



DAV

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans



January - March 2008
3rd Quarter

The Marshall Patriot

Arab Chapter 18

Volume 1, Issue 3

Special points of interest:

- **Groundhog Day**
Feb 2nd
- **Monthly Meeting**
Feb 4th 6:00PM
- **Valentine's Day**
Feb 14th
- **President's Day**
Feb 18th
- **Monthly Meeting**
March 3rd 6:00PM
- **Daylight Saving Time Begins**
March 9th
- **St. Patrick's Day**
March 17th
- **Easter**
March 23rd
- **Monthly Meeting**
April 7th 6:00PM

From the Commander's Desk

Your Chapter has been quite busy and has accomplished a great deal during the past quarter.

The Alabama Department and National Headquarters of the DAV have reviewed and approved our new Constitution and Bylaws. It is now in effect and governs all that our Chapter does. It was a long process and required the help and advice from many of our members. Thank you for the effort.

Chapter 18 has established a Relief Committee. The Committee's purpose is to evaluate requests for financial and other kinds of assistance for disabled veterans and/or their family members. They then make a recommendation to the Chapter membership for a course of action to assist the person in need. The membership will then discuss the issue and decide what kind of assistance the Chapter will provide. The first assistance provided to one of our members by this process, was a financial grant to help the member pay for his transportation expenses for repetitive visits to both Birmingham and



Huntsville VA Medical Facilities for cancer treatments. The Chairman of the Relief Committee is Comrade John Wilkerson. If you, or anyone you know needs some help, please contact him at H (256) 498-0323/C (256) 508-0981. Assistance for veterans and/or their family members is the reason for this Chapter's existence.

In the spirit of the Holiday Season the Chapter membership decided to provide a gift of \$1,000.00 to the veterans who reside at the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville. I would like all of you to consider visiting the veterans at the home. They would enjoy your visits and you will enjoy talking with these American Heroes.

At the Chapter's December



meeting, we had a Holiday Pot Luck Dinner. We had approximately 45 – 50 members and guests participate. The food was great and plentiful. A good time was had by all. Photos taken at that event are found on our website located at http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/al/18/Web_Pages/photos.aspx.

Our new Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit was officially initiated and given their Charter at the December meeting. Pictures of the event are also posted at our website at http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/al/18/Web_Pages/photos.aspx. The Unit would like to invite all relatives of our Chapter members to join the Auxiliary.

The third quarter of our fiscal year is now beginning. Hopefully we can accomplish even more. Any suggestions from the membership are most welcome.

William "Bill" Brennan

CMDR



Points To Ponder

THE MIND NEVER BECOMES TIRED, BUT SOMETIMES IT BECOMES BORED WITH THE "FOOD" IT GETS. Computer experts use the acronym GIGO (garbage in, garbage out) to illustrate the fact that the computer can process only the information

it is given. The same is true with your mind. If you feed it healthful, nourishing "food," it will grow strong and agile, but if you restrict it to a regular diet of mental "junk food," your mind will become unhealthy, negative, and unproductive. It will return

to you what you put into it. Feed your mind a balanced, nourishing diet. Study information from a variety of fields to help you keep up with the latest trends. You may find that the best ideas come from a totally unrelated area.

Senior Vice Commander's Corner

Hello Comrades, Happy New Year and Blessings throughout the year. Recently I attended the DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Decatur, AL. There was lots of camaraderie and information about what the Chapters in North Alabama were doing to help our Veterans. I highly encourage you to attend the Convention in June in the Tri-City area.

Now I would like to discuss some of the activities that your Chapter has accomplished this year. We have grown in membership. We have had fund-raisers selling Forget-Me-Nots at Wal Mart and the Commissary at Redstone Arsenal. We have assisted veterans in completing paperwork for VA coverage. We have assisted (monetarily and other support) a number of veterans who were in need of help. We continually attempt to contact our

members when they are sick or distressed to see if we may help them. We provided a large donation to the Tut Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville, AL. We have chartered a DAVA group to assist us with our community efforts. We have continued to become more active in our assistance efforts to our veterans this past year and plan to continue this activity during 2008.

In order for us to do this, three things must happen this year. We need to have additional fund-raisers as our level of support is proportional to our fiscal capabilities. We need to increase the number of members. Any veteran that has filed a claim with VA is eligible for membership. Invite them to our meeting, have them fill out a member application; bring them with you to our meeting. We need to have more

active members supporting our Chapters' activities, including our member meetings.

Our Chapter was prominently mentioned at the Mid-Winter Conference several times as a progressive, active veteran supporting chapter. We want to continue to receive those kinds of favorable comments. We must continue to be proactive and continue to grow in order for our support for area veterans to grow and improve. Thank you for your assistance so far. Now let's do more. God Bless.

Richard E. Robbins
Senior Vice Commander



Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem.
--Ronald Reagan--

Chaplain's Corner

Matthew 14:30 But seeing that the wind was strong, he was afraid. And beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me!

Peter saw Jesus walking on the water. He asked Jesus if it was really him to allow him to come to him. The Lord said come, and Peter stepped out of the boat and started toward Jesus. When Peter realized he was in troubled waters, and was sinking he said Lord save me.

There were only three words in Peter's prayer, and it didn't take long. Let us remember as we render service and help to our Disabled Veterans we will find from time to time we will need to take a moment and say, "Lord help us."

Chaplain William Hayes
374 Apple Grove Road
Lacey's Spring, AL 35754
(256) 498-2794

Junior Vice Commander's Corner

Comrades,

I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am honored to assume the duties of Jr. Vice for our Chapter. I believe that we have one of if not the best chapter in Alabama. With a joint effort of the officers and members of Chapter 18 we can continue to grow and do great things.

John R. Wilkerson
Junior Vice Commander



Adjutant's Corner

Greetings Comrades!

Welcome to the third installment of our Newsletter. Please excuse the tardiness, I've been a bit under the weather and a bit behind with the holiday activities and all.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming year and it seems like our plates are filling fast with the approaching Forget-Me-Not drives on Memorial Day and on the Arsenal in June. If anyone has any ideas with fund raisers that will help the Operational Fund please bring your ideas to me and we will attempt to use them.

For those of you who have

access to a computer, please check out our website (the address is on page 6), if you would like to add anything (an article or pictures or anything) just e-mail me the information and I will post it.

Also, for those of you that have internet access here is a link that allows you to get into the DAV membership site and maintain your personal data, <https://www.davmembers.org/Membership> this is a useful site to change your address update a phone number and any pertinent information.

Lastly, the Veterans' Spotlight is a new section that we will be doing in every newsletter, much thanks to Comrade Ed Morris for helping us to get this started! With that being said, I will be bringing a digital camera to the meetings and taking pictures of all of you Comrades! This is a much needed thing so as to be able to post a good picture with your article. We will probably be modifying the Veterans History document too.

Yours in Comradeship
Adjutant Bruce Niemeyer



Chapter 18's Veterans' Spotlight

by Comrade Ed Morris

Comrade Murphy J. Enochs



Diplomats are just as essential in starting a war as soldiers are in finishing it.
--Will Rogers--

Comrade Enochs was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He lived there until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944. His induction center was Camp Atteberry, Indiana. He was then transferred to Camp Wheeler, Georgia for 16 weeks of Infantry Basic Training. His next assignment was to Fort McClellan, Alabama where he became a Military Policeman (MP) and his outfit was assigned the duty of guarding 1,200 German Prisoners of War (POWs). Murphy's outfit also escorted POWs to various points on and off post to work, on post examples would be the bakery, mess halls, etc., and off post examples would be farms. The average work detail would consist of from five (5) to 20 POWs with one (1) MP guard. At the end of World War II he and his outfit took the 1,200 German POWs to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey for subsequent travel back to their homeland of Germany. Camp Kilmer is where Murphy was discharged. He served a total of two (2) years and three (3) months in the Army. He came back to Alabama in 1950 and enrolled in the Alabama School of Trades, it lasted two (2) years. Then he secured a civil service job at the Gadsden Air Force Depot, sometime later he transferred to Brookley Air Force Base at Mobile, Alabama. The next move was to Redstone Arsenal at Huntsville, Alabama. Comrade Enochs used to like to hunt and fish and do mechanic work. Currently he visits the Arab Senior Center daily.



WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

Auxiliary Unit 18



Photo from the December 3, 2007 Initiation Ceremony

My 2008 New Year Resolution is to find opportunities in our local communities for the new Auxiliary members to display their knowledge, skills, and American spirit while fund raising and working toward the betterment of wounded and disabled veterans and their families. During our first Auxiliary Unit meeting on January 7, 2008 we established building blocks of devotion, helpfulness and comradeship which will enable us to succeed at our goals.

If you have a disabled American Veteran in your family (living or deceased that served during a time of war) you are eligible to join us. We meet at 6:00 PM on the first Monday of every month. Come to one of our meetings and try us on for size! Annual and lifetime memberships are available.

**Nancy Brennan
Commander Unit 18**



One of the serious problems in planning the fight against American doctrine, is that the Americans do not read their manuals, nor do they feel any obligation to follow their doctrine...

- From a Soviet Junior Lt's Notebook



Encourage the President to Support the Omnibus Appropriations Act

January 3, 2008

We want to thank you for your assistance in support of the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 by the many responses you sent to your respective members of Congress, followed by communication to the President. As you know, House and the Senate passed the appropriations bill, and forwarded the bill to the president wherein he has until January 18, 2008, to request \$3.7 billion as emergency funding. He has signed the appropriations bill, but as of this date, he has not signed the emergency designation.

Therefore, we once again ask that you contact the President and urge his support of the needed \$3.7 billion increase in emergency funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. This total budgetary increase would equal \$6.6 billion more than last year.

Without the proposed \$3.7 billion in increased funding, the VA would most likely fail once again

to meet the challenge imposed upon it by the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. This proposed funding comes at a time when the VA is desperately struggling to solve problems ranging from reducing the alarming spike in veteran suicides, treatment for complex traumatic brain injuries, rising rates of post-traumatic stress disorder among veterans of the ongoing wars, an ever-growing, seemingly unstoppable, disability claims' backlog and homelessness among the nation's newest generation of veterans.

Whatever the name of this bill maybe there are a host of benefits for the active military, veterans, and their families, I will mention two: (a) first it should allow Chapter 61 (Medically Retired) military retirees to participate in the Combat Related Special Compensation program with no limit in years served, and (b) Individual Unemployability 100% VA disabled retirees should be eligible for 100% concurrent receipt. These should be effective from January 1, 2005.

Please contact the President immediately by telephone or email and urge him to sign and request the emergency funding contained in the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008. If you prefer, you may visit the DAV website, www.dav.org, to send a prepared email to the President.

As always, we greatly appreciate your efforts on behalf of our nation's disabled veterans.

Contacting the White House
Mailing Address

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Phone Numbers

Comments: 202-456-1111

Switchboard: 202-456-1414

FAX: 202-456-2461

TTY/TDD

Comments: 202-456-6213

Visitors Office: 202-456-2121



Hard pressed on my right.
My center is yielding.
Impossible to maneuver.
Situation excellent.
I am attacking.
--Ferdinand Foch--
at the Battle of the Marne

Disability Claims – VA has fallen further behind with its backlog this year according to a recent VA briefing to Congress. This continues to pose a true problem for many disabled veterans and their families by delaying decisions and pensions for disability claims. This is VA's third year in a row to have this occur. On average 183 days were required to process a claim in fiscal 2007, which exceeded the 2007 goal of 160 days and its long-term goal of eventually reducing processing time to 125 days. During this time the backlog of pending claims rose from 377,681 to 391,257. The VA is now hiring more than 1,000 workers, boosting overtime and revamping training to attack this continuing problem. The problem continues to be exacerbating by the escalating number of disability claims that continue to exceed those anticipated by VA. As a positive note, VA reports that 95 percent or more

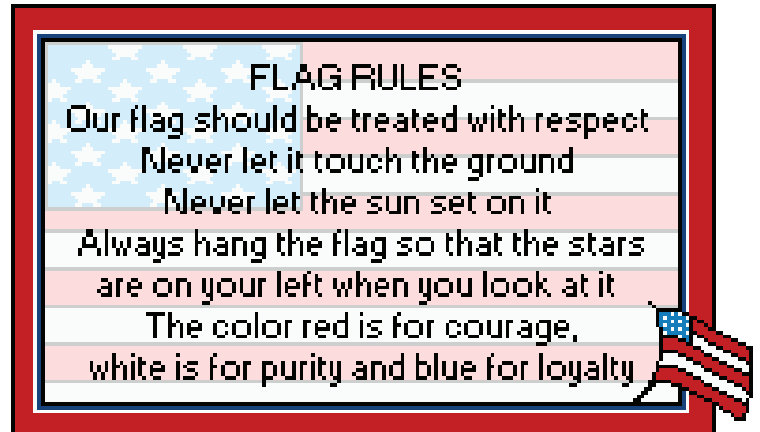
Shingles – Let's look at this again, it is near painless and I trust a great safeguard against much suffering. The new shingles vaccine is a now a TRICARE and Medicare (Part D) covered vaccine. Shingles is a painful viral disease that affects more than 1 million Americans every year. More than half of those cases happen to people age 60 or older. The CDC recommends a single dose of shingles vaccine for everyone within this age range. In a VA study the drug Zostavax was more than 50 percent effective in reducing the incidence of shingles and more than 60 percent effective in reducing some of its associated symptoms. Even in people who suffer from the disease, most of those who were vaccinated experienced less pain. Shingles is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox in children. It remains in the body for decades, sleeping in nerve cells along the spinal column. A shingles rash usually appears on one side of the face or body and lasts between two and four weeks. It is painful and can be accompanied by fever, headache, chills and upset stomach.





Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans.

Arab Chapter 18
Disabled American Veterans
P.O. Box 512
Arab, Alabama 35016
Phone: no phone currently
E-mail: davch18arab@gmail.com



The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

Has an office in Marshall County located on the ground floor of the Marshall County Courthouse in Guntersville. The Veterans Service Officer is Rhonda Tidmore, U.S. Navy Retired. The Administrative Support Assistant is Kathy Floyd who has provided over 30 years of service to veterans of Marshall County.

Drop in anytime for counseling on your VA benefits, or call them at 571-7761.

Office hours are 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday – Friday.

We're on the Web!!

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/al/18>

