



DAV

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans



July - September 2007
3rd Quarter

The Marshall Patriot

Arab Chapter 18

Volume 1, Issue 2

Special points of interest:

- Independence Day
July 4th
- DAV National Convention August 10 - 14
- District #1 Meeting
September 1st
- Labor Day
September 3rd
- Arab Community Fair
September 8th
- USAF Birthday
September 18th

From the Commander's Desk

Chapter 18 completed our "Forget-Me-Not" drive on May 25 and 26, 2007 at the Arab Wal-Mart. Please join me in thanking everyone who donated their time and made this drive a success by raising over \$1,200 dollars that will be used for service to Disabled Veterans.



June 29 and 30, 2007 Chapter 18 will have another "Forget-Me-Not" drive at the PX, Commissary and One Stop Shoppette on Redstone Arsenal. Please check your calendar and call me or Bruce Niemeyer as soon as possible if you are able to join us on this drive. We need all of the help we can get on this one. If you can participate we will arrange for the necessary clearances to get you on post.

Chapter 18 uses "Forget-Me-Not" donations to provide service and/or assistance for our disabled veterans, their spouses/widows and families. If you know of anyone who needs assistance, please let us know, so that we can bring it to the attention of our membership and determine what assistance we can provide. Any projects or ideas for providing service that you might think of, should be brought to our attention, also.

Service to, and assistance for America's Disabled Veterans is what the DAV is all about. Please help us in finding those who need our service and assistance. Also, please donate your time to help provide such service and assistance.

If you would like to visit our sick or home bound veterans please inform us of that also. It means a great deal to them, to know that they have not been forgotten. And, it could be very rewarding to you.

CMDR Brennan



Chapter 18 Constitution and Bylaws

We finally have a completed draft of the Chapter's new Constitution and Bylaws, a project that was started last year. It will be presented to the membership for its' first reading at the July 2, 2007 meeting.

Tips on Keeping Computer Info Secure

- Install operating system and application software updates regularly. Many of these updates are issued to fix security problems.
- Install and use anti-virus software and personal firewalls and keep them updated. The correct use of these programs can help protect your system from being compromised by malicious software designed to capture information processed on your computer.
- Do not store your various User-IDs and passwords in files on your computer. If someone gains access to your computer, this is the type of information they look for and could use to access your accounts.
- After using your browser (for example, Internet Explorer) to access a site where you process sensitive information, such as your bank's Web site, close all of your browser windows and start a new browser session. Sometimes the browser can hold that information in memory and some Web sites know where to find it.
- Be careful when installing software that gives others access to your computer. This type of software can create unintended openings into your computer that outsiders can use if the software is not configured correctly.
- Do not e-mail personal or financial information. This is not a secure method of transmitting personal information. If you initiate a transaction and want to provide your personal and financial information through a Web site, look for signs that the site is secure, such as an image of a lock or a Web site address that begins "https:" ("s" stands for "secure").



Chaplain's Corner

I just heard from a Veteran brother the other day and he told me that he heard on the news that we are losing 1,800 WWII Veterans a day. The few we have left we should let them know how much they mean to us. The Bible says to give honor to who honor is due. These Veterans are due honor because they are a great part of history. They are the reason we are the greatest nation on the earth. I'm thankful to serve the DAV as chaplain. Let's pray for our troops, victory, their return home safely and our leaders that they will make the right decisions. The Bible tells us to pray for our leaders in I Timothy 2:1-3.

God has always had soldiers like David, the giant killer. He tells us to endure hardness as a good soldier of the cross. Remember whatever trial you are going through He is a very present help in the time of trouble (Psalm 46:1).

Vicksburg, Mississippi did not celebrate the 4th of July for 80 years because they did not surrender until July 4, 1863. Thirty-one thousand rebels in the war between the states and it took World War II for them to start celebrating this holiday again. Where there was resentment, hurt and people still wounded God was able to bring healing and unity back to this nation plus a victory overseas. When the righteous rule a nation prospers. I wish all of you a happy 4th of July. May God bless you and the DAV with all you need in this land of the free because of the brave men like you (DAV Chapter 18) from the hill country of northern Alabama. I believe our group is the best and may God's best be yours.

In His Service:
Chaplain, Tim Parrish

No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation
- General Douglas MacArthur

Adjutant's Corner

Greetings Comrades!
Well this is the second installment of our Newsletter. If you would like to submit an article please feel free to send it to me and I will ensure that it

gets entered. 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.

Adjutant Bruce Niemeyer



Veterans Funding Increase Praised

WASHINGTON, May 24—Draft legislation to boost funding for veterans programs to \$87.7 billion next year is being hailed as a major victory by organizations representing millions of America's former defenders.

The \$109.2 billion bill crafted by the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee provides \$43.29 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. "This represents a significant, much-needed investment in health care and the benefits delivery system for our nation's sick and disabled veterans," according to AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The four veterans' service organizations said the bill provides a \$6 billion increase in VA health care funding, exceeding their own recommendation by \$294 million. "This is the first time that lawmakers have surpassed our recommendations in the 21 years that we have been publishing *The Independent Budget*," the groups noted. The bill also funds the VA biomedical research program at \$480 million, as recommended in *The Independent Budget*, an increase of \$68 million over the 2007 funding level.

In addition to the increase for veterans medical care and construction projects, the bill includes enough funding for the VA to hire more than 1,000 new employees to tackle a large backlog of almost 640,000 disability compensation claims. Cutting the backlog would reduce the time veterans must wait for a decision on their benefits, which averages 177 days for an original claim and more than two years for initial appeals.

"The proposed increase in VA funding is a recognition that caring for our veterans is a continuing cost of national security and a willingness to provide the resources to meet those needs," the groups said. They praised Subcommittee Chairman Chet Edwards (D-Texas) for his leadership in crafting the measure, as well House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt (D-S.C.), Appropriations Committee Chairman David R. Obey (D-Wis.) and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) for their support of additional funding for veterans programs.

The Independent Budget provides the nation's decision-makers a veterans' perspective on federal spending and national policy priorities for veterans programs. These recommendations are well-considered policy and funding proposals based on the actual needs of the men and women these programs were created to serve. As a comprehensive, authoritative policy document, *The Independent Budget* focuses on funding recommendations for veterans health care, benefits delivery, medical facilities construction, veterans' cemeteries and other so-called discretionary programs that will be needed in the coming fiscal year.

AMVETS—a leader since 1944 in preserving the freedoms secured by America's Armed Forces—provides not only support for veterans and the active military in procuring receipt of their earned entitlements, but also community services that

enhance the quality of life for this nation's citizens.

(www.amvets.org)

The 1.3 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a nonprofit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

(www.dav.org)

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, a veterans service organization chartered by Congress, has for more than 60 years served the needs of its members, all of whom have catastrophic paralysis caused by spinal cord injury or disease.

(www.pva.org)

The VFW is a 1.8 million-member veterans service organization, now in its 108th year, with a nationwide network of 8,500 Posts and service officers working to build better communities and assist all veterans and their dependents with problems involving VA entitlements and pensions.

(www.vfw)

For more information, contact: Joe Chenelly, AMVETS, 301-683-4035 David J. Uchic, Paralyzed Veterans of America, 202-416-7667 Joe Davis, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 202-608-8357



"History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid."
- General Dwight D. Eisenhower



WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

News from the Veteran's Administration

VA improves services for blinded, low-vision vets

More than a million visually impaired veterans will receive enhanced health care services from VA under a reorganization of VA's vision rehabilitation services.

VA will make about \$40 million available during the next three years to establish a comprehensive nationwide rehabilitation system for veterans and active duty personnel with visual impairments. The system will enhance inpatient services and expand outpatient services throughout the 1,400 locations where VA provides health care.

Under the reorganization plan, each of VA's 21 regional networks - called Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISNs - will implement a plan to provide eye care to veterans with visual impairments ranging from 20/70 to total blindness. Basic low-vision services will be available at all VA eye clinics, and every network will offer intermediate and advanced "low-vision services, including a full spectrum of optical devices and electronic visual aids.

VA's ten existing inpatient blind and rehabilitation centers will continue to provide the Department's most intensive eye care programs, but each VISN now will also provide outpatient -based blind rehabilitation care. For more information, call VA at 1-800-827-1000.

VA calls Aid and Attendance under-used benefit

VA is reminding wartime veterans and surviving spouses of wartime Veterans about an under-used, special monthly pension benefit called Aid and Attendance.

The Aid and Attendance pension benefit may be available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing-homes or assisted-living facilities. Although this is not a new program, some people don't know that they could be eligible.

Many elderly veterans and surviving spouses whose incomes are above the congressionally mandated legal limit for a VA pension may still be eligible for the special monthly Aid and Attendance benefit if they have large medical expenses, including nursing home expenses, for which they do not receive reimbursement.

To qualify, claimants must be incapable of self-support and in need of regular personal assistance.

The basic criteria for the Aid and Attendance benefit include the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance, or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment.

For a wartime veteran or surviving spouse to qualify for this benefit, the veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a period of war, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Wartime veterans who entered active duty on or after Sep8, 1980 (Oct. 16, 1981, for officers) must have completed at least 24 continuous months of military service or the period for which they were ordered to active duty.

If all requirements are met, VA determines eligibility for the Aid and Attendance benefit by adjusting for un-reimbursed medical expenses from the veteran's or surviving spouse's total household income. If the remaining income amount falls below the annual income threshold for the Aid and Attendance benefit, VA pays the difference between the claimant's household income and the Aid and Attendance threshold.

The Aid and Attendance income threshold for a veteran without dependents is now \$18,234 annually. The threshold increases to \$21,615 if a veteran has one dependent, and by \$1,866 for each additional dependent. The annual Aid and Attendance threshold for a surviving spouse alone is \$11,715. This threshold increases to \$13,976 if there is one dependent child, and by \$1,866 for each additional child.

For more information, call 1-800- 827-1000, or go to <http://www.va.gov> or to any local veterans' service organization. You can apply online at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.

New VA handbook online, in print

The 2007 edition of VA's *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents* booklet is now available. You can find it online at <http://www.l.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>. Printed copies are available from most VA facilities.



"An army is a team.
It lives, eats, sleeps,
fights as a team.
This individuality
stuff is a bunch of
bullshit."
- General George
S. Patton Jr.





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



We're on the Web!!

[http://
www.davmembersportal.org/
chapters/al/18](http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/al/18)

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



OFFICER & COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CONTACTS

OFFICERS:

Commander – William J. Brennan, H 582-5750/C 738-5439, wbrennan03@earthlink.net

Sr. Vice Commander – Richard E. Robbins, H 586-2330/C 738.2488, richard.e.robbins@us.army.mil

Jr. Vice Commander –

Treasurer/Adjutant – Bruce Niemeyer H 498-0304/C 738-7986, bruce.niemeyer@gmail.com

Chaplin – Timothy K. Parrish, H 586-7597, tkpparrish@charter.net

Officer of the Day – John Wilkerson, H 498-0323/C 508-0981, rhemyrn@otelco.net

Sergeant of Arms – William West, H 931-5120, wgwestjerry@yahoo.com

Historian/Publicity Officer – Derek Chambers, H 550-0409, derek_chambers2003@yahoo.com

Service Officer – Wayne Allen, H 586-6630

Legislative Officer – Brian Childs, H 347-2845, bhc350@yahoo.com

Judge Advocate – Timothy K. Parrish, H 586-7597, tkpparrish@charter.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Bylaw Committee - Wayne Allen, H 586-6630

Fund Raising Committee - Bruce Niemeyer, H 498-0304/C 738-7981, bruce.niemeyer@gmail.com

Hospital Visitation and Distress Committee - Timothy K. Parrish, H 586-7597, tkpparrish@charter.net

Legislation Committee - Brian Childs, C 347-2845, bhc350@yahoo.com

Membership Committee - Richard E. Robbins, H 586-2330/C 738.2488, richard.e.robbins@us.army.mil

Publicity Committee - Derek Chambers, H 550-0409, derek_chambers2003@yahoo.com

July	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				
	2007						

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

September	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							1 District #1 Meeting
	2	3 Labor Day Meeting 6:00 PM ??	4 Meeting 6:00 PM ??	5	6	7	8 Arab Community Fair 9:00AM
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18 USAF B-Day	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	2007	30					

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