



DAV

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans



October - December 2008
2nd Quarter

The Marshall Patriot

Special points of interest:

- **Monthly Meeting**
October 6th 6:00PM
- **Columbus Day**
October 13th
- **US Navy Birthday**
October 13th
- **Daylight Saving Time**
Ends November 2nd
- **Monthly Meeting**
November 3rd
- **Election Day**
November 4th
- **USMC Birthday**
November 10th
- **Veterans Day**
November 11th
- **Thanksgiving Day**
November 27th
- **Monthly Meeting**
Annual Pot Luck
December 1st
- **Pearl Harbor**
Remembrance Day
December 7th
- **Christmas Eve**
December 24th
- **Christmas Day**
December 25th
- **New Year's Eve**
December 31st

Arab Chapter 18 (soon to be, Frank Bradford Chapter 18)

Volume 2, Issue 2

From the Commander's Desk

Well, another Quarter has gone by and fall is in the air. After we finished our Independence Day Redstone Arsenal "Forget Me Not" fundraiser successfully, things have finally slowed down somewhat for the Chapter.



to a meeting.

We recently had the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall on display in Guntersville for a week. The Wall was open to the public for 24 hours a day on the 10th thru 14th of July. Several Chapter and Auxiliary members volunteered to assist and escort visitors at the Wall. I would like to thank them for their participation.

We have received a banner for our Chapter Flag from National Headquarters. It is in recognition of meeting our recruiting goal for the 2007 – 2008 Fiscal Year. My congratulations to you all for the accomplishment. We must remember though, recruiting is an ongoing project. Please contact anyone that you think to be eligible for membership and invite them

We now have accumulated about \$8,800 in our service fund. We are looking for service projects that we can do and/or assistance that we can provide for any disabled veterans and/or their family members, or deceased member's widows in need. Please let your officers know if there are any disabled veterans or disabled veteran related organizations that need our help that you might know of. We are discussing continuing our donations to the Alabama Department of Public Affairs "Tut Fann" Veterans' Home on a bi-annual basis. Since we have had two of our members selected for the Honor Flights to Washington to see the Veterans Memorials, we are also considering contributing to the Alabama Division of the Honor Flight Charity. Any suggestions



will be greatly appreciated.

We have a "Forget Me Not" Fund Raiser scheduled for Veterans Day, November 11, 2008 at the Arab Wal-Mart. Any and all help will be appreciated for the one day event. Please let me know if you can help.

We will have our annual Holiday Dinner during our regularly scheduled December 1st meeting. It will be a pot luck meal, like last year, with the Chapter providing the meats. We would like to invite all members and their families to participate. We would also like to invite the widows of our deceased members and a friend to attend, as well. We had a great time last year and expect to have the same this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy Holiday Season.

Bill Brennan
Commander





Senior Vice Commander's Corner

Richard E. Robbins
Senior Vice Commander

Chaplain's Corner

2 Chronicles 7

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

It is very evident that the state of our economy is in trouble. Part of this comes from greed in the financial institutions, the stock markets, the oil industries, pharmaceutical, medical institutions, corruption in government.

I believe that it is time to take a look at the promise of the Bible in 2nd Chronicles 7:14 and humble ourselves and pray and seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways; then perhaps god will heal our land and return us to the blessed state that we once enjoyed

God Bless you and God Bless America
DAV Chapter 18 Chaplain
William R. Hayes



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--

Junior Vice Commander's Corner

Comrades,

As Jr Vice, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all good health and prosperity. Please keep all veterans in your thoughts and prayers. I would also like to encourage you to attend monthly meetings as there are normally important issues that are address and concern all of you. We need your opinion and vote on these issues.

John Wilkerson
Junior Vice Commander, Chapter 18



New Housing Bill has Vet Provisions: The housing and economic recovery legislation that was recently signed into law (PL 110-289) includes several VFW-supported provisions designed to safeguard service members and veterans during the mortgage and foreclosure crisis.

Some of the provisions in the bill will:

**Prohibit foreclosure of service members property for at least nine months following deployment.

**Increase the amount of VA's Home loan guarantee program.

**Authorize VA to provide assistance for specially adapted housing to active-duty members with certain service-connected disabilities.

**Allows individuals with severe burn injuries to be eligible for specially adapted housing assistance.

**Extend through December 31, 2011, the period of assistance for individuals residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member.

For the entire bill's provisions click here: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.03221>:



Auxiliary Unit 18

Members

Please welcome Matt Niemeyer to our Auxiliary. Matt will replace life member Vona Sue Robbins as our Sergeant-at-Arms during future meetings. Vona Sue has gone back to college and is not able to attend our meetings. We expect Vona Sue to excel at her studies and come back to Unit 18 when the demands on her time have lessened. We miss you Vona Sue and know that you will continue your dedication to the DAVA goals.

Next time you see Barbara Bodine, give her a hug and celebrate her smile because our prayers have been answered and she is feeling much better. It was a joy to have her open and close our September meeting with prayer. We really missed you Barbara!

I am grateful to those of you that attend our meetings regularly or as often as you are able. This summer, attendance has been down because of illnesses, family obligations and vacations. Low attendance has prevented us from doing some things we talked about doing. Our bylaws require us to vote on issues like fundraising events and service projects and require a quorum of a least 5 members at a meeting for voting to occur.

If we can't vote, we can't spend money on service. If we can't spend money on service we don't need fund raising events. The only way out of this unproductive circle is to recruit more members and inspire current inactive members to attend meetings. If you know men or women that qualify for Auxiliary membership, please invite them to join us. If you are an inactive member that needs transportation to the meetings, call me.

Food and Beverage Table

I am thankful to those members that bring food to our snack table which we started because Auxiliary Units all over Alabama seem to provide meals for their Chapter members. Having food available before/during or after the meeting was expected to draw new members and retain existing members that don't have time for a meal during the commute between their work location and the DAV meeting location (and be on time for the 6 PM roll call).

Chapter 18 functioned well for a long time without food being offered at meetings. As a result, many Chapter members are in the habit of eating at home or at a restaurant before coming to the 6 PM meeting. Some Chapter members have special dietary requirements that are contrary to what we are offering at our snack table. Other Chapter members appreciate the fact that meetings start at 6 PM and end an hour latter allowing them to return home early. As a result, some members eat and some don't. The Auxiliary would appreciate feedback from Chapter members on the food and beverage offerings. Would you like to see this practice continue? And if so, what can we improve upon?

Community Service

Several Auxiliary and Chapter members represented our organization at the Moving Wall while it was in Guntersville July 10-14. During the closing ceremony, the volunteer coordinator publically extended his appreciation to the Arab Disabled American Veterans for their hours of volunteer service. None of you heard him speak, but you know who you are and you know that volunteering is rewarding in ways that are not always seen but can be felt by you and by those you come in contact with.

Legislative Activity

During the June meeting, Auxiliary members discussed the importance of the Veterans Disability Claims Modernization Act (HR 5892) and learned about the Stand Up For Veteran website as a means of communicating the DAV position to our elected representatives.

At the August meeting we discussed how Mandatory VA Health Care Funding (HR 2514 and S 2639) legislation would improve delivery of healthcare benefits to veterans. Each Auxiliary member took home letters to sign and mail to: Representative Aderholt, Senator Sessions, and Senator Shelby on these important issues. Members also took home letters to sign and mail encouraging their representatives to support and vote in favor of the Military Construction Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2009 (HR 6599) and Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Authorization Bill (S 3001) as well as a "thank you" letter to Representative Aderholt for his support of the Veterans Disability Claims Modernization Act (HR 5892). Prepared letters and stamped, pre-addressed envelopes were mailed to other active members that were absent from the meeting so they could also communicate the DAV position on these legislative issues.

So far, everyone who signed and mailed these letters received written responses back from Representative Aderholt, Senator Sessions and Senator Shelby. In total, Auxiliary members signed a total of forty eight letters in one month! Our costs were minimal and the potential benefits will be monumental if these pieces of legislation are approved.

A Recurring Topic

During the course of the last four or five Auxiliary meetings, the subject of widows has come up. Arab Chapter 18 has widows that we are worried about because they are absent from us. If your deceased husband was a member of Arab Chapter 18, we are here for you and your family. Keep our names and numbers handy.

Nancy Brennan	(256) 582-5750	Commander and Legislative Chairman
Evelyn Scott	(256) 582-4453	Senior Vice Commander
Susi West	(256) 931-5120	Jr. Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman
Lisa Niemeyer	(256) 498-0304	Treasurer and Membership Chairman
Rhemy Wilkerson	(256) 498-0323	Adjutant and Community Service Chairman
Barbara Bodine	(256) 586-8356	Chaplain





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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Social Security Special Extra Earnings for Military Service: Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are **not** granted for inactive duty training.

If your active military service occurred

From 1957 through 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.

From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.

After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

How You Get Credit for Special Extra Earnings

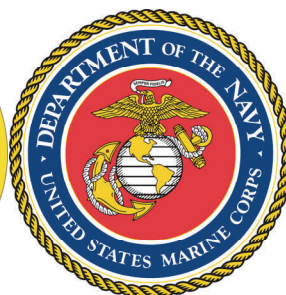
The information that follows applies **only** to active duty military service earnings from 1957 through 2001. Here's how the special **extra** earnings are credited on your record:

Service in 1957 Through 1977, you are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

Service in 1978 through 2001, **for every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details.**

Online Filing of VA Claims: VA is now accepting online applications from veterans, survivors, and other claimants filing initial applications for disabilities, education, and vocational rehabilitation / employment benefits without signature. Submission may be made at the [Veterans Online Applications \(VONAPP\) Web site](http://www.va.gov). Normal rules of evidence still apply. More information is available at www.va.gov or call (800) 827-1000.

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



OFFICER & COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CONTACTS

OFFICERS:

Commander – William J. “Bill” Brennan,
Sr. Vice Commander – Richard E. Robbins,
Jr. Vice Commander – John R. Wilkerson,
Treasurer/Adjutant – Bruce E. Niemeyer
Chaplain – William R. Hayes,
Officer of the Day – Jimmy D. Edwards,
Sergeant of Arms – William G. “Jerry” West,
Service Officer – Everett R. “Bob” Bouly,
Legislative Officer – William J. “Bill” Brennan,

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Bylaw Committee - Wayne C. Allen,
Fund Raising Committee - Bruce E. Niemeyer,
Hospital Visitation and Distress Committee -
Legislation Committee - William J. “Bill” Brennan,
Membership Committee - Richard E. Robbins,
Relief Committee - John R. Wilkerson,
Widow Support Committee - Thomas B. Bodine,

If you have an e-mail address, PLEASE, PLEASE send an e-mail to davch18arab@gmail.com this will help save the Chapter money in mailing this newsletter out using the United States Postal Service. With postage continually increasing, PLEASE help us save money by giving us your e-mail address. Just send an e-mail to the above mentioned address with your name in the subject line. Thanks for your help!! Adjutant Niemeyer

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 (256) 571-7761. Office hours are 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday – Friday.