

**OFFICERS 2011-2012**

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<u>Sr.Vice Cmdr</u>	JoAnn Jackson	<u>Legislative Officer</u>	Earl Mason
<u>Jr.Vice Cmdr</u>	Rafael Rodriguez	<u>SGT at Arms</u>	Ronald Butt
<u>Adjutant</u>	Jim Daniel	<u>Officer of the Day</u>	Campbell Love
<u>Treasurer</u>	Jim Daniel	<u>Newsletter editor</u>	Anita Theriault
<u>Chaplain</u>	Leisa Todero	<u>Printer</u>	Rusty Rutstein 321-723-9925

**Executive board members**

Earl Mason, Hank Merckson, Jessie Owens, Jean Gautreaux

**Service Officers**

Earl Mason, Brian Mitchell, Henry Merckson, JoAnn Jackson, Rafael Rodriguez, James Daniel,  
Louis Velez, Jean Gautreaux

J.L. Golightly – Chapter #32  
2265 North Harbor City Blvd  
Melbourne FL 32935-6653  
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**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NEWSLETTER  
MAY 2013 – AUGUST 2013  
SUMMER SERVICE HOURS – MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 9AM – 1PM  
E-mail: [fldav32@bellsouth.net](mailto:fldav32@bellsouth.net) Website: [WWW.FLDav32.Org](http://WWW.FLDav32.Org)**

***Commander's Note***

As you can see from the list above, we've had some changes. After three productive terms Earl Mason decided to retire as Commander and concentrate on service work. Jim Daniel felt that he didn't have enough to do as a service officer and web master so he offered to run for Treasurer and volunteered to be my Adjutant freeing me up from two jobs that I've held for the last seven years and five years respectively. For this I will be eternally grateful. I remain as building engineer and janitor, apparently, although any volunteers for either of those positions will be accepted.

One of my goals is to increase attendance at our monthly general membership meetings. We have somewhat north of 1200 lifetime members and are fortunate to get 1% of them to come to a meeting. That would be the eight service officers, the Chaplain, OD and SA with one other person without a position listed above. It's said that 10% of an organization's membership actually runs it. Wouldn't THAT be great?! It has also been said that an army travels on its stomach. That being so, I intend to have some sort of post-meeting refreshments at every gathering. In March it was a Publix ringleader sandwich and in April it was pizza, along with soda and coffee from our kitchen. Since there were no leftovers, I can only assume that those in attendance approved. We CAN be a social organization, too. (Start thinking December party!)

Of course, our primary reason for being is assisting veterans disabled in the service of their country. Our eight service officers are doing a terrific job and see, on average, 75 clients every month. We now have six private counseling offices and usually have four to six service officers available every Monday and Wednesday (National holidays excepted) to assist you and your disabled veteran friends and neighbors prepare their disability claims for submission to the VA. We also host the DAV Mobile Service Office twice a year, bringing National Service Officers from the St Petersburg regional office to our home to add expertise at a higher level. Of course, all of this is free to you!

If you have any comments or suggestions, send them to me at: [fldav32@bellsouth.net](mailto:fldav32@bellsouth.net) .

By the time you get this, the Chapter will have changed to our summer schedule and will not be having the monthly meeting until September 25<sup>th</sup>. Our service will be Wednesdays only for the last two weeks of June and for July and August unless we have volunteers to staff it. Check on our website for any changes. ( [www.fldav23.org](http://www.fldav23.org) )

**NEWSLETTER**

Please send the coupon below and your check for \$10 to subscribe to our newsletter. If you're due for renewal, don't forget to do so. If you have anything for the newsletter let us know.

Make check payable to:

J.L. GOLIGHTLY CHAPTER #32  
2265 NORTH HARBOR CITY BLVD  
MELBOURNE, FL 32935-6653

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NEWSLETTER  BOOSTERS

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**BOOSTERS**

Donations from our DAV Boosters help defray the chapter costs. The donation will be \$10.00 annually; you may use the form above for the newsletter or booster donation. Check boxes indicating what you are donating for -Thank you.

### Flag Rules

The United States Flag Code establishes advisory rules for display and care of the flag of the United States. It is Section 1 of Title 4 of the United States Code (4U.S.C) Here is one pertinent part:

#### **Parading and Saluting the flag**

- When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers
- When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right. When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.
- To salute, all persons come to attention.
- Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute.
- Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present, but not in uniform, may render the military salute.
- Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to their left shoulder, hand over the heart.
- Members of uniformed organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.

**Rumor control:** The amount of misinformation conveyed from one person to another concerning VA benefits is staggering! Unfortunately, a little bad information can go a long way towards making a veteran or other eligible claimant decide not to file a claim for VA benefits they have earned and may be entitled to. Got questions about VA benefits? Please contact us for the “straight scoop”.

**Good Advice:** Suggest you make a special file for VA correspondence. Keep **all VA correspondence** you receive in the file(s). These are very important documents and most likely you are going to need them to file future claims, or send in appeals or qualify for State benefits and more. We are learning on a daily basis that too many veterans/families seem to lose VA rating decision and other important VA correspondence. The unfortunate results can be lost benefits and/or greatly delayed benefits. If it is from the VA, it is a **keeper!**

#### New National Cemetery

NCA has acquired land for a new national cemetery near Scottsmoor in Brevard County, Florida and the Master Planning and Design Development process is currently underway. One of the key actions that will take place over the next few months is the official naming of this new VA national cemetery. Here is the official NCA guidance regarding the names for national cemeteries.

*Consistent with Public Law 105-368 (codified at 38 U.S.C. Section 531), a VA facility, structure or real property cannot be named for anything other than the geographic area in which it is located, unless Congress passes a specific law to that effect.*

- a. **National cemeteries** may be named only for the geographic area in which the facility is located. Names for national cemeteries will be based on three criteria:
  - (1) The name helps identify the location of the cemetery site;
  - (2) The name has broad appeal to the veteran population; and
  - (3) The name provides a positive impression through its relation to history, region, community, or other notable geographic features (lake, river, mountain, etc.).
- b. Responsibility for naming a new national cemetery rests with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. NCA is required to do the following”
  - (1) Collect and coordinate name suggestions from various sources;
  - (2) Evaluate proposed names against the criteria as set forth in this directive;
  - (3) Prepare a decision document with recommendations and background for review by the Deputy Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, and submission to the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs.

So, we need to make sure that the proposed cemetery name--first and foremost—helps identify the location of the site, but also it should have broad appeal to the veteran population and reflect an effort to collect name suggestions from various sources. I'd like to ask for the help of your office in regard to making sure we

(New National Cemetery – continued)

consider names with broad appeal and that we make an affirmative effort to collect suggestions from the veteran community.

Do you have any name suggestions that you would like to submit for VA consideration? They will be compiling a list of all proposed names within the next 45 days so please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

**Send suggestions to:**

Glenn Madderom  
Chief, Cemetery Development and Improvement Service  
575 N. Pennsylvania St, Room 495  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1581  
Phone: 317-916-3797  
Cell: 317-409-1634 FAX: 317-226-0206

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Members of DAV and the Auxiliary now seeing the fruits of hard work and fundraising comes with the satisfaction of knowing you've done good for truly deserving people. Nothing could be more true than what fundraising has done for the children of fallen and injured veterans.

Longtime DAV partner, Golden Corral, hosts several yearly **free Camp Corral events** for more than 2,000 children of fallen and injured veterans. And thanks to the fundraising of our members, the Auxiliary, and DAV Headquarters, 400 of those children will be attending as part of the "Just B Kids" scholarship program sponsored by the DAV.

Camp Corral, which was launched with just one campsite in 2011, will take place in 18 cities across the nation this year and will provide children between the ages of 8 and 15 from military and veterans' families the chance to enjoy a week of non-stop fun and excitement.

DAV and DAVA members, to include Auxiliary Juniors, have strongly supported the "Just B Kids" program, raising thousands of dollars to help more children attend Camp Corral and cope with the unique challenges they face, having either lost a parent or watched a parent sustain an injury.

If you have a special child in your life who would like to experience the excitement of Camp Corral, please apply for a scholarship through the DAV and DAVA "Just B Kids" program by logging onto [www.justbkids.org](http://www.justbkids.org).

You can read more about the "Just B Kids" program on page 35 of the March/April 2013 *DAV Magazine*, which is now available in hardcopy and through the DAV Magazine app for iPad. The brand new, free app is available for download through the iTunes store.

**Temporary 100% Rating**

If you have surgery for a disability that is rated Service-Connected by the VA, you may be entitled to a Temporary 100% Service-Connected Rating and payment at the 100% rate. Once the surgery is completed, if your doctor prescribes convalescence of 30 days or more, you can get the Temporary 100% Rating for each 30-day period of convalescence. We can help you apply for this benefit.

Please bring us the Hospital Discharge Report for Inpatient Surgery or the Surgical Report for Outpatient Surgery. Additionally, bring us a written order from your doctor specifying exactly how long a period of convalescence they are prescribing. We will assist you in filing the claim to the VA for award of the Temporary 100% Rating.

Please note you can't apply for this benefit prior to the actual completion of the surgery. Upon completion of the period of convalescence, the VA will assign the appropriate rating, based on the residual problems that exist at that time. This may require that VA schedule you for a physical exam.

Finally, there are a couple of other ways a Temporary 100% Rating may be assigned. One is surgery with severe postoperative residuals, such as incompletely healed surgical wounds, stumps from recent amputation and more. Another is immobilization by cast without surgery of one or more major joints. So, please come see us if you have had surgery for a Service-Connect Disability. We will help you determine if you may be entitled to the Temporary 100% Rating.

## **VA, SSA and IRS Cut Red Tape for Veterans and Survivors**

*New Policy Eliminates Paperwork, Allows More VA Staff to Focus on Eliminating Claims Backlog*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it is cutting red tape for Veterans by eliminating the need for them to complete an annual Eligibility Verification Report (EVR). VA will implement a new process for confirming eligibility for benefits, and staff that had been responsible for processing the old form will instead focus on eliminating the compensation claims backlog.

Historically, beneficiaries have been required to complete an EVR each year to ensure their pension benefits continued. Under the new initiative, VA will work with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify continued eligibility for pension benefits.

“By working together, we have cut red tape for Veterans and will help ensure these brave men and women get the benefits they have earned and deserve,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

VA estimates it would have sent nearly 150,000 EVRs to beneficiaries in January 2013. Eliminating these annual reports reduces the burden on Veterans, their families, and survivors because they will not have to return these routine reports to VA each year in order to avoid suspension of benefits. It also allows VA to redirect more than 100 employees that usually process EVRs to work on eliminating the claims backlog.

“Having already instituted an expedited process that enables wounded warriors to quickly access Social Security disability benefits, we are proud to work with our federal partners on an automated process that will make it much easier for qualified Veterans to maintain their VA benefits from year to year,” said Michael J. Asture, Commissioner of Social Security.

“The IRS is taking new steps to provide critical data to help speed the benefits process for the nation’s veterans and Veteran Affairs,” said Beth Tucker, IRS Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support. “The IRS is pleased to be part of a partnership with VA and SSA that will provide needed data quickly and effectively to move this effort forward.”

All beneficiaries currently receiving VA pension benefits will receive a letter from VA explaining these changes and providing instructions on how to continue to submit their unreimbursed medical expenses.

More information about VA pension benefits is available at: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension> and other VA benefit programs on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal: *eBenefits at [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)*

## **LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO VETS AND SURVIVORS**

### **SBP/DIC Offset Bill Introduced in Senate**

Last month Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced legislation (S. 734) to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset. The Senate measure is a companion bill to legislation (H.R. 32) introduced by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) in January.

The SBP/DIC Offset mandates the payment of the VA Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) before any Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payment. In many instances this totally eliminates the money from SBP, especially in the case of enlisted personnel. These bills would allow for both payments to be made without any offsets.

### **New Survivor Bill**

Another survivor friendly bill, S. 735, was introduced by Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairmen Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT). The bill would:

- Change remarriage rules so that survivors who remarry can continue to receive benefits under the same rules that apply to other federal benefits. Current rules cancel benefits for a spouse who remarried before age 57 but allow the benefits to restart if the marriage ends. The bill would change the age to 55.
- Extend supplemental payments to survivors with children for five years from the current two years.
- Expand benefits for children with Agent Orange-related spina bifida to include those whose parents served in Thailand. Currently these are limited to children of Vietnam veterans.
- Provide grief counseling in retreat settings to survivors whose spouses died while on active duty. Children would be included.

***Be sure to contact our senators and congressmen asking them to vote for this legislation.***

**Bills of interest: A new congress brings new legislation**

*Members of the House and Senate reintroduced several bills of interest in the first few weeks of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. Key bills include:*

**H.R. 32 – Repeal the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset.** Rep. Joe Wilson’s (R-SC) bill would repeal current law requiring a dollar-for-dollar offset of SBP annuities from VA DIC for survivors of service members who die of service-connected causes.

**H.R. 55 – Don’t let a funding gap stop military pay.** Rep Michael Fitzpatrick’s (R-PA) bill would protect against any interruption of pay for service members and federal law-enforcement officials in the event of a government shutdown.

**H.R. 241 – Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act.** Rep. Dennis Ross’ (R-FL) bill would ensure veterans seeking treatment at a VA facility get appointments within 30 days.

**H.R. 258 – Stolen Valor Act.** Rep. Joe Heck’s (R-NV) bill would make it a crime for a person to profit by misrepresenting his or her military service or eligibility for military awards or decorations.

**H.R. 333 – Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act.** Rep Sanford Bishop’s (D-GA) bill would authorize the full concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans’ disability compensation for military regardless of disability rating, including those with Chapter 61 medical retirements.

**H.R. 357 – GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act.** Rep. Jeff Miller’s (R-FL) bill would let all student veterans enroll in any public college and pay in-state tuition, even if they have not established residency in the state.

**S.6 - Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act.** Sen. Harry Reid’s (D-NV) bill would provide grants for hiring veterans as first responders, a single unified employment portal, job-training benefits for older veterans, and upgraded transition services for service members leaving active duty.

**Bills of Interest: Proposed legislation addresses key inequities**

*The House and Senate introduced in February several new bills of importance to the military community. These recently introduced bills include:*

**H.R. 543 – Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act.** Rep Chris Gibson’s (R-NY) bill would authorize presumptive service connection for “blue water” Navy Vietnam veterans on disability claims for health conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange for ships that sailed within a specific distance from Vietnam.

**S. 210 – Stolen Valor Act.** Sen. Dean Heller’s (R-NV) bill would make it a crime for a person to profit by misrepresenting his or her military service or eligibility for military awards or decorations.

**S. 234 – Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2013.** Sen. Harry Reid’s (D-NV) bill would authorize the full concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans’ disability compensation for military retirees, regardless of disability rating including service members with Chapter 61 medical retirements.

**S. 240 – Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction Act.** Sens. Jon Tester’s (D-MT) and Saxby Chambliss’ (R-GA) bill would ease the current requirement that any 90-day period of active service creditable toward reserve retirement eligibility must be completed within the same fiscal year.

**S. 294 and H.R. 671 – The Ruth Moore Act of 2013.** Tester’s and Rep. Chellie Pingree’s (D-ME) respective bills would ease unfair impediments that now inappropriately deter award of veteran’s disability benefits for many victims of military sexual trauma.

**Please contact your Senators and Congressmen, however you choose to do it, and ask that they support these bills**

*The people you meet in life may not remember you for what you did or for what you said, but they will remember you for how you made them feel.*

***BOOSTERS AUGUST – JAN – MAR 2013***

Jim & Raye Adams	Jose & Marilyn Albaladejo	Angelo Barbato
Paul Brandt	Terry & Renee Byrant	James Carleton
James Congdon	William Dias	William Dickerson
Hubert & Teru Dickinson	William Edwards	Kenneth Fallin
Tim Hammons	JoAnn Jackson	Marlin Jacobs
Ed & Janet Jedrzejczyk	John Lawler	William Lee
Robert Lomenzo	Robert C MacDougall	Raul & Gladys Mercado
Marvin Miller	Ray Plymale	Sam & Yani Randolph
Tejpal & Ruhini Samaroo	Noel Seale	James Slay
Fernand St Amand	David & Josie Sulzbach	Teresa Tauroney
Stephen Wilson	William Wright	Andrew Zorbis

Since our meetings are held at 7:30PM, it may be challenging for some of our members to get themselves there and home, since it is usually dark by the time we finish. We have many members living quite close to one another who are unaware that another DAV'er is on the next block. If you are interested in attending, and transportation is a problem, let us know and we will TRY to find someone who DOES attend to pick you up and take you home.

We would also issue a challenge to some of our younger members to seek out an older member and offer to bring them to a meeting, or to the office for service work.

Whenever you're in the building, ask one of the service officers for a supply of our "generic" business cards to carry around in the event you meet a veteran who could use our help. Whenever I see someone out in the community wearing a jacket, shirt, or cap that would indicate that they are a veteran, I thank them for their service and ask them if the VA is properly compensating them for their injuries or illnesses. Quite a few say "NO", surprise, surprise! We are there for them. FREE!

***Aluminum cans***

We are still collecting aluminum cans for recycling and annually realize about six or seven hundred dollars from this effort, which helps with Chapter expenses. While the majority of cans are soft drink and beer cans, others such as Spam and some pet food cans are also aluminum and are acceptable. All we ask, for the benefit of the disabled vets opening the bags at the recycling center, is that you rinse the pet food cans out before bagging them as they can become a bit "ripe" during the time they spend in our shed awaiting the trip to the center. Please remove any paper labels.

.....Thanks

## *Stuff Available*

The chapter has accumulated a number of useful items over the years that are available to our members for a reasonable donation, sometimes for nothing!

We have four electric mobility chairs. One is a Metris brand and another is a Jet. Both have new batteries in them and we would only ask that the chapter be reimbursed for the cost of the batteries (\$180 per chair). The other two are Hoveround chairs and need batteries. These are available for what they cost us (\$0). If we fix them up, the cost of batteries or whatever is needed will be requested.

We have two derrick-type scooter lifts, which would mount in the bed of a pickup or in the side door of a van. These are also free.

We have a Harmar AL600 chair lift, which came out of a PT Cruiser and will fit in a number of mini vans and SUVs. The manufacturer can tell you if it will work in a specific vehicle ( [www.hamar.com](http://www.hamar.com) ). They need the make, model, and year of the vehicle and the same info for the mobility chair being lifted to be able to check compatibility. Professional installation is required. It is NOT the kind that picks up a chair with a passenger in it. This is another freebie.

We have a computer desk/hutch that measures 43"W x 24"D x 54"H which is excess to our needs and is yours for the asking.

There are a number of office chairs in search of a friendly office. Our offices are indeed, friendly, but already have enough chairs. \$5 will get you a decent chair and make your chapter happy.

There are two three-wheeled gasoline-powered lawn edgers. One is a 3.5 HP "Lawn Machines" unit with a Briggs and Stratton engine that appears to be nearly new. The other is a Sears Craftsman unit that has a tad more wear on it. Both engines spin freely and have decent compression but probably have not been run in 10 years. We would like \$30 (OBO) for the first and \$15 (OBO) for the other.

We have 9 or 10 aluminum walkers (not the ones with a seat, unfortunately) which can be yours for a song (we won't really make you sing).

Delivery of any of the above can be arranged using our chapter trailer and the Commander's old SUV. All we would ask is an appropriate donation to assist with maintenance of the trailer or other chapter equipment. The SUV is fully depreciated and the commander donates his gas.

**Disclaimer:** The Disabled American Veterans, J.L. Golightly, Inc. Chapter #32 publishes this newsletter as a service to its members as well as a public information service on Veteran's Affairs. The contents do not reflect the views or opinions of the membership, the Chapter officers or National parent organizations of the DAV.