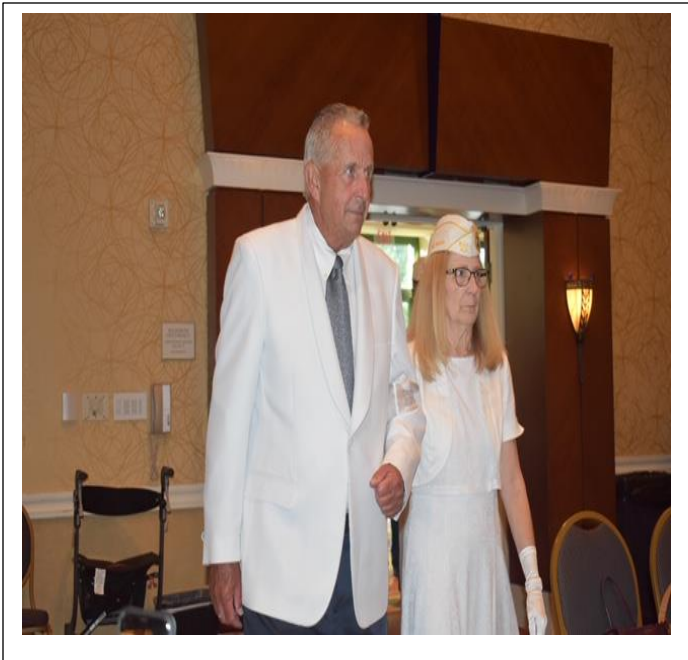




Department of Florida July 2019 Newsletter



Top Left DAV Adjutant Andy Marshall & DAVA Adjutant Diane Franz at Memorial Service
 Top right Leon Kelly & AJ Bacon pictured with National Adjutant Marc Burgess
 Bottom Left National Senior vice Commander Butch Whitehead & National 1st Junior Vice Commander Donald Day pose with National 2nd Junior Vice Commander Andy Marshall at Commanders & Adjutants Conference
 Bottom Right Newly Elected Department Commander Thomas Ayala & DAVA Department Commander Amie Raber at Memorial Service

Department Commander Thomas Ayala



I want to thank the members of the BEST Department in DAV for electing me as your Department Commander for 2019-2020. I will continue the hard work that our Past Department Commanders have done. I would also like to congratulate all of our new Department Line Officers. We have a great Department Line and I am looking forward to working with them. Thanks to our National representative National Adjutant Marc Burgess for attending our convention.

Your new Department Officers for 2019-2020 are as follows:

- Thomas Ayala Department Commander
- Duane Godfrey Department Senior Vice Commander
- John Raber Junior Vice Commander
- Chip Hanson Department Chaplain
- John Markiewicz Department Judge Advocate
- Wally Tyson Department Inspector
- Andy Marshall Department Adjutant/Treasurer

The Department Line Officers will continue travelling around the State to visit our Chapters. My goal is to have our line officers visit every chapter this year. The visits are to offer our assistance to Chapters and get to know the membership a little better. If you wish a Department Officer visit your chapter for a function or other event,

Please send your request to our Department Adjutant Andy Marshall at andy@davfla.com.

I will continue to request all Chapters submit their LVAP hours. Although we have 56 Chapters, we only receive LVAP hours from less than half of our Chapters. We only had 23 Chapters submit their LVAP reports this past year. I am asking every Chapter to submit their reports to Thomas @davfla.com. Please register for DAV's newest way to provide assistance to veterans and/or register a veteran who needs assistance at VolunteerforVeterans.org.

If you did not attend our recent Department Convention, you missed out on a lot of fun and comraderie. Our theme was Roaring 20's and several members dressed for the theme. Prizes were given for best costumes and winner of the Charleston dance contest. Another goal of mine is to increase the number of Chapters and Delegates to attend our Mid-winter Conference in January and our next Department Convention in June 2020.

All Chapters should have held their elections for the year 2019-2020. Please ensure you have mailed the Chapter Officer Report to National and Department Headquarters and the National Service Office. Please ensure you provide a chapter email address as almost all communications are sent from Department Headquarters via email. Also, it's to submit your Chapter Financial report. The Chapter Financial Report is due not later than September 30. Please ensure you follow directions contained in the report for each line item.

See you in my travels and look forward to visiting your Chapter.





Department Senior Vice Commander Duane Godfrey

This month the Dept. of Florida DAV had the Annual Convention at Lake Mary and I was elected to the position of Senior Vice Commander for the Department. I will do my best to perform all my duties as diligently as possible.

We as DAV Department Officers will be meeting in August to review Department Policies and hear our Department Adjutant again stress the importance of Chapter visitations. If you would like one of the line officers to visit your chapter for a regular meeting, fund-raiser or other event, please email our Department Adjutant and we will schedule one of the officers to participate in the event. If you wish a specific officer to attend, please so indicate in your email and we will make every effort possible to have that Officer attend provided there is no conflict.

We had had 35 Chapters represented and there were 87 delegates this was not a very good showing for our Dept. Convention. We have 56 Chapters in the State. We hope that next year we have delegates from every Chapter attend our Department Convention. Department Convention is an important event as we elect our officers for the upcoming year and pass our budget as well as hearing a message from the National Organization.

Our Organization will only survive if we have new membership and there are several ways we can go about this: Membership Drives in shopping malls, restaurants, or any public forum or events it is as easy as asking were you in the Military and have you and disabilities from the service and if

so, could I help you find someone to help you with a the claim process, or if they are a disabled, vet ask them if they belong to the DAV and if they do not ask they why. Anywhere you go carry your business cards and pass them out. I have found out in the past, there are a lot of veterans that do not know where to find us or what we do.

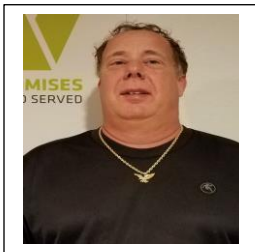
I challenge every to sign up at least 1 new paid life member before our Service Officer Training this January, let us try to grow our DAV Chapters. You should carry a membership application with you at all times or preferably, have the DAV Membership Application down-loaded on your cell phone. Remember, if they sign up as a member electronically on the down-loaded membership application, they can join for only \$10.00 down and a recurring payment on their credit card of only \$10.00 per month. If not joining using the electronic membership application, the down payment is \$40.00.

I hope to see everyone at our National Convention in Orlando Fl. Beginning August 1 through August 6. The dinner for National Officers will be the evening of August 6. Inasmuch as the National Convention is in Orlando this year, this is a good time to go to a National Convention and participate in the DAV and get to understand what we are really about. Disabled American Veterans let's make our voices heard.

The Convention will be at The Rosen Shingle in Orlando on Universal Blvd (407 537- 5511).

I look forward to seeing you in my travels around the State. Again, thank you for your support and electing me as your Department Senior Vice Commander.





Department Junior Vice Commander John Raber

I wish to thank the members for electing me as your Department Junior Vice Commander. It was an honor to receive the recommendation from the Nominating Committee and installed as your Department Vice Commander. I look forward to travelling the State and visit as many Chapters as possible this year.

A little background on myself: I am a Department and Chapter Service Officer and just completed my term as Commander of Manatee County Chapter 18. I was re-elected as Chapter Treasurer at our recent Chapter meeting. I have held every position at Chapter 18 except for the office of Chaplain. I also serve on the Chapter's Honor Guard and now serve as the Honor Guard Commander. My passion is serving Veterans and their families as a Service Officer. Presently, I serve as your National Executive Committeeman for the past two years, a position that I will relinquish at our upcoming National Convention in Orlando at the end of this month.

I believe our Organization works so well because of the dedication and passion of our members. Our volunteers are on the front lines serving Veterans and their families as Volunteer Drivers, VAVS Representatives and Volunteers, HSC's and Service Officers. I wish to thank you personally for your volunteer efforts. Please don't lose your volunteer hours that you give to veterans—record them as VAVS Hours if volunteering at a VA facility or LVAP Hours for volunteering at your Chapter, community or other non-VA facility.

Next year DAV will celebrate 100 years of empowering Veterans to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity. If your chapter is planning an event to celebrate DAV's 100 years of existence and wish a Department Officer to participate or attend,

Please send your request to our Department Adjutant @ andy@davfla.com. Every effort will be made to ensure a Department Represent is present at your event.

Congratulations to our Department Judge Advocate John Markiewicz who will be recognized at our National Convention in Orlando as VAVS Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations John. Also, the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year will be recognized at the National Convention and he is from Florida and a member of Chapter 112. The Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year is a retired Judge and Brigadier General. Also, our own Diane Franz who currently serves as National Senior Vice Commander of DAVA should become our DAVA National Commander at the Convention and our own National 1st National Junior Vice Commander Andy Marshall hopes to be elected to higher National office. Please visit the Florida Hospitality room at the National Convention on Sunday, August 4 beginning at 6:00 pm. Come and join us as we present our two candidates for National Office.

Our District meeting will be held on Friday, August 2 during the Convention. That is an important meeting to attend as we elect our new National Executive and Alternate Committeemen as well as delegates to serve on the various Committees at the National Convention. I hope to see you at the National Convention and in my travels.





Department Chaplain Chip Hanson

Freedom is a powerful word. To some it means independence. To others, it means the ability to act and speak freely - or to go where they wish.

Stewardship is a theological belief that humans are responsible for the world, and should take care of it.

Believers in stewardship are usually people who believe in one God who created the universe and all that is within it. It is my firm belief that without stewardship we of the United States would not have the Freedom we have today.

Remember what John Kennedy said on his inaugural Address January 1961: " My fellow Americans, ask not what your Country can do for you, ask what you can do for your Country".

It is also my firm belief without Stewardship, we as Veterans would be worse off today. Thru our efforts, we as an organization have kept benefits for all our veterans and our government in check.

So, I ask all who read this to be Stewards, by donations, volunteering, or just attending meetings.
1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

God Bless our Great Nation and all that it stands for.

June was a very busy month for me. In addition to attending our Department Convention I also performed the following duties:

In Office at Chapter 123, I was involved with the following duties:

Purpose	Number Completed	Hours
Triage	19	36
Survivor Benefits	22	24
Training	1	2
Funeral Planning	6	9

Tasks performed outside of Chapter as follows:

Funerals	9	32
Survivor Benefits	17	16
Hospital Visits	3	5
Nursing Homes	2	4
Phone calls	68	35





John Markiewicz Department Judge Advocate

A question that continues to come up on a regular basis concerns the legality of donations made by a Chapter or Department to other organizations or to individuals which do not directly or substantially benefit disabled veterans or their families. In many cases, this has involved local scholarships being awarded by Chapters.

The whole donation issue, including scholarships is more of an IRS issue than it is a Constitution & Bylaws issue. The IRS has granted the DAV their tax-exempt status based on their providing services to ill and injured veterans and their families as stated in their charter and other governing documents. Therefore, all funds raised by, donated to or collected in dues by DAV from its members are presumed by the IRS to be given to the DAV with the intent that they be used for that tax-exempt purpose.

Regulation 5 of the National Executive Committee states that income received from a Forget-Me-Not Drive shall be used **solely** for service to ill and injured veterans, their dependents and survivors and for no other purpose. It goes on to state that income from all other approved Department or Chapter fundraising activities shall be used to support programs and activities sponsored by DAV, its subordinate units or other entities, as long as such programs and activities provide a **direct and substantial benefit to ill and injured veterans, their dependents and survivors.**

The provision mentioned for other entities covers events like Homeless Veterans Stand-Downs, Caregivers of Veterans Conferences and events sponsored by Department of Veterans

Affairs, other Veterans Service Organizations and other Charitable Organizations where the programs and activities are geared towards veterans and where they provide **a direct and substantial benefit to ill and injured veterans, their dependents and survivors.**

We all need to remember that when we donate funds to various charities from our own Chapter, that we are dealing with funds that have been provided by our donors and members to provide a better life for our ill and injured veterans, their dependents and survivors. This is the key phrase to remember when considering making a donation and we need to ask ourselves, “(h)ow will this donation provide a **direct and substantial benefit to ill and injured veterans, their dependents and survivors**”.

Clearly then, if a donation does **not directly and substantially benefit ill and injured veterans, their dependents and survivors**, it does not meet the criteria for a DAV Department or Chapter and we are not allowed to use our funds for that purpose regardless of how worthy the purpose or cause may be.





Andy Marshall Department Adjutant

Legislative Report

Who is eligible for Beneficiary Travel from VA? What are the requirements? According to VA, you are eligible for Beneficiary Travel if you meet the following guidelines:

- Veterans with disabilities rated 30% or more service-connected—travel for care relating to any condition.
- Veterans with disabilities rated less than 30% who travel for the episode care relating to their service-connected condition(s).
- Veterans receiving VA Pension benefits and travel for care for any condition
- Veterans with annual income below the maximum applicable annual rate of pension who travel for care of any condition. Veterans must have updated income verification on file (10-10EZR) within the required income threshold.
- Veterans who travel in relation to a Compensation and Pension Examination.

Enroll in VA health care

To receive care from VA or a community provider, you must be enrolled in VA health care. You can apply online, by mail, or in person. Visit our website to learn more about eligibility criteria and required enrollment documents.

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/>

VA provides health care for Veterans from providers in your local community outside of VA. Veterans may be eligible to receive care from a community provider when VA cannot provide the care needed. This care is provided on behalf of and paid for by VA. Community care is available to Veterans based on certain conditions and eligibility requirements, and in consideration of a Veteran's specific needs and circumstances. Community care must be first authorized by VA before a Veteran can receive care from a community provider.

Veterans may be eligible for care through a provider in their local community depending on their health care needs or circumstances, and if they meet specific eligibility criteria. Even if a Veteran is eligible for community care, they generally still have the option to receive care from a VA medical facility.

In most cases, **Veterans must receive approval from VA** before receiving care from a community provider to avoid being billed for the care. VA staff members generally make all eligibility determinations for community care.

1. Eligibility

VA confirms a Veteran's eligibility to receive community care.

2. Appointments

Veteran or a VA staff member schedules appointment with a provider in VA's network.

3. Getting Care

Veteran receives care from a community provider in the VA's network.

4. Billing

Community provider sends the claim to a Third Party Administrator (TPA) or VA for payment.

Chapters visited by Department Line Officers & Adjutant Since Department Convention

Adjutant's Column Continued

A Veteran's eligibility for community care depends on whether his/her individual health care needs or circumstances. Please note the following about eligibility for community care:

- Veterans must receive approval from VA prior to obtaining care from a community provider, in most circumstances.
- Veterans must either be enrolled in VA health care or be eligible for VA health care without needing to enroll to be eligible for community care.
- Eligibility for community care will continue to be dependent upon a Veteran's individual health care needs or circumstances.
- VA staff members generally make all eligibility determinations.

There are six criteria that can qualify a Veteran to receive community care. **Veterans only need to meet one of these to be eligible:**

- Veteran needs a service not available at a VA medical facility
- Veteran lives in a United States state or territory without a full-service VA medical facility.
- Veteran qualifies under the "Grandfather" provision relating to distance eligibility for VCP.
- VA cannot provide care within certain designated access standards.
- It is in the Veteran's best medical interest.
- A VA Service Line does not meet certain quality standards.

If there is a specific community provider a Veteran would like to see that is not in VA's network, VA may be able to add them to its network. In some cases, a VA staff member will work with the Veteran to find other options when:

- A community provider cannot be found that meets the Veteran's health care needs
- A community provider was, but is no longer part of VA's network.
- An existing community provider is no longer available

Getting Care

When a Veteran arrives for the appointment, the community provider should have the appointment, VA referral, and medical documentation on file. If a Veteran needs a follow-up appointment, the community provider should check to make sure VA has authorized additional care before scheduling the appointment.

Prescription Medication

If prescription medication is needed, the prescription should usually be sent to and filled by the nearest VA pharmacy. Veterans can receive short-term prescription medication for a 14-day or fewer supply that can be filled at a non-VA pharmacy. A prescription for more than a 14-day supply must be filled by VA.

Billing and Payments

After receiving care from a community provider, Veterans may have to pay a copayment for nonservice-connected care, just as the Veteran would if care was received at a VA medical facility. For urgent care, copayments depend on the Veteran's assigned priority group and the number of times the Veteran visits an urgent care provider in a calendar year. Community providers cannot bill or collect a VA copayment directly from Veterans, including for urgent care. All VA copayments are billed as part of VA's billing process.

Remember, to find a list of available urgent care providers in VA's contracted network of community providers. www.va.gov/find-locations.



Choose VA

Calendar of Events

July 4 Independence Day



July 9 Baseball All Star Game



July 17 National Hot Dog Day



July 30 National Friendship Day



Adjutant's Column Continued

President Trump signed Blue Water Navy Legislation.

If you think you are eligible to apply for benefits related to Agent Orange Exposure you should apply now using VA Form 21-526EZ provided you have never claimed that disability before due to AO exposure.

If you were previously denied service connection for a disability claimed due to AO exposure then you must file a supplemental claim using VA form 20-0995.

Army Now Offering Recruits up to \$40,000 to Join the Infantry

FORT KNOX, Kentucky -- [U.S. Army](#) recruiters are offering bonuses worth up to \$40,000 to new recruits who sign up for the infantry by Sept. 30 as part of an effort to reverse a shortage of grunts for fiscal 2019.

The drastic increase in bonus amounts for recruits in 11X, the infantry military occupational specialty, went into effect in mid-May, according to U.S. Army Recruiting Command officials, who said that the service still needs to fill about 3,300 infantry training seats by Septem We saw this coming in May; we immediately went to the senior leadership and said, 'look, we need to max out the bonuses for 11Xs,'" Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, commander of Army Recruiting Command, told Military.com Tuesday.

"If you sign up to be 11X and you sign a six-year commitment -- \$40,000."

Before May, the maximum bonus amount for infantry recruits was \$15,000 for a six-year commitment by September 30.

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Before May, the maximum bonus amount for infantry recruits was \$15,000 for a six-year commitment.

Last summer, the Army [ran a pilot at Fort Benning, Georgia that resulted in the service extending infantry one station unit training \(OSUT\) from 14 weeks to 22 weeks.](#) The extended infantry training is designed to give soldiers more time to practice key infantry skills such as land navigation, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat, fire and maneuver and first aid training.

The bonus increase is just a small step in the Army's effort to meet its recruiting goal for the active force of 68,000 soldiers by Sept. 30. The Army launched a multi-faceted recruiting strategy last October after the service missed its 2018 recruiting goal by 6,500 soldiers.

New recruits signing up for the infantry can also get \$20,000 for a three-year enlistment, \$25,000 for a four-year enlistment and \$30,000 for a five-year enlistment, Recruiting Command officials said.

But these new bonuses won't last long, Muth said.

"You've got to ship in August and September," Muth said, explaining that infantry recruits must enter OSUT at Benning by the end of this fiscal year.

"If you ship in October, you don't get the bonus."



NSO Supervisor's Column Michael Michelotti

VA Caregiver Program

Family Caregivers provide crucial support in caring for our Nation's veterans by allowing them to stay in the homes and communities they defended, surrounded by their loved ones. Currently, the program has allowed VA to provide additional support and services to Family Caregivers to eligible veterans injured in the line of duty on or after 9/11/2001. Under the caregiver program, relatives or friends who care for eligible veterans can receive a stipend, training, access to health insurance, counseling and respite care.

Veteran Eligibility

1. The veteran incurred a serious injury in LOD, on or after 9/11/2001.
2. Because of the qualifying serious injury, the veteran requires another person (Caregiver) to assist the veteran with the management of personal care functions required in everyday living.
3. The serious injury renders the veteran in need of personal care services for a minimum of six continuous months.
4. It is in the best interest of the veteran to participate in the Caregiver Support Program.
5. The veteran will receive ongoing care from a Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) or other VA health care team as a requirement for participation in the program.
6. The veteran agrees to receive ongoing care at home after VA designates a family caregiver.
7. Personal care services that would be provided by the Caregiver will not simultaneously be provided through another individual or entity.

Caregiver Eligibility

1. The Caregiver must be at least 18 years of age.
2. The Caregiver must be either the veteran's spouse, son, daughter, parent, step-family member or extended family member or someone who lives with the veteran

Full time.

3. Prior to approval, the Caregiver will be provided with training and must be able to demonstrate the ability to assist the veteran with personal care functions required in everyday living.

The MISSION Act expands eligibility to eligible veterans and their Caregivers from all eras. Under the law, expansion will begin when VA certifies to Congress that they have fully implemented a required IT system. The expansion will occur in two phases beginning with eligible veterans who incurred a serious injury in LOD on or before May 7, 1975, with further expansion beginning two years later.

Application Details

- The required application is VA Form 10-10CG. If the veteran is not currently enrolled in VA health care, both the VA Form 10-10 EZ for VA health care services and the application for the Caregivers Program 10-10CG will need to be completed.
- The application must be completed and signed by both the veteran and their primary caregiver.
- The application can be hand carried to a Caregiver Support Coordinator at a local VA Medical Facility for walk-in processing.
- It can be mailed to:

Family Caregivers Program
Health eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Road NE, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329-1647