

**VISIT MICHIGAN'S DAV THRIFT STORE
AT 8050 N. MIDDLEBELT ROAD IN WESTLAND!**

May/June/July/August 2012

Michigan Disabled Veteran



Volume 61 No. 3

[USPS 344-940]

*"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."
-William Blake*

**Convention Delegates Elect
Bob Blevins as State Commander**



Commander Blevins is presented with a gavel from National Judge Advocate and guest Michael Dobmeier. Photo taken by Steven Pruitt

Elections held Sunday, June 10, 2012 at closing sessions of the Department's 87th State Convention elected Bob Blevins (Chapter 26), a Vietnam War Era/Gulf War Veteran, to com-

mand the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan.

Mr. Blevins has been a DAV Life Member since 1994. He joined the Marine Corps in June of 1962. After Boot Camp he attended Jump School in Ft. Benning, Georgia and then went on to Del Mar, California to attend SCUBA School. He was then stationed in Kodiak, Alaska as a Rescue Swimmer and on the Search and Discovery Team.

After his Honorable Discharge in 1968, he returned to Michigan employed as a Deputy Sheriff with the Kent County Sheriff's Department. When he left the

Sheriff's Department in 1979, he held the Purple Heart and Medal of Valor honors.

In 1979, he was elected Sheriff of Lake County and held that office for two consecutive terms. Mr. Blevins was awarded his second Purple Heart and was chosen as Sheriff of the Year in 1983.

In 1985 he went back on Active Duty with the Marine Corps and was deployed in support of Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990. After returning to the U.S. he was assigned to Joint Task Force 6, doing Drug Interdiction along the Mexican border. During this assignment, Mr. Blevins was injured and he medically retired as

COMMANDER *Cont. on page 2*

**A New Slate of Department Officers
Are Elected at the
87th Annual State Convention**

A lot of changes have taken place since the last Convention in June 2011. The Charter for the State of Michigan was temporarily suspended by the National Organization in November 2011 and four Trustees were appointed to reorganize and restructure the Department. The Trustees appointed by National were David Van Hill, Bob Blevins, Roger Jansen and Donald Crull.

The Trustees put a lot of thought and many working hours into changing and updating the Department Constitution and Bylaws so that the State of Michigan could continue to prosper well into the future as everybody works together to make this one of the strongest and most successful Departments in the country. As of June 20, 2012 the Department's charter is now back in good standing as National Headquarters has officially removed the Trusteeship and lifted the suspension.

At this year's Convention the new Bylaws were presented for approval and passed on Saturday, June 9, 2012 and put into effect



NSO Director Doug Wells, Commander Blevins, Sr. Vice Commander Carl Poest, 1st Jr. Vice Commander Les Schneider, 2nd Jr. Vice Commander JoLinda White, Treasurer Roger Jansen, Chaplain Michael Knutson, ADBD Member Peter A. Sardo, ADBD Member Jerry Cool, ADBD Member Fred George, ADBD Member Eve Burcar, NEC John Lamphere and ADBD Member Daniel Mulcahey. Photo taken by Steven Pruitt

immediately with the signature and approval of National Judge Advocate, Michael Dobmeier, who was the National guest at the Convention.

One of the new Bylaws that affected the remainder of the Convention was a newly formed Nominating Committee that would conduct interviews on-site for the positions of Commander, Senior Vice Commander, 1st Junior Vice Commander, 2nd Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer and State Chaplain. Mem-

bers interested in filling these positions were required to fill out an application and sit for a formal interview conducted by the Nominating Committee.

After all of the interviews were completed, the Nominating Committee presented the delegates with their top choice for each position. Members could be nominated off the floor to run against these individuals.

On Sunday, June 10, 2012 the Committee nominated Bob Blevins (Chapter 26) for Department State Commander. Nobody ran against Mr. Blevins and he was unanimously elected as Commander.

Carl Poest (Chapter 14) was then nominated by the Committee for the position of Sr. Vice Commander. David Mims (Chapter 6) ran off of the floor for the position as well, and four tellers were called to the stage as it went to a roll call vote. Carl Poest was named the winner for Sr. Vice Commander.

Les Schneider (Chapter 63) was nominated by the Committee for 1st Jr. Vice Commander.

OFFICERS *Cont. on page 3*

Veteran of the Year

Congratulations to Marine Jeff Hannak

Congratulations to Jeff Hannak of the William C. Ford DAV Chapter 113 in Redford, Michigan for winning the 2011 Veteran of the Year award.

Jeff followed in his father's military footsteps, Andrew Hannak, who was a Staff Sergeant in the



Jeff Hannak, Veteran of the year.

Army during the Korean War. Jeff's military career began when he joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1976. He served on active duty from September 20, 1976 until he was medically discharged on May 15, 1979 with an Honorable Discharge. His MOS was 4422, which was a Legal Serviceman/Court-Martial Reporter/Note Reader and Transcriber. Jeff was stationed in Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, working as a court-martial reporter until he arrived at his next duty station on July 17, 1978 at Twentynine Palms, Marine Corps Base, California. His highest rank was a Corporal (E-4), Non-Commissioned Officer, which he earned on August 1, 1978. He also received the expert rifle badge and the sharpshooter pistol badge during his enlistment.

Upon leaving the military, he was employed on the Dearborn Heights Police Department CETA Program as a clerk-dispatcher while he started his college career at Henry Ford Community College where he earned his Associates Degree and then went on to earn his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education from Eastern Michigan University in December of 1990.

Since 1996, Jeff has been a volunteer with the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross as a Disaster Action Team member and is in his 16th year in this humanitarian effort. He helps service the Tri-County area to include Wayne, Oakland and Macomb territories for disasters. He is qualified to teach disaster classes as appropriate with this organization and has

received two Certificates of Appreciation: one for assisting clients affected by Hurricane Katrina, the other for being a Disaster Action Team member. He is currently the Assistant Team Leader with DAT #5.

In 1983, Jeff became a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans Organization and is a member of the William C. Ford DAV Chapter 113 in Redford, Michigan. Since joining this chapter he has held positions as Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Chaplain. He is in his second year as a chapter service officer helping all veterans with claims of possible entitlement benefits with the Veterans Administration. He has also enjoyed attending and participating at the DAV Annual State Conventions.

In 2003, Jeff also joined the Marine Corps League Downriver detachment. Since joining the LEAGUE, he has been very active in supporting the downriver detachment #153 in many different ways while receiving Marine of the Year for 2009 and 2011, which is one of our LEAGUE'S highest achievements.

Jeff has been a member of the Dearborn Heights Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for four years and is trained to back up police and fire departments during disaster situations. He has received a Certificate of Appreciation for his participation during National Preparedness Month.

Since February 2010, Jeff has been employed by the 35th District Court, Plymouth, Michigan as a Work Detail Supervisor with the Probation Department.

Congratulations, Jeff, on your much-deserved award as Veteran of the Year for all that you do in and around your community as a leader and volunteer who gives back to society in many, many ways.

Michigan Disabled Veteran

MICHIGAN DISABLED VETERAN (ISSN 1091-8086)
 Is published, effective August 1, 2011, every 4 months – January/February/March/April; May/June/July/August; and September/October/November/December, by the Department of Michigan, Disabled American Veterans, 17779 East 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT FRASER, MI AND ADDITIONAL OFFICES. Members receive publication as part of their dues. Subscription fee: \$2.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Michigan Disabled Veteran, c/o DAV Membership Department, P. O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250.

POLICY

- To bond the disabled together as a unit.
- To acquaint the members of the DAV and the public with the problems of the disabled and what the Department of Michigan, Disabled American Veterans, is doing to assist in overcoming their handicaps.
- To keep alive the Fires of Freedom that American ideals shall not perish from the earth.
- To promote the welfare of the Disabled American Veterans of the State of Michigan and the Nation.

NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

Bob Blevins, chairman
 Frank Shepherd Donald Waldron
 Russ Spalding Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

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 michelle@davmichigan.com and kelly@davmichigan.com

Copy deadline: The copy deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month preceding publication. News, items and pictures for current publication must be mailed to reach Michelle Kosick and Kelly Trambley, Editors, on or before the 1st of the preceding month to: 17779 East 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026, Attn: Editors. Glossy black and white or good contrast color prints should be submitted for best reproduction. Photo negatives, Polaroid prints or prints of poor quality or color-tone cannot be used. Silk finish prints reproduce poorly. Photos cannot be returned.

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 E-mail: davdomi@aol.com

Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/DAV-Department-of-Michigan/300117679186>

DAV Thrift Store
 8050 N. Middlebelt Road, Westland 48185
 Donation Line (866) 520-5328
<http://www.davthriftmichigan.com>



Mission Statement of the DAV

Made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is dedicated to one, single purpose: building better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

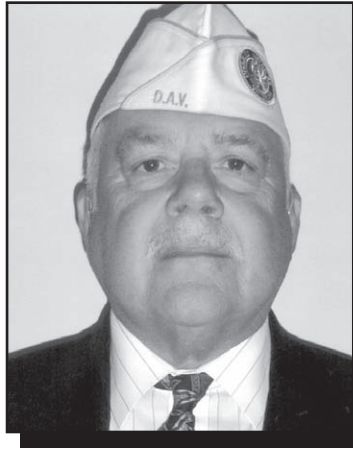
This mission is carried forward by: providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government; providing outreach concerning its program 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 the 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.

COMMANDER *Cont. from page 1*

a First Sergeant in January 1995. Bob and his wife, Dee, proceeded to purchase 40 acres of land in 2009 and built a cabin for Veterans recovering from physical and mental wounds to come and take a few days off and de-stress. The Blevins furnish all food and beverages with

a safe place to stay and have some fun, too. Some of the recreation available includes hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, sightseeing and river boat tours or just good old campfire relaxation. There is never a charge for the recovering Veteran at the "Old Warrior Camp". Bob and Dee currently reside in Engadine, Michigan.



Bob Blevins

Over the years, all of us have received the Department newspaper and read the Department Commander Message that began with the title: "Membership, Membership, Membership".

So pour yourself a cup of coffee and sit down with this lengthy appeal.

Some people actually ask why membership is so critical? Our organization was founded 92 years ago because of the basic necessity that required Disabled Veterans to stand up for the Disabled Veterans that had been forgotten by their Government. There was no VA Health Care System, there was no counseling or vocational rehabilitation, and there was no compensation for wounds or injuries.

Regardless of the impact on the veteran to compete in the

Commander's Message

"Crossroads"

workplace, disabled veterans had to endure every hardship on their own without any hope of being able to support their families.

A basic principle that was learned in battle, that the massive amounts of individuals that banded together, often dictated the outcome of any conflict! This tactic was, in fact, used to get the benefits that we enjoy today. Those numbers, and the unity of all Disabled American Veterans, remain the focal point at gaining the attention of the politician.

The second purpose of membership is to insure the successful passage of power to the next generation. Those founding fathers of WWI recruited the Disabled Veterans of WWII and passed along the responsibility. Those WWII Disabled American Veterans did the same with the Korean Veterans...you see where I am going!!!!

Many of our chapters have a small group of aging Veterans that currently have no opportunity to train and groom the next generation. What will happen to us if there is no one to continue our efforts? We have apparently failed with our attempts to recruit the next generation.

Since the beginning of the Disabled American Veterans, there has never been a more critical need for advocacy and support. During this period in our nation's history, the wars of the past 10 years have injured tens of thousands that will require assistance of our Service Program. There is a critical need to bring this generation to the DAV Chapters for our help and support.

Our Department intends to find the resources to offset the cost of new membership. The Chapters are encouraged to do what they can to match or assist with the funding effort to reduce those costs. I intend to provide a weekend at the Old Warrior Camp in the Upper Peninsula to the DAV member (and his family) who signs up the most new members.

So let's celebrate and remember that our history has shown that when this country needed someone to stand up and represent our Disabled Veterans, "WE" came together and began advocating and began "Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans and their families."

**Bob Blevins
 State Commander**

Membership Application

Life Membership

Life membership is permanent. Life membership dues are as follows and may be paid in interest-free installments following a minimum \$40 down payment:

Age 40 and under...\$250 Age 41 - 60...\$230 Age 61 - 70...\$180 Age 71 - 79...\$140 Age 80 and over...Free

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|---|
| Last Name | First Name | Middle Initial | Spouse's First Name |
| Street Address | | | |
| City | State | Zip | <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female Birth Date: _____ |
| Date Enlisted | Date Discharged | Branch of Service | Rank |
| Campaign/Expedition Medals Awarded _____ | | | |
| I have a service-connected disability rated at _____ % (0% - 100%) | | | |
| Did you receive a Purple Heart? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | Are you an Ex-P.O.W.? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Disability Discharge? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | Military Retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Chapter number and location requested (if known): _____ | | | |
| Sponsor's Name and Code Number if Applicable: _____ | | Sponsor's Telephone: _____ | |
| E-mail Address of Applicant _____ | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My check is enclosed for: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Charge my credit card in the amount of: _____ | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card | | | |
| Card Number: _____ | | Expiration Date: _____ | |
| Signature: _____ | | Telephone Number: _____ | |
| VA Claim Number: _____ | | | |
| Send to: Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan, 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026 | | | |

Circulation Data

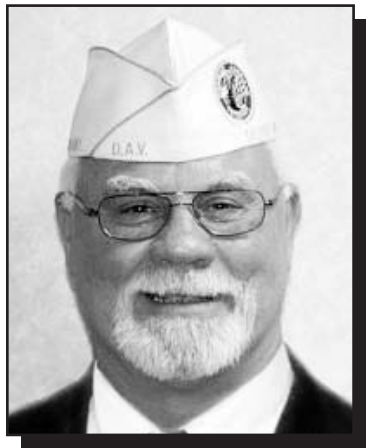
This publication was cleared for printing and mailing **February 14, 2012**
 Circulation of this issue is **25,154 copies.**



OBSERVE VETERANS DAY 2012



In Honor of those who gave their last full measure of devotion to our country on the fields of battle...



Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

Adjutant's Message

Helpful Hints for Chapter Adjutants

After meetings

Keep track of correspondence considered during the meeting. Prepare answers if necessary.

Provide the commander with a copy of the minutes as soon as you can complete them.

Be sure to identify unfinished business and provide the commander with that information.

Provide notes on committee membership. If a committee is appointed during a meeting, make sure that the commander has notes on who, why, their purpose and when they will meet and when their report is due.

Before meetings

Sort through Chapter mail. Get rid of the junk mail. Read through long letters and correspondence making sure that your report covers the important points.

Have the roll call prepared and ready to go.

Make sure the commander is aware of any unfinished business. Sometimes this will take a second copy.

Make sure you have your tools. Paper, pens, cassette player and tape.

During meetings

You're not a court reporter. You are taking notes to be able to prepare briefed minutes. Arguments and opinions should not appear in the minutes. Keep accurate records of motions, makers and seconds. Ask someone if you're not sure if you have the information to report the motion accurately. Don't allow someone to make a motion and then qualify it with an opinion that is not in the motion. Try to help the commander ascertain the maker and support.

Take accurate notes on oral reports from committees.

Keep track of written committee reports.

Keep track of committee and officer appointments.

Keeping Abreast on National Constitution Bylaws and Regulations

NEC Regulation 5: Income from Fundraising

(a) Forget-Me-Nots. Income from Forget-Me-Not drives shall be used solely for service to

disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors and for no other purpose.

(b) Other Fundraising. Income from 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 disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Trivia for the Annual Financial Report

1. What is the due date for all Chapter and Departments to file their annual financial report?
2. What is the accounting year for all Departments and Chapters as provided in the National Bylaws?
3. If the Chapter's gross income exceeds \$10,000 or more, excluding per capita dues received from National Headquarters, they must file with National Headquarters and what other department?
4. If the Department or Chapter's gross income exceeds \$300,000, excluding per capita dues received from National Headquarters, the financial statements must be reviewed by a _____?

Answers on page 8

Remember to remain committed to our purpose: "Building better lives for America's Disabled Veterans and their families."

YES! YOU "CAN" MAKE A DIFFERENCE, JOIN THE COMMANDER'S GROUP ACTION NETWORK Visit the DAV National Website at www.dav.org for Veterans Information

"Our government and our people have no greater obligation than to assure that those who have served their country and the cause of freedom will never be forgotten or neglected."

—President Lyndon B. Johnson

DAV Department of Michigan Elected and Appointed State Officers 2012-13

Note: All official mail should be sent to DAV Department of MI Headquarters at 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026

State Commander: Bob Blevins (26)
W14582 U. S. Highway 2, Engadine, MI 49827, 906-477-0025

Sr. Vice Commander: Carl Poest (14)
2465 Rhodora Drive, Zeeland, MI 49464, 616-772-6909

1st Jr. Vice Commander: Les Schneider (63)
8499 East M-71, #222, Durand, MI 48429, 989-429-4310

2nd Jr. Vice Commander: JoLinda White (20)
143 E Butler Street, Adrian, MI 49221, 517-266-8089

Chaplain: Michael Knutson (4)
628 Cheryl Street, Saginaw, MI 48609, 734-845-3501

Judge Advocate: Billie Cardona (93)
15623 S. Centerline, Rudyard, MI 49780, 906-478-3302

Adjutant/Executive Secretary: Rolly D. Lee, Sr. (129)
17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026
department@davmichigan.com

Treasurer: Roger Jansen (14)
15707 New Holland Street, Holland, MI 49424, 616-399-1023

Inspector: John Lamphere (39)
220 E. Cass Street, Cadillac, MI 49601, 231-846-0446

State Administrative Board:

Chairman 2012-13: Fred R. George (17)
540 Manitou Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085, 269-429-0312

Vice Chairman 2012-13: Gerald Cool (20)
1465 Ogden Street, Jasper, MI 49248, 517-436-3343

Commander 2012-13: Bob Blevins (26)
W14582 U.S. Highway 2, Engadine, MI 49827, 906-477-0055

Past Department Commander: Frank T. Shepherd (7)
P.O. Box 1121, Battle Creek, MI 49016, 269-968-9841

Peter A. Sardo (16)
1102 Horton Road, Holly, MI 48442, 248-328-0672

Eve Burcar (61)
2761 Pearl Street, Alpena, MI 49707, 989-657-4622

John Lamphere (39)
220 E. Cass Street, Cadillac, MI 49601, 231-846-0446

Dan Mulcahey (66)
N10425 Mount Zion Drive, Ironwood, MI 49938, 906-364-4610

District Executive Committee Members:

District 1: Thomas A. Dempster (114)
8101 Bloomsbury Circle, Northville, MI 48167, 313-671-6517

District 2: James Dempsey (13)
11717 Island Lake Road, Dexter, MI 48130, 734-424-0168

District 3: Chairman: Rich Straub (2)
15435 Snauble, Cedar Springs, MI 49319, 616-318-8664

District 4: Ben Benzing (18)
14910 Craft Road, Hersey, MI 49639, 231-832-5339

District 5: Rodney Lattimer (94)
2324 E. Wheeler Street, Midland, MI 48642, 989-837-1893

District 6: Billie Cardona (93)
15623 S. Centerline, Rudyard, MI 49780, 906-478-3302



On "Bring Your Child to Work" day at DAV Department Headquarters, staff member Michelle Kosick brought her son, Cody Brooks. Pictured are State Adjutant Rolly Lee, Sr. and Cody Brooks. Cody was presented with DAV challenge coins, a commemorative coin and a DAV Volunteer hat.



State Adjutant Rolly D. Lee, Sr. Presented NSO Director Tom Wendel with a plaque for all his years of service and dedication at the DAV Detroit Regional Office. Tom transferred to take a position with the DAV in Portland, Oregon in June 2012.

OFFICERS Cont. from page 1

Nobody ran against Mr. Schneider and he was unanimously elected to Jr. Vice Commander.

Jo Linda White (Chapter 20) was nominated by the Committee for the position of 2nd Jr. Vice Commander. Defolia Scott (Chapter 1) ran off of the floor for the position as well, and it went to a roll call vote. Jo Linda White was named the winner for 2nd Jr. Vice Commander.

Roger Jansen was then nominated by the Committee for the position of State Treasurer. Nobody ran off the floor against him and Roger Jansen was unanimously elected to State Treasurer.

The final position the Com-

mittee nominated was for State Chaplain. That nomination went to Michael Knutson (Chapter 4). David McClarey (Chapter 19) and Harvey Slotman (Chapter 2) ran off the floor against him. Again, it went to a roll call vote and Michael Knutson was named the winner for position of State Chaplain.

The remaining Department Officers were appointed positions by the Commander and include: State Adjutant/Executive Secretary Rolly D. Lee, Sr. (Chapter 129), State Inspector John Lamphere (Chapter 39), Judge Advocate Billie Cardona (Chapter 93), Chief of Staff Carl Hayrynen (Chapter 115) and LVAP Chairman Les Schneider (Chapter 63).

2012 Convention Top Honors Go To...

Listed below are the 2012 winners

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS
HARCOURT MEMBERSHIP TROPHY – 500-over members for the largest percentage gain over chapter total membership A/O July 6, 2011:
LIVONIA CHAPTER 114

AUST MEMBERSHIP TROPHY – 150-499 members for largest percentage gain over chapter total membership A/O July 6, 2011:
KARL BROWN CHAPTER 102

FRISKE TROPHY – 10-149 members for largest percentage gain over chapter total membership A/O July 6, 2011:
DUNDEE/MONROE CHAPTER 42

ZONE TROPHIES
For the largest percentage gain over Chapter total membership as of July 6, 2011:
ZONE I – KEANE RANKIN CHAPTER 1
ZONE II – A. REED J DaPRATO CHAPTER 125
ZONE III – OGE MAW HILLS CHAPTER 73
ZONE IV – MANISTIQUE CHAPTER 26

OVERALL ZONE MEMBERSHIP AWARD PRESENTED TO:
ZONE III

Department of Michigan VAVS Representatives and Michigan Veterans Homes Chairmen

ANN ARBOR
VAVS Representative
Kevin White
143 E. Butler Street,
Adrian 49221

BATTLE CREEK
VAVS Representative
Thomas Lightbody
283 Ashton Lake Drive,
Battle Creek 49015

DETROIT
VAVS Representative
Harold DeForest
11826 Meteor Drive,
Sterling Heights 48313

IRON MOUNTAIN
VAVS Representative
David Karban
W7004 N 45 Road,
Vulcan 49892

SAGINAW
VAVS Representative
Jean Bolyard
5453 Vanalleo Drive,
Saginaw 48638

STATE VETERANS HOME – GRAND RAPIDS
Chairman Richard A. Straub III
15435 Snauble,
Cedar Springs 49319

STATE VETERANS HOME – MARQUETTE
VAVS Representative
Garry Henshaw
145 Sheryl Street,
Marquette 49855

Donation checks should be made payable to the respective DAV VAVS representatives or chairmen as indicated, and mailed to their address. Please **DO NOT** make checks payable to the medical center or veterans' home.

TOP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITERS

For signing up 3-9 or more new members, the following recruiters were recognized:
Les Schneider (63)
Douglas Jordan (38)
Stacey Plunkett (4)
Michael Ledwick (3)
Carl Poest (14)
Robert Robinson (3)
Albert Linden (116)
Nick Luxon (19)
Robert Barton (6)
Brian Burke (6)
Michael Minzey (3)
Jim Uecke (25)
Walter Charter (94)

James Dempsey (13)
Carol Gernand (12)
David Karban (23)
James Provost (22)
Eric Rice (39)
Frank Shepherd (7)
James Stringham (43)

For signing up 10 or more members the following recruiters were recognized:
Thomas Dempster (114)
Steven Pruitt (2)
Bob Blevins (26)
Doug Marble (1)

For Overall Top State Membership Recruiter who

signed up 22 new members, Convention delegates honored:
James Goers (114)

PUBLIC RELATIONS
2011-2012 James R. Friesema Public Relations Award for best Public Relations program was presented to: **Delta County Chapter 24**

NEWSLETTER AWARD
2011-2012 Best Chapter Newsletter Award was presented to: **Big Rapids Chapter 18**

AMERICANISM AWARD
Recognized for conducting the

most Outstanding Americanism Program over this past year:
Calhoun County Chapter 7

CHILD WELFARE ACTIVITIES
Honored for their child welfare efforts during the 2011-2012 year:
Calhoun County Chapter 7

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER OF THE YEAR
The 2012 Outstanding Chapter of the Year was presented to: **Calhoun County Chapter 7 of Battle Creek**
They received an award and a \$500.00 check presentation at the Convention Banquet.

Photos taken by Steven Pruitt



Harcourt Award presented to Chapter 114. Pictured is Rick Barenbrugge, Commander Thomas Dempster (114), Commander Bob Blevins and PDC Frank Shepherd.



Aust Award presented to Chapter 102. Pictured is Marlin Zielman (102), David Thomas (102), Rick Barenbrugge, Commander Blevins and PDC Frank Shepherd.



Zone 1 Award presented to Chapter 1. Pictured is Rick Barenbrugge, Edward House (1), Commander Blevins and PDC Frank Shepherd.



Zone II Award presented to Chapter 125. Pictured is Rick Barenbrugge, Al Groff, Commander Blevins and PDC Frank Shepherd.



Zone IV Award presented to Chapter 26. Pictured is Rick Barenbrugge, Al Groff, Commander Blevins and PDC Frank Shepherd.



The Zone Membership Award was presented to Zone III; the Award was accepted by Chapter 61. Pictured is Rick Barenbrugge, Eve Burcar (61), Commander Blevins and PDC Frank Shepherd.



TOP DSO Recruiter Award was presented to DSO Steven Pruitt. Pictured is Rick Barenbrugge, Steven Pruitt, Commander Blevins and PDC Frank Shepherd.



The Public Relations/Newsletter award was presented to Chapter 18. Pictured is Rich Straub (Chairman), Commander Blevins and Ben Benzing (18).



A National Award for being a chartered Chapter for 75 years was presented to Chapter 38. Pictured is Commander Douglas Jordan and Commander Blevins.



A National Award for being a chartered Chapter for 75 years was presented to Chapter 39. Pictured is John Lamphere and Commander Blevins.



A Chapter Americanism Award was presented to Chapter 7. Pictured is Edwin Holden (7), Commander Blevins and Carl Poest (Americanism Chairman).



The James R. Friesema Public Relations Award was presented to Chapter 24. Pictured is Rich Straub (Chairman), Commander Blevins and Morris Cole (24).



The Child Welfare/Drug Education Award was presented to Chapter 7. Pictured is Commander Blevins, Edwin Holden (7) and Harvey Slotman (Chairman).



Membership Incentive Awards for 3-9 new members went to: Les Schneider, Douglas Jordan, Michael Ledwick, Carl Poest, Robert Robinson, Robert Barton, Michael Minzey, James Dempsey, Carol Gernand, David Karban, Jim Provost, Frank Shepherd and James Stringham. Not pictured: Stacey Plunkett, Albert Linden, Nick Luxon (award accepted by Chapter 19 member George Coward), Jim Uecke, Walter Charter and Eric Rice.

District Chapters / Department Officers / Executive Committeemen

District 1 Chapters: 1-3-12-16-19-42-44-51-60-83-102-107-113-114-116-119-127-129
Department Officer: 1st Jr. Vice Commander Les Schneider (63)
Executive Committeeman: Thomas Dempster (114)

District 2 Chapters: 8-10-13-20-63-64-68-88-125

Department Officer: 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Jolinda White (20)
Executive Committeeman: James Dempsey (13)

District 3 Chapters: 2-6-7-11-14-17
Department Officer: Sr. Vice Commander Carl Poest (14)
Executive Committeeman: Rich Straub (2)

District 4 Chapters: 18-38-39-43-105-106
Department Officer: 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Jolinda White (20)
Executive Committeeman: Ben Benzing (18)

District 5 Chapters: 4-61-73-75-94-100-117-130
Department Officer: Sr. Vice

Commander Carl Poest (14)
Executive Committeeman: Rodney Lattimer (94)

District 6 Chapters: 22-23-24-25-26-52-66-67-69-93-115
Department Officer: Commander Bob Blevins (26)
Executive Committeeman: Billie Cardona (93)



Douglas Wells

Service Director's Message

Successful Event Results in Over 1,300 Job Offers, Model for Events Across U.S.

thousands of Veterans in many different ways. Many received job offers, others received access to the health care and benefits they have earned, while others received information that will help them build their business.”

More than 8,000 Veterans attended the three-day Hiring Fair and Open House June 26-28 at the Detroit Cobo Center. VA partnered with the First Lady's Joining Forces initiative, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's National Chamber Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes program, and more than 260 private sector companies, as well as governmental departments and agencies.

VA will build on the success of the event by joining with Hiring Our Heroes at similar upcoming Hiring Fairs across the country in Colorado Springs, Minneapolis, Houston, San Diego, San Antonio, Cincinnati, Chicago and Tampa.

The Disabled American Veterans, to include members from South Oakland Chapter 19 and other Veteran Service Organizations, were on hand at the Veteran Open House filing claims and provided the opportunity for Veterans and their families to find out about the full range

of care, benefits and resources available from VA.

The National Veteran Small Business Conference and Expo is the premier government event for Veteran-owned businesses. VA provided more than 3,500 Veteran-owned and Service-Disabled Veteran-owned businesses with a wide range of information to help them maximize opportunities in the federal workplace.

At the fair, VA showcased its VA for Vets program, which provides an online “high-tech” and “high touch” approach to recruiting, hiring and reintegrating Veterans into civilian careers. Approximately 5,400 Veterans signed up for the program, making them eligible to receive continued coaching, training and electronic information about career opportunities. VA for Vets offers the most advanced integrated military skills translator and career assessment tool available.

For more information about VA hiring initiatives, please visit: <http://vaforvets.va.gov/>. For additional information about the Chamber Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes, please visit: <http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes>

Douglas K. Wells has been promoted to NSO Director for the Detroit Service Office. The Department of Michigan offers our congratulations and wishes you the best of luck in your new position. Douglas is replacing longtime director Thomas Wendel, who took a position in the state of Oregon.

Detroit – The Department of Veterans Affairs recently concluded its National Veteran Small Business Conference, Open House and Hiring Fair in Detroit, where employers offered more than 1,300 jobs to Veterans and conducted more than 5,500 interviews.

“The National Veteran Small Business Conference, Open House and Hiring Fair has been a tremendous success,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “The event helped

Legislative Chairman Message

I could sit here and try to convince all of you that we are all working so very hard on our legislative issues; but I just remembered a statement made that explains this so much better: *“Always do the right thing; this will gratify some people and astonish the rest.” –Mark Twain*

Below are just a few of the Bills that are presently being addressed by the Michigan House of Representatives and the Senate.

Yes, as a committee, we have had an influence on our State Legislature. What would help even more, would be for you to contact your politicians from across the state; let them know what you think and that you are watching and paying attention to what they are doing.

The time of quietly sitting by and just hoping our elected politicians will do the right thing has past! As our numbers dwindle, we must become more and more vocal. We, the Veterans, have earned these rights; we have all known fellow Veterans that have died protecting these rights.

Every one of our DAV Chapters has a Legislative Chairman and committee members – don't just sit there doing nothing – write a short letter or call your county, state and national politicians. Find out what they are doing and tell them what you think – hold them accountable!

OK, no more ranting! I'll leave you with one more quote: “A squeaky wheel gets

the most grease.” So, be that squeaky wheel!!!!

Les Schneider
Chapter 63 Commander
Michigan State
Legislative Chairman
1st Jr. Vice Commander
District 1

SB 0181 of 2011, Senate Bill Description: Appropriations; zero budget; department of military and veterans affairs; provide for fiscal year 2011-2012. Creates appropriation act.

SB 0237 (PA 0157), Senate Bill Description: Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2010-2011. Creates appropriation act.

SB 0253 of 2011, Senate Bill Description: Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for notary public violations; enact.

SB 0386 of 2011, Senate Bill Description: Crimes; other; making false representation about military status; prohibit under certain circumstances and provide penalties.

SB 0543 of 2011, Senate Bill Description: Counties; boards and commissions; membership on county department of veterans' affairs; modify eligibility criteria.

SB 0798 (PA 0282), Senate Bill Description: Amends 1946 Veterans trust fund membership on board of trustees; modify.

HB 4255 of 2011, House Bill Description: Health; smoking;

smoking ban; exclude war veterans' organizations. Amends secs. 12601 & 12905 of 1978 PA 368 (MCL 333.12601).

HB 4278 of 2011, House Bill Description: Appropriations; zero budget; department of military and veterans affairs; provide for fiscal year 2011-2012. Creates appropriation act.

HB 4284 (PA 5), House Bill Description: Crimes; disorderly conduct; certain conduct directed at funeral and memorial services; prohibit as disorderly conduct.

HB 4315 (PA 78), House Bill Description: Highways; name; renaming a portion of US-31; designate as the “Medal of Honor Recipients Highway”.

HB 4323 of 2011, House Bill Description: Veterans; benefits; grant high school diploma to veterans who did not graduate but joined the armed forces during Vietnam war.

HB 4571 of 2011, House Bill Description: Veterans; trust fund; definition of veteran; expand to include cold war veterans. Amends sec. 1 of 1965 PA 190 (MCL 35.61).

HB 4606 of 2011, House Bill Description: Crimes; other; making false representation about military status; prohibit under certain circumstances and provide penalties.

HB 4639 (PA 63), House Bill Description: Probate; other; disposition of decedent's remains; require that directions by a person properly designated

A Big THANK YOU!!!

The Department of Michigan and Commander Bob Blevins would like to say a Big Thank You to all the Chapters, Department Officers and Past Department Commanders for their generous donations to the Department of Michigan at the 2012 State Convention in Sault Ste. Marie. We received over \$2,000.00 in donations.

The Bulletin Board

- DETROIT 1**, 2nd Wed., 6 p.m., DAV Home, 13221 Puritan St., Detroit 48227.
- GRAND RAPIDS 2**, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., 4809 Eastern Ave. SE, Kentwood 49508.
- GENESEE 3**, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 4270 E. Bristol Rd., Burton 48519.
- SAGINAW 4**, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., American Legion Post 439, 5190 Weiss St., Saginaw 48603.
- KALAMAZOO BUCK-CROSBY 6**, 4th Wed., 6 p.m., VFW Post 1527, 1920 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo 49001.
- CALHOUN COUNTY CHAPTER 7**, 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. at 101 E. Columbia Ave., Battle Creek 49015.
- CAPITOL CITY 8**, 2nd Mon., (Except July and August), 7 p.m., Scott House, 125 E. Main, Lansing 48909. Mail: P. O. Box 24141, Lansing 48909.
- WM. SPARKS 10**, 2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m., American Legion Post 29, 3200 Lansing Ave., Jackson 49202.
- WOOD-TAZELAAR 11**, 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., 2415 E. Laketon Ave., Muskegon 49442.
- PORT HURON 12**, 2nd Mon., Social 6 p.m.; Meeting 7 p.m., 2115 Military St., Port Huron 48060.
- WASHTENAW COUNTY 13**, 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. (Closed July 2012 and Dec. 2012) Graf-O'Hara VFW Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Rd., (betw. Saline & Ann Arbor Rds.) Ann Arbor 48106.
- HOLLAND 14**, 1st Tues., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1185 Matt Urban Dr., Holland 49423.
- PONTIAC 16**, 2nd Wed., 7 p.m., VFW Post 1370, 791 Mae, Pontiac 48340
- TWIN CITIES 17**, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., Moose Lodge, 2180 Union Street, Benton Harbor 49022.
- BIG RAPIDS 18**, 2nd Thurs., 6:30 p.m., 402 N. Michigan Ave., Big Rapids 49307.
- SOUTH OAKLAND 19**, 2nd Wed., 1 p.m., 2717 Coolidge Hwy., Berkley 48072.
- LENAWEE COUNTY 20**, 2nd Wed., 6 p.m., 141 E. Albert St., Adrian 49221.
- MARQUETTE COUNTY 22**, 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m., DJ Jacobetti Home, 425 Fisher Street, Marquette 49855.
- CLOVERLAND CHAPTER 23**, 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1227 West Breen Ave., Kingsford 49802.
- DELTA COUNTY 24**, 1st Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 904 Sheridan Rd., Escanaba 49829.
- MENOMINEE COUNTY 25**, 1st Thurs., 6 p.m., Senior Citizen Center, 905 10th St., Menominee 49858.
- MANISTIQUE 26**, 4th Thursday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 344 N. Maple, Manistique 49854.
- ALLEN ALTO 38**, 3rd Thurs., 1 p.m., American Military League, 2423 Sybrandt, Traverse City 49684.
- INLAND LAKES 39**, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., AMVETS Hall, 127 W. Cass St., Cadillac.
- SALT CITY 43**, 1st Tues. of month, 7:30 p.m., VFW Post, 28th St., Manistee 49660.
- MONROE COUNTY 42**, 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., Dundee Veterans Corp., 418 Dunham St., Dundee 48131.
- MACOMB COUNTY 44**, 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Post 7573, 35011 23 Mile Rd., New Baltimore 48047.
- CPL. IAN M. GRAY 51**, 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m., DAV Hall, 6117 Chase Rd. (near Ford Rd.), Dearborn 48126.
- O'CONNOR-REINHART 52**, 2nd Thurs., 7 p.m., National Guard Armory, 1170 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie 49783.
- CASIMIR ZABIK 60**, 2nd Tues., 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 25500 Sherwood (between 10 and 11 Mile Roads), Centerline 48015.
- THUNDER BAY 61**, 2nd Wednesday, 6 p.m., DAV Memorial Home, 1020 U.S. 23 North, P.O. Box 856, Alpena 49707.
- SHIAWASSEE COUNTY 63**, 1st Tues., 6 p.m., Shiawassee Council on Aging, 300 N. Washington St., Owosso 48867.
- CLINTON COUNTY 64**, 1st Wed., 7 p.m., American Legion Post 153, 110 E. Walker St., St. Johns 48879.
- NORTHLAND CHAPTER 66**, 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m. (Even numbered months), American Legion Post 5, McLeod Ave., Ironwood 49038.
- CHIPPEWA 67**, 2nd Thurs., 6 p.m., VFW 3134, 4 E. Genesee St., Iron River 49935.
- HILLSDALE 68**, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., 228 East Main St., North Adams 49262.
- MUNISING 69**, 1st Friday, 7 p.m., DAV/VVA Clubhouse, E.8025 Jingle Bell Ln., Christmas 49867.
- OGEMAW HILLS 73**, 3rd Monday, 5 p.m., Cummings Township Hall, 751 Morrison Rd. (South of Sage Lake Rd.), Rose City 48654.
- THUMB MEMORIAL 75**, 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., American Legion, 110 W. Frank St., Caro 48723
- COL. HAMTRAMCK CHAPTER 83**, 3rd Saturday, 4:30 p.m., PLAV Post 6, 9545 McDougall, Hamtramck 48212.
- JACK JOHNSTON 88**, 2nd Thurs., 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 264 Fawn River Road, Sturgis 49091.
- STRAITS 93**, 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 1110 N. State Street, St. Ignace 49781.
- MIDLAND COUNTY 94**, 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 3013 Bay City Rd., Midland 48640.
- STANDISH 100**, 1st Tues., 2 p.m., VFW 3724, 3458 N. Huron, Standish 48658.
- KARL H. BROWN 102**, 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m., American Legion Post 426, 2423 W. Jefferson, Trenton 48183.
- WILSON-BLACKMER 105**, 2nd and 4th Tues., 7 p.m., 9480 School St., Lake 48632; Second meeting is social meeting. Auxiliary meets at same time and place as chapter.
- FLAT RIVER CHAPTER 106**, 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., 8484 S. Mt. Hope, Carson City 48811.
- EAST DETROIT 107**, 3rd Wed. of Quarter, 3 p.m., VFW Post 6782, 17645 East Nine Mile, Eastpointe 48021.
- WILLIAM C. FORD 113**, 4th Wed., 6 p.m., VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft Road, Redford 48239.
- LIVONIA 114**, 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., DAV Home, 30905 Plymouth Rd., Livonia 48150.
- DR. PERCY H. WILSON 115**, 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m., Chassell VFW, U.S. 41, Chassell 49916. Auxiliary meets at same time.
- JAMES V. PELLEGRINI/LINCOLN PARK 116**, 2nd Wed., 3 p.m., American Legion Club, 1430 Southfield, Lincoln Park 48146.
- HALEY BROTHERS 117**, 1st Tuesday of month, 6:30 p.m., Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, 1500 Weiss St., Saginaw 48602.
- ST. CLAIR SHORES 119**, 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., VFW Bruce Post 1146, 28404 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores 48081.
- REED – J. DaPRATO 125**, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., American Legion Club, 3265 W. Grand River, Howell 48843.
- BIEBUYCK-ROMANO 127**, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., VFW Post 3130, 6782 Nine Mile Rd. (at Sherwood), Warren 48091.
- ROBERT H. COX 129**, 1st Tues., 7 p.m., DAV Hall, 47326 Dequindre, Shelby Twp. 48317.
- TAWAS BAY 130**, 4th Mon., 7 p.m., East Tawas City Community Bldg., 760 Newman, E. Tawas 48730.

Calling All Chapters

Please tell us what you are doing and what you have done in the community. We would love to let other Chapters out there know what great things you have done and what is coming down the road. Maybe we can all get some ideas from one another or at least be proud of what other Chapters and members in our state are doing for the Disabled American Veterans in Michigan. Feel free to send photos, as

well. We would like to start doing a "Chapters Corner" section in the newspaper featuring the wonderful work that all of you do.

Please send any information or photos to: **michelle@davmichigan.com** or **Kelly@davmichigan.com**

You can also mail to Department Headquarters at: **DAV Dept. of Michigan, 17779 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.**

REMINDER

Letters from Members

Don't forget we are still accepting letters from members to print in upcoming editions of the newspaper. If you have something you would like to share or an informative piece

of information you would like to get out to other members, please feel free to mail your letter to **DAV Department Headquarters, 17779 14 Mile Road Fraser, MI 48026.**

****MEMBERS****

Please visit our website at **www.davmembersportal.org/mi** to view/print the new updated Constitution and Bylaws and Directory, so you can become familiar with all of the changes that have taken place.

Department Officer reports as well as the Annual Financial

Report and instructions can also be found under the news tab along with other helpful information for members and chapter officers.

Located under News Tab Dept Documents/Forms

Also check out the Links Tab for additional websites that are helpful to veterans

Letters From Members

Our National DAV Commander, Donald Samuels, in his statement before the US Senate and House of Representatives in February 2012 got it right when he spoke about retired Veterans who are disabled 40% or less, but must forego their earned disability compensation, dollar for dollar, from any retirement pay they may be receiving. They may be hurting just as much as

those whose disability rating is 50% or higher, depending on their specific injury in question. This is an inequity that has no justification whatsoever and needs to be addressed each year until corrected through appropriate legislative action.

**Submitted by:
SFC Robert E. Dittman
USARNG Retired**

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TAPS

Name.....Chapter

| | |
|---|-----|
| Edward F. Ruff..... | 1 |
| Jim Bruney..... | 2 |
| Fred Bykerk..... | 2 |
| Donald E. Damuth..... | 2 |
| Samuel J. Long..... | 3 |
| Lowden Harrison..... | 11 |
| Otto K. Hopma..... | 11 |
| Elmer Lindback..... | 11 |
| Carl F. Lund..... | 11 |
| Stanley Stevens..... | 11 |
| Lynn J. Van Huizen..... | 11 |
| Hebert M. English..... | 13 |
| Duwayne Hoy..... | 13 |
| William R. Pierce..... | 13 |
| Douglas A. Ward..... | 13 |
| William J. Brady..... | 14 |
| Ted Brink..... | 14 |
| Harvey Buscher..... | 14 |
| Glenn DeJonge..... | 14 |
| Ivan Johnson..... | 14 |
| George Kantz..... | 14 |
| Guy Lewis..... | 14 |
| Forrest Shuck..... | 14 |
| Richard Storey..... | 14 |
| Harvey U. Smith..... | 14 |
| Ray Whiteman..... | 14 |
| George Wolters..... | 14 |
| Carl E. Cobb..... | 17 |
| Marjorie J. Freeman..... | 17 |
| Anthony F. Krukowski..... | 17 |
| Ewald H. Lehmann..... | 17 |
| George D. Cable..... | 18 |
| William G. Dennis..... | 18 |
| Duane R. Hanna..... | 18 |
| Cecil W. Horan..... | 18 |
| William P. Keena..... | 18 |
| Sanford L. Steig..... | 18 |
| Domenick Tagliareni..... | 18 |
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| Louis R. Bartol..... | 24 |
| Kenneth Beaudoin..... | 24 |
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| Robert L. Bullard..... | 24 |
| Robert J. Carlson..... | 24 |
| Ronald Forsythe..... | 24 |
| Edwin F. Glenn III..... | 24 |
| Walter G. Hamilton..... | 24 |
| Wayne E. Heikkila..... | 24 |
| Marvin A. Lucas..... | 24 |
| Donald Marvic..... | 24 |
| Robert Robinette..... | 24 |
| Gene R. Thorbahn..... | 24 |
| Clarence L. Ceres..... | 25 |
| Raymond J. Lemire..... | 25 |
| George R. Nystrom..... | 25 |
| Cecil Salewshy..... | 25 |
| Edward J. Stanislawski..... | 25 |
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| Erma J. Cybulski..... | 33 |
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| Past State Commander George Zoscsak Past State Auxiliary Commander Addie White | |

Entries for this column must be submitted to Department headquarters, in writing, no later than 45 days after the member's death. Send notice to: DAV, Attn: TAPS, 17779 East Fourteen Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026. You may also send entries via e-mail to: michelle@davmichigan.com

Chaplain's Message

by Michael Knutson, LTC US Army (Ret.) State Chaplain

God's Rights

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have celebrated Flag Day, Independence Day, and we will be in the middle of a national election campaign. Topping all of that, families will be planning vacation or are on vacation, and shortly will be preparing to send their children off to school. Where did the summer go?

As we celebrated Independence Day, we in the United States were reminded again of the liberties that we enjoy. For these we should be eternally grateful. But more often than not, we take them for granted displaying little concern for those who are not so abundantly blessed. We are becoming a nation of individuals who selfishly insist on our own rights, making unfair demands on others and not thinking of the greater good.

Worst of all, in our clamor for personal freedom, we hear very little about the rights of God. We should reread our own Declaration of Independence where our

nation acknowledged that God is the creator of all life, that God is the creator of our liberty, and that God is the creator of our happiness. And what God expects from us is love and gratitude, instead of selfishness and ingratitude.

But there is a group of citizens who have not forgotten the rights of God, and that is our veterans. Because of our veterans, our nation's citizens can acknowledge God's gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Let us as a united DAV family remember all who are serving our country and are risking their lives every day in the difficult struggle to preserve God's gifts to us. As a united DAV family, let us focus our energy and efforts on our country's debt of gratitude to support all veterans.

As we thank our veterans for all they have done to preserve our liberty, let us also thank God who established our liberties.

"God Bless America."

Membership Chairman's Message

I would like to express my thanks for those who had confidence in voting for me for Senior Vice Commander for the Department of Michigan.

I truly look forward to working with the State Commander and the other Line Officers to make this Department be one of the best in the nation. Now that we have approved our new Constitution and Bylaws and National Organization has approved them, we can get back to the business that is before us.

As Senior Vice Commander, I am also the Chairman of the Membership Committee. As we all know, we are losing our older members at an alarming rate. To try to fill the ranks that are being depleted we have to come up with some new ideas to get the younger Veterans to join us. One way is when we have new members

come to meetings, make them feel welcome and needed but don't pressure them to do something they don't feel comfortable doing or they may not come back. Also, keep the meetings lively and not boring, try to get them to participate. You can also have other activities outside of the meetings, such as a monthly potluck dinner or another activity.

I am going to try to communicate with each Chapter and see if anyone has some ideas to bring these newer Veterans to us. If anyone has some ideas, they can call or write to me and we can try to implement them.

Once again, I would like to say "Thanks" and let's try to make this one of the best years that we can.

**Carl Poest
Senior Vice Commander**

LEGISLATIVE Cont. from page 5

by service member be followed.

HB 4745 (PA 6), House Bill Description: Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for crime of disorderly conduct at a funeral; revise.

HB 4888 (PA 213), House Bill Description: Highways; name; certain bridge on US-141; designate as the "Veterans Memorial Bridge".

HB 5199 of 2011, House Bill Description: Veterans; benefits; burial benefit for cold war veterans; provide at the discretion of county veterans board. Amends sec. 1 of 1911 PA 235.

SB 1160 of 2012, Senate Bill Description: Crimes; business crimes; foreclosure-related crimes; provide for restitution and authorize funding for various foreclosure counseling, blight elimination and children's and veterans' assistance programs. Creates new act.

HB 5251 of 2012, House Bill Description: Veterans; benefits; veterans burial expenses; clarify and revise. Amends sec. 1 of 1911 PA 235 (MCL 35.801).

HB 5252 of 2012, House Bill Description: Veterans; trust fund; access to veterans trust fund; clarify eligibility. Amends sec. 2 of 1946 (1st Ex Sess) PA 9 (MCL 35.602).

HB 5292 of 2012, House Bill Description: Natural resources; fishing; provide for waiver of fishing and hunting license fees for disabled veterans. Amends sec. 43537 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.43537).

HB 5457 of 2012, House Bill Description: Property tax exemptions; real and personal property of veterans' organizations; exempt. Amends sec. 70 of 1893 PA 206 (MCL 211)

HB 5486 of 2012, House Bill Description: Veterans; other; veteran's ombudsman; create. Creates new act.



Loraine Connelly

Auxiliary Commander's Message

I commend that you read the State DAV newspapers, auxiliary bulletins and all correspondence for any important information or changes during this first year.

My theme this year is **BE THE THREAD**. Threads can be real, as in fabric or virtual, as in computers; but the common function is they reach out and connect to form something bigger and stronger.

If we practice being "Strong Threads", with a smile, a kind word, a listening ear or welcoming a newcomer, we'll form the fabric of a good strong Auxiliary. **Gwen McCracken** was the first important thread for me. She made me feel so welcome the first time I attended an event. It made all the difference to me because I had a positive and enjoyable first experience. I will never forget her kindness and I'm sure many of you have a person you look to because of the kindness you felt when you first became active. Please remember that although we do have State Commanders, YOU are the representatives of our Auxiliary. The way to attract new members is by showing

them what an exemplary organization we are and make them want to be a part of all that we do. By attracting and signing up new members we lighten our load, ensure our longevity and make wonderful new friends who share our goal of helping veterans and their families.

BE THE THREAD that Makes A Connection and Makes A Difference!

As I write this, I am just out of the hospital and I'm trying hard to regain my strength so I can represent you at the National Convention. I've been to the last 18 and I don't want to miss this one in particular. I also look forward to the Pig Roast at Holland 14 and Fall Conference in September.

Talk to your units and get a group together to attend Fall Conference. I promise you will enjoy it and leave with many new, fresh ideas...AND some wonderful new friends!

Please feel free to come up to me and introduce yourself. I'm proud of our organization and our members and would like to meet as many of you as I can.

I want to thank the wonderful members of our Auxiliary for supporting me and electing me to serve as your State Commander this year. I am honored and will do my very best to represent you.

As most of you have heard, The DAV Department of Michigan has restructured and is well on their way. Michigan is now divided into six Districts, rather than four Zones. I am confident that the changes made will only slightly affect how the Auxiliary does business and will not be a major problem.

There most likely will be District meetings and the Auxiliary will also meet at that time. I rec-

Make A Plan for Mae Holmes

By Anna Lockwood, Auxiliary State Mae Holmes Chairman

Your Mae Holmes report for 2012-13 will be due in a couple of months. You should submit this report, even if your Unit did not make quota. Remember you need to make quota by April 1, 2013. Look over last year's report; then ask your Unit to help out with one or two things.

Membership: Help get a new

member by helping with Unit money in signing up a new member or a down payment on a Lifetime Membership.

Legislative: Write a letter or phone call to your State Senator or State Representative.

Junior Activities: Ask the junior members to help in Unit activities.

Community Service: Anything you can do to help out friends or neighbors.

If you make quota by April 1, 2013 and get your report in no later than May 1, 2013, you may be able to win something - including the Mae Holmes Award.

Good luck to all Units!

Membership/Jr. Vice Commander's Message

By Barbara McComb, Auxiliary State Membership Chairman/Jr. Vice Commander

Thank you for your support at Convention. As Junior Vice Commander, I am your Membership Chairman for this year. Our membership year is July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Membership is one of the keys to success. As a Unit we need to grow; this helps the Unit have more members at the meetings, working on projects and programs and offering new ideas. New members keep our Units young. Let's work together and recruit new members. Start recruiting today and every day.

Some may wonder WHO is eligible to join the Auxiliary. It is the family and extended family members of any person eligible for membership in the DAV, even if they are deceased. Also, the family and extended family members of any person injured and who may still be in active service, or family and extended family members of any person who has served in the U.S. armed forces and has not been dishonorably discharged. ALL DAV members are eligible for membership in the Auxiliary.

Remember our mission: Mak-

ing a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

We need to promote the DAV and the Auxiliary. There are current veterans and their families who need our help. We need to be there for them just as our mature members were there when we joined. This is teamwork to help our units grow.

I will announce the Membership Incentive Program after National Fall Conference in September. Let's have a great year and support Commander Loraine Connelly in all her programs.

Adjutant Ad Libs

By Carol Gray, State Adjutant



A new membership year has begun with new goals and renewed enthusiasm as the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary begins our 90th year. We have come a long way, but there is still much that we can do in "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families" - our Mission Statement.

The monthly mail sent from National Headquarters includes a distribution report. On that report, you will find your new quota for this membership year. As all mail from headquarters is sent to the Adjutant on record, remind your Adjutant to make certain that any mail received is brought to your Unit meeting. All mail is to be available to all members. *Headquarters News*, the monthly publication from National Headquarters, contains important news to be shared with the membership. Bulletins from national chairmen should be given to your unit chairman to review and then to share with the Unit.

Unit Treasurers - At each

meeting, it is your responsibility to have a written report of income and disbursements and convey that information to the membership with a beginning and an ending balance.

Each unit is *required* to have a checking account in the name of the unit with the proper signatures on record at the bank. There are to be three (3) members who can sign those checks. They are the Unit Treasurer, Unit Commander and the Unit Senior Vice Commander. No other member is authorized to sign unit checks, and two (2) of the three (3) members *must* sign any check. (See page U-7, Article XI, Section 4: Treasurer)

It is unfortunate that seven (7) of our Units have yet to submit their 2012-13 Officer Report. If a report is not received at National Headquarters, your Unit will not receive any mail, nor will per capita distribution be automatically deposited to your Unit's account. Please, please get those reports completed and mailed so your Unit can stay up-to-date on events and to be informed.

Carol Gray
State Adjutant

Department of Michigan Americanism Essay Contest Winners

The Theme of the essay was:

What is the Definition of an American?

1st Place Winner:

Andrew Shaver of Star Elementary School in Hastings, Michigan

Essay Submitted by:

Chapter 7 Americanism Officer William Roush

What is an American? An American is free. If you want to be precise, a person who was born and lives in the United States of America. The President is an American. He is in charge of the United States. We also help him by voting on new laws. But, we have qualities for being American also.

We are Always faithful to our country. In the Revolutionary War, only General George Washington's incredible leadership kept the Continental Army loyal to the cause of Independence.

Also, we are the Men and women that fight for our liberty every day in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Vietnam. We have the audacity to do these kinds of things.

In addition, we are perseverant. We keep on venturing even when people say we should quit. For example, Thomas Edison tried 10,000 times to invent the light bulb. He kept on trying and trying and at last made it work. His works are a great help to our Nation.

Adding on to that, we are Ready to help. Lately there have been tornadoes in the Southern United States. Houses have been shredded and people were in need of help. Hundreds of people came to help and lug away debris. This is a very large act of kindness.

Equally important, we are Impenetrable together. When we

work together, we can accomplish what we need to do. In the Revolutionary War, the colonies worked together to get rid of the King. Did it work? Yes! And now American is a self-governing country.

Another, we are Courageous. When Amelia Earhart was going to fly across the world, her husband told her she should not go, but what did she do? She still went! She was Courageous.

Accordingly, Americans are Always willing. Like I said a while ago, many people were willing to help with their tools during the tornadoes down South. They gave up their time and vigor for others.

Similarly, we Never turn away. At the Battle of Saratoga, the Americans kept fighting against the British. Why they won? They never turned back. That is why they won. Plus, they captured nearly 6,000 prisoners and many supplies.

If you go back in this essay, and write down all the BOLD letters in order, it will spell A-M-E-R-I-C-A-N, and if you take off the A-M-E-R, it spells I CAN. And you can do something too, because you... are an AERICAN.

2nd Place Winner: Azana Jones of Fremont Elementary School

Essay Submitted by: William Roush of Chapter 7

3rd Place Winner: Mackenna Hanson of James T. Jones Elementary School

Essay Submitted by: Morris Cole of Chapter 24

4th Place Winner: McKenna Hepler of Ealy Elementary School

Essay Submitted by: Ted Sirotko of Chapter 11

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary

Department of Michigan 2012-2013 Officers and Chairmen

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State Jr. Vice Commander

Barbara McComb, (18)

State Judge Advocate

Betty Benzing, (18)
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Adjutant/Treasurer

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State Veterans Home Chairmen

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
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1659 Plainfield NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616-450-3894

D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans
Donna Henshaw, (22) Chairman
145 Sheryl Street
Marquette, MI 49855
906-249-3608

ATTENTION GOLFERS!!

Sign up Today for the DAV's 7th Annual Thomas McMaster's III Charity Golf Outing set for Saturday, September 8, 2012

State Commander Bob Blevins and the Disabled American Veterans Department of Michigan invites everyone to come join us for our 7th annual Thomas McMasters III annual golf outing on Saturday, September 8, 2012 at the Fern Hill Country Club in Clinton Township, Michigan. This will be a scramble format golf outing with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start.

The price per golfer is \$80.00, or \$320.00 per team, and includes a hot dog, chips and soft drink at the turn and a delicious buffet dinner that you will surely enjoy!

In addition to a wonderful dinner, there will be prizes and raffles, as well, for really fabulous prizes!

Planners anticipate a great turnout and are hopeful for a complete sellout. Please contact the office at 1-888-448-2328 if you would like to join us to secure a spot for you and anyone else you would like to bring. The

registration form is also available on the DAV Website at www.davmembersportal.org/mi

If you cannot attend but would like to donate to the Disabled American Veterans, the DAV is also looking for Cart sponsors, as well as Hole sponsors for this golf outing. The Cart sponsorship is \$25.00 per cart and the Hole sponsorship is \$100.00 per hole. Other "Gold" sponsorship opportunities are also available for \$250.00 up to \$1,000.00.

Remember if you are golfing this year, the DAV Thrift Store Truck and management team will be on site at Fern Hill for a special clothing drive. For every 13 gallon bag (or larger) full of gently used clothing that you bring, you will receive one free raffle ticket. The more bags you bring – the more raffle tickets you can accumulate.

We are striving to make this the best golf outing yet, so please come and join the fun!

Winner of the Ted Nugent Raffle

Frank Connelly, son of Past Department Commander Joseph Connelly and Auxiliary Commander Loraine Connelly held the winning ticket that was drawn at the banquet during the 2012 State Convention in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on June 9, 2012.



A total of 8,553 tickets were sold; thanks to all the chapters that sold tickets and the department staff for all their help. Special thanks to the top selling chapters, Chapter 130 and Chapter 39 who shared in the winnings for top selling chapter.

Another Job Well Done



This year's event raised \$628.00 for the Department of Michigan.

The Department of Michigan had a plaque made to thank Derek for all his help in supporting the DAV. Past Department Commander John Lamphere presented Derek with the plaque at his home in Petosky in July of 2012.

This was the last year that Derek will be putting on the event, as he is headed off to Northern Michigan University this fall to begin college.


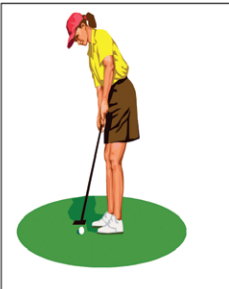
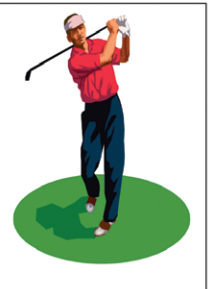
We at the Department of Michigan are very grateful and thankful to Derek for his hard work, time and his dedication in helping our Disabled Veterans.

We wish Derek the best of luck in college.

A BIG THANK YOU to Derek Peterson of Petosky who once again held a DAV 5K run in Petosky, Michigan for the Disabled American Veterans Department of Michigan.

Trivia Answers from page 3

1. No later than September 30
2. July 1-June 30
3. State
4. Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN WELCOMES EVERYONE TO OUR 7TH ANNUAL THOMAS A. MCMASTERS III DAV GOLF OUTING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2012 FERN HILL COUNTRY CLUB 17600 Clinton River Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038 9:00 a.m. SHOTGUN START "SCRAMBLE FORMAT"

GOLF - \$320 PER TEAM (\$80.00 PER PERSON) INCLUDES 18 HOLES OF GOLF, POWER CART, LUNCH AT THE TURN, DINNER BUFFET, PRIZES AND RAFFLES



FOURSOME NAMES OR SINGLE GOLFERS WELCOME:

1. (CAPTAIN) _____ ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

**** MAXIMUM OF 36 TEAMS ****
CONTACT 1-888-448-2328 FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED,   CALL 1-888-448-2328
 OTHERWISE, COMPLETE ABOVE REGISTRATION AND MAIL ALONG WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO
 DAV DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, 17779 E. 14 MILE ROAD, FRASER, MI 48026



Color Guard from DAV Chapter 20. Kevin White, Jerry Cool, JoLinda White, Robert Polhamus. Photo taken by Steven Pruitt



Sharon and Adrian VanHouten provided patriotic entertainment at the Convention Banquet. Photo taken by Steven Pruitt



Chapter of the Year Award was presented to Chapter 7. Pictured is Commander Blevins and Commander Edwin Holden (7). Photo taken by Steven Pruitt



National Convention Guests National Judge Advocate Michael Dobmeier and National Auxiliary Adjutant Judy Hezlep. Photo taken by Steven Pruitt

Calling All Chapters

Please tell us what you are doing and what you have done in the community. We would love to let other Chapters out there know what great things you have done and what is coming down the road. Maybe we can all get some ideas from one another or at least be proud of what other Chapters and members in our state are doing for the Disabled American Veterans in Michigan. Feel free to send photos, as well. We would

like to start doing a "Chapters Corner" section in the newspaper featuring the wonderful work that all of you do.

Please send any information or photos to: michelle@davmichigan.com or Kelly@davmichigan.com

You can also mail to Department Headquarters at: DAV Dept. of Michigan, 17779 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.