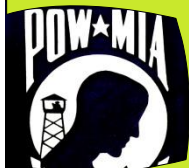




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# Boll Weevil reveille

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 need of veterans transitioning back to civilian life...*

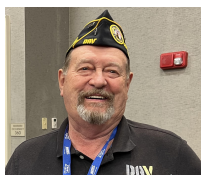
## Commanders Notes!

Hello Comrades,

As know, we have been doing well in supporting our local veterans by having our office open 4 days a week in the mornings of Monday through Thursday. we just attended the DAV National Convention in Orlando. From the standpoint of a service officer, it was very beneficial to me to have a better understanding of the Compensation and Pension (C&P) rules the VA and their contractors are required to go by. New information to us is that they are not allowed to take in consideration additional information that they Veteran takes with him/her to the C&P exam. The VA wants ALL of the evidence turned in with the original claim. Once the Examiner receives the order from the VA, they have 3 weeks to examine the Veteran and report back thier findings in accordance with the 38 CFR.

Tom Ferguson

As you might also know, I was asked to attend and report on July 25th to the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee for the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs on "Assisting Service member Transition in Southern Alabama. This committee was chaired Congressman Mike Levin (CA) and Congressman Barry Moore (AL). We discussed how the DAV can help Veterans with their claims within 6 months of their exiting or retiring of service, However, they can see us for a checklist anytime so they can plan their claim with the VA.



## Chaplain's Vespers

Buddy Keen

Let's remember those comrades recovering and needing recovery in our prayers! Please contact me for any members of our chapter if they are in the hospital or need prayer.

Our website is back up and running! <http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/al/09/default.aspx> or on Facebook

# Department of Alabama 2nd Jr Vice Commander Update

Gerry Merrihew



or 988 Then dial 1.

Greetings Comrades, I am writing this as your 2nd District Junior Vice Commander, representing the 4th District and Chapter 9 Senior Vice Commander. I'm sure most of you have heard about the PACT Act. The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA healthcare and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

### The Pact Act will bring these changes:

- \* Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post 9/11 war eras.
- \* Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burns pits and other toxic exposures.
- \* Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for agent orange and radiation.
- \* Requires the VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA healthcare.
- \* Helps to improve research, staff education, and treatment, related to toxic exposures.

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits. For more info go to: [va.gov/PACT](http://va.gov/PACT). It's encouraging to start sending in your claims for these diseases immediately, even though the VA will not start processing these claims until January 2023.

The Department of Alabama DAV will be holding the annual Commander's and Adjutant's Training on September 10th in Alexander City, Alabama. This training is also open to anyone who would like to attend. The Department holds townhall meetings monthly, so if anyone is interested in this or has any suggestions for our training, please let me know.

Thank you, Gerry



## Van Driver's Transmission

The DAV National Commander at the National Convention in Orlando reported that the DAV Transportation Network for the past year conducted 160,000 rides taking Veterans to their VA appointments. Volunteer drivers logged more than half a million hours while driving over 8 million miles! DAV's fleet of vehicles stood ready to help make the healthcare that Veterans have earned more easily accessible.

Since the transportation network began in 1987 DAV has donated over 3,600 vehicles while the oldest corporate partner, Ford Motor Company, has donated over 250 vehicles. As a reminder, we are always looking out for new volunteer drivers!



DAV Past National Commander 2021-2022 Andrew Marshall



Driver	Trips	Miles	Hrs	Vets
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Monthly report coming soon!



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

# 2022 DAV National Convention, Orlando Florida



**DAV Chapter 9  
Enterprise-Coffee  
County**



## Chapter #9 Officers DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Commander	Tom Ferguson	2tfergy@gmail.com	(334) 470-6655
Senior Vice	Gerry Merrihew	gerrymerrihew@yahoo.com	(802) 238-3433
Junior Vice	Kent Anger	topdogxv@yahoo.com	(334) 379-8901
Treasurer	Carol Rainwater	carol.rainwater17@gmail.com	(334) 447-1727
Chaplain	Buddy Keen	buddy_455@yahoo.com	(334) 806-7305
Adjutant	Derrick Rainwater	derrick.rainwater@gmail.com	(334) 477-4381
Exec Comm Chair	John Sciascia	jsciascia@gmail.com	(334) 347-3701
Judge Advocate	Armand Franco	armand.franco@yahoo.com	(334) 475-0619
Sergeant at Arms	Bob Carroll	carollrob65@gmail.com	(334) 389-2887
Geneva Office Manager	Chris Jones	jonescr2010@gmail.com	(334) 360-1719
Senior CSO	Tom Ferguson	2tfergy@gmail.com	(334) 470-6655
Van Coordinator	Kerry Edwards	kedwards30378@sw.rr.com	(334) 596-5217
Honor Guard CDR	Armand Franco	armand.franco@yahoo.com	(334) 475-0619
Office Manager	Steve Restevio	steverest@gmail.com	(334) 806-4436
Fundraising Chair	Steve Restevio	steverest@gmail.com	(334) 806-4436
LVAP Coordinator	Beth Emerson	lemerson1@liberty.edu	(205) 401-8227
Executive Committee	Chris Jones	jonescr2010@gmail.com	(334) 360-1719
Executive Committee	Mike Sutterfield	mike.sutterfield@nav-int.com	(334) 400-6133

# Geneva Satellite Office

Chris Jones

Hi Comrades:

We are continuing to see Veterans for their claims. Since the Geneva Office has been open, we have seen roughly 40 people needing assistance with either VA claims, VA adjudication letter interpretations, contact info to a patient advocate, or information for Veteran benefits. Please come see our new office and let us know if you would like to volunteer with us!

Geneva Satellite Office Manager,

Chris Jones



## VA Update

DAV National Treasurer Bill Baker

The 2023 VA disability rates will be officially released on October 13, 2022, with the implementation of the Social Security Administration's (SSA) 2023 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase, which could be as high as 8.9%. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adjusts VA disability compensation rates each year based on the SSA's annual COLA increase. The final VA disability rates 2023 will be based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report of September 2022 inflation data.

What's the bottom line?

Veterans could see a gigantic 8.9% COLA increase this year due to rising inflation in the economy caused by increasing consumer demand and decreasing supply (supply chain shortages), which has led to a significant increase in the cost of consumer goods and services.

Yes, disabled veterans with a 10% VA rating or higher will see an estimated 8.9% COLA increase on their monthly VA compensation payment beginning January 2023. An 8.9% COLA increase to VA disability rates in 2023 would be the largest boost in 40 years.



## Executive Committee

Mike Sutterfield

Hello, Team! The city of Enterprise will conduct a Patriot Day (9/11) Memorial on Sunday, 11 September, at Johnny Henderson Park honoring first responders in coordination with the DAV, VFW, American Legion, City fire and Police Departments and the Rescue Squad. The event will be held in the morning beginning at 0720 coinciding with the events of the day in 2001. The VSOs and first responders will lay wreaths, there will be a guest speaker, and the fire department will ring a bell five times at 0746 for the four events (two twin towers, Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA) and the lives lost due to complications from injuries and illnesses sustained that day.

Thank you,

Mike



### COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAs)

COLAs are based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). They are calculated by comparing the average CPI-W for the third quarter of the year in which the most recent COLA became effective to the average CPI-W for the third quarter of the current year.



Newsletter Submissions are due every month by the 28th to the Adjutant

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			August	11	12	13
				Chapter Meeting Shane's Rib Shack	DAV Van	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	DAV Van		DAV Van		DAV Van	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	DAV Van		Veteran's Affairs Mtg Enterprise Chamber of Commerce 8am DAV Van	Finance Com Mtg 5pm Exec Com Mtg 6pm	DAV Van	
28	29	30	31	1 September 2		3
	DAV Van		DAV Van		DAV Van	Lowe's Fundraiser 9am - 2pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Labor Day		DAV Van	Chapter Meeting Shane's Rib Shack 6pm	DAV Van	C&A Training -Alexander City 9am



## 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, 8:00 – 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

Chapter 9 Enterprise-Coffee County  
PO Box 310972  
Enterprise, AL 36331