



FULLFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Gamecock #5 Newsletter

Sumter, South Carolina

August 2017 Edition

Commander's Corner

Chapter 5 Commander

Betsy West 803-499-1003

The Constitution and Bylaws and Budget for the upcoming year have been turned into the Department. Thank you all who helped through the process.

Are you new to the DAV? Would you like to learn more about the elected and appointed chapter positions, and how you can be of assistance to other veterans around our area? Do not hesitate to talk to one of the recently elected officers or myself, we will be glad to mentor any individual who is interested in learning more about the DAV. There are also national guidelines available if you would like to look at the different positions and see what you might be interested in. Let us know.

Congratulations to our Commander Betsy West for bringing home the coveted **Jackson Award** for 2016-2017. This award is presented to the most outstanding chapter commander. Chapter 5 won the **Newsletter Award** for 2016-2017 making us a 3 time winner for outstanding newsletter. D Davis was recognized for **10,000 hours** of VA Volunteer Service by DAV Dept. of SC.

We expect to publish our new chapter website in September 2017. Use this address to easily connect to our current page provided by DAV National
<http://tinyurl.com/gamecock5>

Auxiliary News

Unit 5 Commander

Nancy Spangler 803-499-4789

Thank you to all who brought items for Christmas in July. We collected many needed items and will be sorting through them and ensuring they are donated to DORN to be distributed to those Veterans in need.

The DORN "Wish List" is still listed close to the end of the newsletter. Please keep these items in mind as you go about your daily life as you may find that one item that is most needed from this wish list. We will take collections all year long.

The Auxiliary needs new members. Do you know anyone eligible to join us? We look forward to a new year serving our Veterans and their families.

DAVA collects food coupons throughout the year to send to service members overseas and canned goods to take to a local food pantry. Please bring your non-perishable items to our monthly meetings.

Please remember to record your volunteer hours in the Volunteer Book each month.

All ads have expired

Advertise in our newsletter for as little as \$25.00 per year. Your ad will reach around 900 per month and will allow us to continue mailing our newsletter to those who do not have computer access. veteransrep@yahoo.com

NEXT MEETING WILL BE

August 22, 2017 at 6:30 PM

Our meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month. We have chicken catered from Golden Corral and we encourage each DAV member and Auxiliary to bring a dish; side items and desserts, to ensure we have enough food to go around.

Chaplain's Corner

Chapter 5: Fred Levi 803-481-4953

Assist Chaplain: Arthur Macon
803-757-8319

Unit 5: Ann Strickland
803-499-2121

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Lawrence B. Scott, David P. Burns and John R. Seech as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

Please keep Fred Levi, Bonnie Brown, Dickie Graham, Paul Fisher, Jim Dawson, T C Smith, John Rogers, Andie Miller, Ruth Muller, Jim Wilder, Lee Pearson, Lori Levi, Sharan Elder, Bill Short, and Lucy Amundsen in your thoughts and prayers.

Many of our members are struggling with their health while others are facing challenges in life. Please keep them in prayer for those unspoken requests.

Chapter Home

Our Chapter home is currently unmanned. If you call, please leave a message with your name, phone number, date and the reason you called so we may better serve you.

Chapter Website: Gamecock #5

Volume 7 No. 8
August 2017

Chapter Email:
DAVGamecock5@gmail.com

HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

If you know of any events happening around town, please let us know so we can share with all of our readers.

August 7th

Purple Heart Day

August 14th

Japan Surrenders; End of WWII

August 31st

MSO Van at Golden Corral, Sumter
9AM-3PM

September 9th

SC WOD for the Fallen
12PM

Workhorse Fitness
920 Hemlock, Rd, Columbia, SC
Click [WOD](#) for more information

September 28th

Pancake Dinner
5PM-8PM

11 Hardpack Rd., Sumter
\$6.00 a plate

Remember to get your order for sausage completed in time.

November 4th & 5th

3rd Annual SC Run for the Fallen
Charleston to Columbia
Click [Memorial Trail](#) For more info.

November 5th

Remembrance 5K
3PM

Corner of Huger St. and Hwy 378,
Columbia
Click [5K Race](#) for more information

Newsletter Committee

We need your newsletter input by the 1st Tuesday of the month so we have time to put it in the newsletter and get it published. Email D Davis at

Veteransrep@yahoo.com

Your input allows us to continue to have an award winning newsletter.

Service Officers

DAV Service Officers are at the Chapter home Wednesday and Friday from 9AM-12PM

If you need claims assistance. We are assisting an average of 25 Veterans a month at this time.

Transportation

The DAV has provided van service for veterans who have appointments at Dorn VA Hospital. The van leaves daily at 7:30 AM from the parking lot near the Sumter County Law Enforcement Center.

If you are interested in community service and would like to help our veterans, this is a very fulfilling duty. You do not need a special license to drive the van but you will have to pass a physical. You must also possess a valid driver's license and a clear driving record. There is always a need for more van drivers. For more information or to schedule a ride, please call

Valerie Brunson at 803-436-2302.

Fundraising Events

Please contact Paul Fisher at 803-840-1001 with any fundraising ideas or to volunteer for any events we have already planned.

It is almost that time of year again. We need volunteers to help us with Military Appreciation Fundraising at Golden Corral in Sumter. We begin in October and continue through Veterans Day and Military Appreciation Day which will be November 13, 2017.

Gamecock 5 Membership

Chapter 5 needs 46 new members to reach 100% for the 2017-2018 membership year. Do you have friends and neighbors eligible for membership? Bring them along for a meal and a meeting to the chapter.

LVAP

Please remember to turn in your volunteer hours to Betsy each month so we get an accurate accounting of all you do for our Veterans and their families. There are 4 categories to record your Volunteer work. Do you cut grass, run errands, give a ride to the store or appointments, help with a claim, help out with a fundraiser, cook a meal for a Veteran or family, visit someone in the hospital, attend a funeral? All of these activities and much more should be recorded in LVAP.

Having a hard time keeping track of all those hours you are helping other veterans, also have a smart phone, try the application [Volunteer Tracker](#)

Special Report

Pentagon not providing adequate care to troops at risk of suicide

Defense Department health care providers do a good job of screening for suicide risk, but they fail to provide critical and effective follow-up treatment to service members identified as suicidal, according to a Rand Corp. report released Monday.

2017-2018 Department of South Carolina Officers:

Commander

Brian Wilner

bewilner@outlook.com

Adjutant

Joy McClendon

davscadjutant@gmail.com

Sr. Vice Cmdr.

Paul E. Jones

1st Jr. Vice Cmdr.

Dan Holtel

2nd Jr. Vice

Willard

Cmdr.

Cunningham

Treasurer

Joyce S. Roberts

Chaplain

Clarence Brown

Legislative

Daniel McPoyle

Judge Advocate

William Robinson

Legislative Happenings

WWII Veterans to Receive Benefits for Exposure to Mustard Gas and Lewisite

On Wednesday, Congress passed the VFW-supported *Arla Herrell Act*, which has been championed by Senator Claire McCaskill and will expand benefits for veterans who were exposed to mustard gas, and other chemical agents during World War II (WWII). This provision would require the VA to reconsider all denied claims for full-body exposure to mustard gas and lewisite brought by WWII veterans who were stationed at 22 locations. Under the bill which is expected to become law soon, the burden of proof for those claims would fall on the VA, rather than veterans. Additionally, it mandates an investigation to determine what went wrong with this process and officially acknowledge the horror these service members endured.

Senate Passes Ban on Private Sale of Military-issued Purple Heart Medals

On Wednesday, the Senate passed the VFW supported *Private Corrado Piccoli Purple Heart Preservation Act*. Over past decades, businesses specializing in military artifacts have been selling military-issued Purple Hearts on the public market for inflated prices, which have made it extremely difficult for veterans and their loved ones to track and obtain lost or stolen medals. This bill puts an end to this practice by making it illegal for any business to sell military-issued Purple Hearts. A vote in the U.S. House is expected following August's recess. The Senate also passed a bipartisan, joint resolution this past week commemorating Purple Heart Day, which is August 7. Purple Heart Day recognizes the sacrifices of those who have earned the Purple Heart Medal and is commemorated each year on the anniversary of George Washington creating the "Badge for Military Merit," the precursor to the Purple Heart. The resolution supports the goals and ideals of Purple Heart Day, encourages citizens to learn about the history of the Purple Heart Medal, and requests that the president issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the U.S. to demonstrate support for Purple Heart recipients.

Senate Advances Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization

On Tuesday, the Senate passed the *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017*. This important bill is the product of years of discussion and work to create a streamlined, non-adversarial, process for veterans to appeal a decision on their VA benefits claims. The measure would allow certain veterans already going through the appeals process to opt in to the new system. The bill also requires the VA to provide a comprehensive plan for both implementing the new system and processing the existing appeals. Currently, over half a million veterans are awaiting a response to their existing appeals.

Funding Agreement for Choice Program and VA Heads to President

Last week, the House voted down S.114. There was then some work done and an amendment was added by Congress to fix the funding shortfall of the Choice Program, but also make urgently needed improvements to VA's health care system, such as improving hiring and training for VA doctors and authorizing VA to enter into 28 leases for medical facilities. The amendment to S.114 which cleared the House of Representatives last week with a 405-0 vote and passed the Senate this week with no objections. The bill must be signed by President Trump before August 15, 2017, when the Choice Program is scheduled to expire.

Veterans Legislation Roundup for July 28th, 2017

On July 24th the House advanced H.R. 2006, the *VA Procurement Efficiency and Transparency Act*, which would encourage efficiency and transparency in VA's procurement processes by mandating high-level parameters for how the department calculates its savings through competition when awarding procurement contracts;

H.R. 282, the *Military Residency Choice Act*, which would amend the *Service members Civil Relief Act* to permit the spouse of a service member to elect to use the same residence as the service member for purposes of taxation and voting, regardless of the date they were married.

July 28th, 2017, the House also passed: H.R.2772, the *VA Senior Executive Accountability Act*, which would improve transparency by requiring VA to inform Congress about where senior executives are being moved;

H.R. 3262, the *Grow Our Own Directive: Physician Assistant Employment and Education Act of 2017*, which establishes a pilot program to provide educational assistance and training as VA physician assistants for certain former members of the armed forces with medical or military health experience;

Veterans Legislation Roundup for July 21th, 2017

On August 2nd the U.S. Senate voted unanimously to pass S. 1589, *the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017*, informally known as the “Forever G.I. Bill.” Once law it will make major changes to the current education benefits for the military veterans. It now moves to the President’s desk awaiting his signature. To find out what the changes are please click [here](#)

H.R. 95, the *Veterans’ Access to Child Care Act*, was also approved during this session, making the VA’s pilot program for child care a permanent program at VA for veterans who are receiving regular mental health services or other intensive health care services from VA and serve as the primary caretaker of a child;

H.R. 918, the *Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Health Care Act*, which requires the VA to provide an initial mental health assessment, as well as follow on care, to former service members who received an OTH discharge, but only if they are combat veterans or victims of military sexual trauma and have applied for a character of service determination; and H.R.1690,

H.R. 1690, The *Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act*, which would require the VA to submit an annual report to the pertinent congressional committees regarding performance awards provided to regional office directors, medical center directors, service network directors, and senior executive staff. The VA would also be required to provide the amount of each bonus awarded, the job title of each recipient, and the location of employment. These bill are expected to be considered for a full vote by the U.S. House as early as next week.

DISTRICT 6 NEWS

D Davis (veteransrep@yahoo.com) was elected as the District 6 Commander for 2017-2018 and Andie Miller (xaylan@msn.com) is the District Aide. Several other chapter 5 members are District officers as well. WE have good news, D and Andie did attend the 2017 National Convention. Thank you for your contribution Chapter 5. We are in the process of putting all the information together to share with Chapter 5, District 6 and the Department of South Carolina.

Department News

DEC is scheduled for Aug 26th, 12PM-2PM at Department HQ, 511 Violet St. West Columbia, SC

Congratulation Delphine Metcalf-Foster

We would like to congratulate Delphine Metcalf-Foster, the daughter of a Buffalo soldier, on being elected as the 2017-2018 DAV Commander. She is the first woman to be elected to lead a major VSO in the last 25 years, she is also the first African-American woman to hold the highest office in the DAV.

In her acceptance speech to thousands of DAV members on August 1, 2017, Delphine stated “When a man or woman raises their hand and says ‘send me’ when our nation calls, no one knows better than the members of DAV that they’re writing a blank check to our country, and the ultimate payment could be their lives,” continued Metcalf-Foster. “For those who have sacrificed for our country and their survivors, we must insist on a strong VA and healthcare system to meet their needs. I look forward to continuing DAV’s nearly century-old mission of service as National Commander.”



Click [this link](#) to watch how our New Commander was led into the final night of the Convention and presented to the Veterans she will be working for in the next year.

Want to learn more about our new Commander, her service life and goals for the DAV? Try the following links.

[Navy Times](#)

[Real Veterans, Real Victories: Delphine](#)

96th National Convention New Orleans, LA

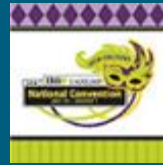
If you could not make it to the 96th National DAV Convention in New Orleans, LA this year? The following are links to videos taken at the 2017 DAV National Convention. Another window will open and play the Youtube video. We hope that if you were not able to attend you will find them informative, educational and enjoyable



[Joint Opening Session 2017](#)



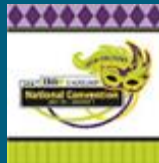
[First Business Session 2017](#)



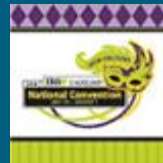
[Second Business Session 2017](#)



[Final Business Session 2017](#)



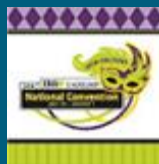
[2016-2017 Year-In-Review](#)



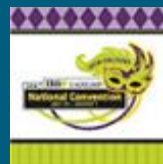
[VA Healthcare Update](#)



[Service and Legislative Seminar](#)



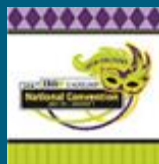
[Chaplain's Seminar](#)



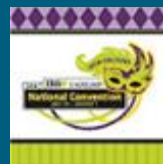
[Social Networking Seminar](#)



[POW/MIA Seminar](#)



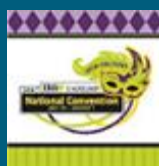
[Membership Seminar](#)



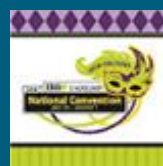
[IG/Fundraising Seminar](#)



[Voluntary Services Seminar](#)



[Women Veterans Seminar](#)



[Communications Seminar](#)



[Outreach 101](#)



[Employment Seminar](#)



[America's Unsung Heroes](#)

Medical Center WISH LIST FOR VETERANS

The **Dorn VA Medical Center** does not solicit donations, nor do we allow the name of the VA to be used in solicitations through other organizations. However, for those organizations or individuals who inquire as to our needs, the following is a list that can serve as a guide. Please note **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE**.

Gift cards (\$20.00 Increments): Generic cards are used to purchase food items, clothing, gas and transportation for indigent Veterans. **No minimum quantity required. We appreciate all donations.**

Patient Clothing (Male and Female), NEW CLOTHING ONLY

1. Sweat Pants: S, M, L, XL, XXL, & XXXL
2. Sweat Shirts::S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X
3. T-Shirts: S, M, L, XL, XXL
4. Socks, White Men's and Women's
5. Underwear (New) Men's: S, M, L, XL, 2XL and up
6. Underwear (New) Women's: S, M, L, XL, 2XL and up
7. Knit Caps/Hats/Caps/Scarves/Gloves
8. Sports Bras (New): S, M, L, XL, 2XL

Patient Comfort Items Individual size: (Please do not send glass)

1. Reading Glasses
2. Disposable Safety Razors
3. Shower Caps/Shampoo & Conditioner
4. Deodorant Men/Woman (**No Aerosol Spray**)
5. Combs/Brushes for all hair types
6. Shaving Cream and Gel
7. Nail Clippers/Emery Board
8. Body Wash
9. Petroleum Jelly
10. Hair Moisturizer
11. Hand & Body Lotion (**Alcohol Free**)
12. House Shoes/ Shower Shoes (Flip Flops)
13. Tooth Brushes/Toothpaste
14. Feminine Products
15. Pajamas (One Size Fits All & 2X , 3X)
16. Laundry Detergent/Bleach
17. Denture Kits/Pillbox
18. Craft Kits (Paint by Number)
19. Large Print Playing Cards
20. Mouthwash (**Alcohol Free**)

Other Items needed:

1. Audio Books (CD's)
2. DVD Players/ Movies (DVD's)
3. E-Reader/Tablets (i.e. Kindle)
4. Music Headphones
21. Phone Cards (Generic)/ Gas Cards
5. Wheelchair Bags
6. Lap Robes 50 X 60
7. Magazines (current within last 6 months)
8. Books
9. Candy
10. Craft Kits/Paint by Number
11. Crossword Puzzle Books (Regular and Large Print)
12. Board Games (Checkers, Chess, etc.)
13. Tickets for Entertainment & Sporting Events
14. Backpacks & Duffle Bags
15. Blanket & Sleeping Bags for the Homeless Program
16. Single Bed Sheets and Pillow Cases
17. Trac Phones (No Contract)
18. Lock Boxes for Important Papers
19. Instant Soup, Apple Cider, Coffee
20. Thermos
21. Coffee Pot/Tea Pot

Household Goods/Appliances (New and Gently used):

1. Washer/Dryer (New or in very good condition)
2. Microwave (New)
3. Hot Plate
4. Window Air Conditioner (New)
5. Blanket Bed Sets
6. Sheet Sets (Single, Double, Queen)
7. Pillows (Single, Double, Queen)
8. Pot and Pan Sets
9. Eating Utensils & Cutlery
10. Plate setting for 4/6
11. Glasses & Cups (plastic)
12. Towels/Face Towels/Wash Cloths
13. Ironing Board
14. Vacuum Cleaner
15. Cleaning Supplies
16. Mop & Bucket
17. Laundry Soap
18. Dish Soap
19. Broom & Dust Pan
20. Shower Rod & Shower Curtain
21. Toaster
22. Crock Pot
23. Tupperware
24. Curtain Rod & Curtains

Frequently Called Numbers

Admissions	(803) 776-4000 x4983/7190
Appointment Line.....	(803) 647-5829
.....	(800) 293-8262
Billing and Insurance	
Collections – pay a bill	(888) 827-4817
General questions.....	(866) 258-2772
Medical claims.....	(803) 776-4000 x6763
Chaplain Services	
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	(803) 776-4000 x6332
After hours	(803) 776-4000
Compensation and Pension.....	(803) 776-4000 x6183
Enrollment Eligibility.....	(803) 776-4000 x7010
Information Desk (Dorn VAMC).....	(803) 776-4000 x4179/8055
Medical Records.....	(803) 776-4000 x6283
Mental Health.....	(803) 776-4000 x
MyHealththeVet.....	(803) 695-6783
Patient Advocate	(803) 776-4000 x7998/6937
Prosthetics.....	(803) 776-4000 x6323
Release of Information	(803) 776-4000 x6290
Shuttle Service.....	(803) 776-4000 x6780
Telephone Advice Line	
Outside Columbia	(888) 651-2683
In Columbia	(803) 647-5829
Travel Office.....	(803) 776-4000 x4483/4525/4484
Veteran's Transportation Service	(803) 776-4000 6398
Veteran Service Organizations	
American Legion	(803) 776-4000 x7539
AmVets.....	(803) 776-4000 x2421
Disabled American Veterans	(803) 776-4000 x2422
Military Order of the Purple Heart.....	(803) 776-4000 x2430
Paralyzed Veterans Association	(803) 776-4000 x2432
Veteran's of Foreign Wars.....	(803) 776-4000 x2443
Voluntary Services.....	(803) 776-4000 x6780/7081

Community-Base Outpatient Clinics

Anderson CBOC
3030 N. Hwy 81
Anderson, SC 29621
Tele (864) 224-5450

Sumter CBOC
407 N. Salem Ave
Sumter, SC 29150
Tele (803) 938-9901

Greenville OPC
41 Park Creek Drive
Greenville, SC 29605
Tele (864) 299-1600

Orangeburg CBOC
1767 Village Park Drive
Orangeburg, SC 29118
(803) 533-1335

Spartanburg CBOC
279 North Grove Medical Plaza
Spartanburg, SC 29303
Tele (864) 582-7025

Rock Hill CBOC
2670 Mills Park Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29732
Tele (803) 366-4848

Florence CBOC
1822 Sally Hill Farms Blvd
Florence, SC 29501
Tele (843) 292-8383



This listing has been cut from the new Dorn VA Medical Center Newsletter, *Palmetto Post*. We hope it is helpful to all of our members and their families. Stay connected to the DORN VAMC using the following:

Dorn VAMC official Web site:

www.columbiasc.va.gov/

Dorn Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/VAColumbiaSC

Dorn Twitter handle:

@VAMCColumbiaSC



SOUTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF
Veterans' Affairs

Stay up to date on happenings around the state visit va.sc.gov