

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

DEPARTMENT of TEXAS, HEADQUARTERS

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/tx/default.aspx>

BULLETIN

3003 N Medford
Phone (936) 637-3281

Lufkin, TX 75901
Fax (936) 637-3283

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JUNE 2011

DAVA COMMANDER

The Department Convention is only a couple of weeks away!

It has been an Honor to be your Commander this year.

I'd like you, the auxiliary, to know that I have enjoyed being with you at the District Conferences. The reports at the District; show what a wonderful job you've done for our Veterans and their families. Keep up the good work and God Bless each of you!!

Thank you for your hospitality and if you can't make it to the Department Convention, I hope to see you again soon!

Memorial Day is coming up. Don't forget to Pray for our Veterans, families, Country and our Leaders.

See you in Austin;

Joyce Brannen

State Commander

joycebrannen@netzero.net

MEMBERSHIP GOAL

LIFE MEMBER POPULATION: 52,487

LIFE GOAL: 53,006

PERCENT OF GOAL: 98.91%

SHORT 579 MEMBERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

DAV MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Spring is in the air. The flowers are blooming. So are our recruiters. The blossoms of new members are everywhere. Except we are still working on our goal.

Funny things about life are that we must work at everything we do. We must work at our relationships with others. We must work that the membership of our organization will grow.

When you plant the seed of membership in the Disabled American Veterans you have laid the foundation for that new member to grow and become a working part of all of us. When you water the seed is when you encourage to new member to become a working part of the local chapter. Watering the seed may be nothing more than a word of encouragement. Telling them how much you appreciate what they add to the whole. When the seed sprouts and blooms is when you have the blessing of watching the growth of a member you signed up. When that seed becomes Chapter Commander you will be proud of them. Then that person becomes a District Commander you are like a father watching his son hit his first home run. But when that seed becomes Department Commander or even National Commander, you have hot a homerun because you signed them up.

When that seed becomes a true recruiter of new members you will be blessed and then the seed encourages you to do more to help the DAV. I want to thank each and every one of you for being the DAV member that you are. This Veterans Organization would not be what it is right now without you. You are important! Thank you for being the DAV Go-Getter that you are.

Ken Hackney

Membership Chairman

davhackney@yahoo.com

ADJUTANT'S COMMENTS

Now that the Department Convention is over it is time for everyone to begin planning for the National Convention which will be held in New Orleans on August 5 – 9, 2011. For reservations contact Riverside Hilton at 504-561-0500.

Teresa Johniken

Department Adjutant / Treasurer
davtxadj@consolidated.net

DISTRICT I

Hello Comrades,

I hope and pray that everyone in District I is doing well. Once again I would like to thank all of the Chapters for attending the District I Meeting this year. Comrades, as you all know, our past DAVA District I Commander, Mrs. Bertha Dryer, has been suffering with cancer; she called me and told me that she is recovering. She still has to have surgery, but we are praying for a complete recovery, and thank you for your prayers.

I would also like to tell you that my surgery was a success; I am getting stronger by the minute, and I thank God for guiding me through these difficult times. Just remember that God only gives us as much as he thinks we can handle; keep the faith.

I would also like to send a little prayer for those DAV comrades and DAVA members and their family members that are ill, and wish them a speedy recovery. And for those comrades that have been dear to our hearts that have passed away; please keep their families and loved ones in your prayers.

Once again, I thank you for all of your prayers and all of your support. I hope to see everyone in District I at the Department Convention in Austin. I wish everyone a safe and happy summer. God Bless You! It's time to bless all of our troops that are defending this great nation, and their families for their sacrifices that only a soldier can give to our country. God Bless America and all our great veterans of this great nation.

And now I turn the pen over to our District I Adjutant, Ed Meiser, who has a few words. (Keep it short!)

Yes Sir! I thank you for allowing me a little space. I would like to follow up a little bit on the Commander's words, and also a little bit from my article in last month's bulletin.

It is certainly obvious that there are quite a few big hearts in the DAV & DAVA across the big state of

Texas, as well as the entire organization. Take for example, our District I Commander, "Big Dog"—"Big Heart!" Yes, it's true; sometimes you have to look beyond that "Big Bark." Ha! Ha!

Seriously though, as I once again quote Dale Carnegie, "You have it in your power to increase the sum total of this world's happiness. How? By giving a few words of sincere appreciation to someone who is lonely or discouraged. Perhaps you will forget tomorrow the kind words you say today, but the recipient may cherish them over a life-



time."

The familiar chart above is commonly used as a reference for the level of physical pain. But why not use it also as a reference for that pain that is more difficult to detect in an individual, that emotional pain that is all too often hidden deep within someone's heart. As you well know, not always, but many times you can read a person's level of pain by reading their faces and their actions or reactions.

So as you are going about your very much appreciated efforts of volunteering for our veterans and their families, take a closer look at individual faces, they really do tell a lot about what's happening on the inside. You really do have it in your power to change a hurting or discouraged person's world from right to left on the "Chart of Happiness." And it's also very healthy for your heart as well.

And now I'm hearing a "deep growl" in the background—back to you, Commander.

Arf-Arrf-Arrrf!!!

Yours in Comradeship,

Juan Ruiz Jr

District I Commander
papov@aol.com

DISTRICT III

Greetings, Comrades in District III.

I hope those of you who attended the recent Department Convention enjoyed it. I know I did, and now I'm looking forward to the National Convention, to be held in New Orleans in August. I hope that you will take the time to participate in the National Convention; it's quite an experience.

Disabled American Veterans

I will be getting in touch with each Commander in District III to introduce myself and find out how we at the District III level may be of service to you. I also hope your Commander will invite me to one of your meetings. In the meantime, my cell number is 903-922-2693. If you have any suggestions about what you would like to see in this bulletin, call and let me know.

It's getting to the time of year when the temperature and humidity get just awful. Please be careful when you are outdoors, and don't over do the activities. After all, we aren't getting any younger.....

Thank you,

Gordon Brett

District III Commander
gdauidb182@ouldrs.net

DISTRICT IV

Greetings Comrades,

I want to thank everyone in District IV for the warm welcome my family and I received after my election at the Spring 2011 District IV meeting in Galveston, Texas. I also want to thank our Past District IV Commander John Gamble and his family for their tireless efforts to make this years meeting a success. I wish him much success in his future endeavors. I have visited a few of the Chapters in District IV and had the honor of installing the newly elected officers of Chapter 233 in Rosenberg, Texas, I have spoken to some of the chapter members of 195 and 195 also, and in the coming months I plan to visit more of our chapters. I want to hear from our members to understand what they expect of their Commander and to get Ideas to better support and serve our great veterans. Congratulations to all of the newly elected for 2011/12 for each Chapter. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your District Commander for 2011-2012; I look forward to the up coming year and the experience's it will present for me as your Commander. I hope to see you all at the National Convention in my home City, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Your Comrade,

Isaac Bazile

Commander, District IV
Isaac.Bazile@usdoj.gov

BPT / LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The District IV Meeting has concluded with good attendance. I hope the other District Meetings also were well attended. Since Texas is such a large state and since not all Chapters have the resources to send Delegates to Department or National, the District Meetings offer the opportunity for an interchange of ideas that is vital to our organization. Hopefully many of you will make it to the Department Convention in a few weeks to continue the exchange of ideas that is so important to assure the continuing of services to Disabled Veterans.

The "Hot" news is the budget battle in Washington. Unfortunately this battle has become a contest between political parties not an exchange of ideas about the direction of this Country. What is even more unfortunate is that many of our veteran comrades have been drawn in to rhetoric rather than evaluating ideas and proposals. Examples:

1. Medicaid - \$ 8 out of every \$ 10 in Medicaid goes to care for seniors in Nursing Homes –this Includes veterans in Nursing Homes. The Nursing Home industry is business, so what happens if a senior cannot pay for care?

2. Veterans Benefits, Health and Compensation, are entitlement Programs – what happens to our compensation and health care if "Entitlements" are reduced?

3. Medicare Vouchers to reduce Medicare Costs sounds good – let people choose where to get care. What happens when the dollar value of your voucher runs out – sounds like "Stealth" death panels to me. Also, since Medicare is the big bear, if you can voucher to cut costs what happens to little bear (the VA Health Care System)? Do veterans also get the "Stealth" death panels? We need to watch all proposals that relate to savings to make sure we do not support the knife that cuts our throat. Remember, "We love our veterans" and "we thank you for your service" are like a Purple Heart – That Plus a \$ 1.50 may buy you a cup of coffee at Starbucks.

I do not suggest we should not request the things that will assist in improving the lives of our Disabled Veteran Comrades and their Families. What I am saying is, don't forget to "hold on to what you got". Speeches are fine but they don't pay the bills. State of Texas –

ALL Field Staff of the Texas Veterans Land Board are Laid Off as of 6/30/2011 – Learn Facebook, TWEET or TWITTER

Disabled American Veterans

Texas Veterans Commission will Lose 20 of the 100 Veterans Staff assigned to help Veterans File Claims. The State Comptroller has Violated State and Federal Privacy Laws on Security for Personal information and now the State must pay for Credit Monitoring of all those accounts that were compromised (several million). Way to go for cost savings Ms. Combs.

If you care about your Veteran Comrades write your Congressional Representative (or Face Book, Tweet and Twitter them) If you care about the future of Veterans Benefit Programs RECRUIT New Members – Numbers Count WE are all in the same Boat – START BAILING – Speak up at local Meetings, Speak to Local Congressional Staff. Do not accept “I Love and Respect you” as acceptable payback for your sacrifice.

Remember – If we do NOT ACT NOW we will look at OUR Current Veteran Benefits as “the good old days”.

G. “Wolf” Bielefeld
BPT/Legislative Chairman
Wolf.Biedefeld@va.gov

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Nacogdoches Memorial Disabled American Veterans Will celebrate our 60th Anniversary, Saturday July 16, 2011 between 2:00 pm and 4:00pm at the Chapter home at 3110 Appleby Sand Road, Nacogdoches, Texas. We will have speakers. The dress code is casual. Refreshments will be served. Public invited for more information kindly contact DAVA Commander Scott 936-569-9688 or DAV Commander Loretta Brunk 936-897-2224.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

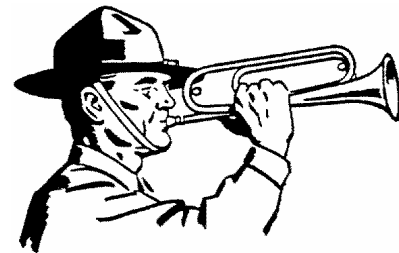
As we approach Father's Day, it is only fitting that we give thanks to our Heavenly Father who loved us first. “Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.”(Psalm 63:3) No greater love can we have than the LOVE of our Heavenly FATHER. God shows us His love every moment in so many ways. The air we breath, the food we eat, and the shelter that He provides, and then all the extras that He gives us. Wow! Are we ever blessed to have His love bestowed on us? What have we done to deserve such loving kindness, or the blessings that He gives to us? I cannot

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answer for each of you, but I for one have done nothing to deserve the blessings that He gives. So, this Father's Day and each and every day all I can do is praise and thank Him for what He has done and continues to do. Thank you, Lord for allowing me to be able to minister to each of you these past two years. If the Lord is willing I hope that I have many more years ahead in ministry to my fellow veterans. Remember as always to pray for the leaders of our world, our nation, state, DAV leaders and most especially our troops wherever they may be in the world. Thanks again.

Albert Owens

Department Chaplain
palowens@netscape.net
(210)673-2759 home/ (210)723-2759 cell



Department and the membership extend deepest sympathies to the family members, friends, and comrades of these fallen heroes. May each one rest in honor.

Don McFarland

Chapter 126



Please feel free to call, write, or e-mail the Adjutant's office if you have a loss in your family, Chapter, or Unit that should be included in this column.



MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

Death of Osama bin Laden



The death of Osama bin Laden is a victory for our nation and a testament to the bravery and professionalism of our fighting forces.

As we celebrate a fitting end to a terrorist whose plans were to destroy the freedom and liberty we represent, we do so knowing it came at the hands of the sacred few who've volunteered to put their lives on the line for our defense.

The service members who carried out this attack were the tip of a mighty spear. Their courage reveals the extent to which those in uniform are willing to go to take the fight to the enemy.

It should also remind us that the pursuit of this madman and our wars have come at a great cost to many young men and women who've fought and supported combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world.

A precious few join the military today. These individuals, who represent less than 1 percent of our population, have proven their courage time and again.

They've deployed multiple times and made tremendous sacrifices. They and their families deserve the praise and adulation that comes with this validation of their service.

So too do the veterans and family members of those who have been disabled as a result of their service to our nation during this challenging era.

We honor all who've served when we maintain our commitment to those who return home bearing the scars of war, the families of those impacted by having a loved one disabled in service and the families of the men and women who gave all.

As we celebrate this event, we remember the patriotic dedication of those who've given life and limb and those with invisible injuries for the challenges that they will face for the rest of their lives. Their war goes on and their sacrifices endure.

We thank all who support our mission to care for these men and women. We pray for those still deployed and thank God that we have those among us who are willing to undertake valiant deeds to uphold our values and maintain our way of life.

God bless the U.S.A.

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Bulletin**
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3003 N Medford
Lufkin, TX 75901

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To:

People across the United States celebrate Flag Day on June 14 each year to honor the United States flag and to commemorate the flag's adoption.

