



Disabled American Veterans Naomi Chapter 15 — Philadelphia, PA

7900 Lindbergh Blvd #4610
Philadelphia, PA 19153
(267) 292-2082

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2017

Commander

- Leonard M. Johnson
- (267) 254-9097

Senior Vice Commander

- Jerome J. Sungari

Junior Vice Commander

- Steven D. Lacey

Adjutant/Treasurer

- Harding Byrd
- (267) 292-2082

Chaplain

- Gilbert H. Hatcher
- (215) 301-9132 (text)

Judge Advocate

- Richard D. Fields

Sergeant-at-Arms

- Charles B. Clarke

Care — Volunteer



Easter Greetings
TO ONE AND ALL

March Meeting

March 27, 2017

Sickness and Distress

Regretfully we render our last salute to fallen Comrades Stephen L McDaniels and Alfred L. Gibson. Both were resourceful dedicated warriors who served family, friends, and country well. Condolences to Comrades Allan L and Darrick Branch and family on the loss of their mother. We send get well wishes to those who are, or have been, under the weather including Comrades Randolph D'Adamo, David E. Graves, Eugene Alexander, Odessa Thrower, John H. Walker, Michael Donnelly, Joseph Brown, Charles B. Clarke, Ronald Wallace, Yvonne Lee and George A. Houston. Get well wishes to Special Volunteer JoMarie Heritage. Anyone having knowledge of the sickness, distress or death of any of our members is requested to notify Chaplain Gilbert Hatcher at (215) 301-9132. (text)



New Member Welcome

A hearty welcome to eight (8) new members of DAV and Naomi Chapter 15. Joining our ranks since the last issue of the Newsletter were Comrades John H. Archer, Douglas E. Downing, Lonnie J. Jackson, Charles H. Kiefreider, Michael M. McIntyre, Gerald McNeak and Ronnie L. Mosley. James C. King transferred in from another chapter. -- Welcome - **Come out and get involved.**



D.C. Bus Trip Huge Success

On February 28, 2017 Naomi Chapter 15 sponsored a bus trip to our nation's capitol. The trip was scheduled to allow our membership, and a number of our friends, to support our National Commander during his testimony before a joint congressional committee on veterans affairs. We are happy to announce that the trip was a success, our mission was accomplished and we look forward to 2018 confident that veterans benefits are safer when all of us insist that our message be heard.



Treachery ---- Member Authored Book

Treachery is a non-fiction story of government murder, gun running and cocaine trafficking that documents the inherent evil of using illegal covert operations to conduct the business of government. The author, Robert O'Dowd, is a marine veteran and member of Naomi Chapter 15, DAV. He can be reached at rodowd@live.com. For further info on the book contact Commander Johnson at 267 254-9097.



VA Hospital Party On Tap

VA hospital parties are now part of the newly created 'Evening Leisure Food Distribution Program'. Naomi's next contribution to that program will be a party scheduled for March 23, 2017. Member supporters are asked to assemble at 6:30 p.m. in the Pharmacy area near Starbucks --- Thanks in advance for your support.



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

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March/April Report

From The Commander's Desk

Greetings Comrades, In case you missed the bus, on February 28, 2017 Naomi sponsored a trip to Washington DC in support of our National Commander as he advocated for continued budgetary support of the needs of veterans



of America's wars during testimony before a joint committee of Congress. We thank those who supported us, and encourage those who didn't to get on board - the next benefit cut may be your own. Our next VA hospital party is scheduled for March 23 -- see you there. The VA Volunteer Services Program is seeking volunteers who can spare time and skills to help veterans get through a difficult day. Show you care -- Volunteer! I want to congratulate our National leadership team, Commander Riley, Adjutant Burgess and Legislative Director Ilem who kept their eyes on the ball until bills of interest to disabled veterans was signed into law. I also want to thank those of you who have sent in

donations to help Naomi help veterans We could not do it without you - Thanks! Another encouraging area of chapter interest is Naomi's membership growth. We are approaching the end of our 2016/2017 membership year and we may meet our stated goals. Membership growth is a team effort, we will meet those goals only if we pull together. We need every member to become a recruiter - if you know a disabled veteran, recruit him/her. Bring him/her to our next meeting - Help Naomi Grow!

Real ID Act License Extension

In 2005 in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the Real ID Act required state drivers licenses to comply with federal standards that were designed to make them harder to forge and help keep terrorists out of the country. The original deadline was May 11, 2008. That deadline has been extended many times. According to a release from Gov. Wolf's office that deadline has been extended again. Pennsylvania now has until June 5th to comply. That means you have until then to use your drivers license as ID to enter federal buildings. This extension does not affect your use of a non compliant PA drivers license on a commercial flight after January 22, 2018. For further info contact Commander Johnson 267 254-9097.

Veterans Advisory Commission

The Philadelphia Veterans Advisory Commission is located on the first floor of City Hall, Room 127. Scott Brown is the Director, the phone # is 215 686-3256 and the contact person is Joyce McKeown. Drop by for info on city, county and state benefits.

My HealtheVet

A nifty online access is available for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care System. After you have completed the registration process you can renew prescriptions online, print available lab results and interact with your primary. For more info contact Len Johnson at 267 254-9097.



Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 (Press 1)

Benefits Protection Team Leader

Want to know the status of any legislation, local, state or federal? Contact Larry Holman (215) 601-6263 or lholman@prodigy.net

Chapter Meetings

Your Chapter meets the fourth Monday at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, University and Woodland Aves. The time is 3:30 p.m, the location is the 7th floor (7A141-back). If you have any questions please call or write, either your Commander or your Adjutant/Treasurer, at the phone number/address listed on page 1.

New Medication Copayments

Veterans who are being treated for a non service-connected condition or veterans with a service connected disability rated less than 50% will face new copayment guidelines after February 27, 2017. For further info call Commander Johnson at 267 254-9097 or the VA at 877 222-VETS (8397)

Benefits Search

If you are interested in checking out benefits you may be interested in, you might want to check out 'Explore. VA'. Just go to <http://explore.va.gov/> and explore.

DAV 100 YR COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Commander Johnson is supporting a call by National to request Naomi members to contact the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and request that a stamp be issued to commemorate 100 years of DAV service to our nation's veterans. Naomi can provide a sample letter, all you need is a stamp. Contact Commander Johnson, get your letter and help Naomi 'Spread the Word'.

Chapter Website

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/Pa/15/default.aspx>

Just A Reminder

Just a reminder ---- your chapter needs your help. We are in need of your support in the form of any donation you can afford to give. Help us help others ---- help us make a difference. Give what you can afford.

VA Benefits Toll-Free Number

1 800 827-1000

Elections Set

Election of chapter officers for the 2017/2018 membership year will be in order at the April 24, 2017 chapter meeting. Any member desiring to join the Naomi leadership team should come out and join us at that meeting.



Phila. Regional DAV NSO Phone Number

215 381-3065

April Meeting – April 24, 2017