

April - June 2007  
 2nd Quarter

# The Marshall Patriot

## Arab Chapter 18

Volume I, Issue I

### Special points of interest:

- Forget-Me-Not Drive  
 May 25 & 26 @ Arab  
 Wal-Mart
- May 19th is Armed  
 Forces Day
- May 28th is  
 Memorial Day
- June 14th is Flag Day  
 & US Army B-Day
- Forget-Me-Not Drive  
 June 29th & 30th @  
 Redstone Arsenal PX  
 Area
- Marshal County VA  
 Service Office Infor-  
 mation is on Page 5
- Honoring Our Heroes  
 Information

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### From the Commander's Desk

Please review an article that follows, concerning the VA Budget Proposal presented by our President. He has done his part; now it's up to Congress to do its part and pass the budget into law. This delay seems to happen every year, with VA having to operate on the previous year's budget for at least a quarter of the current year, but it seems to be worse this year.

Please contact your Congressman and demand that they get the budget passed into law. Our disabled veterans deserve nothing less.

On April 7, I attended a DAV District Meeting at Cullman, AL. There were a few pieces of information presented by Department Officers that I feel are worthwhile to pass on.



The first is their concern that all Chapters review and comply with The DAV Constitution and Bylaws about the limitations on the accumulation of funds. All other funds must be expended on service to disabled veterans.

The second is that Service Reports must be turned in every month by the Chapter to the Department. This is not happening, statewide. Funding for the Department depends on them.

A list of proposed appointed officers and committeemen will fol-

low in this news letter. All have agreed to serve. At our May 7, 2007 meeting we will ask for your approval of these officers and committeemen.

I'd like to pass on kudos to our Adjutant, Bruce Niemeyer, for establishing the first Alabama Chapter website on the National Disabled American Veterans website. You can see it at

[http://www.geocities.com/dav\\_ch18\\_arab/home.html](http://www.geocities.com/dav_ch18_arab/home.html). Take a look and give us any ideas that you might have for material to include.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to our past Commander, Charles Morrow, for his hard work in getting this Chapter reestablished, increasing membership and guiding Chapter 18 through some difficult times.

Commander Bill Brennan

### Senior Vice's Corner

I am retired SGT Charles Enochs your new Senior Vice Commander of Chapter 18 DAV. I was in the Army National Guard for 20 years. I was mess SGT for 5 years and a light wheel vehicle mechanic. I served in Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2004 and fought in the Battle of Najaf. I was medically retired from the army on April 23, 2005.

I have been a member of the DAV for a short time so I am still learning. I will do the best I can do as your Senior Vice Commander. Some of my duties are to encourage friendship among other members of this Organization, discourage discord, promote harmony and shall act as Chairperson of membership solicitation activities to the end that

every eligible veteran may become a member. I appreciate any and all input. Let's all try to recruit new members.

Senior Vice Commander  
 Charles Enochs

### Junior Vice's Corner

Greetings Comrades,

Please allow me to begin with an expression of heart-felt gratitude for the honor and confidence that you have shown in electing me to the Jr. Vice Commander position. I promise to strive to do those things that will help our DAV Chapter 18 continue to grow and increase our help to local veterans. If there is anything that I may assist you with, please do not hesitate to contact me at work or home. Since I am still employed at NASA in Huntsville, I have access to various communication venues that may enhance our Chapter's communication with you, our members, and various other DAV and other veteran service organizations.

Our Chapter has grown under its previous leadership and I believe that

we will continue to grow under the leadership of Comrade Commander Brennan. Comrade Niemeyer has already established a Chapter 18 website and is hard at work on creating a Chapter 18 newsletter. Plans are being finalized for Forget-Me-Nots sale.

The next 'BIG' event for veterans is Memorial Day, May 28th. Each year there is a ceremony at the memorial coming into the old recreation center area. In the past, Chapter 18's presence at this ceremony has been minimal. Now don't get me wrong, the Chapter 18 DAV individuals present for the ceremony are to be commended for their dedication, their support of our area veterans, and their visible show of support from our chapter. I am challenging each of you as active members of Chapter 18 –

come to the ceremony, wear your hat or vest or shirt showing that the Arab DAV is active, growing, and involved. Let's show our support for our departed comrades. Honor their service and the sacrifices that they made. Let's have so many DAV members at the memorial ceremony that everyone will walk away muttering "where did all of those DAV people come from?" Watch the paper for the time on Monday, May 28th.

Remember to keep all our troops in your prayers. And pray for our leaders that they will receive the guidance and knowledge needed to make the right decisions.

Richard E. Robbins  
Junior Vice Commander  
(256) 506-3597  
[richard.e.robbs@nasa.gov](mailto:richard.e.robbs@nasa.gov)



### Chaplain's Corner

Gracious God,

I ask that your hand of protection be on all those who are serving in our armed forces, especially our Marshall County heroes. It is hard to endure the separation from the ones we love and our hearts feel ragged with

worry at times because of the danger they might be in. While our hearts are filled with deep love, our love alone cannot bring each of our family members back to us safely. So, I pray that you will look over them, guide them and protect them. I pray also that when they are troubled by fear,

confusion, loneliness, and doubt that you will wrap them in your embrace until the time of turbulence has passed. May your love bring them peace and strength and the certainty of knowing they are loved. I ask this in your name.

Amen.

*All that is necessary  
for the triumph of  
evil is that good  
men do nothing.*

**Edmund Burke**  
(1729 - 1797)

### Adjutant's Corner

Greetings! Allow me tell you a bit about myself. My name is Bruce Niemeyer and I am your new Adjutant/Treasurer, I am retired Army serving my last 12 years at Fort Campbell, KY in the 160th Special Operation Aviation Regiment (Airborne), the Night Stalkers as a Blackhawk Helicopter Technical Inspector. I retired in April of 2004 and have been living in

the Morgan City area ever since. I am looking forward to serving as the Adjutant/Treasurer, I figure if you are going to participate in an organization, you might as well try and make a difference. To make my job easier all I ask is that you make an effort to keep up with your dues until you become a "Full" Life Member. I will be contacting people

that are Inactive according to the National list. This costs the Chapter monies that are provided by National. We are also going to try and put together a "Birthdays" column, so please provide me with your birthday so that I can get a list started.

Yours in service,  
Bruce Niemeyer



## 2007 Chapter Fundraisers

In reviewing the DAV National and Department Constitutions and Bylaws, our Treasurer and I, your Chapter Commander, discovered that there is a requirement that a Chapter is allowed to have only one "Forget-Me-Not" fund raising campaign a year. All funds raised from that campaign are to be solely used for disabled veterans' service projects.

We have three fundraisers scheduled at this time; the Arab Poke Salat Festival fundraiser, the Memorial Day weekend fundraiser at the

Arab Wal-Mart, and the fundraiser at Redstone Arsenal on the weekend before July Fourth. We need to discuss this matter at our next meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please attend and help us make decisions on how to handle this situation.

The Poke Salat Festival occurs on 5 May, before our meeting. In order to keep the Chapter in compliance with Bylaws and Regulations, I now make a command decision to redesignate this fundraiser as a recruiting drive and fundraiser

for Chapter 18 instead of a "Forget-Me-Not" campaign.



## FY '08 Landmark VA Budget Request.

The President's landmark FY '08 budget request for \$86.75 billion for the Department of Veteran's Affairs honors the nation's commitment to America's veterans. The budget proposal calls for \$42 billion discretionary spending, for health care, which is the largest amount ever requested by a President. It also would provide \$45 billion in mandatory funding, mostly for compensation, pension, educational assistance, home loan guaranties and other benefit programs.

Highlights of the FY '08 Landmark Budget Request

\* This budget proposal represents a 77 percent in-

crease from the overall budget in effect when the President took office in FY '01 and more that 83 percent in health care spending.

\* VA will continue to provide world-class health care to an estimated 5.8 million patients, including 263,000 veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

\* The FY '08 budget proposal includes \$750 million for capital improvements to its health care facilities.

\* The FY '08 budget request calls for nearly \$3 billion in mental health services to continue improvements in access to a full continuum of care for veterans with mental

health problems, including comprehensive treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

\* Funding for extended care services will reach \$4.6 billion in FY '08, of which 90 percent will be for institutional long-term care and 10 percent for non-institutional care.

\* The FY '08 budget proposal includes nearly \$192 million in construction funding to support VA's burial program. Resources are include to establish six new national cemeteries in Bakersfield CA; Birmingham, AL; Columbia-Greenville, SC; Jacksonville, FL; Sarasota, FL; and southeastern Pennsylvania.

**Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.**

**George S. Patton  
(1885 - 1945)**





## Veteran's History Project

### Ken Burns' "The War"

On April 17, 2007, the Library of Congress and the Veterans History Project held a joint press conference with PBS and Florentine Films to announce a partnership in connection with *The War*, Ken Burns's World War II documentary television series. Read the official press release on this event at <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2007/07-070.html>.

*The War* will air on PBS stations beginning September 23. All of the film's onscreen participants are veterans of World War II, supporting civilian workers, or their relatives. Learn more about "The War" from the PBS Web site <http://www.pbs.org/thewar/>. Ken Burns and PBS see the film as sparking a national effort in which individual citizens will interview veterans for their first-hand accounts of wartime service. Ken Burns and PBS have asked the Veterans History Project, which has been collecting stories of wartime service since its creation in 2000, to be the repository for those accounts.

If you want to participate in this effort and need more information on VHP and how to submit a collection to us, please link to our "how to participate" page at <http://www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html>.

Throughout 2007, PBS stations all over the country will be initiating outreach programs designed to raise awareness of World War II and the need for its veterans and civilian workers to tell their stories for the record. VHP will participate in many public programs to encourage citizen participation in these efforts. As these events are scheduled, we will carry news of them.

In September 2007, VHP will launch in this space (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html>) a *Viewer's Companion* to "The War." Ken Burns and his colleagues filmed dozens of original interviews for their film. Our *Viewer's Companion* will list the topics (for example: D-Day, Battle of the Bulge, POWs) covered in each interview in *The War* and provide you with access to hundreds of fully digitized collections on those subjects from our own archives. Our collection of veterans' stories will enhance



A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done.

Dwight D. Eisenhower







Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans.

## 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.

Arab Chapter 18  
Disabled American Veterans  
Organization Address  
P.O.Box 512  
Arab, Alabama 35016  
Phone:  
E-mail: [davch18arab@gmail.com](mailto:davch18arab@gmail.com)



**We're on the Web!!**

[http://  
www.geocities.com/  
dav\\_ch18\\_arab/  
home.html](http://www.geocities.com/dav_ch18_arab/home.html)

### FLAG RULES

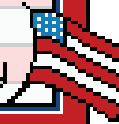
Our flag should be treated with respect

Never let it touch the ground

Never let the sun set on it

Always hang the flag so that the stars  
are on your left when you look at it

The color red is for courage,  
white is for purity and blue for loyalty



# SLATE OF APPOINTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

## **Appointed Officers:**

Adjutant – Bruce E. Niemeyer  
Chaplain/Hospital Visitation Chairman – Timothy K. Parrish  
Officer of the Day – John Wilkerson  
Sergeant of Arms – William West  
Historian/Publicity Officer – Derek Chambers  
Service Officer – Wayne Allen  
Legislative Officer – Brian Childs  
Judge Advocate – Timothy Parrish

## **Committees:**

### **Audit Committee:**

Not needed at this time.

### **Bylaw Committee:**

Wayne Allen (Chairman)  
William West  
Timothy Parrish  
Thomas B. Bodine

### **Fund Raising Committee:**

Bruce E. Niemeyer (Chairman – *Treasurer*)  
Ed Morris  
William West  
Timothy Parrish

### **Hospital Visitation and Distress Committee:**

Timothy Parrish (Chairman – *Chaplin IAW ByLaws*)  
Wayne Allen  
Ed Morris  
Armond E. Dean  
Howard A. Whisenant

### **Legislation Committee:**

Brian Childs (Chairman - *Legislative Officer IAW ByLaws*)  
Ed Morris  
Thomas B. Bodine

## **Membership Solicitation Committee:**

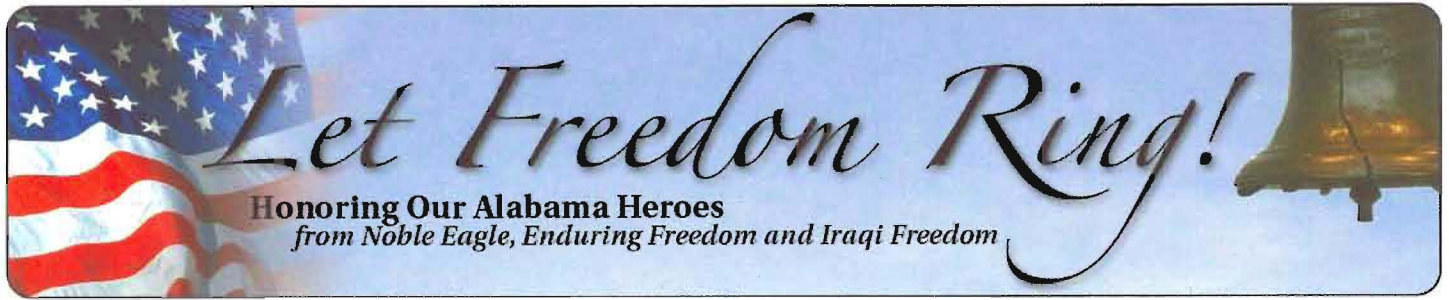
Charles Enochs (Chairman - *Sr. Vice Commander IAW ByLaws*)  
Lynn L. Slayton  
Brian Childs  
Derek Chambers  
John Wilkerson

## **Nominating Committee:**

Lynn L. Slaten (Chairman)  
Howard A. Whisenant  
Murphy J. Enochs  
Thomas B. Bodine  
Ed Morris

## **Publicity Committee:**

Derek Chambers (Chairman - *Publicity Officer IAW ByLaws*)  
Ed Morris  
Thomas B. Bodine  
Lynn L. Slaten



Alabama Sports  
Festival XXV  
Opening Ceremonies  
June 29, 2007, 6:45 pm  
Birmingham-Jefferson  
Convention Complex  
Televised Live Statewide

*Honoring all Alabama service personnel who have participated in any of the three major conflicts, including Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and/or Noble Eagle as per a resolution passed by both the Alabama House of Representatives and the Alabama Senate, which was signed by Governor Bob Riley on March 19, 2007.*

April 19, 2007

For Immediate Release-“Let Freedom Ring” Ceremonies

Air Force  
Air National Guard  
Air Reserves  
Army  
Army National Guard  
Army Reserves  
Coast Guard  
Coast Guard Reserves  
Marines  
Marine Reserves  
Navy  
Navy Reserves

For Further Information Contact:

Ed Jones  
(334) 207-1010

On March 19, 2007 Governor Bob Riley signed a resolution passed by the Alabama Legislature authorizing The Alabama State Legislature, The Alabama Sports Festival and the Governor’s Commission on Physical Fitness to honor all Alabama military personnel who have been deployed or are presently deployed in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. This event will take place during the Alabama Sports Festival XXV Opening Ceremonies, Friday, June 29, 2007, 6:45 P.M., Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex and will be televised live statewide.

*Legislative Advisors*

Jim Folsom, Jr.  
Lieutenant Governor  
Hinton Mitchem  
Senate President Pro Tem  
Jabo Waggoner  
Senate Minority leader  
Seth Hammett  
Speaker of the House  
Demetrius C. Newton  
Speaker Pro Tem of the House  
Mike Hill  
State Representative, 41<sup>st</sup> District

The resolution commissions the specially minted bronze Liberty Bell medal, which will be presented to all qualifying service members present. The Liberty Bell is an icon of American freedom and independence. Families of service members killed in action during any of these three major conflicts will be honored and the specially minted bronze Liberty Bell medal will be given to them in honor of the supreme sacrifice that they have made.

Any Alabama service member that is presently in Afghanistan or Iraq may be represented by a family member to receive the specially minted bronze Liberty Bell medal.

Also, the resolution calls for the minting of a replica of the original Liberty Bell, which will be presented during the ceremonies in honor of all Alabamians who are or have been part of the armed forces. The bronze Liberty Bell replica will be permanently displayed within the Alabama Capitol complex.

*State Military Advisor*

Mark Bowen  
Adjutant General  
Alabama National Guard

Register online (**go to [www.alagames.com](http://www.alagames.com)**). For any questions contact Daniel Monplaisir at [heroes@alagames.com](mailto:heroes@alagames.com) or call at (334) 239-3297.



Sponsored by  
**Alabama State Legislature**  
**Alabama Sports Festival**  
**Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness**  
P.O. Box 20327 • Montgomery, AL 36120 • [heroes@alagames.com](mailto:heroes@alagames.com)







# Honoring Our Heroes

## Official Honoring Our Heroes Registration Form

Please read each section carefully. Depending on your particular situation, you may not be required to complete all three sections. **Sections One and Three are Required** by everyone. **Section Two** only applies to those veterans who cannot attend due to disability, deployment or the veteran is deceased. If any of these apply, **Section Two** will be the information about the person who is standing in place of the veteran. Remember, the **veteran or a representative must be at the ceremony in person on June 29, 2007** to receive the Commemorative Liberty Bell Medal. **Section Three** is the information about the family member or friend who will assist with the presentation of the medal during the ceremony.

### Section I - Veteran Information (Required)

Please complete Section I with the information about the veteran who will be honored.

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Branch (check one):

- |                                       |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Army         | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Marines         | <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard Reserve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Army Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Navy              | <input type="checkbox"/> Marines Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Army National Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force    | <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Reserve      | <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard     | <input type="checkbox"/> Air National Guard  |

Operations Veteran Participated in:     Noble Eagle                       Enduring Freedom                       Iraqi Freedom

Terms of Deployment:

Enter each deployment as Year Month - Year Month such as: *February 2001 - January 2002.*

Deployments : \_\_\_\_\_

### Section II - Representative Information

Please complete Section II **only** if the veteran listed above cannot attend due to a disability, deployment or the veteran is deceased. The name and address given in Section II will be the person who will actually stand in and represent the veteran during the ceremony on June 29, 2007.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Veteran Not Attending:     Disabled                       Deployed                       Deceased

Relationship to Veteran (check one):

- |                                 |                                  |                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister | <input type="checkbox"/> Daughter     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother | <input type="checkbox"/> Brother | <input type="checkbox"/> Son    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

### Section III - Presenter Information (Required)

A family member or friend must assist during the medal ceremony. Section III is for the person who will actually make the presentation of the Commemorative Liberty Bell Medal to the veteran or the representative of the veteran.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

You can also register online at [www.alagames.com](http://www.alagames.com), fax your completed form to 334.280.0988 or mail your form to: Honoring Our Heroes Registration, P.O. Box 20327, Montgomery, AL 36120-0327



<b>May</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Polk Salat Festival	5 Polk Salat Festival
	6	7 Meeting 6:00 PM	8	9	10	11	12
	13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19 Armed Forces Day
	20	21	22	23	24	25 Forget- Me-Not Arab	26 Forget- Me-Not Arab
	27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		
<b>2007</b>							

<b>June</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2
	3	4 Meeting 6:00 PM	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day Army B-Day	15	16
	17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29 Forget- Me-Not RSA	30 Forget- Me-Not RSA
<b>2007</b>							

<b>July</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Meeting 6:00 PM	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				
<b>2007</b>							

<b>August</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3	4
	5	6 Meeting 6:00 PM	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
<b>2007</b>							