



# Disabled American Veterans Naomi Chapter 15 — Philadelphia, PA

# NEWSLETTER

7900 Lindbergh Blvd #4610  
Philadelphia, PA 19153-2018  
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## September/October 2013

### New Member Welcome

A hearty welcome to 17 new members of Naomi Chapter 15. Joining our ranks since the last issue of the Naomi Newsletter were Ernest B. Baldwin, Richard A. Cox, Carl C. Fink, Joseph P. Gehring, James A. Gilliam, Calvin L. Hackney, James W. Jackson, David A. Madden, Barton R. McRae, Tony Newsome, Edgar L. Parker, Anthony F. Rhaney and Ronald Wallace. William A. DeBerry, Darral L. Hairston, Edward S. Sciorillo and Othea L. West transferred in from other chapters. Welcome - come out and get acquainted. **Come out and get involved.**



### Sickness and Distress

Regretfully we render our last salute to fallen comrades, Granville P. Dennison, Wilbur English, Robert L. Farris, Richard N. Hagenbuch, Stephen J. Heitzman, William Hudicek, Deotis McNeil, Hubert B. Morris, Samuel W. Overbey, Wynefred L. Postell and Andrew H. Potts — They will be sorely missed. Reported under the weather were Comrades Bryan Hunter, James Waddell, Donald O. Daniels, Ronald Daniels, Eugene Alexander, Ronald Daniels, George W. Murphy, Odessa Thrower, Dan McIntosh, Bernard Teel, Payton Forrest, Willie A. Smart and Julius Bennett. Get well wishes to all! Anyone having knowledge of the sickness, distress or death affecting any of our members is requested to notify Chaplain Chappelle (215) 387-5785.



### Past Naomi Cmdr Blow Elected Department Cmdr

Congratulations to Past Naomi Commander Samuel Blow, Jr. who was elected PA Department Commander at the June 2013 Department Convention. Joining Commander Blow's leadership team are Commander Leonard Johnson on the Department Finance Committee, Comrade Susan Price, Chair of the Homeless Committee, Cathy P. Bennett-Santos, Chair of the Womens Committee and Adjutant Harding Byrd who will serve on the Finance, Constitution and Bylaws and Department Service Officer Committees. Adjutant Byrd is also the Eastern PA Department IG.



### Bus Trip To DC Scheduled

Commander Johnson has announced Naomi Chapter 15 will sponsor a one (1) day bus trip to Washington DC on February 25, 2014. Although details of the trip will appear in future newsletters tickets will be available early in September 2013. The purpose of the trip is to provide support for our National DAV Commander's testimony before a joint Congressional Committee on veterans affairs. Ticket cost is \$50.00 roundtrip and can be purchased by contacting Commander Johnson at 267 254-9097.

**'SUPPORT OUR TROOPS'**

**Commander**  
Leonard M. Johnson  
(267) 254-9097  
**Senior Vice Commander**  
Jerome Sungari  
**Junior Vice Commander**  
Stephen D. Lacey  
**Adjutant/Treasurer**  
Harding Byrd  
(267) 292-2082  
**Chaplain**  
James K. Chappelle  
(215) 387-5785  
**Judge Advocate**  
Richard D. Fields  
**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Charles B. Clarke

Care — Volunteer



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# September/October Report

## From The Commander's Desk



Greetings Comrades, we start this membership year facing new challenges, while standing proudly beside new partners with a deeply held resolve to do more for a longer period of time. I want to start the membership year by congratulating our Past Chapter Commander Samuel Blow, Jr., who is now Pennsylvania DAV Department Commander. Elected at the June 2013 Department convention, Commander Blow will now share his leadership skills with chapter membership across the state of Pennsylvania. I am pleased to also announce our continued support of the VAVS program at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. That support will include recreational therapy (hospital parties) for residents of the VA Community Living Center (CLC), as well as hospitalized veterans recovering in the main building. Our Chapter Service Office is open for help with benefit claims assistance. We will refer you to the DAV Regional National Service Office when you need help your chapter can not give, but when we do have the answers, our response will be as prompt as it is accurate. With your help our fund raising efforts will allow us to be there for our comrades in need — and your active participation in chapter affairs will provide that little extra needed to guarantee success.

### Naomi Service Officer Certified

Commander Leonard Johnson has been certified by National as the official chapter service officer. Questions regarding claims or benefits should be directed to him at 215 765-4921 (H) or 267 254-9097 (cell). Commander Johnson, whose picture appears above is also the DAV VAVS representative at the Philadelphia VAMC.

### Camp Lejeune Vets Get Help

Veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC during the period of August 1953 through 1987, and currently suffering from a disease determined to result from exposure to Camp Lejeune water contamination, are eligible for VA benefits. For further info contact Commander Leonard Johnson 267 254-9097.

### 2014 COLA?

The news out of Wahington is that this year's COLA for Social Security recipients and veterans will be between 1.4 and 1.7 %. That's right it is almost certain that you will get a COLA for the 2014 benefit year. Don't spend it all in the same place. Just in case you were worrying about it, the 2014 COLA will not be based on the often mentioned chained CPI.

### PA Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs - Philadelphia Field Office

Phone: (215) 381-3040; Toll Free: 1-866-754-8637  
Fax: (215) 381-3492

The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program is August 31, 2015.

### Chapter Meetings

Naomi Chapter 15 meets the fourth Monday of the month at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, University and Woodland Aves. The time is 3:00 p.m., the location is the 3rd floor. If you have any questions please call or write either your commander or adjutant/treasurer at the phone number/address listed on page one.

## Naomi Q & A

**Q.** If my service-connected condition becomes worse, will the VA automatically increase my rating?

**A.** No. **You** must reopen your claim if your condition has worsened. The best way to do this is to contact a veterans service organization (VSO), like the DAV, or your County Director of Veterans Affairs. For more information contact Leonard Johnson, your chapter service officer.

### New National Commander

Joseph W. Johnson of Ohio was elected National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans at the National Convention held in Orlando, FL, August 10 - 13, 2013.

### KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHAPTER ONLINE

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/pa/15>

SUBMIT NEWS/ARTICLES/PICTURES/ FOR CHAPTER NEWSLETTER  
citizip74@comcast.net

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY VA BENEFITS OR SERVICES, CONTACT VA BY CALLING 1 800 827-1000 OR THE PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL DAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE AT 215 381-3065



October Meeting — October 28, 2013

