

# Department of Alabama News & Views

January 2023



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**Editor/Publisher**  
**Cassie Igou**

[clhagg@hotmail.com](mailto:clhagg@hotmail.com)

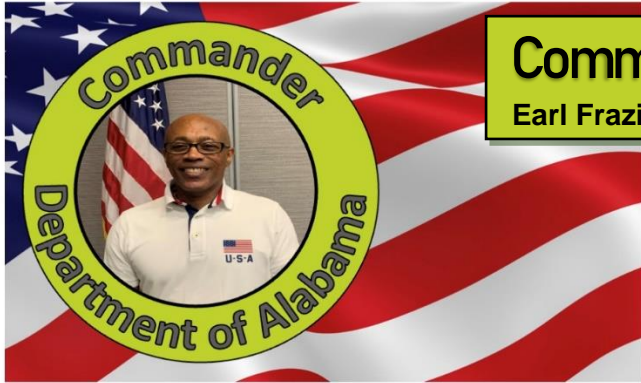


Department of Alabama  
2023 Mid-Winter Conference  
5-7 January 2022

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
300 Tallapoosa St,  
Montgomery, AL 36104

See you soon!

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## Commander

Earl Frazier

Greetings Comrades,

As we progress into 2023, I would like to say to all who were not able to attend our annual Department of Alabama Midwinter conference, "Happy New Year". By the time of this publication our midwinter we would have convened and concluded. Overall, it was a success. All that attended were able to receive knowledge and information to pass on to their departments and chapters while adding it to their toolbox. As CSOs we are usually the initial contact that a veteran has while seeking help with claims, health benefits or compensation. We as volunteers owe them the best professional guidance we can offer. One quick rule to remember about veterans which we all are is "All gave some, some gave all," So I thank everyone for what you do and provide service to veterans. On December 14th, 2022, DAV National Headquarters redesigned their website with a new version. You will find the new version easier to use, better service, and with clearer language for all. Feel free to browse around at [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org). A few months ago the Department of Alabama redesigned our department website and thanks to the efforts of Comrade Beth Emerson were steps ahead with solidifying our efforts to assist veterans, chapter members and the department as a whole. The department website is [www.davdeptofalabama.org](http://www.davdeptofalabama.org). Updates will be continually added.

Continue to spread the word about our monthly town hall virtual meeting, on the fourth Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. We only ask for an hour of your time to determine what resources are needed to make everyone successful and to develop that muscle memory on current regulations, publications and legislation related to veteran

issues. We look forward to seeing and or hearing you on that date and time. The month of February brings to the forefront our DAV National Midwinter Conference in Arlington Virginia. This year the conference will be held from February 26th till March 1st, 2023. I look forward to meeting and seeing all the delegates from DAV Department Alabama chapters. For our DAV members that are not able to attend continue to contact the representatives and senators in your counties and let them know we need their support on all DAV related veteran legislative issues.

As I close, I would like to thank two chapters I may have forgotten to mention from our last issue. Chapter 9 invited me, as well as other members from the Department of Alabama elected and appointed officers to their annual Xmas dinner/award ceremony. We enjoyed the camaraderie, food, and fellowship. Job well done, good teamwork, Commander Ferguson and Chapter 9. Shortly after then we attended Chapter 7 being welcomed to the century club as a DAV chapter. Once again Job well done, good teamwork and Congratulations Commander Wright and Chapter 7 on 100 years of service to veterans. We also enjoyed the food, camaraderie, and fellowship. I look forward to seeing everyone as I travel around the state of Alabama, just remember to stay safe, stay positive and take care of each other. Well, that's all I have for this edition of news and views. Remember, we all have the ability to change people lives in a positive way. Not I, not me, not he, not she, but we. "Thank You For Your Service" and "Airborne!"

Respectfully,

*Earl L. Frazier*

Commander

### News & Views Article Due Dates:

April Issue – Due 15 March 2023  
July Issue – Due 15 June 2023

### U.S. & AL State Holidays

2 Feb -Groundhog Day  
14 Feb -Valentine's Day  
20 Feb -Presidents' Day  
17 Mar -St. Patrick's Day





## Senior Vice Commander

Leon Grove

Comrades,

I hope that each of you are doing well. This is a new year, and our recruiting goals are still ahead of us. We are thankful to all the Chapter members, and Chapter Commanders for promoting our recruiting drive for the Department of Alabama Disabled American Veterans.

We want you to hit your recruiting goals. Let me ring home this idea again, add the topic of "membership goals" to your meeting agenda and discuss ideas for increasing membership within your organization. Develop a plan and a target date to do membership activities, and lastly, allow everyone can participate. Introduce to each of your members this website; [www.dav.org/warrior](http://www.dav.org/warrior). This is a site where each member can create their own QR code or create a text version of DAV's electronic membership application. Don't pass up on this easy way to help expand membership opportunities for your Chapter. Represent DAV by carrying business cards that can help convert veterans you meet into new members,

I've shared many ideas in the previous Newsletter and if you have capitalized on them, great. I have yet another idea that can be explored. This idea requires some work in terms of research and writing a storyboard about your chapter and the benefits that a new member receives. This storyboard can be created and delivered in the form of an e-Newsletter from your chapter. The e-Newsletter can be printed and mailed to potential members in your community. Please review the DAV's guide for creating an e-Newsletter for your Chapter [[Membership\\_ENewsletter\\_toolkit.pdf \(dav.org\)](#)]. I will also suggest that you send out on average 50 Newsletters to potential members. Please include in your Newsletter a Call to Action (CTA). If you have a website, your CTA may be to go to your site to sign up for an e-Newsletter version of the Newsletter.

Question: Why not just send potential members the Department's Newsletter? Great question, and my answer will be that the Department's Newsletter is great; however, you are trying to get the member to connect with your Chapter and what you do locally. Each Chapter represents a unique brand of the DAV and there is no better way to connect with potential members than to highlight your uniqueness.

Finally, be optimistic and know that members are looking for a meaningful assignment and achieving the membership goals for the Chapter just may be a rewarding assignment and a great contribution to the Chapter.

Semper Fi!

Respectively,

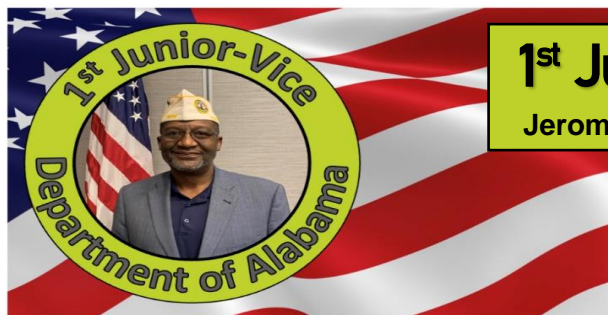
*Leon Grove, DBA*

Senior Vice Commander

## Disabled American Veterans Mission Statement

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.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander

Jerome Anderson

(2nd District)

Very Thankful for the commitment and support of our Volunteers!

Teamwork makes the Dream Work!

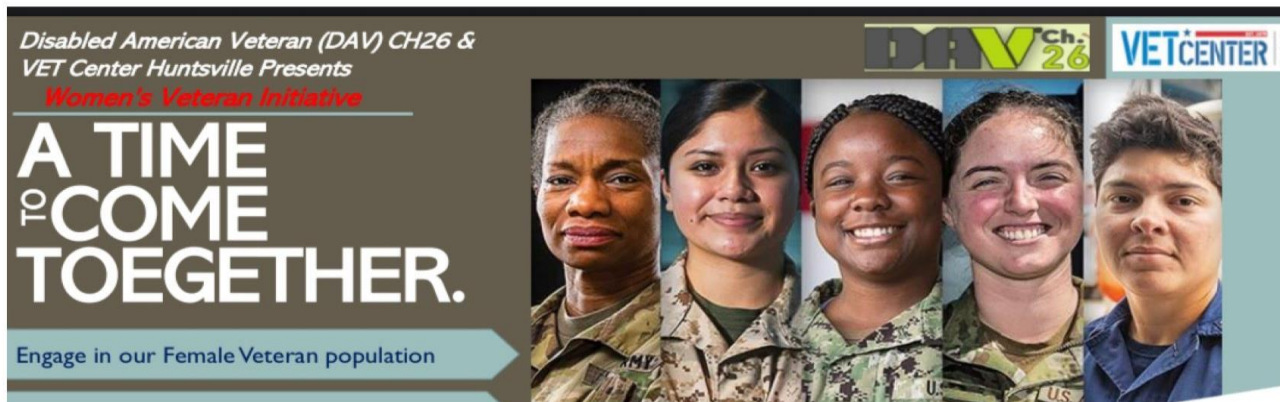
*Jerome Anderson*

1st Junior Vice Commander

### Chapter 26: (Huntsville)

Ch 26 continues to serve Veterans in North Alabama and the community. We continue to hold Chapter meetings in compliance. Current operations:

1. Ch26 conducts monthly meetings.
2. Ch26 assisted over 60 Veterans with claims in the month of December. We are currently operating with 3 Chapter Service Officers. We have 4 volunteers scheduled for CSO level 1 training, 2 for level II in Montgomery in January 2023. Claims are processed Monday through Thursday by appointment only.
3. CH26 conducts Relief committee support on Tuesdays. A total of 6 Veterans received financial assistance and 5 were placed in emergency housing.
4. CH26 continues the collaboration with Huntsville HUD VASH and Birmingham VA. Birmingham VA provided over 25 mattresses and sheets for Homeless Veterans. We have Issued 5 for Veterans in need.
5. CH 26 partnered with Redstone Federal Credit Union to provide food and clothing to homeless Veterans. We provided over 300 hot meals, 10 coats and 102 clothing items on Dec 15, 2022.
6. CH26 continues the collaboration and partnership with the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers and Mortgage Right Lending to provide Free assistance for our Veterans, every 4th Thursday of every month. Free legal service provided for 15 Veterans.
7. CH26 joined the HSV Chamber of Commerce to highlight and bring awareness to services and support for Veterans, specifically filing claims.
8. Ch26 Women's Veteran Initiative completed our 1st year celebration "A time to come together". Educating and sharing resources within North Alabama. Currently planning for the New Year 2023.
9. Ch26 Auxiliary successfully conducted a membership and fundraiser drive at the Redstone Arsenal Post Exchange in December 2022.
10. Ch26 new membership. We had a total of 5 new members for December.
11. Black Tie Fundraising Gala. We are planning our 2nd largest fundraiser on Saturday April 15 at the HSV Marriott Space and Rocket Center. A night to remember! Ticket sales are available now! Please see Jerome Anderson, Commander or call DAV CH26 office 256.850.0928



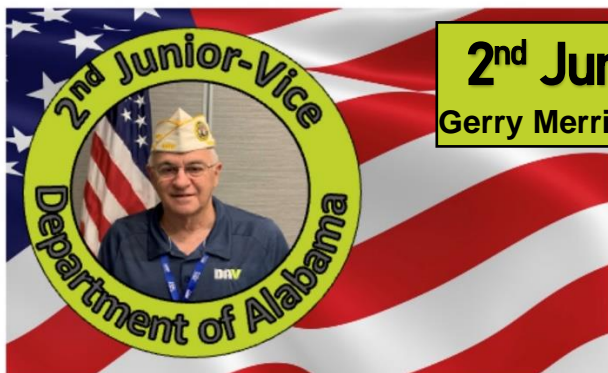




  
Audrey Ransom LTC (R)  
Senior Vice Commander /Women's  
Coordinator  
Disabled American Veteran Chapter 26  
256.617.0731/ 256.850.0928  
[Aldavch26Aransom@gmail.com](mailto:Aldavch26Aransom@gmail.com)

*Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork!*





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander

Gerry Merrihew

(4<sup>th</sup> District)

I hope everyone had a Great Christmas and Happy New Year, here we are in 2023.

I will be looking forward to seeing everyone at our Mid-Winter conference/training and visiting chapters within the 4th District.

*Gerry Merrihew*

2<sup>nd</sup> Jr Vice Commander

### Chapter 45

Chapter #45 continues to hold monthly meetings at the Loxley Civic Center. We are continuing to do our CSO work at the center and our new office in Loxley. Since our last newsletter our Service Officers have spent 99 hours on claims work. The chapter has logged a total of 986 hours of LVAP work.

On November 4th our auxiliary assisted the city of Loxley in setting up the Community Center and helping with the events for the annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner. The members of the honor guard demonstrated the 13 folds of our flag and explained the meaning of each.

We have completed our merger with Bay Minette Chapter 53. We welcome all our new members and hope that they will attend our meetings. Several of our members have been attempting to contact all the members of Chapter 53 and invite them to our meetings.

The chapter has voted to change our city from Fairhope to Loxley which was approved by the Department and National. We are now Arnold-Byers Chapter 45 Loxley, Alabama.

Unit 45 has found a needy veteran family with three children to sponsor for Christmas. Also, they have sponsored two veterans in a Robertsedale Rehab Center.

Our members continue to visit the veterans at William F Green veterans home to visit and assist with their needs.

On November, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, Chapter Commander Rick Steadman, Unit Commander Linda Steadman and others attended the Veterans Day festivities in Birmingham while other Chapter/Unit members participated in local activities and assisted with our annual Wal-Mart fundraiser in Fairhope, Al. It was a very successful event. A big thank you to Walmart for allowing us to have the event at their store.

Chapter 45 currently has 6 active CSOs and 3 members who are becoming familiar with the VA website and various forms prior to their certification training at the department Mid-Winter Conference.



Walmart Fundraiser Harry Ingle and Ralph Beckham



Walmart Fundraiser Bobby and Rita Turner



Loxley Appreciation dinner Presentation of Service Flags



Baldwin County Honor Guard Demonstration of 13 folds of the Flag

## Chapter 9

Chapter 9 held their annual Christmas party on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2023, with special guests attending: Earl Frazier (Department Commander) Hugo Perez (Department Adjutant) Anita Perez (Department Treasure) and commanders from other chapters. Everyone had a great time.

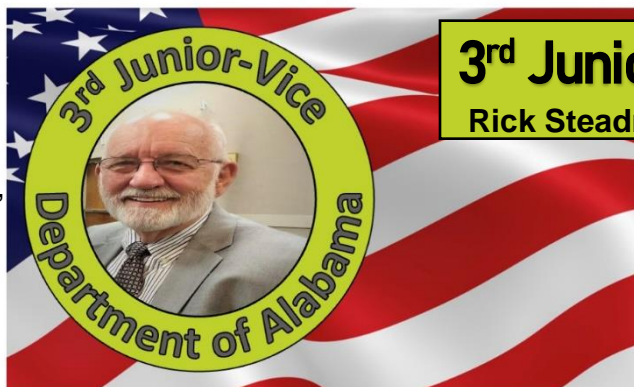
Chapter 9 will be sent 24 members for CSO training at our mid-winter conference/training. Everyone is looking forward to the training.

Chapter 9 will be holding their next chapter meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## Chapter 87

Chapter 87 completed their successful fund raiser at Golden Corral on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Chapter 87 participated in the annual Dothan Festival Parade on November 12<sup>th</sup>.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Junior Vice Commander

**Rick Steadman**

**(3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

I hope this finds that all is well with everyone. I would like to reiterate the importance of reporting all of our LVAP hours as well as increasing our membership. These programs are extremely vital to the continuation of our organization. Also, participation in the Commanders Action Network (CAN) is the way we can encourage our members of the house and senate to vote for bills that help the veterans we proudly serve.

Since our last newsletter, on October 14<sup>th</sup> we attended the Mississippi Mid-Winter Conference and on November 18<sup>th</sup> the Louisiana Mid-Winter Conference. On November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> we attended the Veteran of the Year Banquet and Parade in Birmingham, Alabama. Also, on November 4<sup>th</sup> we were able to attend the Veteran Appreciation Dinner in Loxley, Alabama.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> we were honored to be able to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Chapter 7 in Mobile, Alabama.

***Richard A Steadman***

3<sup>rd</sup> Jr Vice Commander

## Chapter 66 Phoenix City

Chapter 66 held its annual Veterans Program at the Smiths Station Municipal Complex. Guest Speaker was retired LTC Melvin Jackson ROTC Instructor Jordon High School Columbus, GA. Mayor Bubba Copeland welcomed the veterans and thanked them for their service. We attended the monthly East Alabama Chamber of Commerce meeting and an afterhours Meet and Greet at the Smith Station Municipal Complex sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce

Chapter will sponsor December East Alabama Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting. Will present Chapter Flyers and DAV Information and proved a brief discussion on DAV and Chapters' services to ill, injured, wound veterans and their families.

Chapter held annual Boston Butt sale 21-24 Nov.

Provided transportation to two veterans to appointments.

Distributed can and dry food good to

donated to chapter to Disabled Veterans in the community.

Will host Chapter Christmas Party 6 Dec and take picture for Mid-Winter Book.

Chapter continues to service veterans and families at both offices on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Chapter will close 14 Dec for the holidays and Mid-Winter Conference.

Thanks for your support and all you do for District 3 and the DAV.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

**Commander Epps, Chapter 66**



## Chapter 100 Hayneville Commander Jessie Bowie Reported

The William "Bill" Cannon Chapter 100 of the Disabled American Veterans delivered 25 Christmas boxes of food to Lowndes County veterans and their families on Dec. 10. Chapter members prepared the Christmas boxes with the help of donations from community partners like Hayneville Ag, which gave 25 hens to the effort.

Lisa McDay is an active military member serving as adjutant for the DAV chapter. "We prepared and delivered 15 Thanksgiving boxes to veterans and their families during Thanksgiving week," McDay said.

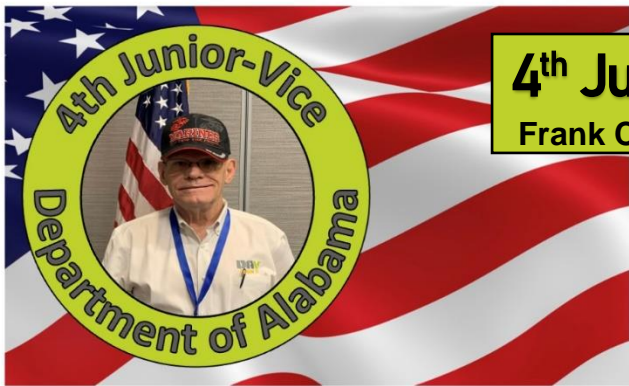
DAV groups help provide veterans with assistance to reach benefits and services they earn through the military. Chapter 100 is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower veterans to lead fulfilled, high-quality lives with respect and dignity. Volunteer veterans work in local groups with a focus on helping veterans in their area and DAV Chapter 100 conducts outreach services to Lowndes County veterans and help when disabled veterans need transportation or connections to government agencies which assist with caregiving.

"What we do is try to ensure that we get out and contact veterans and their families," said DAV Commander Jessie Bowie. "We want to be an avenue for them in getting the benefits they serve and have fought for. We have a lot of veterans who are not able to use technology, so they may not be aware of the resources available."

DAV chapters respond to the needs of a veteran's entire family and participate in other outreach events like the DAV 5K run, the Annual Sheriff "Big John" Williams Golf tournament and providing 100 bags of school supplies for Lowndes County schools. Chapter 100 operates out of the Charles Smith Annex Building at 205 E. Tuskeena Street in Hayneville with certified service officers available by appointment Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.







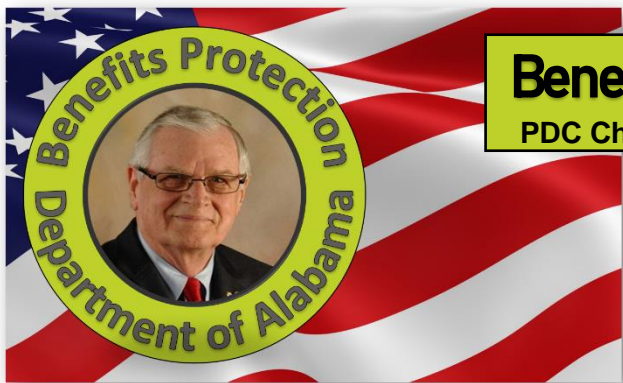
**4<sup>th</sup> Junior Vice Commander**  
Frank Cannon (1st District)

No report.



**Department Adjutant**  
Hugo A. Perez

No report.



**Benefits Protection Team Leader**  
PDC Chad Richmond

No report.





Contact your Senate Representative

Contact your House Representative

## Department Meetings

### ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE TRAINING

**When:** Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 0800

**How:** Call (319) 527-4759  
No access code needed



<https://join.startmeeting.com/debbwalk32>

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?



### Women's Veterans Coordinator

Tawanna Jones

No report.

## Upcoming Events

**Jan 5-7, 2023** Dept of AL Mid-Winter Conference,  
Montgomery, AL

**Feb 24, 2023:** National Mid-Winter Conference,  
Arlington, VA

**Aug 5-8, 2023:** National Convention, Atlantic City,  
NJ

**Feb 25-28, 2024:** National Mid-Winter Conference,  
Arlington, VA

**Aug 3-6, 2024:** National Convention Phoenix, AZ

**Aug 9-12, 2025:** National Convention Las Vegas,  
NV



### Department Chaplain

Debra Varner

No report.





## DAVA Commander

Willie Mae Looney

Hello Comrades,

Hope everybody is doing well. I enjoyed the Veterans Day Parade in Birmingham – Hope you all saw it on TV. They National DAVA Commander Darlene Spence was here. Had a nice time.

Hope everybody had a nice Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Yours in Service,

*Willie Mae Looney*

DAVA Commander, Dept of Alabama



## Our Department of Alabama Treasurer Anita Perez Shows Her Incredible Support With Her Amazing Car!





## eBenefits Info

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.](#)



## NSO Hours

VA Regional Office  
345 Perry Hill Road  
Montgomery, AL 36109

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

NSO Office hours:  
-By Appointment  
-Office hours for telephone calls: 0900-1500



## Department Contacts

Commander  
Earl Lee Frazier  
Tel: 334-277-7917  
Cell: 334-451-0155  
[elfrazier357@aol.com](mailto:elfrazier357@aol.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Jr Vice Commander  
Gerry Merrihew  
Home: 802 238-3433  
Cell: 802 238-3433  
[jerrymerrihew@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrymerrihew@yahoo.com)

Department Adjutant  
Hugo A. Perez  
Fax: 256-392-3246  
Cell: 719-229-5026  
[aldavadj@outlook.com](mailto:aldavadj@outlook.com)

Department Chaplain  
Debra Varner  
Tel: 205-731-2628  
Cell: 205-586-2419  
[godisone@bellsouth.net](mailto:godisone@bellsouth.net)

Senior Vice Commander  
Leon Grove  
Tel: 251 343-0037  
Cell: 251 343-0037  
[lgrove517@gmail.com](mailto:lgrove517@gmail.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> Jr Vice Commander  
Rick Steadman  
Home: 251 239-8026  
Cell: 251 239-8026c  
[ch45davcmdr@outlook.com](mailto:ch45davcmdr@outlook.com)

Benefits Protection Team Lead  
Charles Richmond  
Tel: 205-681-2352  
Cell: 205-613-4230  
[aldavadj@earthlink.net](mailto:aldavadj@earthlink.net)

Auxiliary Commander  
Willie Mae Looney  
Home: 256-490-8069  
Cell: 256-490-8069  
[wmllooney@comcast.net](mailto:wmllooney@comcast.net)

1<sup>st</sup> Jr Vice Commander  
D. Jerome Anderson  
Home: 205 470-7299  
Cell: 256 924-3066  
[aldavchpt26.hsv@gmail.com](mailto:aldavchpt26.hsv@gmail.com)

4<sup>th</sup> Jr. Vice Commander  
Frank R. Cannon  
Home: 205 359-1865  
Cell: 802-238-3433  
[fcannon43@gmail.com](mailto:fcannon43@gmail.com)

Women's Veteran of Alabama  
Tawanna Jones  
Tel: 205-561-6069  
Cell: 305-761-9353  
[jonesrtawanna\\_DAV@aol.com](mailto:jonesrtawanna_DAV@aol.com)

LVAP Coordinator  
Chris Jones  
Home: 334-360-1719  
Cell: 334-360-1719  
[aldept01lvap@gmail.com](mailto:aldept01lvap@gmail.com)