

Department of Alabama News & Views



September/October
2018



The DAV was founded on
September 25, 1920.
As we focus on the future of the
Veterans that we assist daily we
should also reflect on how we got to
where we are today.

Read more about our history [here](#).

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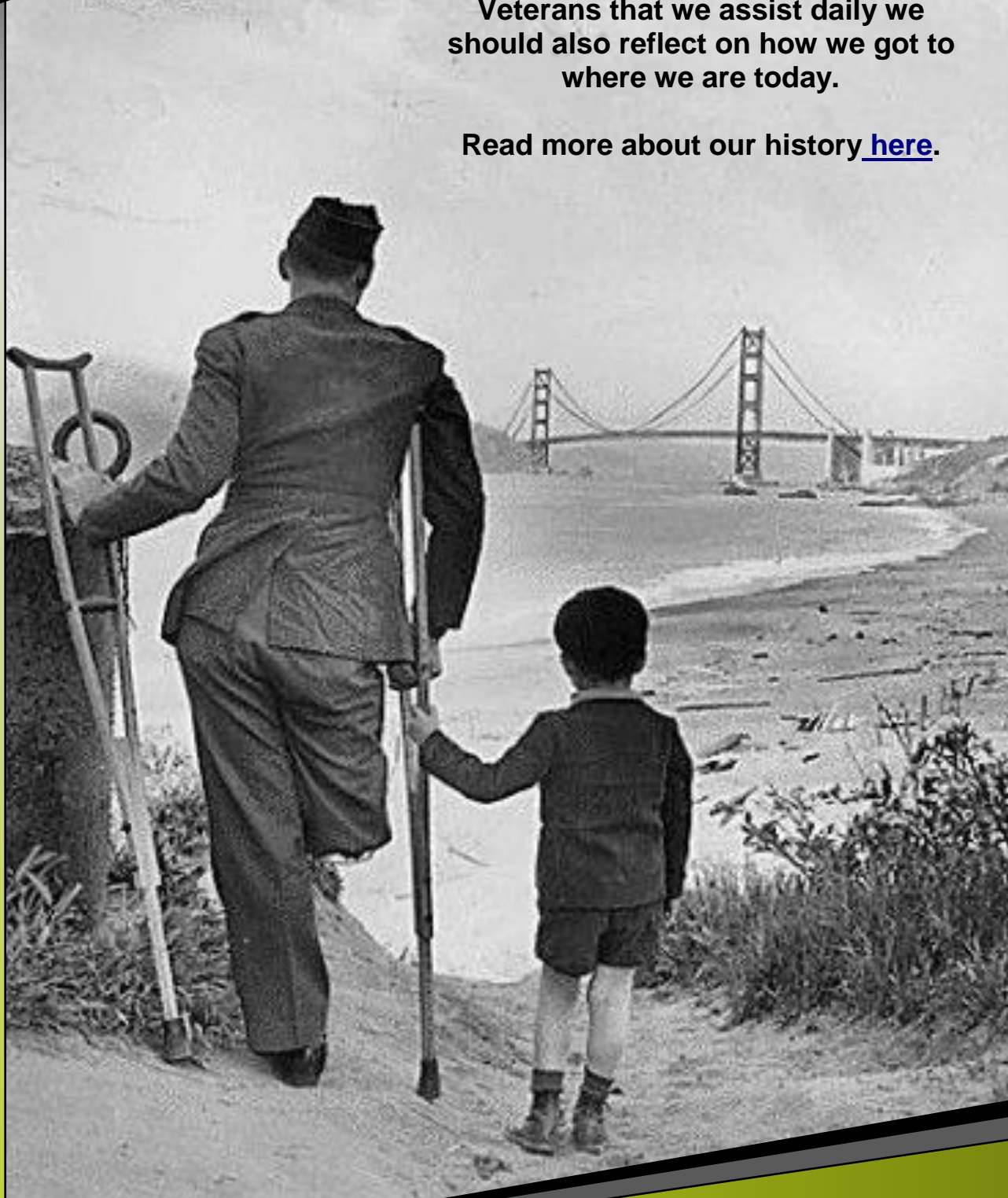


Editor/Publisher

Anita R. Perez

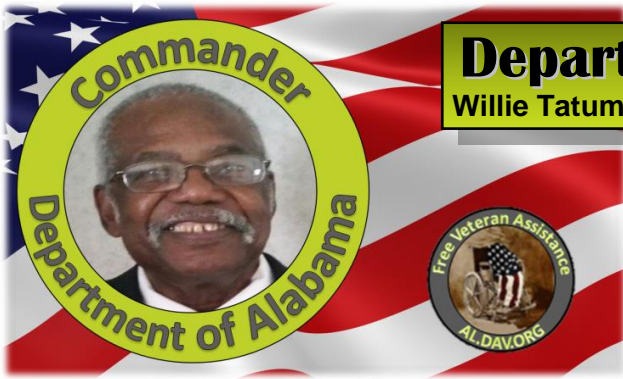
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Volume 23 | Number 2



**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED**





Department Commander Willie Tatum

Greetings Comrades,

After attending the National Convention in Reno, NV, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our newly elected National Officers, especially our National Commander Dennis Nixon, and our 8th NEC Jerry Bratton. We are looking forward to a great year. As usual there was a wealth of information presented and what makes this so interesting is that if you were unable to attend you still have access to that information. Just log onto DAV.ORG and select the subject you are interested in. That would be a good time to register for the volunteerforveterans.org and when you provide service to a veteran it is reported directly to National. Also, we are encouraging all of our members to sign up for the commander's action network. I cannot stress enough the importance of belonging to the CAN and lending your voice when necessary.

We are off to a good start on our recruiting efforts for the year. As you know by now our requirement requirements are drastically different from past years. But that does not mean we should take a break. In fact, we should work harder and build up our membership. In the past we were looking for fulltime members, but now all members count. So just recruit. I want to thank those chapters who have already recruited new members and keep up the good work.

Our C&A is fast approaching and we really need to have your number of attendees. This is important because it helps us plan for lunch. We don't want anyone there to go without lunch. Our director of training PDC Deb Walker and Asst Director PDC Laird Culver are working hard to make sure that you have an informative session. Just a reminder that I am asking each chapter for a small donation to help cover expenses for our C&A lunch and also our Mid-Winter hospitality room. For anyone who has attended the Mid-Winter, you know how important the hospitality room is to our members. There will be 3 meals a day Thur-Sat and that is a savings for our members. So, we appreciate any and all help. Remember that will be part of your expense to support veterans.

Let us remember why we exist as an organization, veterans helping veterans. It is a good idea to read your mission statement often and to stand by it. I hope that all of our chapter commanders know their constitution and bylaws. You will find out that it will keep you out trouble. Again, this is the last year where we have our DECM's. You elected them and they are there for you, so don't hesitate to ask them for help if you need it. I say that because minor problems can always be handled in-house.

I want to remind everyone of our town hall meeting on the 2nd Saturday and our department training on the 4th Saturday. Now these sessions will take a maximum of one hour of your time, and it is open to all members so please join us.

We thank you for all that you do.

Semper fi,

Willie Tatum

★ ★ ★
H A P P Y
LABOR DAY



Disabled American Veterans Mission

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

Jerry D. Morgan

Comrades,

I want to thank everyone for their hard work on recruitment for the first month of the new membership year. National Membership has removed the trial membership list from being included in each chapter's total on hand members. The method used to generate the membership goal for each chapter has changed for this year. New part-paid and fully-paid members count equally toward this year's membership goal.

Under the old goal system only fully-paid members counted toward your goal. However, 10% of your part-paid members were used toward your total goal for the year. That is why each chapter was requested to contact your part-paid members to encourage them to become fully-paid members.

So the result is that a small number of new members is required to meet your goal. However, this does not mean that we need to do less work but to keep up the great work that you have been doing.

I know that many of you are like me and would use, "The DAV has over 1.3 million members," as a part of your spill in the recruitment of new members and how this number helps in the fight on Capitol Hill to ensure that each Veteran receives the benefits that they earned for their service. However, we can no longer use the 1.3 million number but now use the phrase "Over 1 million members strong." The old "Trial Member" list is no longer used as a part of the total membership number. So we need to work harder and get back to that great 1.3 million number.

The Commanders and Adjutants conference at DAV Headquarters was very informative and gave the base training for how the Membership program works and what I, as the SR Vice Commander, needed to know in order to help each chapter to attain their membership goal for the year.

The DAV National Convention in Reno has come and gone with

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The DAV National Convention in Reno has come and gone with a very excellent program and information. In less than one month, between the C&A Conference and the National Convention, National DAV Membership has made some major changes to the "Hot List" or the "Prospect List." The Trial Membership list has now been combined with the Prospect list. This resulted in a much larger prospect list that **DOES NOT** include a phone number along with the prospect's name and address. This will require additional work by the chapters to reach out to the prospects within their area.

At the request of National Membership, the request for a chapter "Hot" list by zip codes goes through the DAV State Department. Working with chapter 98 in Oxford, I had sent in their list with a large number of zip codes. After talking with Robbin at National she asked that we consider cutting the number of zip codes down because of the number of prospect that would come up. Chapter 66 was the second chapter to send in their request and had 8 zip codes on it. Robbin said that they would run those 8 zip codes and see what the number would be. After running the list of zip codes there were 52,000 names on the list. I asked that they not send that list until I talked with the Chapter Commander and

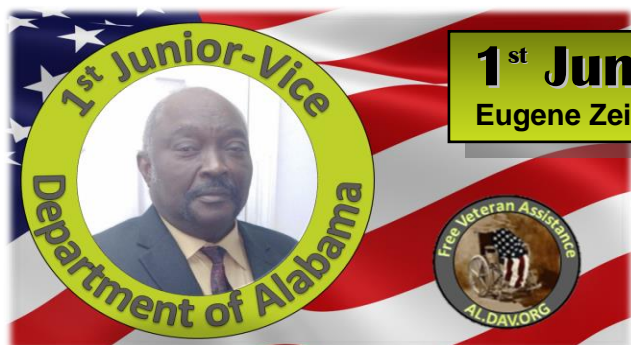
after communicating with Chapter 66's commander he cut his list down to 3 zip codes and those 3 zip codes had 797 names on it, which he took. Chapter 98 cut their list down to 2 zip codes and their number was a little over 400.

Other chapters have sent in their list of 1 to 3 zip codes that have the largest number of members currently on their membership roll and their list have been a manageable number. So I am requesting again that chapters look at their membership list and just request the zip codes that have most of the members. I will work with any chapter one on one to help you get a list of prospects that you can manage, just e-mail or call me.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Commander and Adjutant training in Montgomery on October 13. Remember this training is open to anyone in your chapter not just Commanders and Adjutants. I have really enjoyed the first two months of being the Department SR Vice and doing the work required of me.

Respectfully,

Jerry Morgan



1st Junior Vice Commander Eugene Zeigler

Comrades,

Congratulations to Retired Marine Corps veteran Dennis R. Nixon for being elected National Commander of DAV. We pray that God will be with him, as he begins this task.

The Colorado Trust, continues to be a great way for Departments and Chapters to turn innovation into service commitment. One look at the support the Trust affords the Hospital Service Coordinator program and the expansion of the Transportation Network demonstrates just how effective the Trust can be providing services to our nation's disabled veterans.

The Colorado Trust was formed in 1996 when National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson and other DAV leaders began looking for ways to more fairly distribute resource to support worthy service programs. Though the Trust Chapters and Departments that have built substantial reserves have a tremendous opportunity to put that money to work in a highly

responsible way, helping today's and tomorrow's disabled veterans and their families.

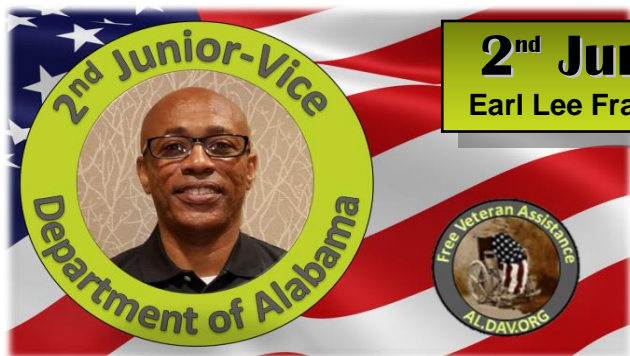
It is important to remember the Colorado Trust is a "restricted fund" within the DAV National Services Foundation. So, funds are strictly to service for veterans and their families, the purpose for which they were collected. The Trust doesn't make grants to repair the roof on a Chapter home or the parking lot, or buy new uniforms for the color guard. Grants from the Colorado Trust are made for more direct and sustaining service to disabled veterans and their families.

The Colorado Trust got its name from the inaugural contribution of \$500,000 from the DAV Department of Colorado and has been helping to build better lives for veterans.

For every DAV Chapter and Department any number of obstacles stand in the way of innovation including manpower, local interest and of course funding. The Colorado Trust is a tool that can keep these obstacles from hindering the DAV unyielding effort to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families.

Respectfully

Eugene Zeigler



2nd Junior Vice Commander

Earl Lee Frazier

January don't forget to of time to ensure seating for those identified to attend.

I want to thank all chapters ahead of time for your support in the Department of Alabama fundraising efforts. Once again thank you for your service and "Airborne."

Respectfully

Earl L Frazier

Comrades,

As we approach our annual Commanders and Adjutant Conference it's important that we get maximum participation from each and every chapter. You never know who will make a future leader not only within your local chapter but also the department. The information relayed is vitally important for all who attend.

As I have made my rounds throughout the Department Chapters I would like to thank Chapters 4, 61 and 50, Commanders, line officers and members for allowing me to fellowship, enjoy fundraising activities and socialize with them.

Don't forget about the Veteran Day activities in Birmingham coming up in November. Fast forwarding a minute to the Mid-Winter Conference in Auburn in

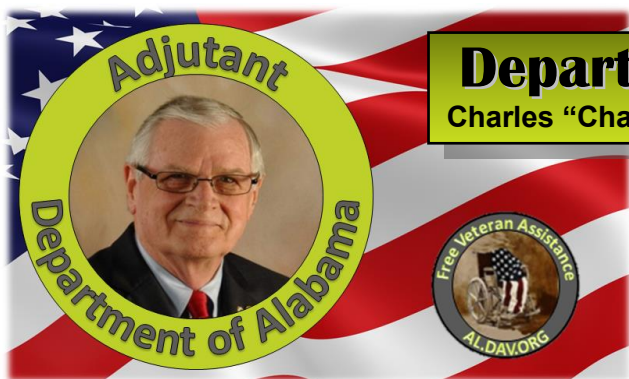
News & Views Article Due Dates:

November Issue – Due 20 Oct 2018

January Issue – Due 15 Dec 2018

March Issue – Due 20 Feb 2019

All Articles due the 20th of the month prior to the publishing of the newsletter. (January due December 15th, due to the Holiday season)



Department Adjutant

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond

Comrades,

Marine Corps veteran Dennis Nixon was elected as the DAV's new National Commander at our National Convention in Reno, NV. Utah veteran Nancy Espinoza also joined the National line as the 4th Junior Vice Commander. Congratulations to all of our newly elected and appointed National officers. A special congratulation is given to Mississippi's Senior Vice Commander Jerry Bratton who was selected as the new 8th District National Executive Committeeman and Alabama's very own Carolyn Harris as the Auxiliary's 8th NEC. Congratulations to both of you. We look forward to working with both of you during the next two years. It was really great to see the number of members

from the Department that attended the National Convention. With the convention in Orlando next year, we hope to see even more. Everything that went on in Reno is on the National DAV website. Pictures from the event are also available for viewing on Flickr.

Congratulations to Chapter 21 for being the first chapter to attain its membership goal for 2018-2019. Membership goals changed drastically this year, so we should have a better chance at attaining our membership goals and have a closer working relationship with the National Membership department. Department SVC Jerry Morgan is working very hard with the National Membership Department to get everyone their "hot list" of potential members for their chapters. There are literally thousands of veterans out there who qualify for membership in the DAV. So far it has been a really great success and a great tool for chapters in recruiting new members. We just have to convince them to join. And, when they join, we must make them a part of our chapters and put them to work. Having lots of members on the rolls doesn't mean much if only a few show up for meetings and projects. We must offer them something meaningful. Just remember that transfers and deaths will affect

your membership goal. Those minuses will count throughout the year on your total. As of this writing we have thirteen chapters that have three or less members to attain their goal. Thanks to National Director Doug Wells and Supervisor Robbin Higgins for all of their hard work in this coordinated effort.

Just a reminder to let me know about your fundraisers. I need to know about your fundraisers at least 30 days in advance so I can put them on my calendar. It is also a good indicator for me and the Department staff on who is really doing the DAV's business of helping veterans. If your chapter is not doing fundraisers, then what are you doing? I do not have many fundraisers on my calendar. If you plan to make more than \$5000.00, your request must go before the Ways and Means Committee for their examination and recommendation to the membership. This is all outlined in our Department Constitution and Bylaws.

I hope you will join Commander Tatum, Juniorette PDC Debb Walker and me at the 18th Annual Black and White Banquet in Talladega. This is always a great event. Tickets are available from Commander James Nelson, Commander Marcia Pruitt or Adjutant Billy Springer.

By the way, Juniorette is not in your dictionary. It is a new word developed by Debb Walker.

PDC Laird Culver and Juniorette PDC Debb Walker are putting together a grass roots Commanders and Adjutant Seminar for us based on the input from all of our District meetings last April and May. Their emphasis will be on how to keep chapters out of trouble. We still need your input on how many people we can expect to attend so we are sure we have enough refreshments for everyone. Your donations will help, also. Please contact Debb for all coordination for this event. The seminar is not just for Commanders and Adjutants. It is for anyone who thinks they may want to assume greater duties in their chapter or in the Department. In fact, it is for anyone who wants to learn the duties and responsibilities of officers and committees.

Now is the time that chapters need to be thinking about who they will nominate for their District Veteran of the Year. These nominations need to be to your DECM's NLT mid-November so they can make their final decisions and let me know by December 1. This will probably be the last year for this award, unless you, the members, want to continue it. On August 16, Commander Willie Tatum, SVC Jerry

Morgan, PDC Art Miller, PSC Fay Miller, OOD Hugo Perez and Treasurer Anita Perez and I visited the Marriott in Opelika to put the finishing touches on our Mid-Winter Conference. The hotel staff is looking forward to having us there and we all think it is going to be a great event. We are also trying to set up a possible golf outing during our Department Convention there. More to come on that later.

For our Mid-Winter Conference Chapter Commanders/Adjutants need to submit an updated CSO addendum to your officer report to ensure we know who will be coming for certification. You also need to designate those who should be receiving Level 2 certification. Those are due to NSO Area Supervisor Mike Michelotti and me NLT November 30. Mike and Mary Stovall-Moore then will make the final Level 2 certification training decision. If you cannot attend our certification, please let me know so I can try to coordinate with Louisiana or Mississippi for you to attend their certification training.

Speaking of our Mid-Winter conference, get your room reservations done early. Registration forms are available on the Department web site. Please get those done early, as well. Please don't wait until the conference to register. It makes it impossible to plan for the number of meals to order for the banquet. We still are asking for chapters to recruit ads for our conference booklet. You will receive a check for 10% of all of the ads you recruit from businesses and individuals for our booklet. It would not hurt the chapters and some of our officers to also put in an ad. Please get those to me NLT December 1 so I can get them all gathered together for the printer.

Lastly, a challenge. We have sixteen chapters in our department that are named after individuals. How many of you know the biographies of your chapter's namesake? In my comings and goings, I have found that very few know anything about the veteran whose name was selected for your chapter. I'll have to admit that I only know about four of them. So, in order to put Ken Schaus, our Department Historian to work, I would like each of the chapters named after an individual to submit that veteran's bio to me and Ken Schaus by February 1, 2019. That gives you plenty of time. Not only should we keep the promises to veterans and their families, we should keep the memories and heritage alive as well. Please help me on this.

Respectfully,

Chad Richmond





Benefits Protection Team Leader

Laird Culver

Good day to you,

With this writing I find myself wondering about the state of our benefits and healthcare. If you wonder about these things as well, you might want to check out the DAV national website and see what is being done to protect the benefits we were promised when we signed the contract with America. Sometimes it takes only one person to make a change and there are other times when that change will not come without the loud, droning voices of a group.

Now is the time for you as an active member of the DAV and your chapter to get involved with making change. Change does not come easy, but it can happen if the right people are involved. You have already joined the premiere organization in helping veterans file claims, but it is not enough to get benefits and healthcare for your fellow veterans. You must be willing to go the extra mile to help ensure these benefits are going to be available for our nation's heroes in the future. There are plenty of folk in Washington, D.C. and around the world who do not know what real service to this country means. It is our job to remind them of the promises made to the men and women who served and hold them accountable to keeping those promises.

As an individual you can make contact and get involved with change by advocating in your community for change. My suggestion is to be respectful and certain those individuals you are contacting are the ones with the authority to evoke

change in your community. Questions you could ask yourself would be similar to but not limited to: What influence does this person I am talking to wield? Is this person likable enough to be able to influence others to rally around our cause? Does this person support those issues important to my organization? Will I be able to communicate with this person when and where necessary? If you are not working with the right person could create a problem for you, your chapter and the DAV if you are not careful.

The internet and email make communication with your representatives easier than ever. Researching the issues being addressed by the [House of Representatives'](#) and [Senate's](#) committees on Veteran Affairs is easy enough. Finding out what DAV is concentrating on is also easy when you are ready to get on the bus and support our organizations efforts. Use the internet, email and for those who do not have internet or email, use your phone and your pen and paper to push the buttons of those making decisions.

Once more I recommend you get involved in the [DAV Commander's Action Network!](#) If you are a member of the [CAN](#) you will be able to get timely [bills and information](#) which is important to the veteran population and of focus to our national organization. Joining the CAN makes you one of 1.3 million voices in potential contact with those representatives in the halls of the US Congress, your state, and your local community. You are very powerful as one voice in a group of voices raised up by like-minded individuals.

Hold the Line! Hold our leaders accountable!

Laird Culver

BPTL

[Contact your Senate Representative](#)



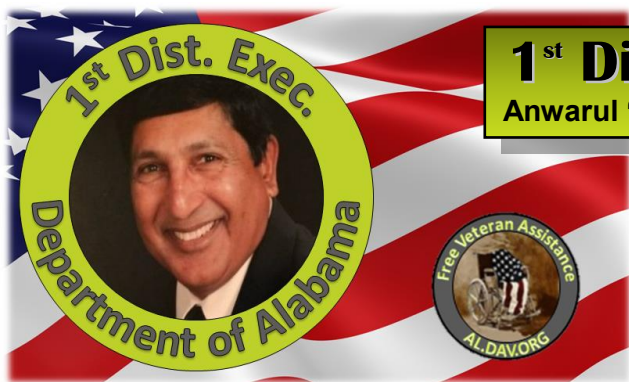
[Contact your House Representative](#)



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DAV Upcoming Events

- September 13, 2018: Birmingham VAMC Mental Health Summit, Hoover, AL Public Library
- September 15, 2018: 18th Annual Black and White POW/MIA Banquet, Talladega Regional Family Life Center, Talladega, AL
- October 5, 2018: SBVA Meeting, RSA Union Building, Montgomery, AL
- October 6, 2018: Leo Dubose Chapter 35 Inaugural Ball, Friendship Baptist Church, Mobile, AL
- October 13, 2018: Chapter Commander and Adjutant Orientation, Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL
- November 11, 2018: Veterans Day
- November 11, 2018: National Veterans Day Awards Banquet, Sheraton Hotel, Birmingham, AL
- November 12, 2018: Veterans Day World Peace Luncheon and Parade, Birmingham, AL
- November 12, 2018: Veterans Appreciation Monday, Golden Corral, Statewide
- November 15-18, 2018: Department of Louisiana Mid-Winter Conference, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA
- November 29-December 2, 2018: Department of Mississippi Mid-Winter Conference, Drury Inn, Meridian, MS
- December 15, 2018: National Wreaths Across America Day
- January 3-6, 2019: Department of Alabama Mid-Winter Conference, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National, Opelika, AL
- January 17-19, 2019: Department of Tennessee Mid-Winter Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN
- February 24-27, 2019: National Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Alexandria, VA
- May 2-5, 2019: Department of Mississippi Convention, Drury Inn, Meridian, MS
- May 15-19, 2019: Department of Louisiana Convention, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA
- May 30-June 2, 2019: Department of Alabama Convention, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National
- June 19-22, 2019: Department of Tennessee Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN
- August 3-7, 2019: National Convention, Orlando, FL
- January 9-12, 2020: Department of Alabama Convention, TBA
- June 4-7, 2020: Department of Alabama Convention, TBA
- July 31-August 4, 2020: National Convention, Dallas, TX
- July 24-27, 2021: National Convention, Reno, NV
- August 5-9, 2022: National Convention, Orlando, FL
- August 5-8, 2023: National Convention, Atlantic City, NJ



1st District Executive Committeeman

Anwarul "Andy" Haq

Comrades,

I would like to thank all the chapters who are providing me input for their activities.

Congratulations to all of the incoming DAV Alabama District 1 Chapter Officers and a hearty thank you to the outgoing Officers for all you have done for the Veterans and their communities. I hope you will continue to serve in your chapters. The Chapters definitely need your expertise and experience.

Additionally the DAV-Auxiliaries are teaming up with the DAV chapters to visit and give blankets to Veterans on their birthdays at the TUT FANN Nursing Home and other Nursing Homes in the area. The Huntsville chapter will be teaming up with the Saint Vincent DePaul Society to distribute food boxes and Christmas gifts to Veterans' families and homeless Veterans. To do all this requires chapters to have funds in order to have money to spend. The fundraiser activities are also gearing up, the biggest being the Golden Corral.

Finally, the DAV- Auxiliaries Units are planning on attending their annual Conference in Lexington KY, and the DAV Chapters are planning on attending their Mid-Summer Training and preparing for the Mid-Winter Conference

Lastly let's not forget to meet our Membership goals. It is everyone duty to bring in new members.

DECM Andy Haq received U.S. Army Warrant Officer Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising Award

Respectfully,

Andy Haq



On behalf of Raytheon Andy Haq delivering \$300 to DAVA unit 26 Huntsville

The new Chapter Officers are coming in with a bang! They have already picked up steam and chapters are busy with their upcoming activities. Hopefully we will remember to give our fundraising schedule to the Department Adjutant. The chapters are in full swing with disability claims, helping Veterans with financial needs, assisting veterans and their families with getting wheelchairs and giving them rides to the hospital as needed. All this is in the day's work of the District 1 Chapters. The Chapters are getting ready for the upcoming fun filled activities such as the Veterans Day Parade on 12 November and Military Retiree day activities on 21 & 22 September.





2nd District Executive Committeeman Willie "Hamp" Hampton

Greetings Comrades,

I hope all is well with you and yours. With the resignation of our 2nd DECM, I am your new 2nd DECM. It is my pleasure getting to serve you all. I am confident we will continue the great work in service to our veterans. I am proud to represent my district. The following are some updates of the things going on around our District. If you ever need me, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chapter 1

Donated \$549.00 to the VA. This will pay for 100 veterans in an upcoming luncheon. The luncheon is a Men's Health Fair specializing in Prostate Cancer.

Chapter 4

They continue to assist a very high volume of veterans every Tuesday for their earned benefits. They also give food and other services to those in need in the community.

Chapter 21

Greetings from Chapter 21 in Piedmont Alabama. It has been a great year for them and they are looking forward to 2019. The Commander is very proud of the Chapter for once again meeting their membership goals for this year. He says they have met membership goals for 15 years straight and they are ready for this year's challenge

The following are some of the things the Chapter is looking forward to in the months ahead.

22 Sep 18 is the annual Breast Cancer 5K and downtown events in Piedmont, AL. The kickoff is at 5pm and the run starts at 7pm.

On 13 Oct 18, the Poor Boys Car Show at Hwy 411 Drive Inn in Centre Alabama. The time is 12 to 4pm.

On 31 Oct 18, The annual Piedmont Downtown Halloween party. This event is from 4 to 6pm. Last year there were over 2000 in attendance.

On 10 Nov 18, at the Piedmont Middle School the city-wide Veterans Program will be held at 9am.

On 11 Nov 18, The annual Veterans Program we be held at the Piedmont Nursing Home at 1pm.

On 11 Dec 18, The chapter will hold its Christmas Party at the DAV building at 6pm.

On 15 Dec 18, The Rock Run Christmas parade will line up a 1:30pm and the parade will start at 3pm. This is the south's largest real parade. Last year they had 376 items and FOX 6 was there.

In closing of the Chapter's report the Commander wishes to pray for the families that lost veterans this year. He is also praying for the sick and all of our military wishing safe passage, God's speed and blessings to America.

Chapter 27

They report that they provide a large amount of financial assistance for their area veterans for things such as a welding helmet, a veteran's new job and a down payment on a car so a veteran could have reliable transportation to work. The Commander states they have spent in excess of \$1,000.00 in the past 30 days alone.

Chapter 28

Their merge with Chapter 76 is coming along well. The chapter's name has been changed to Blount-Cullman County Chapter 28. They also have opened an office for CSO work in Cullman and have received lots of praise for doing so. The Chapter has conducted several fundraisers within both Cullman and Blount Counties with good success.

Chapter 78

Wants to remind everyone of the Black and White Banquet on 15 Sep 18 at 6:30 pm.

Chapter 98

They have received their Hot List of potential members from National and are in the process of implementing a plan to work it. In the first 5 months Chapter 98 has transported 60% of the veterans transported to BVAMC. They salute their volunteer drivers for this amazing task. They are awaiting word from National on the receipt of their new transport van. This was

approved in February. They report they are looking forward to the upcoming Commanders and Adjutants training in October. They would like to welcome me as the new 2nd DECM and look forward to working with me. I feel the same way.

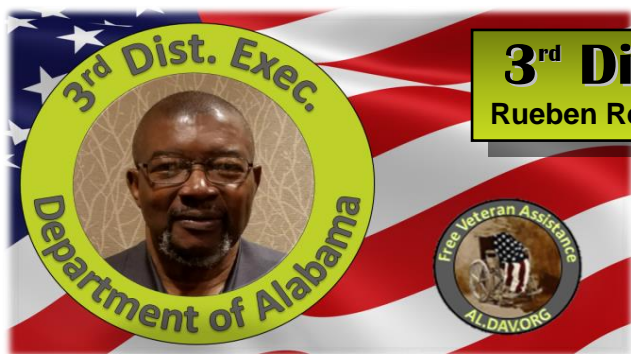
Thank you.

Respectfully,

Willie "Hamp" Hampton



Click [here](#) to learn more.



3rd District Executive Committeeman Rueben Redd

Bible Missionary Baptist Church, 2750 Tremont Street, Montgomery, AL 36110. Please get the names of your attendees in to the Chad ASAP for food preparation. Also, any member of your Chapter can attend this training if you sign them up to attend.

Greetings:

3rd. District Executive Committee Member and the membership of the district. We are working very hard to provide service, aid and assistance to our veterans their families, widows, and orphans in our district.

Commander's remember that your Treasurer's Audit Report is due into our Department Adjutant and National by September 30, 2018.

Commander's, the Department's Commander and Adjutant Training will be held on October 13, 2018, at

Membership is the life blood of the DAV. So, recruitment of new members is very important for our Chapters. Our goals for this year have been reduced from last year. I believe that we can all reach our goals this year.

If your Chapter needs assistance with anything I'm just a telephone call away 334-467-8036.

3rd. DECM

Respectfully,

Reuben E. Redd

BATTLE OF FORT MCHENRY

September 13, 1814

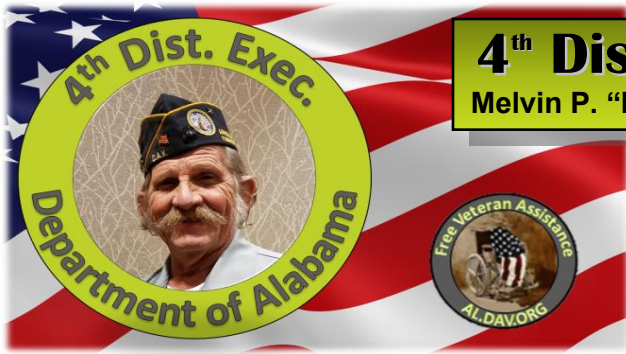
Following the British capture of Washington on August 24, 1814, Dr. William Beanes, a prominent physician was taken prisoner by the British. Since Key was a well-known lawyer, he was asked to assist in efforts to get Dr. Beanes released. Knowing that the British were in the Chesapeake Bay, Key left for Baltimore. There Key met with Colonel John Skinner, a government agent who arranged for prisoner exchanges. Together, on September 5, they set out on a small American flag-of-truce vessel to meet the Royal Navy.

On board the British flagship, HMS Tonnant, the officers were very kind to Key and Skinner. They agreed to release Dr. Beanes. However, the three men were not permitted to return to Baltimore until after the bombardment of Fort McHenry. The

three Americans were placed aboard the American ship, and waited behind the British fleet. From a distance of approximately eight miles, Key and his friends watched the British bombard Fort McHenry.

After 25 hours of continuous bombing, the British decided to leave since they were unable to destroy the fort as they had hoped. Realizing that the British had ceased the attack, Key looked toward the fort to see if the flag was still there. To his relief, the flag was still flying! Quickly, he wrote down the words to a poem which was soon handed out as a handbill under the title "Defence of Fort McHenry." Later, the words were set to music, and renamed "The Star Spangled Banner."

Click [here](#) to learn more.



4th District Executive Committeeman

Melvin P. "Mel" Apley

From the Trunk of the Rolling Office.

The Rolling Office recently suffered from a case of "check-engine-lightitis" complicated with multiple "not-in-stock-gotta-order-it" syndrome. However, after a couple of Jack-Stand "worn-out-stuff" replacement procedures, the ol'Gal is recovering nicely. Consequently, Chapter visits in July were a washout. That said, the flip-phone charger was constantly overheated as all chapters were contacted more than once.

Commander Harry Zegarski opened the August meeting of Chapter 6 at their new location, MJ's Café in Elberta, Al. They have a very successful Van program and are planning for the Elberta Sausage Festival on Oct. 27, a Veterans Day fund raiser at the Foley Wal-Mart and may join in with other chapters on a Membership Drive at the Baldwin County Fair in Sept. Of note is a donation to the chapter from the South Alabama Antique Tractor and Engine Club. More about this later.

Chapter 7 members are selling tickets for the upcoming Belk's Charity Sale. Good fund raising event-contact SVCO Jerry Morgan for info. They are still working on funding for a new van and plan on having events at local Wal-Marts in the next couple of months, along with the Golden Corral program.

Commander Tom Ferguson of Chapter 9 reports that plans are in the works for Veterans Day and all is going well.

A Special Thank you to Commander Greg Morris of Chapter 35 for his assistance in locating help for a local veterans' home repair project. Do not forget the Swamp Festival and they still have seats available for their upcoming Inaugural Ball on Oct. 6. Price is \$45. Contact at 251-455-6018 or 251-343-0037.

SVCO Bill Bergman has arranged for a booth for Chapter 45 at the Baldwin County Fair Sept. 18-22. Idea is to hold a public awareness/membership drive. Chapters 6 (Foley) and 53 (Bay Minette) are invited to join in and help make this a county-wide campaign. The Chapter will have a 2-day Forget-Me-Not at the Fairhope Wal-Mart and also ride in local parades during the Veterans Day weekend. On

November 5th, the DAV Service Van will be at the Loxley Community Center. Chapter 6 & 53 CSO's may also be on-hand to show support. Two more old tractors were donated to the Tractor Club by a member. This non-profit group restores and raffles off one a year. Half of proceeds are divided and donated to Chapter 6 and Chapter 45. The other half is sent to St. Jude's.

Commander Val Obregon of Chapter 53 visited Chapter 45 and presented the plans for refurbishing their building in Bay Minette. Presently he is working on acquiring new office equipment, is gathering material for repairs to the house and trying to get WI-FI installed. Long term goal is to reopen their service office on a weekly basis. Chapter 45 members are willing to assist and 2 of their CSO's plan to do service work for them at 53's office until they can get a new CSO trained.

Congratulations to Robert Riley. He has been appointed by Commander Luther Upton as Chapter 72's CSO. Once trained and with the support of other CSO's, Robert will prove to be a valuable asset to the chapter. Attendance to the Chapter 72 meeting was close to twice the normal number, and included 4 members who had never been to a meeting before. Shows what a few phone calls to names on a roster can do. And a tip of the hat to 4th DEC Alternate Dan Blackman (Chapter 87) for his assistance on this and other matters.

Elections were held in July at Chapter 99. After their August 23rd banquet at McClin's Steak House in Enterprise, Installation Ceremonies were led by PDC Charles Waugh. Congratulations to new Commander Billy Metcalf, Senior Vice Commander Jerry Vance and Junior Vice Commander Willie Shipman. Other officers remain the same.

Just one observation--- It is amazing how many people who have mail boxes DO NOT KNOW how to empty them, or return calls. Makes a person wonder if they have even dialed the correct phone number! Presents the question: How is a Veteran who seeking help supposed to GET ANY assistance if they cannot even leave a message?

So ends the last two months,

Respectfully Submitted,

Melvin P. "Mel" Apley, 4thDEC



Chapter 99 Officer Installation



Women's Veterans of Alabama Tawanna Jones

Greetings to my DAV Family,

First, I give Honor and Glory to my LORD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, for all that I am.

Let talk about Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

Do you know Veterans Affairs medical center has special

services available to assist women who experienced some type of sexual trauma in the military? These services include free confidential counseling and treatment for mental and physical health conditions related to MST. The Veteran do not need to be service-connected with the disability or receive benefit for MST care. You do not need to have reported the incidents when it happened or have other documentation that show the MST occurred to receive MST services. The VAMC has designated MST Coordinator who serves as the contact person for MST-rated issues to reach one just contact your local VA Medical Center and ask to speak to the MST Coordinator.

I encourage all Women Veterans to choose VA to support their health and wellness goals. Just pick-up the phone and dial

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For enrolled women Veterans, a VA health care professional is available by phone at each VA Medical Center to answer questions and advise on health concerns 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you are currently enrolled as a VA patient, you can contact your VA Medical Center and ask for the telephone care number.

Now I would like to spot light BIRMINGHAM, The MAGIC CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER. I have also received medical treatment from the Birmingham VAMC, Women Clinic, and let me tell you....This is My VA Too! No more delays, let me induce you to “Amy Southern” The Birmingham VA Medical Center, Women Veterans Program Manager. This is Amy’s story.



Our lives are made of unexpected journeys which leave lasting impressions...my initial nursing school student assignment was to the Birmingham VA Medical Center (BVAMC). It was an amazing experience providing me the honor to care for those that had sacrificed so much for the freedoms of this country. That student assignment would leave a lasting impression on my young nursing career. Little did I realize it, but my nursing career journey would lead me to women Veterans’ health care. I quickly developed a passion for caring for Veterans on both sides of healthcare, inpatient and outpatient.

As the Women Veteran Program Manager (WVPM), I quickly learned the art of multitasking (i.e. wearing many hats, and who doesn’t love a good hat!). Regardless of the tasks or hat, my goal is to constantly provide quality care to our women Veterans. BVAMC is the largest single provider of care to Veterans in Alabama, and has a vested interest in the care of women Veterans. The VA recognizes that women Veterans have unique needs and has established Women’s Health (WH) programs spearheaded by Women Veterans Program Managers and Women’s Health Medical Directors to provide oversight and guidance on women health issues.

It is a privilege to serve as the Birmingham WVPM and be a resource for our women Veterans.

One of my favorite services the BVAMC Women’s Health Program began offering in 2016 is the Mommy & Me Shared Medical Appointment (SMA) for our pregnant Veterans. Since 2016 I have had the joy to experience this SMA with over 75 mother Veterans and their babies. The Mommy & Me SMA, or “baby shower,” is a unique opportunity for maternity Veterans to meet with multiple health disciplines, such as pharmacy, social work, dietician and a physician while receiving education on topics such as nutrition, breast feeding, safe sleeping, medications etc. Donated gifts from various Veteran groups and facility donors are provided to each of our maternity patients that attend the appointment. Maternity benefits are a covered service for women Veterans that are eligible for VA healthcare. Our Maternity Care Coordinator is available to guide you through your maternity journey.

Another exciting program available at the BVAMC Women’s Health Clinic is the Ambassador for Veterans of America (A4VA). It is a partnership with the American Red Cross and the facility volunteer services. A4VA is a volunteer-based female navigator/chaperone program that pairs women Veterans with trained volunteers during the health care encounter. The Ambassador will accompany you throughout the visit and be a resource for directions and assistance during the visit. The Ambassador provides direct comfort, support and reassurance to you during certain examinations, procedures or care that may cause anxiety. The A4VA is a volunteer and works closely with the patient’s clinical team and assist in the delivery of care by focusing on the patient’s emotional well-being. While the clinical team is taking care of your medical needs, the Ambassador will take care of you! She will maintain health privacy and keep medical information confidential. The partnership not only benefits our women Veterans but allows us to utilize their vast resources in providing care to our Veterans. Our partnership has great things planned or the future...stay tuned!!

We have specially trained women’s health providers/patient aligned care team (PACT) teams that serve women Veterans in our main facility and all outpatient primary care clinics. Comprehensive care for women is provided either within our two Women’s Health Clinics (WHC) located in the new Birmingham VA Clinic and Huntsville VA Clinic or within the other General Primary Care and Outpatient Clinics. The Birmingham WHC houses both the primary care and specialty care clinics. The PACT teams work closely with pharmacy, mental health, nutrition and social work to ensure comprehensive services are provided to our women. Specialty Care clinics include gynecology, breast health services, women’s consult resident clinic, women’s red resident clinic. A care manager provides additional services by coordinating maternity care, mammography and cervical cancer screening services. We also have Military Sexual Trauma and Intimate Partner Violence Coordinators available

to assist in providing the best care possible to our women Veterans.

Preventative Care is a priority at the BVAMC and all women Veterans are encouraged to discuss and plan age appropriate preventative screenings with her PACT. One important cancer prevention tool is mammography. BVAMC recognizes the growth of our women Veteran population and the need to expand services such as on-site mammography. In-house Mammography is now available at the Birmingham VA Clinic. Women Veterans still have the option to obtain mammograms in the community. Please contact your primary care team today to discuss your mammogram!

Providing quality care is a team effort here at the Birmingham VA Medical Center. More women actively serve in the military more than ever before. The number of women in the military has doubled in the past 30 years and with the growth of women Veterans outpacing that of male Veterans. Women Veterans are a unique demographic with unique healthcare needs, the BVAMC is striving constantly to address these unique needs for this special ever growing demographic. It is an honor to

provide your care at the Birmingham VA Medical Center. Your service and sacrifice have provided this special position within the BVAMC. I love this job because I get to serve you.

Thank you for your service!!

Amy

Amy Southern, MSN, RN
Interim VISN 7 Women's Health Program Lead
BVAMC Women Veterans Program Manager
Birmingham VA Clinic, Office 2A179
Office: (205) 933-8101 Ext. 4758
Cell: (205) 821-0068
Amy.Southern@va.gov

Until next time, be blessed,

Tawanna

"Every day we live is a priceless gift of God, Loaded with Possibilities to learn Something new, to gain Fresh insights"

**I'm One.
I am a Proud Veteran.**

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE
Learn more at www.womenshealth.va.gov

VA HEALTH CARE Defining **EXCELLENCE** in the 21st Century

Because not every GI is a Joe



Department Chaplain

Debra Varner

From the Chaplain Corner

Yesterday and Today

Hebrews 13:8-Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The future calls. One thing I learned a long time ago was change is a part of being human. I learned how we all exist in relationships with other people and make our lives together. I began to see just how important it is that we as human beings have a story to write. As we began to move through time, we have a past, we exist in the present, but we hear the call of tomorrow. Tomorrow beckons us with its potential creating excitement, risks and threats only creating fear if we allow it.

Some things are in our control, some things are shaped by the actions of others; and some are handed to us that will change our storyline forever. Some of those things are great and wonderful and some are not. For you see *"God has not given us what we can handle, but God helps us to handle what we have been given"*

We must learn to live with the uncertainties and facts of life that is not necessarily been ordered in fallen and sinful world. God is the source of all life and order. To reject God is to reject life and order. In a state of rebellion, disobedience and desiring our own way; brings us out of alignment and order with God.

In the midst of disorder we can find God. The story of the centurion looking at the dead Christ upon the cross (Matthew 27:54) "Jesus was never more God than when He hung dead on the cross." As the centurion proclaimed, "Surely this man was the Son of God." Here, Jesus presented the clearest revelation of all that He was God in the flesh, the God who suffers with us, cries with us, mourns and wraps His arms around us. It is His presence in this world that we desire and need. Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"*

Whatever life situation, circumstance, or life path you may find yourself traveling on, "God is a very present Help".... Yesterday, Today and Forever-He remains the same

Respectfully,

Chaplain Debra Varner

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](#)

MY FATHER ...

DAVA Commander

Marilyn Todd Edwards

Hello, Auxiliaries!

BUILD...BUILD....BUILD!!!

This summer was busy. I had the opportunity to attend our DAV/DAV Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada. It was an awesome experience! A couple of our Units received awards for membership in the areas of Juniors and general membership recruiting – Unit 26 – Huntsville and Unit 87 – Dothan. A CONGRATULATION goes out to Carolyn Harris,

our State Adjutant! She was elected as the 8th District National Executive Committee. Way to go, Carolyn!!! It was such an honor for our State of Alabama to be recognized on the National level. Let's keep up the good work everyone!

Well, Auxiliaries, we have gotten off to a wonderful start! I had the opportunity to attend and install officers for Wheeler Brown Hendrix Unit 11 – Decatur. Heather Collins and her staff were most gracious. It was also wonderful to see the Chapter members attend in support of their Unit. Now that's what I'm talking about --- Chapter Support!!!

Don't forget that another way of building our Units is by looking at the State At Large lists; so, let's get started sorting those zip codes and adding new members to our perspective units! For those zip codes that do not have a Unit, perhaps this will open a door for a new Unit or to re-open/rebuild a Unit.

Upcoming Events:

September 27 - 29, 2018: National Fall Conference, Lexington Embassy Suites, 1801 Newtown Pike Lexington, KY 40511, Telephone: 1.859.455.5000.

October 13, 2018: Annual Chapter Commander and Adjutant Orientation, Bible Missionary Baptist Church, 2750 Tremont Street, Montgomery, AL.

Below are the Units and meeting information. Please review and advise if there are any updates.

Remember Auxiliary members, it is time to BUILD! Build our units, build our membership so that we can build our efforts in assisting veterans and their families. So let's continue to BUILD...BUILD....BUILD!!!

Again, I want to thank all the Auxiliary members for their vote of confidence. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (334) 596-9610 or mari36305@hotmail.com.

Marilyn D. Edwards
Commander

NAME	MEETING_ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	MEETING_TIME
Bill Nichols #13	Bud Poarch Center, 82 Court Square	256-329-9502	3rd Monday, 6:00 PM
Anniston-Oxford #98	1810 Noble St	256-310-4624	2nd Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Col. Chas. Young #70	617 8th Ave N	205-425-8796	2nd Saturday, 3:00 PM
Birmingham #4	238 2nd Ave N	205-836-7722	Thursday, 6:30 PM
Wheeler Brown Hendrix #11	106 Findley Dr.	256-353-2876	3rd Tuesday, 6:00 PM
Dothan #87	Doug Tew Community Center	000-000-0000	3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM
Arnold - Byers #45	x		1st Tuesday, 9:00 AM
Frank L. Bradford #18	1101 Sunset Dr. Church of Epiphany	256-498-0323	1st Monday, 6:00 PM
Huntsville #26	3077 Lemman Ferry Road	256-772-3324	3rd Saturday, 10:00 AM
Shehan Pake #7	2423 Schillinger Rd. S.	334-633-6044	2nd Tuesday, 5:30 PM
J. Paul Pitts #12	903 Maxwell Blvd	334-358-1789	5th Thursday, 5:30 PM
Blount-Cullman County #28	1148 College Street, Blountsville	205-358-7487	1st Saturday, 8:00 AM
Ozark #94	221 William Drive - Ozark Veterans Lodge	334-774-6724	3rd Saturday, 9:00 AM
R. Geo Issacs Jr #66	1407 28th Ave.		1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM
E. J. Kirkpatrick #21	114 Center Ave.	256-447-9175	2nd Tuesday, 6:00 PM
Leo DuBose #35	716 Mae St. - Saraland Civic Center		Saturday, 10:00 AM
George Washington Carver #78	309 Martin Luther King Dr		1st Tuesday, 5:30 PM



Greetings Comrades,

NSO Office Supervisor

Michael Michelotti

Increased Ratings

When applying for an increased rating, you want to make sure you know the rating criteria that applies to the higher percentage you are trying to get increased because each percentage has a different symptom. If you were denied an increase for a disability, the VA Rating Decision provides a summary that informs you of the percentage for the next higher rating and explains the symptom or symptoms that apply to the next higher percentage. Don't stop reading the decision when you see the percentage was continued at the same percentage you already have, please read down the decision summary to see what it takes to get to that next higher percentage to educate yourself to determine whether or not you actually meet the rating criteria for the next higher percentage.

You can request a reconsideration for the decision if you have determined that you actually meet the criteria for a higher percentage, but you have to submit New and Material (N&M) evidence to show it should be granted. By submitting a Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) for that particular disability can possibly get you that higher percentage providing it shows the increase rating should be granted. Click below for a list of DBQs:

https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq_listbydbqformname.asp

New and Material Evidence

38 C.F.R. § 3.156 New and Material Evidence.

(a) General. A claimant may reopen a finally adjudicated claim by submitting new and material evidence. New evidence means existing evidence not previously submitted to agency decision makers. Material evidence means existing evidence that, by itself or when

Claims must be submitted on a VA Form 21-526EZ

This is just a reminder that all claims must be submitted on a VA Form 21-526EZ. We have been receiving claims from Chapters that are not being submitted on a formal application. The claims I am referring to are listed below:

- Individual Unemployability
- Aid and Attendance
- Reconsiderations

The claims listed above must be submitted on a VA Form 21-526EZ.

Also, please remember to put a name and contact number on the Contact Briefs to allow us to be able to contact the Chapter Service Office (CSO) who assisted the Veteran with their paperwork just in case we need to inform you of any missing information that is needed in case we are unable to reach the Veteran. We are still receiving Contact Briefs without names or numbers for the CSOs who are submitting the paperwork as well.

Department Meetings

For an invite, email culverla1@yahoo.com

TOWNHALL TELECONFERENCE

When: Every 2nd Saturday

How: Call (641) 715-3273
Access Code: 991969#



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?

ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE TRAINING

When: Every 4th Saturday

How: Call (323) 920-0091
Access Code: 3727660#

considered with previous evidence of record, relates to an unestablished fact necessary to substantiate the claim. New and material evidence can be neither cumulative nor redundant of the evidence of record at the time of the last prior final denial of the claim sought to be reopened, and must raise a reasonable possibility of substantiating the claim.

Proposed Reductions

Proposed reductions can hit you in the pocket where it hurts. They can cause a financial burden if it reduces your combined rating and reduces your monthly VA compensation pay. Once this happens, you must provide N&M evidence to show the disability percentage should not be reduced to a lower percentage. It can be frustrating. The VA Notification letter provides valuable information as to what steps you can take to address the issue, which is listed below:

You have 30 days from the date of the VA Notification letter to request a pre-determination hearing, which allows you to

get N&M evidence to show the disability percentage should not be reduced. The best way to do this is to get your doctor to fill out a DBQ to show the disability should remain at the current percentage you already have or it should be increased to a higher percentage.

You can request a pre-determination hearing by filling out a Statement in Support of Claim (VA form 21-4138). Make sure you put the issue you are requesting the pre-determination hearing for and the date of the VA Notification letter you received from the VA Regional Office (VARO) informing you of the proposed reduction for that particular disability.

We want to thank all CSOs and Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) for their hard work and dedication in assisting our fellow Veterans with their claims, evidence submittals etc. We appreciate all you do for Veterans!

Respectfully,

Mike Michelotti



NSO Office Information

eBenefits Information

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

[Click here for eBenefits.](#)



VA Regional Office
[345 Perry Hill Road](#)
[Montgomery, AL 36109](#)

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

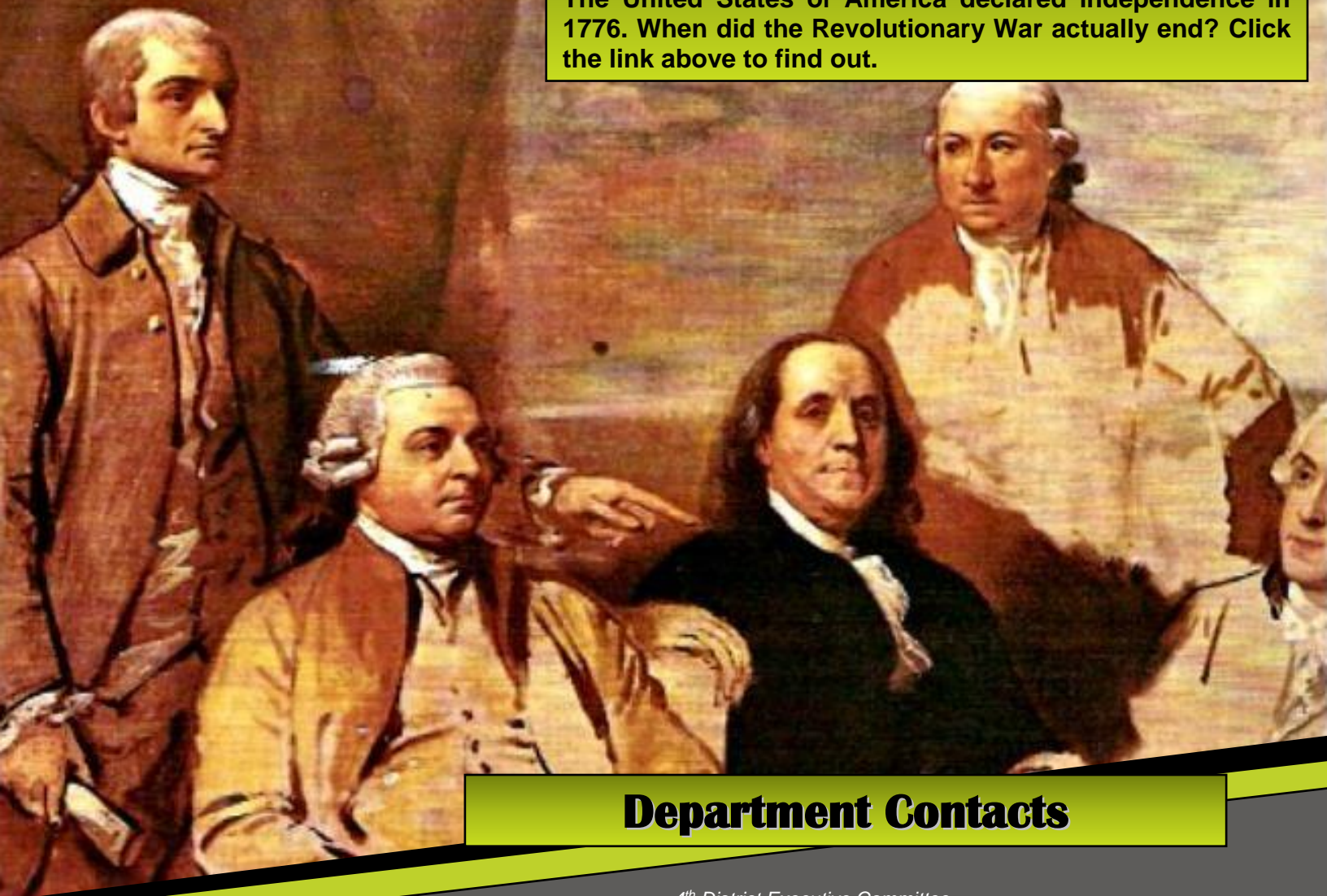
NSO Office hours for NSO contact/Interview:

By Appointment: Call office phone

Office hours for telephone calls:
Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The Paris Peace Treaty of 1783

The United States of America declared independence in 1776. When did the Revolutionary War actually end? Click the link above to find out.



Department Contacts

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mari36305@hotmail.com

Contact your local DAV Chapter to volunteer your assistance with transporting Veterans to their appointments.

[Find your Chapter Contact HERE](#)