

MO DAV Chapter 53

NEWS LETTER

Missouri DAV Chapter 53

Newsletter
11/15/2017
Volume 1, Issue 1

COMMANDERS CORNER

This will be a new article in our news letter informing our membership of chapter activities, high lights of chapter achievements, and identifying member accomplishments. First, the primary objective of this chapter is to assist veterans in the claims process however, in doing so we want to increase/develop membership. For the last two years, Chapter 53 has received awards for increased membership and we intend to continue doing so. We have also donated \$300.00 toward the Missouri state vehicle transportation program.

It's easy to start with identifying accomplishments by the dedication of Billie Bollinger and our "Forget Me Not" Program. Billie and his team have set up their booth in his north county church and not only brought revenue to the chapter but local area people know him to be a source of VA information. And they have become a source for membership recruitment. Our new Service Officer, Tom Redington, is off to flying start by developing/designing a canopy for a booth he intends to use in our local

and outlying areas so that he can carry the DAV message to veterans making it easy for them to access the claims process. Of interest, this canopy has also been adopted for use with the Forget Me Not booth (See picture).

Again, this section will attempt to identify areas of interest to all chapter members. You can call me at 314-216-0906 for questions or areas you'd like to see addressed.

Virgil Lucas

Commander

Virgil "Luke" Lucas

Commander

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Virgil "Luke" Lucas
Commander

Missouri DAV Chapter 53 Has a Facebook Page!

For a lot of us the communication media is outstripping our snail mail method of communicating with each other. It used to be we would write a letter and wait a week to get a reply. Today one merely needs to go to Facebook, email or some other electronic method of communication to stay in touch with fellow comrades. Now you

can be astonished in just a few minutes to know what someone is thinking. With Facebook after you have signed in, go to the top of the page where it says "Search" and enter "MO DAV Chapter 53" to bring you to Chapter 53 Facebook page. It was just started so we need your input. Want to share a photo or comment with fellow veterans, this is the

place to do it. Remember that this is a place where everyone can post a comment. Please keep your post pleasant and enjoyable to read or view.

This is Scott Owens area of expertise so email Scott with questions.

voiceovers4u@gmail.com



Scott Owen
Publicity Chairman

Missouri Chapter 53 is Growing

At last count we are showing somewhere around 285 members that belong to DAV Missouri Chapter 53. We have some who have transferred into the Chapter as well as a few who are new to the DAV.

As you most likely already know we are an organization formed mainly for helping Veterans who are in need of help in acquiring all the benefits they have earned while serving in the United States Military. We concentrate on the disabled Veteran who may or may not be receiving all the benefits afforded him/her. Some Veterans need help in filing an Appeal to get their disability increased, as age has a way of compounding their problems. Some Veterans need help with education benefits while others are looking to see how they

can best take care of their family and loved ones. This is the service the DAV Chapter 53 can bring to you, the Disabled Vet

We need more members, young and old, disabled as well as the not too disabled to help bring the DAV message to as many Veterans as possible. Many Veterans who are not classified by the VA as Disabled find themselves in life's position today where a disability shows up today from an injury that occurred years ago while on active duty. We should talk, because the DAV can help make these problems a little more manageable.

The Missouri State Adjutant visited one of our meetings recently and complimented the chapter for the number we have in attendance at our meetings. Chapters with over 5 times the membership Chapter 53

has, have half the number of attendees at their meetings that we have attending ours. I think we get bragging rights for that!

We are trying to make our meetings informative as well as relaxing. None of us can sing or dance but we try hard to make everyone feel comfortable. Our meetings would be even more enjoyable if you were here. Need a ride! Let us know!



Chapter Service Officer
Tom Redington

Chapter 53 Website is UP again!

Busy! Busy! Busy!

For over three years we have neglected to utilize our Chapter 53 website for the tool that it was meant to be. Tom Redington (treding1@gmail.com) and Scott Owen (voiceovers4u@gmail.com), have been hard at work getting the news together as well as authorization to take over the operation of the website. The website, MODAV53.org will have a redirect to the National sponsored Chapter 53 website. Click on the "Redirect" link and you are there. Sometimes it takes it a while to redirect so be patient. If you explore the webpage you will see we have a lot of catching up to do to get

current. If you notice something you would like to see or change, let Scott or myself know and we will see if we can accommodate you. Be Patient!

We see so many opportunities to be had within our Chapter, as well as the Veterans we serve in our Communities, by utilizing our webpage to the fullest.

Those of you who may not be too comfortable around a computer or just don't have a computer might be able to have a friend or a relative to share their computer experience with you, so you can see what we have and where we are

trying to go.

Virgil "Luke" Lucas, our Chapter Commander, is anxious to reach each and every one of you in some way or another. This Website as well as this letter is a good beginning. Facebook is another method as described elsewhere in this letter. Let Luke know how ever you are able, what you would like to see in the monthly letter as well as the website. MODAV53.org. The website has a calendar page that eventually will show all the dates that the Chapter has scheduled along with other dates that would have significant interest for many chapter members.

DAV Forget-Me-Nots

Where's Billie?

Those of you who know or remember Billie Bollinger you will remember he is most likely out soliciting donations for his Forget-Me-Nots.

Recent efforts to gain donations have had Billie, Jerry Ganahl and Tom Redington at the Bethel Providence Church as well as at Walmart close to New Halls Ferry Rd and Lindberg Blvd.

The new awning has helped immensely in that not only does it provide shade but it also presents a very professional front.

The black and white newsletter does not even begin to bring the awning to its overall appreciated graphics and color.

Billie and myself are looking for a few volunteers to help man the booth to let people know just who we are.

We are also looking for additional places for us to set up our booth to help spread the word that Chapter 53 is ready to help and or assist veterans in acquiring VA Medical aide, as well as answer to a military disability Our Chapter is at the ready to help with Education Benefits for the Disabled Veteran as well as for their children. Modifications to automobiles are also available so the Disabled Veteran is transportation independent!

For-Get-Me-Not donations go to help Veterans in the St Louis area

as well as to keep the Chapter running.



Billie Bollinger



The Billie Booth

GOLDEN CORRAL Veterans Day Celebration

It's that time of year again where we pay Honor to all Veterans. Those who have gone before us, those that have served for us, and those who have become disabled in their service for us. As Veterans some companies go out of their way to pay homage to the Veteran. One such Company is Golden Corral.

One a year, celebrating Veterans Day Golden Corral invites the DAV Members to be their guest for a meal on them to show their support for the Disabled American Veteran

**"Veterans Day – 11th of November
Golden Corral invitation to DAV
Members to Dinner – 13th of
November"**

Many of your fellow comrades will be coming. This is a good time to see those you are close to but have not seen in many years.

This is just Golden Corral's way of showing their appreciation for all that you have done and for all that you do.

Honor Your Hero! Be a Hero! Blood Drive!

American Legion Post 397 & all Women American Legion Post 404 are sponsoring a **Red Cross Blood Drive** at the Legion Post 397 location. American Legion Post 397 has been so gracious to us to allow DAV Chapter 53 to hold our monthly meetings in their building.

Commander Luke Lucas just thought it would be fitting way of showing our gratitude by supporting their blood drive. American Legion Post 404 (All

women's Post) has asked all their legion members to support the blood drive along with Post 397.

Also a little food for thought! (That's a lead in) the American Legion Post 397 has a restaurant that opens at 11:00 AM till 2:00PM.

If you want to crunch on some food before giving blood they will certainly appreciate you supporting their restaurant!

Back to the Blood Drive! You all are aware of the good that is derived from the Red Cross. Not only here at home but overseas at almost every location of our military comrades.

Mark your calendar :

Wednesday, Nov 29, 2017

934 Rue De La Banque
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

To schedule an appointment else where, visit redcrossblood.org ; enter sponsor code: **AmerLeg101**

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767 -7)



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Missouri DAV Chapter 53

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We're on the Web!

Modav53.org

Who are your Officers for the 2017-18 Year

I know it's a little late but we still need to introduce you to the Officers that are charged with the operation of the DAV Chapter 53.

Every year as you know the chapter elects new officers. It is usually a 3 month procedure so

that everyone gets a chance to participate in the election.

1st month the positions along with the position responsibilities are laid out to all meeting attendees. The Commander will call for nominations for each of the positions Nominate yourself

or someone else. The nominations are then listed and published to all members.

2nd month the nominations are put forth to the members where the members then vote on each position. As in all elections, most votes win. The list of newly elected officers is then submitted to State DAV as the Officers for the upcoming year.

3rd month the newly elected officers are officially installed at the Officer Installation brunch held at Golden Corral. Brunch is on the chapter, so come for brunch as well as view the installation ceremony.

Here are your Officers for the 2017-18 year.

2017-2018 Elected Officers

Commander – Virgil “Luke” Lucas
Sr. Vice Commander – Andrew “Joe” Mulitsch
Junior Vice Commander – Tia Young
Treasurer – Tom Hrastich
Adjutant – Gerald “Jerry” Ganahl
Chapter Service Officer – Tom Redington
Judge Advocate – Jim Glenn
Chaplain – Eric Davis