



CHAPTER 7 & AUX NEWSLETTER
SEP - NOV 2019
CASH AWARDS—ATTEND MONTHLY MEETINGS
2ND SATURDAY AT NOON

COMMANDER'S REPORT - JO ANN MARTINEZ

Chapter and Unit 7 hit the ground running this year. Here's a look at what's happened so far:

- Our eNewsletter launched to improve communication flow and Jim Brenden is our new webmaster. Visit our chapter website at <http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/ca/07> and subscribe to our eNewsletter.
- Since we started the Local Veterans Assistance Program at our chapter in March, we've recorded almost 2000 hours collectively. You can now register to become a volunteer and report your hours on our website. For those of you who prefer to do so by phone, simply call our office at (510) 893-1666 or send us an email at dav.chapter7.oakland@gmail.com. Our office hours are from Monday - Friday from 9AM - 4PM.
- Huge thanks to Alvester and Betty Dean for their countless hours of direct assistance to disabled veterans in our community and making it a family affair. In July, we recognized Mr. Dean, a career-retired US Navy fire chief who served multiple tours in Vietnam, with a custom-made quilt from Quilts of Honor.
- This month, Senior Vice Commander Randall James assumes VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Representative at the SF VA Medical Center. We thank his predecessor Thomas Mack for logging in over 1500 hours serving our veterans at the hospital. Mr. Mack was recognized at the Annual

VAVS Luncheon this year and DAV received an award for its volunteer partnership with the hospital. Mr. Mack now serves as Deputy VAVS Representative.

- We submitted three resolutions to Department Convention in May. At National Convention, our resolution supporting legislation to create presumptive service connection for long-term health effects of antimalarial medications was officially adopted. Michael Hudson is our newly appointed Legislative Chair. Moving forward, our goal is to submit at least five resolutions to Department every year.
- All funds raised in March from our Forget-Me-Not Drive at Piedmont Grocery will go to the National Disaster Relief Fund to support veterans and their families in CA. We thank Piedmont Grocery for their continued support of our fundraiser and everyone for their donations.
- Our 3rd Annual Martinez Community Living Center (CLC) BBQ was a huge success. Special thanks to past National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster and Department Commander Mike Kerr for spending their Saturday with us to serve over 190 veterans and staff. The event was graciously sponsored by Mike and Julie Steinbaugh. This year we had over 20 volunteers.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT - MICKEY GANITCH

Summer is here and it has been hot.

The State and National Conventions are over, but the veterans must be served. We have helped them in the past, but the future is what we are looking at. Forget-Me-Not Drives are being planned. The Chapter and Unit Picnic/BBQ at the Coast Guard Island was a success, with plenty of food and fellowship. National Service Officer and Supervisor William Marigny presented attendees with valuable information.

We're hosting a DAV Information Seminar on 9/14 and the Mobile Service Office will be at our chapter office on 11/4. Contact us for more details.

Starting January 1, 2020, membership dues will be a flat rate of \$300.00 for all new members, regardless of age, with membership remaining free for those 80 years of age or older. Anyone who joins DAV before January 1, 2020, pays the current appropriate rate based on age. Applications received at National Headquarters, a National Service Office, or postmarked on or before December 31, 2019, will be accepted at the current rates.

CHAPLAINS REPORT - CHARLIE JACKSON

Thomas Mack's health is continuing to decline. Michael Hudson experienced another heart attack. Rita Marsden is now in hospice. Dr. Mariana Raba is recovering from an accident. Mickey Ganitch is recovering from fall.

Please keep them in your prayers and inform our office of any sickness or distress.

UNIT COMMANDER DAVID KINZEL

At the 98th National Convention in Orlando, Department of CA Adjutant Dan Contreras was elected as National 4th Junior Vice Commander and our very own Unit 7's Julie Steinbaugh moves up as National Auxiliary 2nd Junior Vice Commander. Congratulations!

Every month at our meetings, we will be collecting gently used items for the DAV Thrift Store in Fresno.

DAVA NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JULIE STEINBAUGH

This past August I had the honor of being elected as the National 2nd Jr. Vice Commander of the DAV Auxiliary. As you might imagine, the DAV and the Auxiliary are very important to me. This was not always the case. In fact, when my husband, Mike, joined Chapter 7 I was thrilled that he would have something to keep him busy. I was involved in other organizations and wanted nothing to do with the DAV or Auxiliary. I'm sure many of you can relate to this experience.

How did I become a dedicated Auxiliary member? Mike took me to a Unit meeting. I don't even remember why I agreed to attend. I do remember the warm greeting I received from the members, particularly Pat Kinzel. Even though I didn't know anyone, I did not feel like a stranger. It made it difficult, actually impossible for me to avoid becoming involved.

I am sharing this experience in hopes that it might encourage membership growth in both Chapter and Unit 7 to increase. Don't be hesitant to invite relatives, friends, and neighbors to one of our meetings. Let them experience the comradeship of being a part of our very special group. Also, if there is someone you don't recognize at the meeting, make an effort to treat him or her like the friend you have not met yet. Hopefully, our future members are waiting to be invited in.

Coming Events

2 SEP	LABOR DAY, FLY YOUR FLAG
7 SEP @ 9AM-3PM	VET2VET RESOURCE FAIR - 1724 ADELINE ST, OAKLAND
11 SEP	9/11 OBSERVANCE
14 SEP @ 11AM-1PM	DAV INFORMATION SEMINAR - 200 GRAND AVE, OAKLAND
12 OCT @ 11AM	EXECUTIVE MEETING, FOLLOWED BY CHAPTER MEETING AT 12 200 GRAND AVE, OAKLAND
3 NOV	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME, FALL BACK ONE HOUR
4 NOV @ 9AM-3PM	MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE 200 GRAND AVE, OAKLAND
5 NOV	ELECTION DAY - GET OUT & VOTE!
9 NOV @ 11AM	EXECUTIVE MEETING, FOLLOWED BY CHAPTER MEETING AT 12 200 GRAND AVE, OAKLAND
11 NOV	VETERANS DAY
28 NOV	THANKSGIVING DAY
15 DEC	CHAPTER/UNIT HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

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