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Disabled American Veterans Naomi Chapter 15 — Philadelphia, PA

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2017

Commander

- Leonard M. Johnson
 (267) 254-9097

Senior Vice Commander

- Jerome J. Sungari
 (267) 240-5986

Junior Vice Commander

- Stephen D. Lacey

Adjutant/Treasurer

- Harding Byrd
 (267) 292-2082

Chaplain

- Gilbert H. Hatcher
 (215) 301-9132

Judge Advocate

- Richard D. Fields

Sergeant-at-Arms

- Charles B. Clarke

New Member Welcome

A hearty welcome to Sixteen (16) new members of Naomi Chapter 15. Joining our ranks since the last issue of the Newsletter were Comrades Michael Alexander, Wayne T. Asbury, Wali A. Bilal, James A. Brodie, Anita J. Brodsky, Michael Greene, Sabina P. Lemon, Larry Nelson, Clifford Rudd, William H. Washington, Edward Williams and Ronnie L. Mosley. Comrades George Bembischew, Tony W. Farr, Fran J. Hudson and James L. Malone transferred in from other chapters.



Welcome - **Come out and get involved.**

Sickness and Distress

Get well wishes to Comrades Odessa E. Thrower, Eugene Alexander, John H. Walker, William A. DeBerry, Roland E. West, Richard D. Fields, Yahya Abdullah-Aziz, Delano Stones, Benjamin F. Beck, Flint R. Jackson, Willie King and Eddie W. Gray who have been reported under the weather. We extend condolences and a last salute to the family and friends of Comrades James A. Banks, Calvin L. Hackney, Willie L. Huett and John A. Novack who passed away - they will be sorely missed. If you hear of sickness or distress *text* Chaplain Gilbert H. Hatcher, (215 301-9232), -- or give Commander Johnson a call at 267 254-9097.

Mid-Winter Conference Trip On Tap

Naomi Chapter 15 will sponsor a one (1) day trip to Wash. DC on Feb. 28, 2017 in support of our National Commander's testimony before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. The trip will also allow all to schedule a meeting with their local Congressional representative to lobby for their support of legislation of interest to veterans of America's wars. The bus will leave at 8:00 a.m. from the parking area in the Olney Plaza at Front and Olney. Ticket cost will be \$50.00 ---- for further info call the chapter office and/or contact Commander Leonard Johnson 267 254-9097

Newsletter Fund Donations

Commander Johnson and the entire membership of Naomi Chapter 15 send our thanks to those who responded to our request for donations to our Newsletter Fund. These are tough times and the cost of design, production and distribution of this newsletter is a burden Naomi may not be able to handle for much longer. We ask those who are able to help us spread the news to send a donation today! Thanks, its appreciated

VA OK's 8 Camp Lejeune Related Presumptive Diseases

VA has determined that 8 medical conditions, (kidney cancer, liver cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, multiple myeloma, scleroderma, Parkinson's disease, and aplastic anemia or other myelodysplastic syndromes) provide presumptive eligibility for disability compensation. Presumptive means that once you satisfy the length of service at Camp Lejeune requirement of the final rule no other evidence is needed. Although veterans, family members or employees exposed between Aug. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987 are encouraged to immediately file claims, the effective date of any awarded compensation will be the date the final rule is published. For further info on the status of the final rule contact your local VSO Service Officer or Naomi Service Officer Leonard Johnson (267) 254-9097.

Care — Volunteer



M. L. King, Jr. Day
 January 16, 2017



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY REPORT

From The Commander's Desk

Greetings, though the year 2017 will undoubtedly offer many difficult challenges I am confident that Naomi Chapter 15 will continue to be there for disabled veterans in need. Congress will soon convene, leadership will be in place and a new President will take the oath. Still, hopefully, the needs of America's disabled veterans will continue to have a high priority in the minds of those who make the decisions that matter to you, I and our fellow veterans. That's why we urge you to remind our representatives in Washington that the well earned benefits enjoyed by disabled veterans should not be bundled with partisan targets labeled as candidates for the budget ax. We ask you to remind Congress that any increase in funding of the VA budget must meet the increased needs brought on by new users of the VA health system because of service in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and other hot spots around the world. VA hospital parties, and the homeless veterans in our midst are among the targets of our efforts to support veterans in need. All this will cost money, that means we will be asking for your support. That support can be in the form of the buying of a ticket, the giving of a donation, or volunteering your service in any way. Any help will be acknowledged and appreciated. Another project on our 2017 agenda is increased membership attendance at our monthly chapter meetings. **Come out and contribute — come out and be heard.**



Veteran's Personal Wallet Card

Did you know you can print out a wallet card with all your personal information on it? Just go to My Healthevet, log in, select Personal Information in the red navigation bar --- then select My Profile. On that page you will find a link to 'Print Your Wallet Card'. Make sure you are satisfied that all your info is correct before you hit Print. Voila, now you have all your personal info in your back pocket, (in-hand), any time you need it.

VA Toll-Free Number
1-800-827-1000



Support Our Troops

Chapter Meetings

Naomi Chapter 15 meets the fourth Monday of the month at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, University and Woodland Aves. The time is 3:30p.m. on the 7th floor. If you have any questions please call or write either your Commander or your Adutant at the phone number/address listed on page 1.



Explore.VA.gov

Don't miss out on benefits you might have earned --- go to explore.VA.gov, sign up and learn more. Whether its Disability Compensation, Health Care, Memorial Benefits, Education & Training, Home Loans & Housing-related Assistance, Pensions, Employment Services, Life Insurance or Spouses, Dependents and Suvivors, Explore.VA.gov has info that can help the veteran thrive. Actually, you do not have to sign up unless you want info transmitted to your inbox. If you just want info, just drop by and explore! But signing up and providing your email, will guarantee you will not miss out on today's news.

DAV National Service Office
Supervisor, Jason Hassinger
(215) 381-3065

Benefits Protection Team Leader
Larry Holman, (215) 601-6263

Chapter Service Officer
Leonard Johnson, (267) 254-9097



Presidents Day
February 20, 2017

February Meeting — February 27, 2017