



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
CHAPTER 16 - SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY**

List of Accomplishments

List of Accomplishments Index

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Accomplishments of DAV Ch 16 under the leadership of Commander Gerard Walsh:

-- 2007 (Our 75th Year) --

1. **June** - Started the annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ .
2. **September** - Chapter received Honor Roll Flag Streamer from DAV national for rescuing our failing chapter.
3. **November** - Donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

2007 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as cash payments during DAV FY 7/2007-6/2008 = \$20,300. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2008 (Our 76th Year) --

1. **April** - Donated \$3,000.00 to VA Lyons Hospital. This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive, was used to purchase a 50-inch flat screen TV with two Xbox playstations for the Lyons Clubhouse Building 143. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude with allocation details from VAMC Lyons campus on September 30th. Another letter containing the 50 inch TV dedication photograph was received March 9th, 2009)**
2. **April** - Donated \$4,000.00 to VA East Orange Hospital. This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive, was used to purchase 18 flat screen TV's for the veterans' waiting rooms. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude with allocation details from VAMC East Orange campus on September 25th.)**
3. **May** - Installed DAV Stone Monument at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Somerville, NJ. This location is the county seat. Funds for the project were collected by the chapter members. We did not use donation money from the public.
4. **June** - Held second Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.
5. **June** - Donated \$3,600.00 to VA New Jersey Veterans' Home in Menlo Park, NJ. This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive, was used to purchase new clothing for the resident veteran patients. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from NJVH Menlo Park with allocation details on November 7th.)**

6. **September** - Chapter received 2008-2009 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes.

7. **October** - Donated \$3,600.00 to VA New Jersey Veterans' Home in Vineland, NJ. This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive, was used to purchase Phillies shirts for all veterans in the home. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude with allocation details from NJVH Vineland on November 10th.)**

8. **October** - Donated \$3,600.00 to VA New Jersey Veterans' Home in Paramus, NJ. This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive, was used to purchase twelve 19-inch color TV's with built-in DVD players for veterans' use in their bedrooms. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude with allocation details from NJVH Paramus on November 10th.)**

9. **October** - Donated \$500 to the Columbia Trust, a veterans support group. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from DAV Charitable Service Trust on October 16th.)**

10. **November** - Donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

2008 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as cash payments during DAV FY 7/2008-6/2009 = \$4,000. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2009 (Our 77th Year) --

1. **March** - Donated \$300.00 to VA East Orange Hospital. This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive was used to purchase a leaf on the tree of life. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude with allocation details from VAMC Lyons on December 1st.)**

2. **March** - Donated \$8,000.00 to VA Lyons Hospital. the chapter donated \$8,000.00 to VA Lyons Hospital. This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive, was used to purchase patio furniture for the Community Living Center "Sunshine City". **(Chapter received letter of gratitude with allocation details from VAMC Lyons on December 7th.)**

3. **June** - Installed DAV Stone Monument at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville, NJ. This is our Post's meeting location. Funds for the project were collected by the chapter members. We did not use donation money from the public.

4. **June** - Held third Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.

5. **June** - Donated \$2000 to VA East Orange Hospital. . This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive was deposited to Recreation Service. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude with allocation details from VAMC East Orange on July 31st.)**

6. **September** - Donated \$2000 to VA Lyons Hospital. This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive was used to purchase additional patio furniture for the Community Living Center "Sunshine City". **(Chapter received letter of gratitude with allocation details from VAMC Lyons on October 15th.)**

7. **September** - Chapter received 2009-2010 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes.

8. **November** - Started the annual rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bring in a music band, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$3,000.00 plus.

9. **November** - Donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

10. **December** - Donated \$2,000.00 to VA East Orange Hospital. This money, collected from our annual Forget-Me-Not Fund drive, was used to fund recreation therapy for the veteran patients.

2009 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as cash payments during DAV FY 7/2009-6/2010 = \$8,418. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2010 (Our 78th Year) --

1. **May** - Hosted dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bring in a music band, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on August 31st.)**

2. **June** - Held fourth Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.

3. **September** - Chapter received 2010-2011 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes. This is our second award.

4. **October** - Hosted a breakfast for the veteran patients at the VA Lyons Hospital.

5. **November** - Hosted the second rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bring in a music band, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$3,000.00 plus.

6. **November** - Donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

2010 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as cash payments during DAV FY 7/2010-6/2011 = \$3,199. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2011 (Our 79th Year) --

1. **March** - Hosted the state DAV mobile services (outreach) van stationed at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville. Bought breakfast and lunch for veteran attendees. It was the first time we did this.
2. **June** - Held fifth Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.
3. **September** - Chapter received 2011-2012 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes. This is our third award.
4. **October** - Hosted a second breakfast for the veteran patients at the VA Lyons Hospital.
5. **November** - Hosted the third rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bring in a music band, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$3,000.00 plus.
6. **November** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received a thank you card from Ginny Hunnicut for his assistance in their time of need.

2011 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as cash payments during DAV FY 7/2011-6/2012 = \$3,200. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2012 (Our 80th Year) --

1. **March** - Hosted the state DAV mobile services (outreach) van stationed at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville. Chapter bought breakfast and lunch for veteran attendees. It was the second time we did this.
2. **May** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received letter from DAV National awarding him the Bronze Star Award in the 2011-2012 membership year for his recruiting achievements. This is his first Bronze Star.
3. **May** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received a thank you letter from DAV NJ along with reimbursement for personal expenses incurred while assisting veterans.
4. **June** - Held sixth Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.

5. **June** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received a letter from Hector Rodriguez thanking him for consultation.
 6. **July** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received copy of a thank you card written by W. Parisi thanking him for his consultation.
 7. **September** - Chapter received 2012-2013 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes. This is our fourth award.
 8. **September** - Donated \$100 to the Marine Corp League #1284 Road Detachment in Manville.
 9. **October** - Hosted a third breakfast for the veteran patients at the VA Lyons Hospital.
 10. **November** - Hosted the fourth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bring in a music band, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$3,000.00 plus.
 11. **November** - Donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.
- 2012** - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as cash payments during DAV FY 7/2012-6/2013 = \$6,731. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2013 (Our 81st Year) --

1. **January** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received a note from Henry Castanada thanking him for consultation.
2. **March** - Hosted a pizza dinner at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bring in music, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Fifty-five large pizzas were consumed. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. The cost including food and prizes is about \$2,000. We were able to do this in addition to the annual rock and roll dinner in the fall because the Fund Drive in June was very successful last year.
(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on April 9th.)
3. **May** - Hosted the state DAV mobile services (outreach) van stationed at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville. Chapter bought breakfast and lunch for veteran attendees. It was the third time we did this.
4. **June** - Held seventh Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.
5. **September** - Chapter received 2013-2014 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes. This is our fifth award.

6. **September** - Donated \$100 to the Marine Corp League #1284 Road Detachment in Manville for the second year.

7. **October** - Hosted a fourth breakfast for the veteran patients at the VA Lyons Hospital.

8. **November** - Hosted the fifth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bought in Bruce the singing DJ, who played request songs and provided karaoke singing for the veterans, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$3,000.00 plus.

9. **November** - Donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

10. **December** - Donated \$1,000 to LCVU (Lyons Combat Veterans United) to cover their Holiday dinner. **(Chapter received thank you letter from the group.)**

2013 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as cash payments during DAV FY 7/2013-6/2014 = \$7,334. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2014 (Our 82nd Year) --

1. **March** - Hosted the second pizza dinner at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bring in music, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Seventy-five large pizzas were consumed. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. The cost including food and prizes is about \$2,000. We were able to do this in addition to the annual rock and roll dinner in the fall because the Fund Drive in June was very successful last year.

2. **April** - Hosted the state DAV mobile services (outreach) van stationed at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville. Chapter bought breakfast and lunch for veteran attendees. It was the fourth time we did this.

3. **May** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received letter from DAV National awarding him the Silver Star Award in the 2013-2014 membership year for his recruiting achievements. This is his first Silver Star.

4. **June** - Held eighth Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.

5. **September** - Donated \$1,000 to LCVU (Lyons Combat Veterans Unified) to cover their Holiday dinner for the second year.

6. **September** - Donated \$100 to the Marine Corp League #1284 Road Detachment in Manville for the third year.

7. **October** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received copy of letter written by Bessie StJohn thanking him for consultation.

8. **October** - Held fund drive at Wal-Mart in Piscataway.

9. **November** - Hosted the sixth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bought in Bruce the singing DJ, who played request songs and provided karaoke singing for the veterans, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$3,000.00 plus. **(Chapter received thank you letter from a veteran on November 24.) (Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on April 1st, 2015.)**

10. **November** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received letter from DAV National awarding him the Silver Star Award in the 2014-2015 membership year for his recruiting achievements. This is his second Silver Star.

11. **November** - Donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

12. **December** - Chapter received 2014-2015 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes. This is our sixth award.

2014 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as cash payments during DAV FY 7/2014-6/2015 = \$6,558. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2015 (Our 83rd Year) --

1. **February** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received copy of a letter written by Anita Gibson addressed to Robert McDonald, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. It commended Vic for his assistance obtaining help filing her husband's disability claim.

2. **February** - Donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings. (this donation is usually made in November. This 2014 one was late.)

3. **March** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received letter from Peter Salvin thanking him for help with filing for disability.

4. **April** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received letter from DAV National awarding him the Gold Star Award in the 2014-2015 membership year for his recruiting achievements.

5. **April** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received a thank you card from the St John Family.

6. **April** - Hosted the third pizza dinner at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bring in music, great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Eighty large pizzas were consumed. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive

and other donations. The cost including food and prizes is about \$2,000. We were able to do this in addition to the annual rock and roll dinner in the fall because the Fund Drive in June was very successful last year.

(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on April 20th, 2015.)

7. **May** - Chapter's Commander, Gerard Walsh received letter of recognition from DAV National Commander Ron Hope.

7. **June** - Held ninth Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.

8. **June** - Hosted the state DAV mobile services (outreach) van stationed at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville. Chapter bought breakfast and lunch for veteran attendees. It was the fifth time we did this.

9. **August** - Donated \$100 to the Central Jersey Military Motor Pool , a vehicle preservation group in Somerville that provides transportation for veterans at the Basilone Day Parade in Raritan each year. Purchased vintage Technical Manual For M3A1 truck and gifted to them.

10. **August** - Donated \$100 to Raritan's Basilone Celebration Committee which runs the remembrance ceremonies and parade each September. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Borough of Raritan on September, 1st, 2015.)**

10. **August** - Chapter voted to make a donation of \$1,000 to the Lyons Combat Veterans United for their Holiday dinner for the third year. The check was delivered in September. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the LCVU on October 20, 2015.)**

11. **August** - Donated \$100 to the Marine Corp League #1284 Road Detachment in Manville for the fourth year.

12. **September** - Donated \$100 to the DAV Department of New Jersey in response to their solicitation sent to all state chapters in behalf of a disabled and potentially homeless US Navy Vietnam veteran in New Jersey.

13. **September** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received letter from DAV National awarding him the Bronze Star Award in the 2015-2016 membership year for his recruiting achievements. This is his second Bronze Star.

14. **September** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received letter from Jim Cousins thanking him for help with filing for disability.

15. **September** - The Chapter's VSO, Vic Grigouli, delivered a \$200 check from his USS Cleveland LPD7 Reunion Association. The Ch 16 membership voted to donate those funds in payment for Canteen books. (Individual books are produced in \$1 and \$5 denominations.) He will distribute them to needy veterans for purchases at VA facility "VCS PatriotStore" establishments.

16. **October** - Held second annual weekend fund drive at Wal-Mart in Piscataway.

17. **November** - Held weekend fund drive at I Hop in Piscataway by invitation of the manager.

18. **November** - In response to our weekend fund drive at IHop in Piscataway chapter VSO, Vic Grigouli received a veteran thank you letter from the Moore-Pender family.

19. **November** - Hosted the seventh rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bought in Bruce Zukowski, the singing DJ, who played request songs and provided karaoke singing for the veterans. As a special treat we had the "Steel Grove" band who performed live gratis. There was great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$3,000.00 plus. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on December 14, 2015.)**

20. **November** - Chapter distributed a variety of items in time for the Holiday Season. Some were donated by the Chapter Commander, Gerard Walsh (300 Shopping Bags, 180 Bars of Soap, 100 Tee Shirts, 12 Small Flashlights, & 2 New Men's Jackets). The remainder were donated to the Chapter by various organizations (Somerset County Rotary, Visiting Nurse Association, Knights of Columbus, & individuals) for redistribution (50 Bags of Men's Toiletries, 50 Bags Women's Toiletries, 50 Bags of mixed toiletries, 150 Knitted Hats, 5 Sets of matching Caps/Mittens/Scarves, and assorted Blankets/Caps/Mittens). These items were dispursed to Operation Shoebox of NJ, Veterans Chamber of Commerce, Catholic Charities / Battered Women's Shelter, and VAMC Lyons at the Ch 16 Rock & Roll dinner for Veterans. A list of the Letters of Confirmation follows:

(Chapter received donation confirmation letter from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen for 100 printed tee shirts and 100 cloth shopping bags on November 2, 2015.)

(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for 5 knitted hats with matching mittens and 40 knitted blankets on November 15, 2015.)

(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Operation Shoebox, NJ for 50 bags of mixed toiletry products on November 16, 2015.)

(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for 51 knitted wool caps, 33 knitted blankets, 2 men's lightweight jackets, and 12 LED flashlights on November 18, 2015.)

(Chapter received donation confirmation letter from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen for 100 wrapped soap bars and 100 cloth shopping bags on December 11, 2015.)

(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for 50 knitted hats, 50 women's toiletry bags, and 50 men's toiletry bags on December 19,2015.)

(Chapter received donation confirmation letter from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen for 100 wrapped soap bars and 100 cloth shopping bags on December 23, 2015.)

(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen / Ozanam Family Shelter - for battered women for 200 wrapped soap bars and 200 shopping bags that were donated in December 2015 on January 15, 2016.)

21. **November** - Donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

22. **December** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received letter from DAV National awarding him the Silver Star Award in the 2015-2016 membership year for his recruiting achievements. This is his second Silver Star.

23. **December** - Chapter's VSO, Vic Griguoli, received a Christmas Card bearing a Thank You from the Bazella Family.

2015 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as cash payments during DAV FY 7/2015-6/2016 = \$10,453. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2016 (Our 84th Year) --

1. **January** - The Ch 16 membership voted to donate \$200 in payment for Canteen books to be used for purchases at VA facility "VCS PatriotStore" establishments. (Individual books are produced in \$1 and \$5 denominations.) Our VSO will distribute them to needy veterans.

2. **January** - Chapter donated \$100 for the purchase of gift cards to Community Hope / Hope for Veterans in Parsippany. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Community Hope on January 12, 2016.)**

3. **January** - Chapter donated 18 gym bags to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, to be given to the Ozanam Family Shelter - for battered women. **(Chapter received donation confirmation letter from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen for 18 gym bags on January, 19, 2016.)**

4. **January** - Chapter member/Pastor Shilo Frampton provided via his Patriot Kitchen Ministries two bags of 100 clothing items and two boxes averaging 50 clothing items each to Community Hope / Hope for Veterans in Parsippany. **(Chapter received receipt from Community Hope on June 14, 2016)**

5. **February** - Chapter received 2015-2016 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes. This is our seventh award.

6. **February** - Chapter donated 50 ceramic coffee cups to the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen . **(Chapter received donation confirmation letter from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen / Ozanam Family Shelter - for battered women for 50 ceramic coffee cups on February 16, 2016. Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen / Ozanam Family Shelter for coffee cups donated in February 2016 on February 19, 2016.)**

7. **February** - Chapter donated 43 gym bags to the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen . **(Chapter received donation confirmation letter from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen for 43 gym bags on February 19, 2016. Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen / Ozanam Family Shelter - for battered women gym bags donated in February 2016 on February 19, 2016.)**

8. **March** - Chapter participated in the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. **(Chapter received a letter of thanks on March 26, 2016 from Marine Corps League #1284 Road Detachment in Manville for participation in their annual Toys for Tots program.) (Chapter 16 received Certificate of Appreciation from USMC reserve on December 13, 2016.)**
9. **April** - Chapter hosted the state DAV mobile services (outreach) van stationed at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville. Chapter bought breakfast and lunch for veteran attendees. It was the sixth time we did this.
10. **April** - Chapter hosted the eighth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. (Funding allowed us to do two R & R Dinners in 2016. - One in April and one in October .) As a special treat we had the "Steel Grove" band who performed live gratis. There was great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$3,000.00 plus. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on April 20, 2016.)**
11. **April** - Chapter Commander Gerard Walsh and Chapter Treasurer Richard Pirrello each received an AmVets Certificate of Appreciation for their volunteer service at the NJ Veteran's Memorial Home in Menlo Park.
12. **May** - Chapter received five dress suits from member Tom Charbonnea . Those were to be provided for veterans to wear at job interviews. Since VAMC Lyons will not directly accept used items these were forwarded to Cheryl Torres of EmPower of Somerset. She also volunteers at Community Hope / Hope for Veterans in Parsippany . That organization delivered the suits to the homeless veterans housed in Valley Brook Village on Lyons campus. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Community Hope on June 16, 2016.)**
13. **June** - Chapter held tenth Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.
14. **June** - Chapter donated women's robes, 20 afghans, and lap robes to the VA New Jersey Veterans' Home in Menlo Park, NJ. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude with allocation details from NJVH Menlo Park on July 1, 2016.)**
15. **June** - Chapter donated 75 new golf shirts and two boxes of 25 hard cover books each provided by member/Cdr Gerard Walsh. These items were forwarded to Cheryl Torres of EmPower of Somerset. She also volunteers at Community Hope / Hope for Veterans in Parsippany . That organization delivered these to Lyons VAMC. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Community Hope on July 11, 2016.)**
16. **July** - Chapter Officers and Auxiliary Members met with six women veterans from Lyons VAMC during their shopping trip to TJ Max and paid for all items purchased to the amount of \$810. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on August 31, 2016.)**
17. **August** - Chapter member Lou Colucci obtained 56 trial size toothpaste tubes and 24 tooth brushes from Dental Care Hillsboro. These were donated to the Veterans chamber of Commerce. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for 56 toothpaste tubes and 24 tooth brushes on September 4, 2016.)**
18. **September** - Chapter donated \$100 to Raritan's Basilone Celebration Committee which runs the remembrance ceremonies and parade each September. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Borough of Raritan on September 19th, 2016.)**

19. **September** - Chapter purchased 50 hooded sweatshirts for \$490 via member Kevin Murphy. These were donated to the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for distribution to homeless veterans at Operation Chillout. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for 50 heavy weight Gildan hoodie sweatshirts on September 12, 2016.)**
20. **September** - Chapter member Shilo Frampton provided 24 assorted jackets which were donated to the Veterans Chamber of Commerce via member Kevin Murphy. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for 24 winter jackets on October 2, 2016.)**
21. **October** - Chapter member Richard Pirello provided 30 bottles of Dove Mens Soap which were donated to Veterans Chamber of Commerce via member Kevin Murphy. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for 30 bottles of Dove Mens Body Wash on October 7, 2016.)**
22. **October** - Chapter Commander Gerard Walsh received a letter dated October 4th from the National Commander complementing Chapter 16 for our many accomplishments over the years, including the Rock and Roll Dinner Parties supporting the veterans at Lyons VAMC.
23. **October** - Chapter Hosted the ninth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. (Funding allowed us to do two R & R Dinners in 2016. - One in April and one in October .) We bought in Bruce Zukowski, the singing DJ, who played request songs and provided karaoke singing for the veterans. There was great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$4,000.00 plus. Chapter had received 5 knitted hats and mittens from member's widow Evelyn Kassuf. Those were given to women veterans at this dinner. **(The Commander received a thank you card from the resident veterans at the dinner.) (Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on October 26, 2016)**
24. **October** - Chapter members voted for a donation of \$100 to the Hope For Veterans Holiday Clothing Drive in memory of John E. McDonough. **(Chapter received Thank-You note in November from Stacia McDonough a volunteer for Hope for Veterans.) (Chapter received Thank-You letter from Community Hope / Hope for Veterans on December 8, 2016.)**
25. **October** - Chapter members voted for the purchase of 50 hoodie sweatshirts, 21 sets of women's thermal underwear, knitted hats, heavy socks. Gloves and toiletries. We also purchased 21 sets of men's thermal underwear, knitted hats, heavy socks. Gloves and toiletries. The chapter spent about \$2,000.00 for all the items. Commander's wife and daughter, spent two days shopping for the items and getting discounts both military and volume. Then they spent two more days sorting the purchased items by men/women and sizes, packed the backpacks, and labeled them by sex and size (i.e.: M, L, XL). This made it easy for Kevin Murphy to distribute. The hand knitted blankets were made by ladies from member Tom Charbonnea's condo associations. We included them for the homeless veteran's cause. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout for 42 filled backpacks and 17 hand-knitted blankets on October 29, 2016.)**
26. **November** - Chapter hosted dinner at TGIF in Warren for women veterans from Lyons VAMC Women's Treatment Unit. In attendance were 10 female veterans, 2 VA aids, and 5 DAV female "auxiliaries". Chapter had received twenty afghan knitted blankets from chapter member Tom Charbonnea. Ten of those were distributed at this dinner. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on November 30, 2016)**

27. **November** - Chapter held weekend fund drive at I Hop in Piscataway by invitation of the manager.

28. **November** - Chapter hosted the state DAV mobile services (outreach) van stationed at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville. Chapter bought breakfast and lunch for veteran attendees. It was the seventh time we did this. 2016 was the sixth year we did this and we did it twice (April and November).

29. **November** - Commander refurbished two desktop computers and one laptop computer for use in the DAV VSO office in Lyons VAMC. Hardware and software (Win 7 & Office) was purchased to do this.

30. **November** - Chapter donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12 in Somerville. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

31. **December** - Chapter donated \$250 to the Hope For Veterans Holiday Clothing Drive in memory of John E. McDonough. This money was to be used for purchase of winter clothing for homeless veterans. (Adding the previous donation of \$100 in October brings the total to \$350.) **(Chapter received \$250 clothing receipt from Community Hope dated December 13, 2016.) (Chapter received Thank-You note from Community Hope / Hope for Veterans for the total donation of \$350 (\$100 Oct + \$250 Dec) on behalf of Stacia McDonough on January 12, 2017.)**

32. **December** - Chapter donated 43 yellow gym bags to the Fish Hospitality Program in Dunellen. These were to go to The Ozanam Shelter for battered women, but their storage area was full.

33. **December** - Chapter received 15 Christmas gift bags (10 for women and 5 for men veterans) for the VA hospital from Operation Chill-out via DAV 16 member Kevin Murphy. They were so happy with the contribution of the 42 backpacks previously donated by us. They asked how can we help you. The Commander suggested Christmas gifts for the lady veterans. He called Michelle Smith and had the women's bags delivered to the WTU at Lyons on Wednesday (12/28/16) by his wife, daughter and doc Wilsons wife (Ellie). WTU Admin Michelle expressed sincere gratitude for the gifts and for our thoughtfulness. OD/VSO Tim O'Brien will distribute the five bags to visiting veterans in need. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons on December 28, 2016)**

34. **December** - Chapter donated \$1,000 to the Lyons Combat Veterans United for their Holiday dinner for the fourth year. The Membership had voted to do this earlier if there were sufficient funds. The check was delivered in December. **(Chapter received Thank You note from the LCVU on December, 20 2016.)**

2016 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as check payments during DAV FY 7/2016-6/2017 = \$14,532 (Actual as of Feb 2018). This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2017 (Our 85th Year) --

1. **January** - Chapter purchased 100 brand new Gildan tee shirts in various sizes for donation to Operation Chillout. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout - Homeless Veterans Outreach for 100 Gildan tee shirts dated February 26, 2017.)**

2. **February** - Chapter member Kevin Murphy, a Team Leader in Operation Chillout, received the "Unity" award from the Union County Human Relations Committee for Military/Veteran Achievement.
3. **March** - Chapter participated in the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. **(Chapter 16 received a Certificate of Appreciation on January 11, 2018 from Marine Corps League #1284 Road Detachment in Manville for participation in their annual Toys for Tots program.)**
4. **March** - Chapter held weekend fund drive at Wal-Mart in Piscataway.
5. **March** - Chapter Hosted the tenth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. (Funding allowed us to do two R & R Dinners in 2017. - One in March and one in November .) We brought in Ann Buckley's band "Steel Groove". There was great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$4,000.00 plus. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated April 24,2017)**
6. **April** - Chapter donated 40 gym bags, 100 tote bags, and assorted toiletries to Hope For Veterans. **(Chapter received receipt from Community Hope / Hope for Veterans dated April 7, 2017.)**
7. **May** - Chapter held weekend fund drive at I-Hop in Piscataway.
8. **May** - Chapter held weekend fund drive at Wal-Mart in Watchung.
9. **June** - Chapter held eleventh weekend Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.
10. **June** - The Ch 16 membership voted to donate \$200 in payment for Canteen books. (Individual books are produced in \$1 and \$5 denominations.) They will be distributed by our VSOs to needy veterans for purchases at VA facility "VCS PatriotStore" establishments.
11. **June** - Chapter trained more VSOs and increased Lyons VAMC DAV hours of operation from 3 days to 5 days a week. Pastor Shilo, Tim O'Brien, and Steven Cicmansky achieved DSO Level-II.
12. **July** - Chapter Officers and female volunteers met with nine women veterans from Lyons VAMC during their shopping trip to TJ Max in Gillette and paid for all items purchased to the amount of \$1,800. Attendees were also each given a DAV back pack containing a knitted cap and scarf. This is the second year we did this. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated August 9, 2017.)**
13. **July** - Chapter donated 12 suits, 7 leather jackets, 15 dress coats,35 shirts, and 3 sweaters to Hope For Veterans. **(Chapter received receipt from Community Hope / Hope for Veterans dated July 2, 2017.)**
14. **July** - Chapter donated 26 suits and 33 sport jackets to Hope For Veterans. **(Chapter received receipt from Community Hope / Hope for Veterans dated July 18, 2017.)**
15. **August** - Chapter donated 6 pair dress slacks and 15 dress shirts to Hope For Veterans. **(Chapter received receipt from Community Hope / Hope for Veterans dated August 1, 2017.)**
16. **August** - Chapter donated 3 jackets, 38 shirts, 26 shorts, 2 sweats, 21 pairs of slacks, 18 pairs of shoes, and 118 pairs of socks to Hope For Veterans. **(Chapter received receipt from Community Hope / Hope for Veterans dated August 20, 2017.)**

17. **August** - Chapter donated 34 pairs of slacks, 24 golf shirts, and 5 winter jackets to Veterans Outreach. That organization delivered the suits to the homeless veterans housed in Valley Brook Village on Lyons campus. **(Chapter received receipt from Veterans Outreach dated August 24, 2017.)**

18. **August** - Chapter donated \$100 to the Central Jersey Military Motor Pool, a vehicle preservation group in Somerville that provides transportation for veterans at the Basilone Day Parade in Raritan each year.

19. **August** - Chapter donated \$100 to the Marine Corp League #1284 Road Detachment in Manville for the fifth year.

20. **August** - Chapter picked up 28 donated wheelchairs donated by State and via our VSO office in Lyons VAMC distributed those to individual veterans in need.

21. **September** - Chapter donated \$100 to DAV, Dept of Texas for hurricane Harvey relief. **(Chapter received thank you letter dated September 20, 2017)**

22. **September** - Chapter donated \$100 to DAV National Chapter 1 which supports blind veterans. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Blind Veterans National Chapter #1, DAV dated December 31, 2017.)**

23. **September** - Chapter increased staffing and hours at our DAV VSO office in Lyons VAMC. We now have three DSO rated people and the office is open six days a week with reservations on Sunday. Over 150 claims were processed this month.

24. **October** - Chapter donated 60 backpacks to Operation Chillout (for homeless veterans). Each was filled with: Winter Socks, Thermal Underwear, Hoodie, Sweatshirt, Knitted Cap, and Cloth Gloves. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout dated November 30, 2017.)**

25. **October** - Member Ernie Stoukas delivered our donation of 10 lap blankets and 10 DAV bags to the New Jersey Memorial Home in Menlo Park. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from NJMH at Menlo Park dated October 27, 2017.)**

26. **November** - Chapter Hosted the eleventh rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. (Funding allowed us to do two R & R Dinners in 2017. - One in April and one in November.) **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated December 13, 2017.)**

27. **November** - Chapter donated \$1,000 to the Lyons Combat Veterans United for their Holiday dinner for the fifth year. The Membership had voted to do this earlier if there were sufficient funds. The check was delivered to Member Edwin Mendoza at our November meeting. **(Chapter received Thank You letter from the LCVU on February 20, 2018. Chapter received award from LCVU on March 24, 2018.)**

28. **November** - Chapter donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12 in Somerville. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

29. **November** - Chapter donated \$250 to the Hope For Veterans Holiday Clothing Drive in memory of John E. McDonough as we had done last year. This money was used for purchase of winter clothing for homeless

veterans. **(Chapter received \$250 clothing receipt from Community Hope / Hope for Veterans dated November 07, 2017.) (Chapter received Thank-You note from Stacia McDonough dated January 8, 2017.)**

30. **December** - Member Ernie Stoukas delivered another donation of 10 lap blankets and 10 DAV bags to the New Jersey Memorial Home in Menlo Park. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from NJMH at Menlo Park dated January 19, 2018.)**

31. **December** - Commander donated 40 Tote/Gym Bags to Community Hope / Hope for Veterans. **(Chapter received receipt from Community Hope / Hope for Veterans dated December 01, 2017.) (Chapter received Thank-You note from Stacia McDonough dated March 24, 2018.)**

32. **December** - Chapter hosted a luncheon at Houlihan's restaurant in Bridgewater for women veterans from Lyons VAMC Women's Treatment Unit. In attendance were 10 female veterans, 2 VA aids, and 5 DAV female "auxiliaries". Chapter also distributed 12 draw string bags filled with blankets and toiletries. The total cost for this event was \$981. **(Chapter received a Thank You note from one of the women on January 10, 2018) (Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated January 22, 2018.)**

2017 - Misc - Not listed above are the following items passed out by our DSO Office in Lyons VAMC: 8 cell phones donated by the Commander; 24-pr men's shoes donated by the Commander; 24 men's winter coats donated by the Commander; 7 boxes of men's clothing donated by the Commander; 42 lap blankets donated by a member; 33 men's suits donated by a member; Some of these items were sent to the Valley Brook Village on-campus housing unit others were sent to Haven North and Haven South..

2017 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as check payments during DAV FY 7/2017-6/2018 = \$17,000. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2018 (Our 86th Year) --

1. **January** - The Ch 16 membership voted to donate \$1,000 toward the purchase of Canteen books. (Individual books are produced in \$1 and \$5 denominations.) They will be distributed by our VSOs to needy veterans for purchases at VA facility "VCS PatriotStore" establishments. The funds are to be allocated as follows: Initial \$200 for immediate purchase of 40 books with the balance available for future purchases.

2. **February** - Our Chapter commander refurbished a bicycle and donated it to Lyons VAMC for use by veterans on campus.

3. **February** - Our Chapter gave 15 DAV drawstring bags to member Kevin Murphy. His Operation Chillout filled them with toiletries and distributed the bags to homeless veterans.

4. **April** - Our Chapter hosted the state DAV mobile services (outreach) van stationed at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville. Chapter bought breakfast and lunch for veteran attendees. It was the seventh time we did this.

5. **April** - Our Chapter Hosted the twelfth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. (Funding allowed us to do two R & R Dinners in 2017. - One in March and one in November .) We brought in Ann Buckley's band "Steel Groove". There was great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans (about 100+), runs the raffle and cleans up. Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. This annual event costs about \$4,000.00 plus. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated April 24, 2018)**
6. **April** - Our Chapter donated \$100 to Raritan's Basilone Celebration Committee which runs the remembrance ceremonies and parade each September. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Basilone Parade Committee dated July 3, 2018).**
7. **April** - Our Chapter donated \$100 to DAV in payment for State convention booklet Chapter 16 advertisement.
8. **April** - Our Chapter held weekend Forget-Me-Not fund drive at Wal-Mart in Piscataway.
9. **May** - Our Chapter held weekend Forget-Me-Not fund drive at I-Hop in Piscataway.
10. **May** - Our Chapter held weekend Forget-Me-Not fund drive at Wal-Mart in Watchung.
11. **May** - Our Chapter delivered 10 drawstring bags stuffed with woven blankets provided by the Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen to the VA New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home in Menlo Park, NJ. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from NJVMH in Menlo Park dated June 11, 2018)**
12. **June** - Our Chapter held twelfth weekend Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.
13. **June > July** - Our Chapter coordinated a fund drive with the Texas Roadhouse restaurant in North Plainfield. This is part of the restaurant's "Thank You Thursday" program. On four consecutive Thursdays (06/14, 06/28, 07/12, 07/26) 10% of each food bill in its entirety will be donated to DAV Chapter 16. Diners must present or refer to a flyer which we prepared.
14. **July** - Our Chapter Officers and female volunteers met with ten women veterans from Lyons VAMC Women's Treatment Unit during their shopping trip to TJ Max in Gillette and paid for all items purchased to the amount of \$1,500. Attendees were also each given a DAV draw string bag containing a hand knitted lap blanket, new watch, pen and DAV rubber wrist band. This is the third year we did this. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated August 8, 2018.)**
15. **August** - Our Chapter received 2017-2018 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes. This is our tenth streamer award. **(Chapter received accompanying letter from DAV National dated July 30, 2018.)**
16. **August** - Chapter's DSO, Shilo Framton, received letter from DAV National awarding him the Bronze Star Award in the 2017 - 2018 membership year for his recruiting achievements.
17. **August** - Our Chapter's service activities recognized in August 7 News article on DAV National website.

18. **September** - Our Commander received a letter from Dennis Nixon, National Commander dated September, 8 notifying him he was selected to be appointed as National Deputy Chief of Staff during his term.

19. **October** - Per a request from DAV National Voluntary Services Correspondent Ms. Andee Barth our Chapter assisted a fellow New Jersey veteran in need. Our Commander called him and asked him to join us at our chapter meeting which he accepted. We did not know he lives about 1½ hours away, but he came to our meeting and told his story. The chapter officers and members voted to allocate a check for the purpose of paying his invoice from the storage company. The check was written directly to the company and mailed to them. Not only did he join us for our chapter lunch, we gave him food to take back; and several members took a cash collection and in a low-key way gave him over 40.00 to help him with gas and food. The chapter officers also gave him \$40.00 cash. That evening our Commander received a phone call from him, again with an emotional thank you. He noticed we hold a 50/50 drawing at each the meeting; he mentioned he had a brand new beach cruiser bicycle that was given to him but he will never use do to his medical issues, so he decided to donate to the chapter, so we could use to raise funds or donate to another veteran.

20. **October** - Our Chapter prepared 48 backpacks (24 men's + 24 women's) containing hoodie, thermal underwear, 3-pairs of winter socks, knitted cap, blanket, a zip-lock bag of toiletries (soap, wipes, & body wash) , and a zip-lock bag containing DAV Ch 16 pocket calendar, DAV Ch 16 pen, toothbrush, & toothpaste. There were Male 8 large, 8 X-Large, and 8 XX-Large. For the female veterans there were also 8 Medium, 8 Large, 8 X-Large. These were given to DAV Ch 16 member Kevin Murphy who is an official officer of Operation Chillout. They will distribute the backpacks to homeless veterans via Rayza Martinez at Catholic Charities in Cranford. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout dated October 29, 2018.)**

21. **October** - The Commander was asked by NJ DAV Ch 52 to assist with their preparation of DAV National year-end financials and US tax form 990. This included a review of their other paperwork. The Commander and Treasurer donated about 3-days (9-hours) of personal time to this task.

22. **October** - Our Chapter held weekend fund drive at I-Hop in Piscataway.

23. **October** - Our Chapter donated \$1,000 to LCVU (Lyons Combat Veterans United) to cover their Holiday dinner. **(Chapter received thank you letter dated November 12, 2018 from the group.)**

24. **October** - Our Chapter donated \$250 to the "Support our Troops Casino Night" Family Support Unit fundraiser held for their forthcoming two-year Troop Deployment from the Westfield Armory. (A banner was given to us by the 102nd Air Cavalry in appreciation of our donation to them for family support. **(Chapter received a banner in recognition of our support. It bears our Chapter Information (Name, Address & Monthly Meeting date.) (Chapter received a thank you letter from Bonds of Courage / National Guard Armory in Westfield dated February 2, 2019.)**

25. **November** - Our Chapter Hosted the thirteenth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bought in Bruce Zukowski, the singing DJ, who played request songs and provided karaoke singing for the veterans. Fed were 120 vets at party, 30 vets in domicile, and 30 volunteers for a total of 177 people. The cost was capped at \$4,200 which included catered food, DJ, and door prizes. (Funding allowed us to do two R & R Dinners in 2018. - One in April and one in November.) **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated January 2, 2019.)**

26. **November** - Our Chapter adjutant delivered 25 pairs of donated socks to the Somerset County Senior Center in Somerset for their collection destined for the VA New Jersey Veterans' Home in Menlo Park, NJ.

27. **November** - Our Chapter donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12 in Somerville. This contribution also covers our monthly Chapter meetings at their post for a year.

28. **November** - The Commander received a Thanksgiving message from member Emma Shon thanking our Chapter for assistance to her family in time of need. **(Email sent on November, 21, 2018.)**

29. **November** - Our Chapter voted to donate \$500 to Stacia McDonough's Hope for Veterans group. This money was used to purchase 42 Thermals. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Stacey McDonough dated November 26, 2018.)**

30. **November** - Our Chapter packed 15 draw string bags filled with socks, gloves, hats, Chapter pocket calendars, Chapter pens, and miscellaneous articles. They were delivered to the Vets at Menlo Park Veterans by members. Also 30 pairs of socks from our inventory were also sent over to Menlo Park via a collection hosted by a member's local Senior Center. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from NJVMH in Menlo Park dated December 17, 2018)**

31. **December** - Our Chapter hosted a luncheon at Houlihan's restaurant in Bridgewater for women veterans from Lyons VAMC Women's Treatment Unit. In attendance were 9 female veterans, 1 VA representative, and 6 DAV female "auxiliaries". Chapter also distributed 12 draw string bags filled with blankets and toiletries. The total cost for this event was \$700. It was the second year we hosted this event. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated January 10, 2019.)**

32. **December** - Our Chapter received a personal thank you note from the Runquist family for helping Beth's brother, Chuck. Our VSOs helped him obtain VA benefits and got him off the street.

33. **December** - The chapter agreed to donate \$500 to the annual Wreaths Across America program. Volunteers simultaneously place wreaths on veteran plots at cemeteries around the country.

2018 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as check payments during DAV FY 7/2018-6/2019 = \$18,500. (April 19 Est.) This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities.

-- 2019 (Our 87th Year) --

1. **January** - The Commander was nominated by DAV National to be appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff. He also received the National Outstanding Leadership Award.

2. **January** - The commander attended the quarterly NJ Department Executive Committee meeting where he was presented by the NJ State Commander with his National Deputy Chief of Staff Hat and the new State Commander challenge coin for his leadership.

3. **January** - The Chapter membership voted to donate \$200 to the DAV Blind Veterans National Chapter #1 for the second year. The check was written 05/30/2019. **(Chapter did not receive letter of gratitude from Blind Veterans National Chapter #1, DAV this year.)**

4. **March** - Chapter members voted to spend \$150 for software necessary to refurbish a laptop being donated by the Treasurer for Iraqi war veteran Brandon Grochala's use at Veteran's Haven North transition facility in Glen Gardner, NJ. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough a volunteer for Hope for Veterans dated April 10, 2019.)**

5. **March** - Our Chapter received a Certificate of Appreciation from Veteran's Haven North for our participation in "A Night of Thanks" on November 15, 2018. This is a transition facility located in Glen Gardner, New Jersey.

6. **March** - Our Chapter voted to donate \$80 to DAV NJ in payment for an advertisement in the state convention booklet. We purchased a half-page in color this year. This 98th annual event will occur in June.

7. **April** - Our Chapter hosted the state DAV mobile services (outreach) van stationed at the American Legion Post 12 in Somerville. Chapter bought breakfast and lunch for veteran attendees. It was the eighth time we did this.

8. **April** - Our Chapter Hosted the fourteenth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. (Funding allowed us to do two R & R Dinners in 2018. - One in March and one in November.) We brought in Ann Buckley's band "Steel Groove". There was great food, raffle gifts; and the chapter sets up the food, serves the veterans, runs the raffle and cleans up. (At this event there were about 150 patients downstairs, 25 upstairs, and 25 volunteers.) Money to sponsor these events is from the DAV Forget-Me-Not drive and other donations. (This event cost about \$4,500.) **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated April 26, 2019)**

9. **April** - Our Chapter prepared 48 backpacks (24 men's + 24 women's) containing spring clothing and zip-lock bags of toiletries. DAV pens wristbands calendars given to DAV Ch 16 member Kevin Murphy who is an official officer of Operation Chillout. They will distribute the backpacks to homeless veterans via Rayza Martinez at Catholic Charities in Cranford. The Charities cover Essex, union, Somerset, Middlesex, and Monmouth counties. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout dated May 3, 2019.)**

10. **April** - Our Chapter sent a Grief Recovery Handbook to Marsha, the widow of our former Sr. Vice Commander/VSO Victor Griguoli, Joan O'Connell the widow of our jr Vice Commander Tom O'Connell, and VA Recreation Mgr/widow Michelle Smith. **(Chapter received a thank you note from Marsha dated April 29, 2019; A thank you note from Joan dated May 22, 2019; and a thank you call from Michelle on may 28, 2019.)**

11. **June** - Our Commander wrote a \$100 check for Menlo Park while at the DAV Convention in Wildwood. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from NJVMH in Menlo Park dated June 25, 2019)**

12. **June** - Our Commander received the Commander of the Year award from DAV State New Jersey Commander at the convention.

13. **June** - Our Chapter held thirteenth weekend Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive in Warren, NJ.
14. **June** - Our Chapter held Saturday Forget-Me-Not fund drive at Wal-Mart in Piscataway.
15. **June** - Our Chapter authorized funding for two current Service Officers to attend the required annual DAV training at the Service Officers School.
16. **June** - Our Chapter voted to pay one-third of a past due electric bill for needy member Myron Simmons.
17. **June** - Our Chapter Treasurer received an achievement award from DAV State for his website support, IT support, and Public Relations support.
18. **July** - Our Chapter matched \$300 for veteran in need Steve Maris to cover his food and housing expenses.
19. **July** - Our Chapter Officers and female volunteers met with ten women veterans from Lyons VAMC Women's Treatment Unit during their shopping trip to TJ Max in Gillette and paid for all items purchased to the amount of \$1,000. Attendees were also each given a DAV draw string bag filled with goodies. This is the fourth year we did this. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated August 19, 2019.) (The lady vets presented us with a homemade thank you banner.)**
20. **August** - Our Chapter donated \$100 to Raritan's Basilone Celebration Committee which runs the Marine's remembrance ceremonies and parade in Raritan each September. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the Basilone Parade Committee dated August 16, 2019).**
21. **August** - Our Chapter received 2018-2019 Flag Streamer from DAV National in recognition for our accomplishments in recruitment and our donations to fellow veterans causes. This is our tenth streamer award. **(Chapter received accompanying letter from DAV National dated June 28, 2019.)**
22. **August** - Our Chapter voted to donate \$500 to Stacia McDonough's new group Victory for Veterans, LLC. This was formerly Hope for Veterans. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough dated September 10, 2019.)**
23. **September** - Chapter Treasurer donated \$100 to Stacia McDonough's new group Victory for Veterans, LLC. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough dated October 01, 2019.)**
24. **October** - Our Chapter voted to donate \$150 to the Bonds of Courage family support group **for the** National Guard Armory in Westfield. Their "Support our Troops Casino Night" fundraiser is held for their two-year Troop Deployment.
25. **October** - The Commander received two bags of clothing from a friend. DSO Tim O'Brien will deliver them to Community Hope.
26. **October** - Our Chapter received a blanket and 9 Lap Shawls from the Saint Peter Lutheran Church. These will be presented to the Women's Treatment Unit in Lyons VAMC at their New Years Luncheon our Chapter hosts on December 31. **(Chapter received a letter dated January 3, 2020 from the Women's Treatment Unit.)**

27. **October** - Our Chapter voted to donate \$250 to Independence for Veterans, Inc. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Independence for Veterans dated November 25, 2019.)**

28. **November** - Our Chapter Hosted the fifteenth rock and roll dinner show at VA Lyons Hospital for the veteran patients. We bought in Bruce Zukowski, the singing DJ, who played request songs and provided karaoke singing for the veterans. Fed were 125 vets at party, 25 vets in domicile, and 22 volunteers for a total of 172 people. The cost was capped at \$3,800 which included catered food, DJ, and door prizes. (Funding allowed us to do two R & R Dinners in 2019. - One in April and one in November.) **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated December 6, 2019.)**

29. **November** - Our Chapter donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12 in Somerville. This contribution also covers our monthly Chapter meetings at their post for a year.

30. **November** - Our chapter prepared 24 back packs for Operation Chillout, Homeless Veterans Outreach. These were delivered along with others to the YMCA Dudley House for veterans in Plainfield. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout dated December 2, 2019.)**

31. **November** - Our chapter again participated in Wreaths Across America. We partnered with the Purple Hearts and bought two for \$100. We partnered with VVA Ch 233 and donated \$250 to WAA.

32. **November** - Member Ernie Stoukas delivered our donation of 12 DAV draw string bags packed with lap blankets, scarves, and toiletries to the New Jersey Memorial Home in Menlo Park. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from NJMH at Menlo Park dated January 28, 2020.)**

33. **December** - Our Chapter again hosted a luncheon at Houlihan's restaurant in Bridgewater for women veterans from Lyons VAMC Women's Treatment Unit. In attendance were 9 female veterans, 1 VA representative, and 3 DAV female "auxiliaries". Chapter also distributed 12 back packs filled with scarves hats blankets and toiletries. The total cost for this event was \$800. It was the forth year we hosted this event. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated January 3, 2020.)**

34. **December** - Our Chapter DSO / jr. Vice Commander, Steven Cicmansky was nominated for Outstanding Disabled Veteran (ODV) 2019 by Newark DAV office National Area Supervisor, Richard Vaccari. **(Steve received email from Richard on December, 5, 2019.)**

35. **December** - Our Chapter delivered 20 backpacks filled with various clothing, lap blankets, hand knitted hats and scarves and toiletries to the Dudley House Veterans Transition Housing Program in Plainfield, sponsored by the YMCA . This facility opened in May of 2019. The items were left-over backpacks, clothing and toiletries. Some the chapter had purchased as voted during our November meeting. Others were donations from churches. **(Chapter Treasurer received letter of gratitude from YMCA dated December 31, 2019.)**

2019 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as check payments during DAV FY 7/2018-6/2019 = \$18,015. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities. Our total Jan - Dec LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) hours were 900+.

-- 2020 (Our 88th Year) --

NOTE: DAV Chapter 16 suspended meetings, fundraisers, and veteran support events per government regulations prohibiting group gatherings during the Corona virus (Covid-19) pandemic. This included closure of our DAV VSOs office in Lyons VAMC. However, our Chapter remained active. Most Chapter meetings continued as virtual ones with some in-person ones per pandemic protocols. Our DSOs worked from home and we did continue our donations. Those were to VAMCs and charitable organizations consisting of food, clothing, materials, and cash. The months affected by the pandemic this year were: March through December.

1. **January** - Our Chapter voted to donate \$250 for the farewell celebration in honor of Somerset County Veterans Service Officer, Elizabeth "Betsy" Haluszczak which will be held at the Manville VFW Post 2290 on February 20.
2. **January** - Our Chapter Commander received 250 decks of used and drilled-out playing cards from a casino in Atlantic City in response to his donation request. At our January monthly meeting the chapter agreed to distribute 25 decks to each of the following locations: VAMC Lyons, VAMC East Orange, VA Menlo Park home,, VA Paramus Home, and our DAV VSO Office in Lyons for visiting veterans filling out claims.
3. **January** - Our Chapter received a reconditioned Dell laptop from the Treasurer. This was given to "Independence for Veterans". It will go to a homeless Navy Veteran residing at Vet Haven North, Glen Gardner. He served in Persian Gulf/Desert Shield/Desert Storm and was named as one of Summit's hometown heroes last year.
4. **January** - Our Chapter received 12 lap blankets knitted by members of Saint Peters Lutheran Church. These will be given to Stacia McDonough's Hope for Veterans group for the residents of Valley Brook Village, Lyons on-campus housing unit.
5. **January** - Chapter member Kevin Murphy donated hand soap, laundry detergent, and fabric softener to the Dudley House on behalf of our Chapter. The Dudley House is a Veterans Transition Housing Program in Plainfield, which opened in May of 2019 and is sponsored by the YMCA .
6. **February** - Our Chapter approved \$200 for the purchase of Canteen books. (Individual books are produced in \$1 and \$5 denominations.) They will be distributed by our VSO office at Lyons to needy veterans for purchases at VA facility "VCS PatriotStore" establishments.
7. **May** - The Chapter officers voted via email that we donate \$100.00 to DAV State for the yearly convention ad book.
8. **July** - The Treasurer delivered to Lyons VAMC Voluntary Service Department seven cartons (12 boxes each) of assorted Girl Scout Cookies that were donated to DAV by Investors Bank. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from VAMC Lyons dated July 15, 2020.)**
9. **July** - The Chapter Commander donated two desktop computers running Windows 10 OS. These computers will be donated to veterans in need or raffled at a future Chapter membership meeting.

10. **July** - The Chapter Adjutant donated two Acer netbook computers . These were refurbished by the Commander. One is running Windows 7 OS and the other is running Windows 10 OS. The Win 10 netbook received 2 G of memory and a 128 G SSD drive. These computers will be donated to veterans in need or raffled at a future Chapter membership meeting.

11. **July** - The Chapter Treasurer donated a desktop PC. This computer will be donated to a veteran in need or raffled at a future Chapter membership meeting.

12. **July** - The Chapter updated its laptop to a Windows 10 laptop with an Intel 7 processor donated by the Commander. The laptop needed a new keyboard and a Windows 10 license. The chapter paid about \$75.00 for the parts. The old computer will be donated to a veteran in need or raffled at a future Chapter membership meeting.

13. **July** - Chapter Jr. Vice Commander and DSO, Steven Cicmansky was recognized with honorable mention as a finalist for "Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year - 2020" for his achievements and contributions to the veteran community by DAV National Headquarters. **(Steven received award letter and certificate dated July 29, 2020.)**

14. **July** - Continuing Chapter 16 activities update during the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions from February thru July 2020:

A. - During the last 5 months the Chapter Commander has been in touch with the American Legion Commander. The AL hall where our membership holds monthly meetings was closed for 4 months and will open in July. (This is the summer month our Chapter does not meet.) We discussed when they will open the hall for our meetings. We will then prepare to have a meeting with guidelines from NJ State. With AL Post 12 rules and just common sense we can have a limited and safe meeting. Currently, the rule is 25 percent of the hall capacity. That's about 25 members sitting 6 feet apart wearing face coverings. Our Commander will have another conversation with the AL Post Commander the week of July 27, 2020. Depending on the rules and guidelines DAV Chapter 16 may hold a meeting the 5th week of August rather than our usual 4th Saturday.

B. - Since our last Chapter meeting held on February 22nd, the Chapter Commander has been sending out the monthly electronic and 10 mailed newsletters about our Chapter activities. Since COVID 19 the Chapter has been in lockdown, but monthly chapter paperwork continues; IE, check reconciliation, meetings with DAV State via ZOOM, fixing computers for donation to veterans. The Commander has been calling three-chapter members weekly checking on their health though this COVID-19 condition. Now the Commander and the Treasurer will start preparing the Chapter year-end finance reports.

C. - The Commander continues to stay in touch with our veteran organization partners; IE, Hope for Veterans, Operation Chill Out, Dudley House in Plainfield, NJ.

D. - The Commander continues to communicate with VA Lyons Hospital about possible future dates to hold sponsored events for the veteran patients.

E. During the last month the Commander and Treasurer have been reviewing DAV check lists and discussing next steps for the chapter during this COVID-19 pandemic.

15. **September** - Our Chapter received a church donation of ten handmade kitted large blankets from DAVA Auxiliary. The Adjutant delivered them to the Voluntary Services Unit at Lyons VAMC. During past years they were donated directly to the Women's Treatment Unit which is currently on an outpatient virtual service because of the Covid Pandemic precautions. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Lyons VAMC dated October 20, 2020.)**

16. **September** - Chapter sent flowers and a grieving booklet to honorary member/attorney Anne Buckley-Johnson upon the loss of her brother. **(Chapter received a Thank You note from Anne dated September 2, 2020.)**

17. **September** - Our Chapter mailed a \$250 check to Stacia McDonough at Independence for Veterans for their Autumn Food Drive benefitting homeless veterans residing at the Hope For Veterans transitional housing shelter located in Lyons VAMC. Grocery shopping will be done by Harriette and Joe Doll. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Stacia dated August 31, 2020.)**

18. **September** - Our Chapter mailed a \$100 check to Sandy Mitchell at Project Help for veteran's socks. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Sandy Mitchell dated September 10, 2020.)**

19. **October** - Our Chapter mailed a \$500 check to Operation Chillout Homeless Veteran Outreach to be used toward back packs during their winter program. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout dated October 21, 2020.)**

20. **October** - Our Chapter refurbished and donated a H/P All-In-One computer to member Kevin Murphy to replace his broken laptop. He is the Operation Chillout Union County Veterans Coordinator. It is being used for his homeless veteran projects. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Kevin dated October 21, 2020.)**

21. **November** - Chapter Adjutant dropped off at VAMC Lyons 12 DAV Draw String bags each filled with a watch, a lap blanket, and a toilet bag filled with items. Each sealed and labeled box also includes snacks. Total value \$600. This is in lieu of the usual New Years dinner we provide to Women's Treatment Unit residents. Because of COVID restrictions their sessions are virtual this year so someone from the Recreation Department has agreed to deliver the bags to each individual's location. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Lyons VAMC dated December 9, 2020.)**

22. **November** - Chapter Treasurer dropped off 7 boxes at the Dudley House Veterans Transition Housing Program for homeless veterans in Plainfield, sponsored by the YMCA. The boxes contained a lap blanket, socks, shorts, top and bottom long johns, disinfectant wipes, and a toiletry fill kit. The boxes were labeled 3 large and 4 extra-large. Total value of \$700. A second delivery consisted of 20 travel bags filled with toiletry items. The afore mentioned items were donated by individual Chapter members and the Chapter. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from The YMCA Senior Housing Director, Theresa McCoy dated December 15,2020.)**

23. **November** - Chapter sent a \$250 check to Canteen Services for ticket books for VAMC Lyons PTSD Group. (Individual books are produced in \$1 and \$5 denominations.) They will be distributed to needy veterans for purchases at VA facility "VCS PatriotStore" establishments.

24. **November** - Chapter donated 12 lap blankets from member Henry van Beuzekom's church to the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from The NJ Veterans Home dated November 13,2020.)**

25. **November** - Chapter donated \$500 to American Legion Post #12 in Somerville. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

26. **November** - Chapter purchased clothing for VAMC Lyons residents consisting of 9 winter jackets, 3 sets of thermal underwear -total of 9, socks, and toiletry kits valued at \$650.

27. **November** - Chapter had voted in October to send a \$250 donation to Project Help for veterans. This was for their food bank. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Executive Director Sandy Mitchell dated December 1, 2020.)**

28. **November** - Chapter had voted in October to send a \$250 donation to Independence For Veterans. This was for their food bank and clothing. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough at Independence for Veterans dated November 24, 2020.)**

29. **November** - Nine sets of sweats from the Treasurer along with nine pair of socks from member Kevin Murphy were repackaged and donated to Project Help For Veterans. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Executive Director Sandy Mitchell dated December 2, 2020.)**

30. **December** - Chapter donated \$100 to USMC reserve Toys For Tots program. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from USMC Reserve dated December 13, 2020.)**

31. **December** - Chapter donated clothing to Independence For Veterans for their 9th annual "They Kept Us Safe, Let's Keep them Warm" winter collection. The items consisted of 10 wash cloths,8 hand towels, 4 large hand knitted blankets, and 18 packages of ladies socks. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough dated December 12, 2020.)**

32. **December** - Chapter donated clothing to Independence For Veterans for their 9th annual "They Kept Us Safe, Let's Keep them Warm" winter collection. The items consisted of 14 lap blankets, 1 large blanket, and 6 toiletry bags. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough dated December 18, 2020.)**

2020 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as check payments during DAV FY 7/2019-6/2020 = \$12,234. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities. Our total Jan - Dec LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) hours were 1500+. This number is higher because we as a chapter did not start reporting all volunteer hours last year.

-- 2021 (Our 89th Year) --

NOTE: DAV Chapter 16 suspended meetings, fundraisers, and veteran support events per government regulations prohibiting group gatherings during the Corona virus (Covid-19) pandemic. This included closure of our DAV VSOs office in Lyons VAMC. However, our Chapter remained active. Most Chapter meetings continued as virtual ones with some in-person ones per pandemic protocols. Our DSOs worked from home and we did continue our donations. Those were to VAMCs and charitable organizations consisting of food, clothing, materials, and cash. The months affected by the pandemic this year were: January through December.

1. **January** - Chapter donated \$250 to Independence For Veterans. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough dated January 16, 2021.)**
2. **January** - Chapter donated \$250 to Project Help for food and clothing. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Executive Director Sandy Mitchell dated January 23, 2021.)**
3. **January** - Chapter donated nine winter jackets, nine backpacks filled with new clothing, and \$250 for canteen books to the PTSD group hospitalized in Building 143 at Lyons VAMC. (Individual books are produced in \$1 and \$5 denominations. They are valid for purchases at VA facility "VCS PatriotStore" establishments.) **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the VA New Jersey Health Care System dated January 28, 2021.)**
4. **January** - Chapter donated the following items to the YMCA Dudley House for veterans in Plainfield: 2 packs of paper towels, 2 packs of toilet paper, 44 bars of dial soap, 2 large bottles of liquid soap, 2 bottles of Tide laundry detergent, 2 bottles of Lysol spray disinfectant, 12 bottles of hand sanitizer, and 12 bottles of liquid soap. **(Chapter Treasurer received letter of gratitude from YMCA dated February 1, 2021.)**
5. **January** - Chapter Commander received letter of appreciation and pin from DAV National Headquarters for his personal LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) volunteer time. Members service hours are reported monthly to DAV Nat'l HQ.
6. **January** - Chapter Commander received letter of appreciation and 50 Hour pin from DAV National Headquarters for his personal LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) volunteer time. Members service hours are reported monthly to DAV Nat'l HQ.
7. **February** - Chapter donated the following items requested by VAMC Lyons Recreation Therapy Department for the PTSD unit: 4 packages of 50 bag grab snacks, 1 pkg of 45 Cheez-it bags, 49 pouches of Crunchy bars, 60 mixed candy bars, 50 fruit bars, 150 Bigelow tea bags, 1 select Keurig single cup machine, and 2 boxes of 84 K-Cups. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the VA New Jersey Health Care System dated February 17, 2021.)**
8. **February** - **(Chapter received letter of gratitude for its support in 2020 from Operation Chillout dated January 31, 2021.)**

9. **February** - Chapter donated the following items to the YMCA Dudley House for veterans in Plainfield: 6 bottles of 3M Disinfectant, 3 Packages of Redi Wipes, 1 Pack of 40 Cleaning Towels, 4 Pack of Disinfecting Wipes, and 3 Boxes of Nice and Clean sani hand wipes. **(Chapter Treasurer received letter of gratitude from YMCA dated March 9, 2021.)**
10. **February** - Chapter Treasurer received letter of appreciation and pin from DAV National Headquarters for his personal LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) volunteer time. Members service hours are reported monthly to DAV Nat'l HQ.
11. **February** - Chapter Commander received letter of appreciation and pin from DAV National Headquarters for his personal LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) volunteer time. Members service hours are reported monthly to DAV Nat'l HQ.
12. **February** - Chapter Commander received letter of appreciation and 100 Hour pin from DAV National Headquarters for his personal LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) volunteer time. Members service hours are reported monthly to DAV Nat'l HQ.
13. **March** - Chapter donated the following items to the YMCA Dudley House for veterans in Plainfield: 3 36 roll packages of paper towels. **(Chapter Treasurer received letter of gratitude from YMCA dated March 16, 2021.)**
14. **March** - Chapter membership voted to donate \$300 to Independence For Veterans for their food bank pantry. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Executive Director Sandy Mitchell dated March 27, 2021.)**
15. **March** - Chapter donated the following items requested by VAMC Lyons Recreation Therapy Department for the PTSD unit: 5 boxes of wooden pencils, 2 packages of pencil sharpeners, 5 packs of Crayola colored pencils, 5 Coloring books for adults, 5 stress relief coloring books, 5 Ultimate Brain Health puzzles, 5 Funster Activity booklets for adults, and 5 Fender Blues deluxe harmonicas. Total value \$376. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the VA New Jersey Health Care System dated April 6, 2021.)**
16. **March** - Chapter donated 14 hand knitted lap shawls provided by St Peter Lutheran Church to Independence For Veterans. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Executive Director Sandy Mitchell dated April 8, 2021.)**
17. **March** - Chapter Commander Walsh received letter of appreciation and 200 Hour pin from DAV National Headquarters for his personal LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) volunteer time. Members service hours are reported monthly to DAV Nat'l HQ.
18. **April** - Chapter Past Commander Walsh received letter of appreciation and 250 Hour pin from DAV National Headquarters for his personal LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) volunteer time. Members service hours are reported monthly to DAV Nat'l HQ.
19. **June** - Donations from the following and Dropped off at Operation Chill Out in Roselle Park to Kevin Murphy by Gerard and Richard. All clothing items were cleaned and folded. (2 boxes from Kathy and Katelyn Walsh, 7 Boxes from Gerard's Friend, 6 Boxes from Gerard) Contents as follows: 6 boxes men's x-large clothing, 4 boxes of men's large clothing, 3 boxes of men's medium clothing, 1 box of men's used shoes, 1 box

of hand knitted blankets, & 1 box of ladies' clothing. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout Team Leader, Kevin Murphy dated June 21, 2021.)**

20. **June** - Donation of \$500 cash to Independence For Veterans for their October fundraiser at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Executive Director Sandy Mitchell dated June 29, 2021.)**

21. **July** - Donations from the following and Dropped off at Operation Chill Out in Roselle Park to Kevin Murphy by Gerard and Richard. All clothing items were cleaned and folded. (George Perry = 4 PTSD weighted blankets, Gerard & Family = 2 bags of ladies clothing, & Richard Pirello = 2 bags of men's clothing) **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout Team Leader, Kevin Murphy dated July 14, 2021.)**

22. **August** - Chapter donated the following items requested by VAMC Lyons Recreation Therapy Department for patients in the PTSD unit: \$200 in payment for Canteen books to be used for purchases at VA facility "VCS PatriotStore" establishments. (Individual books are produced in \$1 and \$5 denominations.) 4 boxes of 30 assorted snacks and one of 50, 3 four-sets of mixed large bottles of soda, 1 bag of 250 pieces of mixed candy, 2 boxes of 84 coffee McCafe K-Cups, 2 jars of Taster's Choice coffee, 2 jars of Flogers classic roast coffee, 1 large jar of Folgers classic decaf. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the VA New Jersey Health Care System dated August 4, 2021.)**

23. **August** - Chapter donated the following items requested by VAMC Lyons Recreation Therapy Department for patients in the PTSD unit: 20 \$10 iTunes debit cards, 10 small backpacks filled with toiletries, 5 adult activity books, 5 packs of pencils, 20 packs of crayons, 20 pencil & crayon sharpeners, 2 used iPod version4 with 2 sets of earbuds and USB charging cable. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the VA New Jersey Health Care System dated September 8, 2021.)**

24. **September** - Donations from the following and Dropped off at Operation Chill Out in Roselle Park to Kevin Murphy by Gerard and Richard. All clothing items were cleaned and folded. (Gerard = 1 carton & Richard Pirello = 3 cartons) **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout Team Leader, Kevin Murphy dated Sept, 2021.)**

25. **September** - Chapter donated \$200 to Blind Veterans National Chapter #1. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Blind Veterans National Chapter #1 dated September 22, 2021.)**

26. **October** - Potato chips provided by NJ Sharing Network (20 Boxes each containing 42 individual bags) were delivered to Veterans Services Lyons VAMC.

27. **October** - Potato chips provided by NJ Sharing Network (10 Boxes each containing 42 individual bags)were delivered to Project Help. **(Chapter received email of gratitude from Sandy Mitchell at Project Hope dated October 18, 2021.)**

28. **October** - Potato chips provided by NJ Sharing Network (12 Boxes each containing 42 individual bags)were delivered to the YMCA Dudley House for veterans in Plainfield. **(Chapter received email of gratitude from Theresa McCoy at the YMCA dated November 16, 2021.)**

29. **November** - Chapter donated \$200 to Wreaths Across America.

30. **November** - Chapter donated \$500 to AL Post 12. This Post hosts our Chapter meetings.

31- **November** - Chapter donated \$200 to Independence For Vets, inc. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Independence for Veterans, Stacia McDonough dated December 28, 2021.)**

32. **December** - Chapter donated 15 men's backpacks containing heavy socks, thermal tops & bottoms, sweat shirt, gloves, and knit cap to Project Help. The backpacks and contents were provided by Knights of Columbus and Operation Chillout.

33. **December** - Chapter donated 6 men's backpacks containing heavy socks, thermal tops & bottoms, sweat shirt, gloves, and knit cap to the YMCA Dudley House for veterans in Plainfield.
independence.

34. **December** - Chapter donated 9 High Trail back packs filled with new winter clothing to Independence For Veterans.

2021 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as check payments during DAV FY 7/2019-6/2020 = \$5,000. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities. Our total Jan - Dec LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) hours were 1200+.

-- 2022 (Our 90th Year) --

1. **January** - Chapter donated the following: 24 pairs of men's winter gloves, 50 hand-knit hats and scarves, 24 pairs of men's socks, female toiletries and assorted children's clothing for the 10th annual "They Kept Us Safe, Let's Keep Them Warm " program run by Independence For Veterans to benefit the Community Hope shelter in Lyons VAMC. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence for Veterans, Stacia McDonough dated January 16, 2022.)**

2. **January** - Chapter donated the following clothing provided by member Kevin Murphy: 10 drawstring bags filled with hand knitted hat and scarf, a DAV towel with assorted toiletries. Included were Also 10 hand knitted blankets to the YMCA Dudley House for veterans in Plainfield. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Theresa Mc Coy, Senior Housing Director for the YMCA dated January 25, 2022.)**

3. **January** - We still have about 25 hand knitted hats and scarf which we are going to donate to the Catholic Charities Women's Shelter. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Theresa Mc Coy, Senior Housing Director for the YMCA dated January 25, 2022.)**

4 **January** - Chapter donated the following to VAMC Lyons: Hooded sweatshirts, men's thermal tops and bottoms, and 10 draw string bags containing toiletries and golf towels. These were distributed to the PTSD Unit. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Lyons Voluntary Services dated January, 21,2022.)**

5. **January** - Chapter donated the following used winter clothing by CDR, Wife, and Daughter; 4 crew thermal shirts, 4 crew thermal pants, 2 xl crew thermal shirts, 3 xl crew thermal shirts, 1 medium crew thermal crew pants, 9 hooded sweat shirts in assorted sizes, 7 sets xl pants with hoodies, 10 draw string bags filled with toiletries and golf towels to Operation Chillout. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Operation Chillout dated January, 26,2022.)**
6. **February** - Chapter donated 2 large bags of women's shoes and 1 box containing 25 New Armour Tee Shirts, 3 men's suits, men's shirts, and men's belts to FISH (Fellowship In Serving Humanity) in Piscataway. They in turn forwarded these items to The Purple Heart, who delivered them to the Central Jersey Leathernecks Detachment in Metuchen. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from the detachment Commandant, Alex Polce dated August 17, 2022.)**
7. **February** - Chapter donated food items for the 2nd annual "feed Our Heroes" program run by Independence For Veterans. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence for Veterans, Stacia McDonough dated February 28, 2022.)**
8. **March** - Chapter delivered lunch for the patients in Lyons campus building #52. The food consisted of 60 personalized submarine sandwiches, about 100 bags of chips, about 100 mixed Hershey Bars, and about 100 mixed soda and water bottles. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Recreation Therapy dated May 12, 2022.)**
9. **April** - Chapter donated the following: 10 small bottles of sanitizer, 10 small bottles of dish washing soap, 10 small bottles of antibacterial cleaner, 10 small bottles of laundry soap, and 300 napkins/paper plates/individual wrapped utensil sets to the PTSD Group in Lyons VAMC Building 143. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from VA Voluntary Service dated April 29, 2020.)**
10. **April** - Chapter donated the following: 12 triple roll Bounty Paper Towels, 32 Mega Charmin Ultra Soft Toiletry Rolls, 2 Packs of 16 hand/face Soap, 152 Grain Flings Packets Laundry Detergent, Plant 2X Ultra Laundry Detergent 50 fl. oz. Bottle, and 4 Cans Edge Sensitive Skin Shaving Cream to the YMCA Dudley House for veterans in Plainfield. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from the YMCA dated April, 25,2022.)**
11. **April** - Chapter delivered 10 large bottles of Bye-Bye Germs Anti-Bacterial Hand Wash to the Dudley House Transitional Housing Program for Veterans in Plainfield . **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from the YMCA Housing Director, Theresa McCoy dated May 4, 2022.)**
12. **April** - Chapter delivered 60 activity workbooks, 24 packs of colored pencils, 24 wood pencils, and 24 pencil sharpeners to the PTSD group in building #143 and domicile residents on the Lyons Campus. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from the VA Healthcare Network dated April 29, 2022.)**
13. **May** - Chapter held annual Forget-Me-Not Fund drive at the shopping complex in Warren. Revenue was \$ \$2,693.74.
14. **May** - Chapter delivered 50 bottles of antibacterial hand wash in 16 fl. Oz bottles and 25 mixed travel soap with toothpaste to the Dudley House Transitional Housing Program for Veterans in Plainfield. These items were donated by member Herman Ellis. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from the YMCA dated June 7, 2022.)**

15. **May** - Chapter provided a luncheon for Women's Treatment Unit at Lyons VAMC. **(Chapter received a Letter of Gratitude from Laurie Tomaino, CTRS Chief of Recreation Therapy dated July 11,2022.)**

16. **June** - Chapter voted to sponsor an instructional art class for the veteran residents in the Lyons domicile. This will be in lieu of the usual rock and roll dinner at a cost of about \$900. **(Chapter received a Letter of Gratitude from Laurie Tomaino, CTRS Chief of Recreation Therapy dated July 11,2022.)**

17. **June** - Chapter donated \$250 to cover groceries in the IFV pantry located at Lyons VAMC. **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from Independence for Veterans, Stacia McDonough dated June 30, 2022.)**

18. **July** - Chapter delivered one large box of new and used men's shoes size11 (About 30 pairs.), one box of new men's tee-shirts size X-large (About 30 pairs.), and one small box of new/used men's tee-shirts and four pairs of used shoes (Size 11) to the Dudley House Transitional Housing Program for Veterans in Plainfield . **(Chapter received letter of gratitude from the YMCA Housing Director, Theresa McCoy dated July 11, 2022.)**

19. **July** - Chapter delivered 2 boxes of Tide pods count 168 units each, 2 bundles of Bounty paper towels (12 36 - packs), 2 boxes of Snuggle sheets, mixed bag of assorted soaps, and assorted new clothing (gym shorts, jeans, tee-shirts, and golf shirts to the Dudley House Transitional Housing Program for Veterans in Plainfield . **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from the YMCA Housing Director, Theresa McCoy dated July 11, 2022.)**

20. **July** - Chapter delivered 10 new Homedics Sleep Solution machines (Alarm Clock with sleep sounds.) to the Women's Treatment Unit in building #143 at Lyons VAMC. **(Chapter received a Letter of Gratitude from John A. Griffin, Acting Medical Center Director dated July 17,2022.)**

21. **August** - Chapter donated the following to homeless veterans via Operation Chillout: 2 large bags of women's shoes donated by Kathy and Katelyn Walsh. 25 new Armor tee shirts. 3 Men's suite with shirts and belts donated by a DAV member. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Central Jersey Leathernecks Detachment, Marine Corps League Commandant Alex Polce dated October 10, 2022.)**

22. **August** - Chapter delivered the following: 2 (12-roll) packs of Bounty Paper Towels, 2 (32-roll) packs Charmin Toilet Paper rolls, 2 boxes (104 units) of Tide Laundry Pods, and 1 container of Tide Laundry soap to the Dudley House Transitional Housing Program for Veterans in Plainfield . **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from YMCA Senior Housing Director, Teresa McCoy dated August 18,2022.)**

23. **August** - Chapter delivered the following: 24 pairs of men's shoes, 18 XXL assorted men's winter jackets, 15 backpacks, and 1 large bag of assorted men's shirts, pants, ladies clothes and shoes. These were donated to the homeless veterans residing at the Hope for Veterans transitional housing facility at Lyons. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough, president of Independence for Veterans dated August 26, 2022.)**

24. **September** - Chapter donated \$200 to Blind Veterans National Chapter #1. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Blind Veterans National Chapter #1 Commander, Paul Kaminsky dated September 09, 2022.)**

25. **September** - Chapter donated the following clothing items to for distribution to transitional housing patients at Lyons VAMC hospital: 7 men's used clothing containers, 2 men's used shoe containers, 4 leather winter jackets and liner, and 1 men's winter full jacket. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough, president of Independence for Veterans dated October 7, 2022.)**

26. **September** - Chapter donated the following items to Project Help, Inc. for distribution to homeless veterans: 4 large containers of mixed men's clothing, jackets, sweatshirts, short sleeve shirts, vest, and sweaters and 6 brand new boots. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Sandy Mitchell, director of Project Help dated September 22, 2022.)**

27. **October** - Chapter donated the following clothing items to for distribution to transitional housing patients at Lyons VAMC hospital: 50 men's mixed golf and dress shirts. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough, president of Independence for Veterans dated October 7, 2022.)**

28. **October** - Chapter donated \$500 to the "Join Us FORE a Cause" for a banner at the golf tournament fund raiser at Trump National Golf Club. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence For Veterans president Stacie McDonough dated October 2, 2022.)**

29. **October** - Chapter donated to IFV: 60 men's belts including Harley Davidson motorcycle belts. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence For Veterans president Stacie McDonough dated October 19, 2022.)**

30. **October** - Chapter donated to Independence For Veterans: 12 pair men's shoes, 2 sets men's winter jackets, pants & shoes, 12 men's X-Large men's shirts and pants. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence For Veterans president Stacie McDonough dated October 7, 2022.)**

31. **October** - Chapter donated 5 Nokia 225 4-G Cell Phones for use by PTSD veterans residing in building 143 at Lyons VAMC. They will include one month of T-Mobile. The phones will remain the property of the VA Recreation Department. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Sonia Kelley, service specialist at the VA dated November 4, 2022.)**

32. **October** - Chapter donated the following to the Dudley House Transitional Housing Program for Veterans in Plainfield: 2 Tide Pod containers with 104 units, 3 containers of Clorox bleach, and 2 packages of Bounty paper towels (12 triple rolls). **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from YMCA Senior Housing Director, Teresa McCoy dated October 31, 2022.)**

33. **October** - Chapter donated the following items to Independence for distribution to Veteran patients at Lyons VAMC: 45 used clean suits size 40 short, 2 used clean men's sports jackets size 40 short with pants, 2 used clean men's zipper medium sweater shirts and 2 light jackets. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence For Veterans president Stacie McDonough dated October 7, 2022.)**

34. **November** - Chapter donated the following to the Dudley House Transitional Housing Program for Veterans in Plainfield: 2-pairs of x-large top and bottom sweats, 1 x-lg winter hooded jacket, 1- x-lg sweater, and 1-cap.

(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from YMCA Senior Housing Director, Teresa McCoy dated November 28,2022.)

35. December - Chapter donated the following to the Dudley House Transitional Housing Program for Veterans in Plainfield: 3-Tide containers, 1-box of Tide detergent, 6-rolls of paper towels, 12-tooth brushes & tooth paste, and 2- bottles of hand lotion. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from YMCA Senior Housing Director Theresa McCoy dated December 16, 2022.)**

36. December - Chapter donated the following to Independence For Veterans for patients at the Lyons VA Hospital: 18- Hanes packed (6) new socks, 24-hand knitted scarves, 40-hand knitted caps, 40-pairs of almost new socks, 2-wind breakers, 1-thermo vest, 3-pairs of new men's jeans, 3-pairs of slightly used men's jeans, 1-thermos vest, 12-men's shirts, and 2-light wind breaker jackets. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence For Veterans president Stacia McDonough dated December 2, 2022.)**

37. December - Chapter donated the following to Independence For Veterans for patients at the Lyons VA Hospital: 1-large bag of mixed food, and 1-bag of used clothing. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence For Veterans president Stacia McDonough dated December 6, 2022.)**

38 December - Chapter provided a donation check for \$250 to Independence For Veterans for their 11th annual Veterans Christmas drive benefitting the homeless and disabled veterans residing at the two local shelters. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence For Veterans president Stacia McDonough dated December 6, 2022.)**

39. December - Chapter donated the following to the Dudley House Transitional Housing Program for Veterans in Plainfield: 1-Tide detergent pods, 12-men's back packs filled with assorted new clothing and toiletries. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence For Veterans president Stacie McDonough dated December 28, 2022.)**

40. December - Chapter refurbished two laptops (Dell & HP) by replacing battery , adding memory, and licensed copy of Windows 10 for donation to IFV. Included was a used working VIZIO HDTV flat screen monitor with remote control. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Independence For Veterans president Stacie McDonough dated January 5, 2023.)**

41. December - Chapter donated 12-back packs filled with new clothing and toiletries to homeless veteran patients in the transitional housing facility at Lyons hospital. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Stacia McDonough, President of Independence for Veterans dated December 28, 2022.)**

42. December - Chapter donated list for Women's Treatment Unit in building #143 at Lyons Hospital and 10-hand knitted shawls (lap blankets) for the WTU. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Sonia Kelly, Voluntary Service Specialist at Lyons VAMC dated December 28, 2022.)**

43. December - Chapter delivered the following : 12-lunches with chips, candy bars, soda, water, utensils, and condiments to the Women's Treatment Unit 143CT at Lyons hospital. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Laurie Tomaino CTRS, Chief of Recreation Therapy dated 02/13/2023.)**

44. **December** - Chapter delivered the following: 61-lunches with chips, candy bars, soda, water, utensils, and Condiments to the domiciliary in building #143 at Lyons Hospital. **(Chapter received a letter of gratitude from Laurie Tomaino CTRS, Chief of Recreation Therapy dated 02/14/2023.**

2022 - Total Chapter 16 donations disbursed as check payments during DAV FY 7/2021-6/2022 = **\$7,368.00**. This number does not include donations of items not purchased by the Chapter. An example would be clothing gifted to the Chapter for disbursement to other charities. Our total Jan - Dec LVAP (Local Veterans Assistance Program) hours were **1477+**