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# Press Release

## **Disabled American Veteran Somerville Chapter 16 Sponsored Event at VA Lyons Hospital, NJ April 8, 2016**

DAV Chapter 16 hold its 8<sup>th</sup> year semiannual Rock and Roll Dinner party for veteran patients.

We are DAV Chapter 16 out of Somerville, NJ. One of our most successful and rewarding events is our semi-annual rock and roll dinner party, now in its eighth year, at VA Lyons Hospital for veteran patients. Our latest one was held on April 8, 2016.

There is a lot of planning needed for this event, and many DAV officers and members in uniform help in the preparation along with the community service volunteers to make sure everything is ordered, set up and runs smoothly and enjoyably for the veteran patients.

Work starts at 2 p.m. to prepare the multipurpose room at the hospital, according to the directions and plans designed by the commander, Gerard P. Walsh. Tables are set up for serving and dining with red, white and blue tablecloths. The room is decorated with chapter banners, the DAV Chapter 16 flag and event posters.

At this event for the entertainment of the patients we had live music from the Steel Groove Band. A table was set up with prizes for the veterans. As the patients arrived they were given raffle tickets to win some great gifts including watches, iPod shuffles, DAV shirts, key rings, wallets with five-dollar canteen books and clock radios.

By 4:30 the event begins. All the food trays are arranged on the serving tables and the volunteers are happy to serve their special guests, over 100 of them, after the commander has completed the opening ceremony and the chapter chaplain has led the room in open prayer.

We served eight full trays of chicken, two full trays each of shrimp, mac & cheese, spare ribs, mashed potatoes and mozzarella sticks and four half trays each of cole slaw and buffalo wings and two half trays of chicken fingers along with dinner rolls and assorted beverages. For desert there were three sheet cakes and assorted cookies. We bring extra food so we can share with patients in the wards who are not able to attend. These items were funded from monies collected by our volunteers during our annual Forget-Me-Not Drive.

Our chapter enjoys talking with the patients, and at this event we had the pleasure of introducing DAV State Commander Michael Cherepon. It was rewarding to hear from the veterans how much they appreciated the event and that they were looking forward to the next one.

**Press Release from Disabled American Veteran Organization State Office of NJ**

After nearly four hours of partying the chapter volunteers clean up, tired but happy to be of service. The commander wishes to thank his officers, appointees and all the volunteers who help to make these dinners successful.

DAV CHAPTER 16 Volunteers ready to serve the veteran patients.



State Commander, 99 old member Gene & Gerard and Vic officers.



One of our sheet cakes outlined with the DAV logo and the US flag.

