



Roy B. Hodges Chapter #128 ★ P. O. Box 670 ★ Converse, TX 78109 ★ 210-646-8249

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Monthly Meeting: 4th Saturday • 11AM • Barbara Jordan Community Center • 2303 E. Commence St. • San Antonio, Texas 78220

### FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello fellow Comrades and Auxiliary members of Chapter 128. It's been three months since you elected me as Commander. In that time, we've been quite busy with the work of the chapter. Please allow me to extend special thanks to everyone who has volunteered to serve in a leadership role.

Thus far, our summer months have been filled with meetings, volunteerism, and transition. In June, a delegation of members and me represented our chapter at the DAV Department of Texas 75th Convention. Amongst those who attended with me were District V Commander Charles Edwards, Adjutant Jerry Roebuck, Judge Advocate Jay Johnson, Service Officer Dr. Reginal Harris, and Comrade member Gordon Henderson. This was my first time attending a Department of Texas Convention. I found it to be an excellent learning experience.

One of the customs of emphasis was the respect for the area in front of the command seating area, after the posting of the colors. Once the American and Texas flags were posted, we were reminded by the Texas Department Commander Tom Parker that this area is considered "sacred ground" and that all approaching must do so from the left of the podium and exit to the right.

During the Chapter Officer Seminar, the Department Judge Advocate General Dennis Nixon clarified that each chapter could only name one Service Officer on its report of Chapter Officers. This named individual would be the only one certified and covered by the insurance of the DAV.

There may be other functioning as Service Officers but the chapter must report

them to the National Service Officer on a supplemental list.

Please join me in **congratulating Comrade Jay Johnson** on his overwhelming election and installation as the **Department of Texas 1st Junior Vice Commander**. This is a tremendous honor for him and our chapter.

Some of you may be aware of the losses our chapter suffered the last few months. Please accept my sincere thanks for supporting and attending Homegoing celebrations for Comrades **William E. Taylor** on April 30 and **William H. Craig** on May 20. And, for those who attended the Memorial Day Service on May 27, at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, I appreciate your attendance. I hope everyone had a great Independence Day Holiday.

As often as possible, pray for the success of our chapter, those struggling with illness, and for each other. I appreciate your support. *cs*

*Howard T. Ray*  
Commander



### JULY 2013

#### CHAPTER OFFICERS

Commander	Howard T. Ray
Senior Vice Commander	Albert Alfaro
1st Junior Vice Commander	Oscar Vick
2nd Junior Vice Commander	Dr. Lillie Montgomery
Adjutant	Jerry Roebuck
Judge Advocate	Jay A. Johnson
Chaplin	Clarence H. Williams
Sergeant-at-Arms	Edward Giles

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Immediate Past Commander	Bettye Vaughn
Treasurer	Marvin Vaughn
Service Officer	Dr. Reginal Harris
Member	Frank Brown
Member	Glenn Ellison
Member	James Hudson

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From The Commander	1
DAV 92 <sup>nd</sup> National Convention	2
Adjutant's Corner	2
VA Hotline For Women Veterans	3, 4
Supportive Services for Veteran Families	3
Newsletter Disclaimer	4



### DAV 92<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION

Thousands of DAV and Auxiliary members from across the country will come together in the Sunshine State for what promises to be an important and quite enjoyable 92nd DAV and DAV Auxiliary National Convention.

This is the perfect location to bring the whole family, so please consider coming a few days early or staying after the convention to enjoy all Orlando has to offer. The convention itself features a full agenda. Members will elect National Officers and adopt resolutions, setting DAV's legislative agenda for the year.

The national meeting of the premier veterans service organization dates are Aug. 10-13 at the Hilton Orlando, an upscale, resort-style hotel. The venue and the city have the perfect mixture of world-class amenities and unique leisure opportunities.

All the major Orlando attractions are close by, including SeaWorld Orlando, Universal Orlando and Walt Disney World Resort theme parks.

Orlando is one of the world's most visited cities for good reason. Called "The City Beautiful," there is much to do. First-rate museums, quaint antique districts and top-rated golf courses for some and thrilling theme parks, fantasy lands made of LEGOs and the wonder of the ocean's depths for others.

The Orlando Hilton boasts a magnificent resort

pool and a big waterslide and fountain. Relax at the quiet pool and whirlpool. Drift in a long, winding, lazy river. Chill in a private cabana with ceiling fans, refrigerators, chaise lounges and Internet access. There are basketball, tennis, volleyball and bocce ball courts.



The hotel also has a putting green and a nine-hole executive putting course. Run the quarter-mile jogging track. Rejuvenate in the Hilton Fitness Center. Then take advantage of a complete full-service spa.

The dining options at the hotel are remarkable as

### ADJUTANT'S CORNER last annual financial statement.

This year's DAV Department of Texas 75<sup>th</sup> Convention was held June 7-9 at the Doubletree hotel in Austin, Texas. I've compiled some bullet points as highlights of the most compelling changes.

- ✦ Accurately report all authorized expenses used on services for Veterans and chapter activities.
- ✦ Annual Finance Officers report for line 14 [Service/Charitable] and attach required expenses schedule.
- ✦ Chapter funds cannot accumulate in excess of 3-times the amount reported on

- ✦ Chapters cannot have restricted funds of any kind.
- ✦ Chapters discouraged from giving monetary donations to other veteran service organizations.
- ✦ Chapters prohibited from donating funds raised during Forget-Me-Not to DAVA.
- ✦ Department established a 5% assessment on all chapter fundraisers except Forget-Me-Not and Golden Coral.
- ✦ Forget-Me-Not funds must be used only on direct services for Veterans.
- ✦ Inaccurate reports will be returned to the chapter for corrections; no longer will accept inaccurate reports.
- ✦ Montgomery GI Bill deadline for use is extended from 10 years to 15 years.

✦ Move District meetings and election of District Officers to be after Department convention.

#### CONGRATULATIONS 2013-2014 DAV DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Commander	Juan Ruiz Jr.
Senior Vice Commander	Tim Lindsey
1 <sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander	Jay Johnson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander	John Whitley
Judge Advocate General	Dennis Nixon
Chaplain	Albert Owens

DAV 92<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 10 - 13, 2013

Hilton Orlando

6001 Destination Parkway • Orlando, FL 32819

Telephone: 407.313.4300 • Fax: 407.313.4301

Hotel Rate: \$124 Single/Double

well. You will find a balance of healthy selections, creative dishes, unique preparations, varying menus and a range of prices. The Hilton Orlando offers seven dining establishments on the property.

A free bus excursion to a casino in Tampa is being offered, departing the hotel at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12. For information on how to sign up, email Mary Ann Keckler at [maryanneck@aol.com](mailto:maryanneck@aol.com) or Rich Tolfa at [rltolfa@aol.com](mailto:rltolfa@aol.com).

The special National Convention rate for the Hilton Orlando is \$124/single or double. You can reserve your room today by calling 407-313-4300. The hotel is located at 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, Fla. For more information about the convention and how to obtain specially priced Disney tickets, visit [www.dav.org/news/UpcomingEvents.aspx](http://www.dav.org/news/UpcomingEvents.aspx).

Reprint from DAV official website: <http://www.dav.org/news/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=754>



Chapter #128 Delegates at Department of Texas 75<sup>th</sup> Convention. L to R: CSO Dr. Reginal Harris, Commander Howard Ray, Dept 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Jay Johnson, District V Commander Charles Edwards, & Adjutant Jerry Roebuck. Not pictured: Comrade Gordon Henderson. (Austin, June 7-9, 2013)

- ✦ Nursing homes donations must be given with specific instructions that money must on services for Disabled Veterans only.
- ✦ Scholarships given by chapters limited to disabled veteran's wife, widow, children; not grandchildren, nieces, nephews.
- ✦ Service/Veteran Relief - individuals must be eligible for membership in order to receive support.

*Jerry Roebuck*  
Adjutant

**VA LAUNCHES HOTLINE FOR WOMEN VETERANS**

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new hotline — 1-855-VA-WOMEN — to receive and respond to questions from Veterans, their families and caregivers about the many VA services and resources available to women Veterans.

The hotline is staffed by knowledgeable VA employees who can provide information about benefits including health care services for women.

Callers can be linked to information on claims, education or health care appointments as well as information about VA cemeteries and memorial benefits. Staff can answer urgent questions and provide referrals to

homeless and mental health services as well as provide Vet Center information.

**Women Using VA Health Care Doubled Since 2000**



Women make up nearly 15 percent of today's active duty military and 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve forces. The population of women Veterans using VA benefits including health care is growing rapidly. Since 2000, the number of women using VA health care more than doubled, from 160,000 in 2000

UPCOMING EVENTS		
8/15/13	Bingo, Audie Murphy VA	7PM
10/7/13	Bingo, Audie Murphy VA	7PM
10/5/13	Forget-Me-Not, Fort Sam Houston	7A-6P
10/19/13	Forget-Me-Not, Lackland AFB	8A-6P
11/24/13	Thanksgiving Meal, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Baptist	1PM
2/11/14	Service Officer Training, Sequin, TX	TBD
3/8/14	District V Meeting, Sequin, TX	TBD



to more than 354,000 in 2012. Based on the upward trend of women serving in all branches of service, the number of women Veterans — female VA users — will keep climbing. We need to correct...misperceptions so we can provide more women Veterans with... benefits...

VA is committed to making improvements for the growing population of women Veterans, including the way it communicates with them. In 2010, VA established an outbound call center to contact women Veterans and encourage them to enroll in VA health care.

"In VA health care alone, women constitute only 6 percent of VA patients, but those Veterans have a high perception of the quality care they are receiving," said Irene Trowell-Harris, director of VA's Center for Women Veterans.

"Many women who served don't self-identify as Veterans and therefore don't think they qualify for VA benefits.

*Continued on Page 4*

**SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF) PROGRAM**

VA was authorized to offer community-based grants through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, which will provide supportive services to very low-income Veteran families in or transitioning to permanent housing.

Estimates for Veteran homelessness have dropped substantially in the past five years. However, despite the success of VA Homeless Services and its community partners, to end Veteran homelessness, VA must continue to assist families

transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and prevent at-risk families from becoming homeless.

Funds are granted to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will assist very low-income Veteran families by providing a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability.

**"Fulfilling our promises to the Men and Women who served."  
-DAV Motto**

Through the SSVF Program, VA aims to improve very low-income Veteran families' housing stability. Grantees (private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives) will provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining

VA and other benefits, which may include:

- *Child care services*
- *Daily living services*
- *Fiduciary and payee services*
- *Health care services*
- *Housing counseling services*
- *Legal services*
- *Financial planning services*
- *Transportation services*

In addition, grantees may also provide time-limited payments to third parties (e.g., landlords, utility companies, moving companies, and licensed child care providers) if these payments help Veterans' families stay in or acquire permanent housing on a sustainable basis. **For more information send an email to [SSVF@va.gov](mailto:SSVF@va.gov) or call 1-877-737-0111.**



### VA LAUNCHES HOTLINE FOR WOMEN VETERANS, *continued from Page 3*

We need to correct existing misinformation and misperceptions so we can provide more women Veterans with the benefits they've earned."

#### Women Veterans Eligible for Many Benefits



Women Veterans are entitled to apply for the same benefits as their male counterparts, which include health care and pharmacy benefits as well as education benefits, disability compensation, home loans, employment assistance and more.

"Some women Veterans may not know about high-quality VA care and services available to them," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The hotline will allow us to field their questions and provide critical information about the latest enhancements in VA services."

The hotline joins numerous other VA hotlines that provide critical information and assistance to Veterans, such as those for Veterans in crisis and in danger of becoming homeless. Veterans can also receive information and apply for benefits online at VA's [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov) and manage their health care at [MyHealthVet.va.gov](http://MyHealthVet.va.gov).

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Petersen, H. (2013, May 20). *US Department of Veterans Affairs*. Retrieved from Veterans Health Administration: [www.va.gov/health/NewsFeatures/2013/May/VA-Launches-Hotline-for-Women-Veterans.asp#sthash.6tesVPTa.dpuf](http://www.va.gov/health/NewsFeatures/2013/May/VA-Launches-Hotline-for-Women-Veterans.asp#sthash.6tesVPTa.dpuf)



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Send questions/comments to Dr. Reginal D. Harris, Publisher

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### Pictures from Texas Department 75th Convention



**Next meeting is Saturday, July 27.**  
**Executive Committee meets at 10AM.**  
**General meeting at 11AM.**