at 5:15 Monday - Wednesday - Friday, arriving at Tuskegee at approximately 08:00. Please assist our drivers by having your hospital appointment notification for that day with you; a picture ID is also required. We take passengers on a first come first serve basis unless the Tuskegee HSC directs otherwise.

Important Numbers

VA Medical Centers
1-800-214-8387

**Coffee County
Veteran Service
Officer:**
(334) 894-5858

**Birmingham VA
Medical Center**
(205) 933-8101

Dothan CBOC
(334) 673-4166

**Wiregrass (Lyster)
CBOC (334) 503-7836
or 503-7831**



DAV

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