



# ROGERS COUNTY DAV CHAPTER 44



Vol. 5 No. 4

December 2016

(918) 342-8990

801 W. DuPont (PO Box 2446) Claremore, Oklahoma 74018

Next Meeting: 16 January 2017

Dinner & Speaker @ 1800

Meeting @ 1900



DAV Chapter 44 Commander, C.J. Masters



DAVA Unit 44 Commander, Donna Elliott



As we approach the end of 2016, the last two months of this year, thousands will be attending parades, celebrating and enjoying family, friends and social get-togethers. Our DAV members will not only be joining the celebrations, but will be “thanking” veterans by joining the parades and visiting our Veterans at our local Veterans’ Center.

Family members often play multiple roles: caregivers, counselors, and supporters for our wounded veterans. Our chapter’s volunteers, whom I cannot say enough about, have spent many hours assisting veterans or have participated in numerous hours of fundraisers. There is no greater or more selfless love than that of a volunteer.

This year has seen many changes in our chapter, such as the remodel of our chapter building. If you haven’t been by to see it, you really should. Kevin Darling and his team did a great job. Thank you Rusty Goodman for bringing Kevin to our attention for this badly needed revision.

Many of our group participated in the first ever DAV 5K in Tulsa, OK this year. For the first DAV 5K race in Tulsa, our national goal was to raise \$80,000 and we \$49,525.45, over 50% for the first time. Let’s reach that \$80K next year.

I’m pleased to pass along the news that by the time you receive this newsletter, our chapter webpage will be operational at [okdav.org/ch44](http://okdav.org/ch44).

As we wrap up the year, please keep in mind and near to your hearts and minds, our nation’s sons and daughters that are still in harm’s way. They and their families are enduring endless worry and long separations, just as many of us have before them.

Thank you to our Chapter’s members and those members of our DAV Auxiliary for your continued support of our disabled veterans and their families.

### Table of contents:

- Page 1—Commanders comments
- Page 2—Upcoming events
- Page 3-10—Stats, News You Can Use, Pictures
- Page 11—Advertising

We have had a busy year in 2016. We have grown and we have lost; we have won in the 50/50 monthly raffle; we have supported the Chapter at fundraising events; we have grieved for our lost veterans and taken in their families.

We have been fortunate to have gained in our numbers this year with new members and new ideas. Welcome! We are a fun group that enjoys helping our family veterans.

By now you know that we didn’t meet in December so our members could spend time with their own families and will reconvene on 16 January 2017.

One of our new members, Rae Ann Baughn has brought some new ideas and energy to our group. Rae Ann and her husband veteran Jim brought us two spectacular floats for the Veterans Day Parade 2016 and helped with a gift giving trip of many presents to many of the veterans at the Claremore Veterans Center on December 3rd. A fun time was had by all that attended both.

With the help of Atwoods, 40 veterans from the Claremore Veteran Center received Secret Santa gifts. Rae Ann & Jim Baughn helped with many gifts for the residents of the Veteran Center.

Chelsea has an honored lamp post with Christmas greetings from Rogers County DAV thanks to Rae Ann & Jim.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2017



# Upcoming Events

## AUCTION @ JANUARY MEETING

*Before Jesse Boyd left for Texas, he donated five assorted pistols and rifles for us to raffle as we saw fit. At the January meeting we will be holding live auction for two pistols. One is a Ruger 357 and the other one is a Fli Tanfoglio .22. If you are interested in bidding at this auction but will be unable to pay that night ( 16 Jan), let Johnny Messimore know about your situation.*

As you may have remembered, at the end of our Golden Corral fundraising event, we had three winners for a Core Brand AR-15 and two drawings for 26 meals each from the manager at Golden Corral. Our winners for Golden Corral meals were Cotton Campbell and Boon Kelly. The winner of the rifle is pictured here with Johnny Messimore and Dave Taylor.



### Shop @ the Meeting

Show your chapter pride with a Chapter 44 T-shirt

Chapter T-Shirt—\$20 (sold @ Chapter Bldg)

Can Koozies—\$3 ea or 2 for \$5

Pins: Branch Seal—\$3

Branch Seal Stickers—\$3

Bumper Stickers—\$4

Branch Tote Bags—\$10

Branch Watch Caps—\$10

(These items also sold at the Chapter.)



**Sign up for  
DAV CAN,**  
[www.dav.org/  
learnmore/  
legislation/join-  
action-network-  
takeaction.](http://www.dav.org/learnmore/legislation/join-action-network-takeaction)

**TAPS**  
Remembering the ones  
we lost in 2016



Baker, George F	21-Jul
Boyd, Jesse D	30-Nov
Brown, Leonard	1-Jun
Cowan, Lloyd W	1-Mar
Gange, Pauline F	27-Jun
Goines, Leonard	24-Aug
Stimson, Michael S	30-Sep

**WELCOME**  
New members in 2016

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DATE JOINED</b>
Acox, Gary L	29-Nov
Anderson, C J	7-Jun
Brinlee, Casey L	9-Sep
Brown, Andrea J	4-May
Brown, David B	26-Apr
Butters, Brewster S	2-Jun
Chappell, Michael A	7-Dec
Choate, Charles Lavon	4-Nov
Collier, Robert E	23-Mar
Farmer, Preston E	29-Apr
Feeling, Durbin D	9-Mar
Goatley, Megan	2-May
Goggin, Donald F	28-Nov
Haas, Jeffrey J	24-Oct
Hanchett, Keith L	12-May
Hanchett, Robert K	12-May
Harris, Michael	15-Mar
Heimdale, Jack E	19-Jul
Hennington, John D	9-Jun
Herbert, Donald D	15-Nov
Hill, John David	15-Mar
Holley, Gary L	31-Aug
Honeycutt, David J	5-Aug
Hornsby, Randy T	21-Oct
Hunter, Carl C	17-Jun
Jacobs, Ray Allen	26-Feb
Jeffs, Michael S	24-Feb

Jones, Jamario D	28-Jun
Kaiser, William J	24-Aug
Kennon, Alvin R	9-Aug
King, Bradley Leon	13-Jun
Kirkley, James M	29-Sep
Kittrell, Michael Ray	15-Jul
Ledbetter-Burns, Lee E	28-Jun
Lesperance, Kerry J	15-Nov
Livingston, Charles D	17-May
Martin, Morris L	8-Nov
McCain, Clarence H	2-May
McCombs, Larry G	23-Mar
McDaniel, Perry L	12-Jan
McLain, Virgil L	7-Sep
Moseley, Roger A	19-Sep
Murray, Christopher A	19-Jul
Narron, Douglas M	25-Mar
Noe, Walter Emmitt	17-Feb
O Mealey, Larry Dean	25-Feb
Orf, Ray E	22-Mar
Orr, Gary M	18-Mar
Pinson, Paul S	1-Apr
Reese, Michael J	8-Feb
Rhodes, Carl Thompson	12-Apr
Schofield, Bobby G	29-Nov
Scroggins, Richard A	2-Mar
Shepherd, Deborah E	1-Jun
Sloop, Gary D	3-May
Smith-Gordon, Nancy Rae	29-Sep
Stiger, William	11-Jul
Stillion, Ronnie Ray	4-Apr
Stiteler, David Clinton	8-Mar
Stockinger, Glen Roger	6-Aug
Stonebarger, Gary L	23-Feb
Stoner, Larry Allen	24-Mar
Thomas, Floyd	16-May
Town, William David	25-Oct
Voss, Duane C	12-May
Webb, Frank	2-Jun
Willhoite, Joe B	29-Nov
Yoesting, John L	20-Sep
Zeiler, George A	23-Mar



# News You Can Use



## ROGERS COUNTY YEAR IN REVIEW

### ◆ Finance (1 Jul 2015—30 Jun 2016)

- \$ Total Income: \$40,214.18
- \$ Total Disbursements: \$51,979.49
- \$ Beginning Balance Savings:
- \$ \$20,363.95 (1 Jul 2015)
- \$ Ending Balance Savings:
- \$ \$35,185.19 (30 Jun 2016)

### ◆ Chapter Service Officers

- **For eight months**
- Phone calls: 888
- Veterans seen: 1233
- Volunteer hours: 3091
- Sent 14 members for CSO Certification

### ◆ Membership

- We started with a total membership count of 394 on 18 Jan 2016
- As of 10 Dec 2016, our membership count is 449
- 59 New members
- 12 Transfer-in members
- 7 Deceased members

### ◆ Transportation

- Jan through Nov 2016
- 132 Total Clients Transported
- 1017 Total Miles Driven
- 9138.1 Total Driver Volunteer Hours

### ◆ Fundraising Events

- 2016 saw Chapter 44 set-up 13 times at various locations, like Walmart, Reasors, Harps, Stillwater Milling, Atwoods, and Golden Corral

### ◆ Publicity events took us to the Claremore Veteran Center twice for a Fish Fry and Hamburger & Hot Dog cookout.

### ◆ Business, New & Unfinished

- Outdoor building lights & parking lot security light (Jan 2014) – CLOSED
- Update of Service Officers Computers (Nov 2014) – CLOSED
  - New computers for Service Officers and two in Veteran Area

- All computers upgraded to Windows 10
- Interior Reconstruction (Aug 2016) - CLOSED
- Fund raising letters to local businesses, directed to Baker-Hughes – open
  - Letter sent to local corporations around Rogers County
- Women’s Restroom ceiling needs to be raised (Jan 2015) – CLOSED
- Start of Honor Guard (Nov 2015) – open
- Social Media to further our Chapter (Jan 2016) – open
- Veteran widow requests handrails for outside porch (Mar 2016) - CLOSED
- CSO Training in June (Mar 2016) - CLOSED
- Updated Constitution & Bylaws (Apr 2016) - CLOSED
- Moving Wall in Oct (Jul 2016) - CLOSED
  - Volunteers
- Tulsa DAV 5K (Jul 2016) CLOSED
  - Runners, walkers, riders, volunteers
- Banner sign for VFW street-side sign for DAV meetings (Jun 2016) - open
- 100% free, 12’ tall, LED, double sided sign for DAV property (Aug 2016) open
  - Scrolling paid advertising to assist in fundraising



- ☺ From OKDAV.ORG, if a veteran has a house fire, let a CSO know immediately so they can contact OKDAV-HQ to receive an immediate \$1000 relief check.
- ☺ DAV offers \$1000 Disaster Relief to veterans that encounter disasters during our wonderful Oklahoma weather
  - [http://okdav.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Disaster\\_Relief\\_Grant\\_App.pdf](http://okdav.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Disaster_Relief_Grant_App.pdf)
- ☺ If you were in the Vietnam War, whether in country or on a ship, we encourage you to sign up with the Agent Orange Registry Ex-



# News You Can Use



am

- Agent Orange is an on-going CDC/INH data collection
  - If you have a condition that you feel is Agent Orange connected and it is not on the Presumptive List, file your claim as “direct connection”
  - The registry is based on the veterans recollection
  - <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/registry-exam.asp>
- ☺ Gulf War Veterans’ Medically Unexplained Illnesses
- <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp>
  - A wealth of information pertaining to unexplained illnesses
  - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
  - Fibromyalgia
  - Functional gastrointestinal disorders
  - Undiagnosed illnesses
- ☺ Do you know a veteran, male or female that has been sexually assaulted during their military career?
- Have them come talk with a CSO so we can complete the appropriate paperwork for this horrid assault.
  - The treatment must be verified through a VA doc and recommendation to the VA Mental Health department
  - Document the incident to military service
  - Completion of VA form 21-0781 and possibly 21-0781a for personal assault and PTSD
  - PTSD & MST does not have a 1-size fits all solution
  - Understanding is progressing
- ☺ If you are interested in the Veteran History Project via the Red Cross, contact Leann McCready @ 918-274-0693
- ☺ **Legislation Actions**
- The 55th Legislation of OK saw 34 veteran related pieces pass the desk of and signed by Governor Fallen.
  - Some bills included:
    - SB 398 – calls for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to assist with the costs of burying or cremating an honorably discharged U.S. veteran. The bill calls for ODVA to work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and/ or private organizations to fund the program.
    - HB2349 - Revenue and taxation; additional homestead exemption; excluding veterans' disability compensation payments from gross household income
    - H2450 – Stolen Valor fine has increased from \$100 to \$1,000 or be imprisoned up to six months in county jail or both; effective 1 Nov 2016
    - HB2595 – Criminal procedure; granting courts authority to consider post-traumatic stress disorder as mitigating factor when sentencing veterans
- ☺ National DAV has 138 Resolutions for 2016. They are in a PDF format and can be downloaded or read at <https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/ResolutionBook.pdf>
- ☺ 2017 Oklahoma Legislation has 10 bills of interest to Oklahoma veterans
- VA disability income is not lost
  - OK Veterans Memorial Registry
  - Encouragement for healthcare providers to try TriCare
  - Active duty military duty pay to be 100% tax exempt
  - Military retiree pay to be tax exempt
  - Education for deceased or disabled members for children and spouse
  - State to purchase or remodel special housing for disabled veteran
  - Oklahoma Business Program for new start-up businesses

- Oklahoma to establish a first home program for veterans
- Create a special license plate for veterans
- ☺ Reduction in copayments for many service-connected veterans in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 135
  - VA issued final regulations set to take effect February 27, 2017, changing VA's current copayments structure for each 30-day or less supply of medication and how future year copayment amounts and annual caps are calculated.
  - Veterans who are currently exempt from medication copayments remain exempt, including but not limited to, a veteran with a service-connected disability rated 50 percent or more, medication for a service-connected disability, and a former prisoner of war.

### Claremore fire leaves disabled vet, family without a home



Bill Heard, retired AF, donates \$1,000 to Chapter 44 for the Chris Murray family totaling \$1400 since the family house fire was featured on KTUL with our own Johnny Messimore. Pictured: CJ Masters, Bill Heard, Bill Allen

<http://ktul.com/news/local/claremore-fire-leaves-disabled-vet-family-without-a-home>



### ☺ Ready for Winter? TRICARE Shares Safety Tips for the Season

<http://www.tricare.mil/WinterWeather2016>

Snow, sleet and high winds can knock out heat, power and communication services to your home or office. Get prepared for weather-related emergencies, and follow these steps from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to prepare your home.

- Check your heating systems and have them professionally serviced.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
- Install both carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke detectors. Check batteries regularly.
- Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers.
- Ensure that your cell phone is fully charged.
- Keep an up-to-date emergency kit.

Don't forget that during the cold weather months our bodies need extra protection. It's best to layer light, warm clothing, gloves, scarves, hats and waterproof boots for wetter weather. Work slowly when doing outside chores, and take a friend and an emergency kit when participating in outdoor recreation. And, don't forget to drink water. Even though you may not feel as thirsty in the cold weather as you do in the summer months, staying hydrated is just as important.







CSO Jim Harris with wife Becky being mentored.



Bill Ritchy with veteran while Gary Stonebarger watches.



Cliff Crawford assists a veteran with benefits.

**LOOKING FOR VETERANS  
NEEDING A HOME**



Greater Green Country Property Management will donate \$100 to Rogers County Chapter 44 for every veteran bought home.

Call Rusty Goodman for more details at (918) 851-1998 or (918) 382-8017





Moving Wall, Owasso, OK



2016 Veteran Center Fish Fry Winners



Jim & Rae Ann Baughn



National DAV Commander Dave Riley and OK State DAV Commander Linda Miller



Chapter Commander CJ Masters and Phil & Ann Schermer





2016 VETERANS DAY PARADE PARTICIPANTS



2016 National DAV Golden Corral Fundraising Event

## **DAV-AUXILIARY NEEDS YOU!**

Your membership is very important to continue the successful mission of the DAV Auxiliary. As long as disabled veterans and their families need us, we'll be there.

- We provide and set-up our pot-luck dinners before the monthly meetings.
- We assist with fundraisers
- Spouses and family members, please join us

**Unit 44 Officers:**

**Donna Elliott, Commander**

**Adjutant/Treasurer**

**Suzanne Crawford, Sr Vice Commander**

**Sherry George, Jr Vice Commander**

**Joanne Willm, Chaplain**

**Becky Harris, Patriot Instruction**



- Share this number without shame.
- Save your fellow veteran
- “God and the DAV saved my life”  
-Vic Riddle



Tulsa Vet Center is now operating under  
**New Office Hours**

Monday & Friday-----	8:00am – 4:30pm
Tues-Wed-Thurs-----	8:00am – 7:30pm
Saturday: 1st & 4th-----	1:00pm – 5:00pm
Wednesday – American Legion – Bristow-----	9-3pm
Monday – American Legion – Dewey/Bartlesville --	9-4pm
Tuesday – OSU Stillwater Campus-----	9-3pm



*Vet Centers serve veterans* and their families by providing Individual, Group and Marriage and Family Counseling to all combat veterans including members who are still on active duty serving in the local area. Military Sexual Trauma and Bereavement Counseling is also available. Vet Centers are the VA Liaison with Community Agencies. Any questions, call (918) 628-2760 for assistance.

**CHAPTER SERVICE OFFICER HOURS**

Tuesday & Thursday 1pm to 5 pm

**MONTHLY MEETING @ VFW Building**

3rd Monday @ 7pm—Dinner @ 6pm

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

Rogers County Chapter #44  
801 W DuPont  
PO Box 2446  
Claremore, OK 74018

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA  
PERMIT NO 44

**ADDRESS CHANGE REQUEST**

C.J. Masters, Commander  
Ronnie Elliott, Sr Vice Commander  
Jim Harris, Jr Vice Commander  
Ann Schermer, Adjutant  
Bill Allen, Treasurer  
Cliff Crawford, Chaplain  
Jim George, Sgt of Arms

[okdav44@yahoo.com](mailto:okdav44@yahoo.com)  
<https://twitter.com/okdav44>  
[okdav.org/ch44](http://okdav.org/ch44)

918-342-8990



**2017 MEETING DATES (held at VFW)**

16 January 2017	20 February 2017	20 March 2017
17 April 2017	15 May 2017	19 June 2017
17 July 2017	21 August 2017	18 September 2017
16 October 2017	20 November 2017	18 December 2017



**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES  
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED**