



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

List of Accomplishments

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

-- 2007 --

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 --

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.

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 --

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 --

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 --

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 --

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 --

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 --

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 IHop 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 --

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 --

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.)**

19. **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.

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

21. **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.

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

23. **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.)**

24. **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.

25. **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.)**

26. **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.)**

27. **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.)**

28. **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.)**

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

30. **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.)**

31. **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.)**

32. **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.)**

33. **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 (Feb 2018 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.