



BULLETS



Volume 100 Number 1

January, February, March 2018

Disabled American Veterans



Minneapolis Chapter #1

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Disabled American Veterans Mission Statement: Made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense, the Disabled American Veterans is dedicated to one, single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

Commander's Column

Fellow Members,

It is time we take a few minutes and remember who we are, where we came from, and why we're members of the DAV. It is important that we remember the past, honor and respect those no longer with us, focus on today's needs, and prepare for tomorrow. We can and will succeed as we always have in the past. This we will do together, guided by our single purpose of "Empowering Veterans to Lead High-Quality Lives with Respect and Dignity." With these thoughts in mind, I see nothing but a strong bright future for all of our members and the many veterans we have helped with our generosity and positive attitudes.

It is my wish that all of you have a "Happy Holiday Season" and a wonderful 2018. Also, let us be reminded of what Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." All the Best Wishes!

Jim Kline, Commander

The last few months I have been honored in representing your DAV Chapter and the DAV in Minnesota as a whole in a number of events and settings. I think I can sum-up my experiences in our **single purpose: Empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.** Your participation in our Chapter allows us to reach out and have a meaningful positive influence on veteran's lives. Whether it be our monthly hospital visit at the VA Medical Center, distributing personal hygiene kits to the 144 residents at the Veterans Home at Hastings, serving a holiday meal to the residents in veteran's transitional housing at the Upper Post of Fort Snelling, your Chapter is directly impacting our veteran community.

Our ability to do positive work is centered on our membership and donations. We currently have 3476 members and need 8 new members to reach our recruiting goal. It is easy for a Veteran based organization to continue to rely on small groups of tried and true leaders, but our future is tied to embracing and supporting those veterans who we have not impacted yet. This may be the Vietnam Vets who have transitioned into retirement and have never had the time or have been welcomed into a professional veteran's organization. It also may be the modern military member who's normal is multiple deployments with the Guard or Reserve while attending school or building a civilian carrier. Do you know of a disabled veteran who would be a great addition to Chapter #1?

Joel Schilling, Senior Vice

Despite having chronic health issues, it is important for Veterans and their families to stay fit. Light exercise, including walking, will strengthen our Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems. Yoga and stretching will relieve pain in our joints, and prevent injuries. Consider joining a gym, mall walking, exercise classes, workout at home, swimming, or use of a video game such as Wii Fit or PlayStation Move. If you are on a Medicare Advantage Plan, you may be eligible for the Silver Sneakers or Silver & Fit programs. That allows the Medicare recipient to have a no-cost gym or exercise/yoga club membership. It's important to use your mobility aids (i.e. canes, walkers, shoe spikes), especially when exercising outside in the winter. When it is cold, dress in clothing layers, proper cap/hat, and wear warm boots with good traction. My favorite, enjoy a quiet walk, especially on clear-starry "old man" winter nights.

Ho, ho, ho.
Happy Holidays Everyone!

Doug Scofield, 3rd Junior Vice

Departed Comrades

2017

September

Clifford B. Aaze
David C. Heckman
Morris C. Hoyum
Russell P. Jenkins
John C. Sieberz

Michael T. Mikrut
Ronald L. Schwerman
Jerry Smalkosko
Herbert J. Suerth
Edward A. Volker

October

Edward K. Burns
James W. Eckberg
Steven J. Gervais
Waldo A. Jackel
John F. McGovern

November

Robert J. Brennan
Terry C. Monsrud
Marvin E. Piepho

If you know of any member who has left us recently, please call the office to let us know. 612-726-9591.

Almost 5 million Americans served in World War I, over 53 thousand gave their lives in combat with another 63 thousand losing their lives to accidents and illnesses. Of those coming home, 204 thousand sustained the wounds of war. These included the obvious, with loss of limbs and permanent disfigurement. The not so obvious included the casualties of chemical warfare whose lungs were forever seared and those afflicted with Shell Shock, which today is called PTSD. They returned to an America that simply was not ready to take care of those that borne the battle, and soon the sight of Veterans with pencils to sell and tin cups for the spare change they could beg were too common a sight. It was this harsh reality that led to the formation of today's DAV.

Since 1920, your DAV has worked to ensure promises are fulfilled to the men and women who served. We do this through many ways. Our community involvement shows the importance of our organization to our neighbors. The sheer numbers of our membership gives our Legislative Team clout.

I often tell prospective new members that if they like the benefits they have earned, and they want to see the next generation of Veterans keep the same benefits—they *need* to join the DAV. They may be younger, and may not have a lot of time due to jobs, family, and a hectic schedule, but it does not take a lot of time nor money to join and be counted in the ranks of their Brothers and Sisters in the DAV. Maintaining what we have is an accomplishment, NOT a given. To illustrate this, I will remind you our DAV has changed the name from "Legislative Team" to Benefits Protection Team."

Your fellow Veterans need you to be in St. Paul for Veteran's Day On The Hill on Monday, March 12, 2018. There will be metro area park and rides for this event; details will be coming and will be available at www.DAVMN.org. There is a free pre-rally breakfast in the Veteran's Services Building. The Rally starts at 10 a.m. in the State Capitol Rotunda—and we need people there!

Have questions? DAV Point Person is Trent Dilks, email Trent@DAVMN.org, or you can call me at 612-424-0482.

Tommy Johnson, Chapter Legislative Officer

Dates and Times to Remember

January

01		New Years Day
02	5:45 pm	*NO DINNER
02	6:45 pm	*NO MEETING
10	7:00 pm	6-5-4
15		Martin Luther King Day
28	12:45 pm	VAMC Visitation

February

06	5:45 pm	*Dinner
06	6:45 pm	*Meeting
14	7:00 pm	6-5-4
14		Valentine's Day
19		President's Day
25	12:45 pm	VAMC Visitation

March

06	5:45 pm	*Dinner
06	6:45 pm	*Chapter Meeting
14		6-5-4
20		First Day of Spring
25	12:45 pm	VAMC Visitation
25		Palm Sunday

April

1		Easter Sunday
3	5:45 pm	*Dinner
3	6:45 pm	*Meeting
11	7:00 pm	6-5-4

***All meetings are held at Bloomington Event Center**
 1114 American Blvd, West. Bloomington, 55420

Remember: All DAV meetings are open to all veterans. Only members in good standing may vote during meetings.

As treasurer, I wish to extend my thanks and gratitude to all who participated in the fall fundraising campaign. It was a success and many veterans will benefit from it in the future.

In early January 2018, the Finance/Fundraising and Transition & Donation committees will meet to plan for 2018 fundraising events and donations. We will discuss the expansion and refinement of our fund raising with a main focus on one-day fund raising events and corporate based donations in addition to our normal Forget-Me-Not events. A brief summary of the discussions will be presented at the February 2018 Chapter meeting. The principle beneficiaries of the funds raised will go to support veteran's education, the Every Third Saturday (non-profit organization for homeless vets and those with PTSD), and the Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County, plus our traditional donations.

Holiday wishes!

Grant Paul, Treasurer/Interim Adjutant



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Jimmy R. Kline, Commander Date **Aug. 21, 2017**

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