



# Disabled American Veterans Naomi Chapter 15 — Philadelphia, PA

# NEWSLETTER

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

## March/April 2015

### 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

- Gregory Cason
- (215) 229-6819

### Judge Advocate

- Richard D. Fields

### Sergeant-at-Arms

- Charles B. Clarke

Care — Volunteer



*Easter Greetings*  
TO ONE AND ALL

March Meeting

March 23, 2015

## Hospital Party

Naomi Chapter 15 sponsored a party for hospitalized veterans at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center on January 29. The party featured prize based bingo, refreshments and general camaraderie. Rumor is, a good time was had by all.

## Sickness and Distress

Regretfully we render our last salute to fallen comrades, Larry J. Norman, Robert J. Swartz, Wilson F. Beckwith, Louis H. Camagna, John M. Conran, Nathaniel Lewis, Bruce E. Mc Candless, and Stafford Bailey. All were resourceful dedicated warriors who served family, friends, and country well. Condolences to Comrade John R. Douglas and family on the loss of his mother. We send get well wishes to those under the weather including Donald Daniels, Julius Bennett, Payton Forrest, Willie A. Smart, Bernard Teel, Jerome J. Sungari, Joseph Brown, Joseph E. Brown, Edward Nicholson, Haskell A. Carter, Clifton J. Weldon and Eugene Alexander. Anyone having knowledge of the sickness, distress or death of any of our members is requested to notify Chaplain Cason at (215) 229-6819.

## New Member Welcome

A hearty welcome to six (6) new members of DAV and Naomi Chapter 15. Joining our ranks since the last issue of the Newsletter were Comrades Michael D. Canady, Yvonne Lee, Wilbert L. Maxton, Delano Stones, Joseph T. Williams and Joseph J. Wilson. -- Welcome - **Come out and get involved.**

## D.C. Bus Trip Huge Success

On February 24, 2015 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 2016 confident that veterans benefits are safer when all of us insist that our message be heard.

## President Signs SAV Act

On February 12, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act. Named for Clay Hunt, a Marine Iraq/Afghanistan veteran who committed suicide in 2011 after failing to receive quality care from the VA. The Act; 1. Increases access to mental health care by creating a peer support and community outreach program and a one-stop website of available resources. 2. Makes recruitment of psychiatrists more attractive by promising to repay student loans. 3. Increases accountability of VA mental health care by requiring annual evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs. For further info contact Legislative Director Larry D. Holman, (215) 601-6263



## 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 24, 2015 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 26 -- 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! We appreciate the support of those who showed up at the Veterans Town Hall Naomi cohosted with VA, February 25, 2015. It was gratifying to see how many took the opportunity to get answers to questions only VA could answer. I want to congratulate our National leadership team, Commander Ron F. Hope, Adjutant J. Marc Burgess and Legislative Director Joseph Violante, who kept their eyes on the ball until the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act was signed into law. Now hopefully, each one of us will do our part to reduce the unacceptable present daily suicide rate of veterans from 22 a day to zero. I want to thank those of you who have sent in donations to help Naomi help veterans We could not do it without you. Thanks -- See you in May

### Service Officer Report

Burial benefits for eligible veterans include a gravesite in any national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a headstone or marker, a burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also be eligible for burial allowances. Cremated remains are handled in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. For more info or specific details contact Chapter Service Officer 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.

### What Are VA Burial Allowances

VA burial allowances are flat rate monetary benefits that are generally paid at the maximum amount authorized by law. A VA regulation change in late 2014 simplified the program to pay eligible survivors quickly and efficiently. Eligible surviving spouses are paid automatically upon notification of the veterans death. For exact amounts and details of eligibility contact Leonard Johnson 267 254-9097.

### My HealthVet

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.

### Chapter Meetings

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

### The Affordable Care Act And You

Veterans enrolled in VA health care programs have health coverage that meets the new Affordable Care Act's (ACA) standards. ACA does not change VA health benefits or veterans' out-of-pocket costs. Starting in 2015 US tax payers will need to declare that they have health coverage on their tax forms. For further details on how ACA affects you contact Legislative Director Larry D. Holman 215 601-6263

### Town Hall Survey

Commander Johnson would like your feedback on the effectiveness of the VA Town Hall cohosted by Naomi February 25, 2015. Were you there, did you participate, was VA responsive to your questions? Also of interest is your feeling about Naomi's cohosting this event. Contact us, mail, phone or whatever

### 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 difference. Give what you can afford.

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

### Nominations and Elections Set

Nominations for election of chapter officers for the 2015/2016 organizational year will be in order at the March 23, 2015 chapter meeting. Nomination and election of officers for the same term will be in order at the April 27, 2015 chapter meeting

Phila. Regional DAV NSO Phone Number  
**215 381-3065**



## April Meeting — April 27, 2015

