

James D. Rader – Chapter 108 P.O. Box 152257 Cape Coral, FL 33915-2257

JUNE 2015 CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

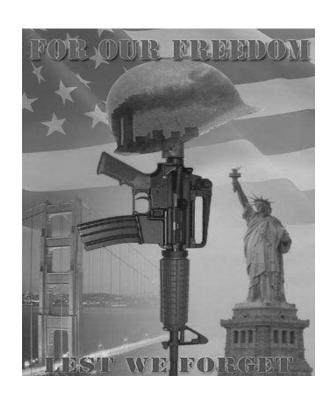
- New Chapter Officers
- Fund-Raising Results
- And, MORE!

Help us in our fund-raising efforts with your donation!

BUILDING BETTER LIVES FOR AMERICA'S DISABLED VETERANS

"For those who have not fought for it, freedom has a taste they will never know."

Author Unknown





DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS JAMES D RADER – CHAPTER 108 P.O. BOX 152257 **CAPE CORAL, FL 33915-2257**

www.DAVCapeCoral.org

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Chapter meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month except July and August at the Elks Lodge, 4631 SE 10th PL. Dinner & Fellowship at 6PM -- Meeting at 7PM -- REMEMBER: BRING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR THE CARING CENTER!



Commander's Corner

June is the last month of our program year and also marks new beginnings. Your Chapter has elected an outstanding group to provide leadership in the coming year and I am confident they will guide the Chapter's efforts toward continued success. My congratulations to each and every one of the new

officers and I know you join me in pledging support to them this year. They will be installed at our next Chapter meeting, June 11th.

May was filled with numerous successful activities, and, a great big "THANK YOU" goes out to all who led and/or participated in our events and meetings. Among the highlights for the month:

- 2015-2016 Chapter Elected Officers:
 - Commander Larry Tiller
 - o Sr. Vice Commander Ron Price
 - o Jr. Vice Commander Ron Popp
 - o Treasurer Carl Turner

Other positions will be appointed by the new Commander after he takes office.

- Again this month, we added several to our membership. Welcome to all the new folks. We hope you find meaningful things to do with the Chapter and enjoy the camaraderie!
- On Wednesday, May 13th, the Director of Hearts and Homes for Veterans and I met with the Executive Director of Lee BIA Builders Care for preliminary discussions on a "veteran's build" to help toward ending homelessness in Lee County.
- On Friday, May 15th, I represented the Chapter at American Legion Post #90's annual dinner awards for Law Enforcement Officer and Fire Fighter of the Year.
- On Thursday, May 21st, we held our first of three scheduled Forget-Me-Not events at the Wal-Mart on Del Prado Blvd. Others are scheduled for September 18th and October 12th. Mark your calendars!!
- After reaching an agreement with the Pastor, on Friday, May 22nd, I held our first-ever open Service Officer session at First Apostolic Church, which is located west of the VA Clinic on Diplomat Parkway. As scheduling permits, I will be there each Monday and Friday, from 1400-1700. Call me for an appointment.



1-Adjutant Brian Gehling, Firefighter of the Year Lt. Kevin **Haines, Commander Charlie Thompson**



2-Law Officer of the Year **Christian Munoz-Luna, Adjutant Gehling, Commander Thompson**

- On Saturday, May 23rd, I was joined by Judge Advocate Camp and Webmaster Schwarz for our annual flag collection at the Lowe's store west of Santa Barbara & Veterans Parkway. These flags will be used in our "Stars for Troops" project.
- On Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th, several of our members attended events at two area cemeteries. Afterward, many of us gathered at the graveside of our Chapter's namesake, Cpl James Doil Rader for a moving memorial led by our Judge Advocate, John Camp. We also had a rifle salute conducted by our Jr Vice Commander, Frank Greulich and our Assistant Treasurer, Robert Taylor. The ceremony ended with prayers and the playing of Taps by member Harvey Charter.



3-L to R: Commander Jerry Conway, Judge Advocate John Camp, Webmaster Peter Schwarz



5-L to R: Robert Taylor, JVC Frank Greulich, Harvey Charter



6-L to R: Judge Advocate John Camp, Chris Camp, Commander-Elect Larry Tiller



4-L to R: Judge Advocate John Camp, Webmaster Peter Schwarz, Commander Jerry Conway

• On Tuesday, June 2nd, I was honored to conduct installation for the new Chapter 144 Officers of LaBelle.

Thank you and may God continue to bless each of you, all first responders and all serving in uniform for the United States of America.

"Welcome HOME!!"

NOT YET A MEMBER OF DAV?

We are dedicated to a single purpose: **empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.** Join the over 1.2 million men and women in our ranks and have your voice heard. To learn more about the DAV mission and how you can get assistance and/or volunteer and support the DAV, visit the <u>membership page</u> on <u>www.dav.org</u>.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT?

- CVS is seeking Pharmacy Technicians, Clerks/Cashiers and Shift Supervisors. See www.CVSHealth.com/careers.
- Wal-Mart is <u>hiring</u> veterans
- DAV hosts *All Veterans Career Fairs* nationally
- Try the Lee County Human Services Information Network (HSIN)

- Search Jobs at **Paragon Systems**
- Check out www.FLJobNetwork.com
- **Bankers Life** is a veteran-friendly employer

NOTEWORTHY:

- Florida Legislation recently signed into law by Governor Scott of interest to Military/Veterans:
 - SB 0132 will be effective July 1, 2015. The bill allows a permanently and totally disabled veteran to submit a VA Form Letter 27-333, or its equivalent, to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in lieu of a certificate of disability when renewing or replacing a disabled parking permit.
 - HB 27 Driver Licenses & Identification Cards This bill authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to accept a military personnel identification card as proof of a Social Security number when applying for a Florida driver's license or identification card.
 - HB 185 Public Records/Active Duty Servicemembers and Families This bill provides an
 exemption from public records requirements for certain identification and location information of
 current or former service members of the United States Armed Forces, Reserve Forces, or National
 Guard, including their spouses and children.
 - HB 329 Special License Plates This bill authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue new special use license plates for Combat Action Ribbon, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, World War II Veteran, Woman Veteran, and Navy Submariner.
- In the May 2015 issue of *Family Circle*, "one of our own" was featured in an article titled "20 Most Influential Moms" where the world is introduced to Naomi Mathis, who, after serving three deployments, is now a DAV Transition Service Officer. For more, click <u>here.</u>
- Wondering what the *House Committee on Veterans Affairs* is up to? Visit their website and see a list of <u>Congressionally Chartered Organizations</u> including Disabled American Veterans (Chartered June 17, 1932) and many others. From that same page, you can link to a <u>listing of the 80 veterans</u> currently serving in the House of the 114th Congress, including four from Florida. Another link from that page will take you to "<u>Additional Resources</u>" where you can link to information on subjects ranging from <u>Agent Orange</u> to <u>PTSD</u> to <u>Women Veterans</u>. There is also a link to the on-line version of the <u>2014 Edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans</u>, <u>Dependents and Survivors</u>.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Service members returning with disabilities should know their rights under the ADA.
- When you renew your Florida driver's license, remember to check-off for donation to DAV. Each one generates \$1.00 for DAV Florida. The proceeds fund the Service Program and averages \$55K/year.
- The Fair Housing Act Protects People with Disabilities Against Discrimination By Guest Blogger Bryan Greene, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- The <u>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</u> has released the <u>first ever hospital compare star</u> ratings.
- Our Chapter supports the <u>Cape Coral Caring Center Food Bank</u>. <u>PLEASE</u> remember to bring one or more non-perishable items to every meeting. The less fortunate of our community, which includes **many** homeless veterans, depends on our collective generosity.
- To view current and past issues of DAV Magazine, click here.
- To view various DAV National reports and bulletins, click here.
- To view Current DAV National News, click here.
- DAV Department of Florida Current Newsletter and more is available here.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Points of Light** is the largest organization in the world dedicated to volunteer service. Learn about some of the over 250,000 projects they undertake annually.
- The *ADA* (*Americans with Disabilities Act*) *Advisory Council of Southwest Florida* provides oversight of ADA-related issues and assistance to public and private enterprises in its implementation. The Board currently has a need for volunteers to represent them in various forums and provide advocacy; advocacy training will be provided. If you are able/willing to make a commitment, please contact Kevin Berry at (239) 292-3469 or Kev_SWFADABoard@EmbarqMail.com.
- Lee County Volunteers:
 - o Emergency Management Volunteers Contact Sam Harvey <u>SHarvey@LeeGov.com</u> 533-06155
 - o Amateur Radio Emergency Service 282-1526 or Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club website.
 - o Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) 461-6109 or South West Florida Medical Reserve Corps website.
 - o Lee County Sheriff's V.O.I.C.E. 477-1422 or Lee County Sheriff's VOICE website.

If you are aware of other volunteer opportunities in the area, please notify the Editor at DAVFL108@GMail.com.

Sickness and Distress - Comrades in need of our support and prayers:

- o Hunter Coleman
- o Larry D'Angelo
- o Coin York
- o Peter and Kathy Palkowski
- o Doug Kay
- o John Krenek Life Member and Uncle of Past Commander Frank Antos Passed June 3, 2015

If you are aware of a Comrade in need, please notify the Commander and Chaplain. And remember, the very nature of our organization dictates that all our members have ailments and deserve our prayers.

Service Officers' Corner

Jerry Conway	Peter Palkowski	John Camp
301-518-7467	239-283-5271	239-574-8665
DAVFL108@GMail.com	PBPalk77@EmbarqMail.com	JJUSNA49@AOL.com

The first provision of the DAV Mission Statement is: "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".

Filing claims with government agencies can be confusing and time consuming, especially for the severely disabled who are often incapacitated and lack the time or ability to travel to a VA location for assistance. We are fortunate to have three Chapter Service Officers (CSO) who can provide services free of charge. They are willing to meet with you at a mutually agreeable place to explain benefits and assist in filing the proper documents. Documents are then forwarded for review by Department and National Service Officers (DSO/NSO) prior to filing with the government. Our Service Officers have a close working relationship with the DAV representatives at the VA Clinic in Cape Coral to expedite or inquire on the status of benefit claims already filed. We encourage members and their families to use these service officers to assist "in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service". You need not be a member of DAV to use these services.

<u>Chapter meetings</u> are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Elks Lodge, and the <u>Executive Board</u> meets the preceding Monday at 1:30 PM in the American Legion Post 90. Members are ALWAYS welcome and encouraged to attend both meetings.



Visit our chapter website at www.DAVCapeCoral.org for other pertinent information and links to related websites!

<u>Please</u> keep our roster current with your contact information, especially your **EMAIL** address, and telephone and cell numbers. Remember, email is fast, inexpensive and inclusive! Please provide your email address to help contain costs on mailings.

Upcoming Events!

- **June 14**th Flag Day
- September 18th and October 12th Forget-Me-Not events at the Wal-Mart on Del Prado Blvd
- Wednesday, November 11th Veterans Day Dakota Myer, 27-year-old Marine and Medal of Honor recipient will be attending various events in and around the area. As details become available, you will read about it here!

STAY CURRENT ON POW/MIA ISSUES BY FREQUENTLY VISITING THE HOME PAGE OF <u>www.pow-miafamilies.org</u> and reading their periodic <u>updates</u> and their newsletters.

As of the most recent (<u>April 10, 2015</u>) official release, there are still **1,627 individuals missing and unaccounted for**, including 57 from Florida.

Branch of Service News Links:

- http://www.af.mil/News.aspx
- http://www.navy.mil/listStories.asp?x=4
- http://www.marines.mil/News.aspx
- http://www.army.mil/news/
- http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2156594/
- http://www.defense.gov/news/articles.aspx

Other Local (Cape Coral) Military and related Community Organizations:

- <u>Korean War Veterans</u> meet each Tuesday from 11:00 A.M. till 1:00 P.M. at the Invest in America Veterans Foundation 4820 Leonard Street.
- <u>Submarine Veterans Barb Base</u> meets the 1st Tuesday each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Elks Lodge, 4631 SE 10th Place. More info: 239-542-3038.
- Marine Corps League Meets 2nd Mondays at 7:30 P.M. at the Southwest Florida Military Museum, 4820 Leonard Street. Marines, Fleet Marines and any honorable discharged veteran is welcome. Membership \$35/annually. 239-549-1853.
- <u>Fleet Reserve Association</u> Meets 2nd Thursdays at 11:30 with Lunch following meeting. Former and active duty Navy, Coast Guard and Marines are welcome. John Panko 239-540-4276. Perkins Restaurant, 1502 Cape Coral Parkway East.
- <u>Vietnam Veterans Luncheon</u> Every Thursday from 11:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M. at the Invest in America Veterans Foundation 4820 Leonard Street. All veterans welcome. FREE. Donations.

- <u>Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) #594</u> Meets 3rd Mondays at 7:00 P.M. at VFW Post 8463, 4709 SE 11th Place. All veterans welcome. 239-220-2369.
- <u>American Merchant Marines</u> Southwest Florida Chapter meets 3rd Tuesdays at 11:30 A.M. except July and August, at the Invest in America Veterans Foundation 4820 Leonard Street. Mary Hodges, 239-543-4072.
- <u>Military Order of the Purple Heart</u> Meets 3rd Tuesdays at 10:30 A.M. with Lunch following at the Invest in America Veterans Foundation 4820 Leonard Street. All wounded veterans of Southwest Florida are invited. Jack Wagner, 239-826-6062.
- United Service Organizations (USO) is a unique source for information. Check it out!

Other important information and news coverage:

- June is PTSD Awareness Month See more <u>here.</u>
- <u>Patriot Guard Riders</u> is, according to their "about us" page, "a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation. We have one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security including Fallen Military Heroes, First Responders and Honorably Discharged Veterans." In addition to the website, more info is available from Cheryl Haines, Dixie Region Captain, Dixie@PatriotGuard.org.
- Recent coverage from the New York Times that may be of interest:
- ➤ <u>When Medical Errors Involve Service Members</u> Readers discuss the lack of information and recourse for members of the military who have complaints about medical treatment.
- ➤ <u>Past and Present in a Vietnamese Village</u> By SETH MYDANS Decades after an American medic made portraits of a village's children, a photographer tracks them down in today's Vietnam.
- ➤ <u>The Civil War Veterans of London</u> By EVAN FLEISCHER After the Civil War, thousands of veterans moved overseas, with hundreds settling in Britain. What happened to them?
- ➤ A Wartime Anniversary for Planes and Memories By MATTHEW ROSENBERG Aging veterans were among those watching as dozens of fighter planes and bombers from World War II buzzed over Washington on the 70th anniversary of the Allied victory in Europe.
- ➤ <u>Iran: American Prisoner Resumes Hunger Strike Over Languishing Case</u> By RICK GLADSTONE Amir Hekmati, the Marine veteran imprisoned in Iran longer than any other American inmate there, resumed a suspended hunger strike on Monday out of despair over the apparent paralysis in his case.
- ➤ <u>Veterans Battle for Jobs on the Home Front</u> By ROBERT W. GOLDFARB Outdated résumés and misconceptions about mental health issues are some of the hurdles former service members face when they're looking for work.
- ➤ <u>Medals and Memories for Jewish Veterans From Russia</u> By BENJAMIN MUELLER As their numbers dwindle, the former soldiers wanted their stories heard on the 70th anniversary of the Allied victory in World War II.
- West Point and the Culinary Institute of America: An Exchange of Experiences By TERRY BABCOCK-LUMISH AND MAJOR ERIN HADLOCK In the past few years, the United States Military Academy at West Point and the Culinary Institute of America have grown closer and, in doing so, have reclaimed their common history, write former and current leaders of the partnership.
- ➤ 12 Years Later, a Mystery of Chemical Exposure in Iraq Clears Slightly By C. J. CHIVERS Since moving abandoned barrels out of an Iraqi warehouse in 2003, a number of soldiers complained of health effects. But they found the Army evasive.

- At N.F.L. Games, Patriotism Can Get Deflated, Too By FRANCIS X. CLINES Salutes to military personnel at some football games aren't a charitable offering they're paid for by the Pentagon and National Guard.
- A Victory for Medical Marijuana By LAWRENCE DOWNES In an important step, a Senate committee has voted to let Veterans Affairs doctors sign recommendation forms for medical marijuana.
- ➤ While at War, Female Soldiers Fight to Belong By BENEDICT CAREY Even as women distinguish themselves as enlisted soldiers, many struggle with depression and a sense of alienation in an intensely male military world.

There's more news from Military.com

- <u>Video: Armed Forces Day Tribute</u> In honor of Armed Forces Day, get a look at the awe-inspiring power of our military in this action-packed video. <u>Watch Now</u>
- Obama Nominates First Airman for JCS Leadership Position in 10 Years
- Airman Gets 25 Years in Prison for Sexual Crimes
- Judge Tosses Suit Tied to Widow of Airman Who Died in C-17 Crash
- Military Equipment Guide
- 37 Been-There-Done-That Nicknames for Military Gear
- Lawmaker Says Air Force Delaying Electronic Warfare Missile
- VA Claims Living Veteran Is Dead, Sends Burial Check, Cuts Benefits
- Lawmaker Says Air Force Delaying Electronic Warfare Missile
- Sheppard AFB Receives First Spatial Disorientation Flight Trainer
- No Witnesses or Arguments at Air Force Academy Sexual Assault Hearing
- Chuck Norris Warns Special Forces Exercise Is a Threat to Texans
- Hunter Disputes Alleged Murder Admission by Army Special Forces Major
- Obama Presents Air Force Academy Football Team with Trophy
- Senators Want 'Permanent' Solution to Save A-10 from Retirement
- VFW, DAV Joint Legal Fight Against VA Over New Claims System
- Deals Between National Guard and NFL Cause Stir
- 10 Great Freebies for Military and Their Families
- Air Force Academy Ceremony Honors Tuskegee Airmen
- McCain Hits Bomb-Sniffing Elephants, NASCAR Ads as Wasteful Spending
- Hundreds of Special Olympians Compete in 29th State Games at Keesler
- Airman Revamps F-16 Munitions Tracking, Wins Top Award
- Hedge Fund Leader, Naval Academy Grad Receives 2 Years in Prison
- 'Mighty Fine at 109': America's Oldest Vet Marks Birthday with Cigar









PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS AND LET THEM KNOW YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

Interested in your business or organization being advertised in this newsletter?

Our circulation reaches nearly 600 members of our Chapter of disabled veterans and their families. In addition, another 200 +/- copies are distributed at drop points around the community. Contact the Editor (<u>DAVFL108@GMail.com</u> or 301.518.7467) to discuss how with a small donation, you will reach hundreds of potential customers throughout the community.

Business card size ads: \$50 donation/annually. 1/4 page size ads: \$100 donation/annually. 1/2 page size ads: \$150 donation/annually. Full-page size ads: \$200 donation/annually.

In Memoriam...

As we "go to press" we have learned of the passing of our comrade, John P. Krenek, DAV Life Member, on Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

John was 95 years old and pre-deceased by his loving wife, Lillian. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II as a senior aircraft mechanic. He survived numerous strafing and bombing attacks from the Japanese and earned four Bronze Stars. His military reputation was as a "can-do" mechanic, piecing together parts from multiple aircraft to yield one good plane.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete, but will be conducted at Coral Ridge Funeral Home, 1630 SW Pine Island Rd — Cape Coral, Florida 33991.

He was always smiling, cracking jokes and a pleasure to be around. He will be sorely missed. May he rest in peace.

The funds raised from the Raffle below are used solely for the benefit of Veterans and their families in our Community.

PO Box 152257, Cape Coral, FL 33915-2257 - Annual Fund Raising Event Drawing: 2 ND Thursday in October (General Chapter Meeting) Donation: \$2.00 per ticket Cash — 3 Drawings: 1 st \$300.00 2nd \$200.00 3rd \$100.00 YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. ALL TICKET STUBS AND MONEY MUST BE RECEIVED VIA US MAIL NLT OCTOBER 1 ST .	NAME, ADDRESS, PH
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