

New Year's Day

January 1, 2012

Values and Security

Dr. Elizabeth A. Kennedy, Adjutant



January 1st, as it has for recorded time, marks the end of one phase and the beginning of a new one. Much has been made of the various traditions that we observe. Some attend gala parties to celebrate this change. Some participate in religious services. Most promise to make some significant change in their life and behavior. Others just take it as another in the continuation of days that mark their journey through life. I had the privilege to drive by, technically I was riding, the US gold depository at Ft Knox, KY. Staring at

the imposing and impenetrable structure led me to think about our values and to what extent we are willing to travel to safeguard those things that we hold dear.

Many arenas and paradigms exist through which we view and from which we draw values. Somehow they are intertwined and connected so that we are forced to think deeply to identify the source of a single value that we hold. At the beginning of another year it seems appropriate for members of Roy B. Hodges Chapter 128 DAV and Auxiliary to take the time and examine the many values and identify those that we wish to safeguard for chapter security. A core value is the belief that each fellow DAV and DAVA member deserves and is entitled to 100 % of what we are able to and can give for the betterment of that individual's life journey. We are called upon to make a contribution so that our fellow DAV/DAVA member will experience some measure of improvement in the quality of their life.

Each individual member has something that is uniquely theirs to be given to promote this value and add to the security of the chapter. A silent thought that turns into a prayer for the successful mastery of a life challenge that another member faces takes very little time and energy to perform yet has the potential for immeasurable transformation. The telephone call, email, or text message in response to an inner urging can mean the difference between experiencing a good day and a great day for both the sender and receiver. Making the choice to forgo some desirable hobby, pastime or favorite activity to spend time at a bingo evening or simply visiting the hospital or extended care facility makes the value a reality that is lived out. Letting go of past offenses and deciding to be an overcomer by active participation in the chapter activities helps us to rise above the smallness of life to the rarified air where only eagles fly. Choosing to use your talents, skills and abilities to help improve the services and products of the chapter turns a lofty ideal into a concrete reality.

The gold depository at Ft. Knox, KY represents something of value held worthy of protection and security by our country. The DAV/DAVA membership is of value to each of us as members. May our actions and choices correctly reflect the values of DAV and the distance that we are willing to travel to ensure their security.

Employment Opportunities

MetroSanAntonioJobs, an employment website, is seeking veteran candidates for positions in the San Antonio area as well as the US. These job announcements are made available to the chapter via email through the adjutant and commander. There is a link at the end of the chapter email that will allow any interested person to view a complete list of the positions currently available. New emails are available weekly. If you are interested or know other veterans who may be interested please make them aware of these job opportunities. MetroSanAntonioJobs can be reached directly through their website. outreach@metrosanantiojobs.com.

2012-2013 Officers Election

Chapter 128 Officer Elections for the 2012-2013 will be held in February 2012. The new officers will hold office from 1 March 2012 until February 2013. All positions are open and any member in good standing may apply. For those who want to run for office, please fill out the application and mail to:

Claude Boggs
4706 Kay Ann Drive
San Antonio, TX 78220
(210) 661-3731

Comrade Boggs is the chairman of the nomination committee. They will meet on the 12th of January to review nominees.

If you are interested in holding office in the chapter and you have any questions, please feel free to contact the chair.

The application is available online in two forms; MS Word and PDF. Contact Adjutant Kennedy at ea_kennedy@yahoo.com or Assistant to the Adjutant Glenn Ellison at gellison@satx.rr.com to obtain an electronic copy of the application. Completed applications are necessary if you wish to be considered for placement on the ballot.

Glenn Ellison,
Assistant to the Adjutant

2012 Important Dates

4th Saturday

11 A M Regular Chapter Meeting
Barbara Jordan Community Center

Thursday before the 4th Saturday

1 P M Executive Committee Meeting
Barbara Jordan Community Center

February Regular Chapter Meeting
Election and Installation of Officers

February National Mid-Winter Convention

May Memorial Day Observance

June Department of Texas Convention

July Independence Day Observance

August DAV National Convention

September Regular Meeting
Election of Nominating Committee

November Annual Thanksgiving Banquet

**December No Regular Meeting in
Observance of Christmas and New Year's
holiday.**

Claude Sr., and Minnie Boggs Award for Exceptional Service

Commander Bettie Vaughan introduced a new award at the Annual Thanksgiving Banquet. The service award is given to a chapter member or members who have demonstrated exceptional service in the attainment of chapter goals. Commander Vaughan chose to name the award in honor of Claude Sr., and Minnie Boggs because of their many years of service to Chapter 128. The award is open to any chapter member who meets the award criteria. Additional information is available through the Chapter adjutant or Commander. More information will be available at the January 2012 chapter meeting.

Commander Bettie Vaughan: The Past Three Months

Dear Comrades

The last three months have been busy and rewarding. The chapter conducted Forget-Me-Not Fund raiser events on October 1st and 15th. I want to thank the comrades who came out and participated.

Senior Vice Roebuck, Comrade McCarthy and I represented Chapter 128 at the Ft Sam Houston Cemetery Veterans Day ceremony. Our new wreath donated by Comrade Glenn Ellison was displayed. I extend a personal thank you to Comrades McCarthy and Roebuck for their attendance and support.

The 2011 nationwide Golden Corral campaign ran for two weeks to include the Monday following Veterans Day free meal for veterans. Several chapter members volunteered to work during our scheduled participation time. I give a big “**thank you**” and my personal gratitude to those members who supported this effort. Without the support of members like them these activities would not be possible.

November was indeed a busy month for the chapter culminating in the Annual Thanksgiving Banquet/Fellowship, attended by District V Commander Javier Patron as the chapter’s special guest. It was a success thanks to the endeavors of everyone involved. Comrade Jay Johnson did a masterful job as the facilitator for the afternoon. Cadets from the Sam Houston High School Jr ROTC continued their tradition of excellence as they presented an emotionally moving encounter of the POW-MIA ceremony. These young students and developing community leaders are always eager to respond to our invitation. They come and help wherever they are needed; whether they are seating guest or assisting the special needs guest with obtaining their meal, the cadets do it with a respectful and willing manner.

Youth was well represented at the banquet. Twelve year old Master Jimmie Steemer II rendered two musical selections. He is an accomplished saxophonist and pianist.

The first recipients of the newly established service award in honor of Claude Sr. and Minnie Boggs were announced. Claude Sr. and Minnie Boggs received a special trophy as the first recipients of the award named in recognition of their service to DAV at the chapter, state and national levels. Frank Brown and Elroy Miller received the award in recognition of their going the extra mile service to the chapter. A special service award was bestowed upon Comrade Glen Ellison for his invaluable service to the commander and adjutant during this year of transition. His contribution measures beyond words.

Senior Vice Jerry Roebucks coordinated the fellowship. With the help of his decorating team lead by 2nd Junior Vice Hudson and his wife and assisted by Adjutant Kennedy the Fellowship Hall of 2nd Baptist Church was turned into a festival of fall colors.

December Christmas parties included the Thrift Store Annual Christmas Party and Chapter V Christmas party. Attending the Thrift Store Christmas party was myself alone with Past Department Commander (PDC) Claude Boggs Senior DAVA Senior Vice Commander Minnie Boggs, Treasurer Glenn Ellison, NEC Jay Johnson and Comrade Marvin Vaughan. Duke Hendershot, Adjutant of Chapter V was also in attendance. The Thrift Store director, Ms Cane, Thanked the chapters for this year’s clothing donations which greatly surpassed their expectations. I shared the guest of honor spot with District V Commander Patron at the Chapter V Christmas Party from an invitation extended by Commander "JR" Garza. There were lots of food and plenty of friendly comradeship.

It has been a very good year, thanks to the people who worked unselfishly to make my tenure as Commander run as smoothly as possible, and for that you have my gratitude. As 2011 ends, our attention turns to 2012. We have accomplished much but there remains much to accomplish. My desire is that we work together in the coming year to make Chapter 128 everything that its potential holds. We are a great chapter and we have the potential to become even greater.

Happy New Year

Bettie J. Vaughan, Commander

Did You Know? News You Can Use

DAV Hails Vet Jobs Initiatives:

The Disabled American Veterans was at the White House today when President Obama announced a trio of new initiatives to increase hiring of veterans, improve resources for them to translate their military skills for the civilian workforce and provide them with new tools to aid their search for jobs.

Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski stated, "As of October, over 850,000 veterans were unemployed. For post 9/11 veterans, the unemployment rate is 12.1 percent, compared to 9 percent for the entire country. That is simply unacceptable."

"The Disabled American Veterans welcomes any and all efforts to boost employment opportunities for veterans," Jesinoski said. "These new initiatives can make a real difference in the lives of jobless veterans and their families."

All of these services can be accessed by visiting www.whitehouse.gov/vets.

New Tool Helps Veterans Connect to Resources:

Veterans and their families now have another tool to help them find information and the support they need to help them meet life's challenges. This new tool is the Department of Veterans Affairs' new online resource center at www.MakeTheConnection.net. In addition to connecting users to resources for issues affecting their health, well-being and everyday lives, the site features inspiring true stories from other veterans who faced life events, experiences, physical ailments or psychological symptoms and found ways to overcome their challenges.

New Website for VHA Health Benefits Information

Veterans and their families have a new resource for information about VA health care. The Veterans Health Administration's Health Eligibility Center at www.va.gov/healthbenefits is an online portal for veterans, family members and care givers to learn about eligibility, enrollment options and benefits offered by VHA. It also provides detailed information about how to apply for VHA health services, cost of care, accessing VA health care and VA's Medical Benefits Package.

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has embarked on a major initiative to reach out to women Veterans in order to solicit their input on ways to enhance the health care services VA provides to women Veterans.

"We are taking a proactive approach to enhancing VA health care for women Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We are seeking the input of women Veterans so that VA can continue to provide high quality health care to the growing numbers of women Veterans."

Representatives at VA's Health Resource Center (HRC) are placing calls to women Veterans nationwide, asking them to share their experiences with VA and suggest potential enhancements that will further VA's mission to provide the best care anywhere.

Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. Of the 22.7 million living Veterans, more than 1.8 million are women. They comprise nearly 8 percent of the total Veteran population and 6 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services.

For more information about VA programs and services for women Veterans, please visit: www.va.gov/womenvet and www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth.

DAVA NEWS and Events

Submitted by Mrs. Joanne Johnson

Important changes taking place in DAVA membership eligibility criteria. The entire announcement is included to make it easier for our local members to share the information with others who may also be eligible for membership. One of our continuing goals is outreach and membership enrollment.



Important Announcement

Great News!!!!

The Eligibility Amendment Has Been Ratified

What does this mean? A new day has dawned for the DAV Auxiliary! *Effective immediately*, this amendment not only expands DAV Auxiliary eligibility requirements, it opens the door to a new horizon for **our** organizations (DAV and DAV Auxiliary).

What effect will this have on my Auxiliary unit? This change will cultivate membership growth and allow those new members to help with the mission of service to disabled veterans and their families. Our leaders are committed to the long-term stability and growth of our organizations and with new enthusiastic members we will be able to accomplish a great deal more.

Who is eligible for membership in the DAV Auxiliary? The good news is the DAV Auxiliary can now welcome those who were not eligible under the previous structure. Eligibility has been expanded to include:

- Family and extended family members of any person who is or was eligible for membership in the DAV.
- Family and extended family members of any person injured and may still be in active service in the armed forces of the United States of America and eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans.
- Family and extended family members of any person who has served in the armed forces of the United States of America and has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service.
- Family and extended family members of any person who served with the armed forces of any nation associated with the United States of America as an ally, who was honorably discharged, and became an American citizen.
- Family and extended family of Auxiliary members who are not otherwise eligible for membership are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

What is considered extended family? Some examples of extended family are, but not limited to: step-children, step-grandchildren, step-siblings, step-parents, step-grandparents, uncles and aunts, great uncles and aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, sons and daughters in law, fathers and mothers in law, brothers and sisters in law.

"More hands will make the load lighter" and improve the quality of services rendered to our Veterans. Please, everyone can help spread the word of this exciting change! Start signing up new members today!

Disabled American Veterans
Chapter 128
PO Box 670

Address Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
US postage Paid
Converse, TX 78109

9626 Krier View
Converse, TX 78109

San Antonio, TX
Permit #2532

Bexar County Veterans Treatment Court

Submitted by Howard Ray

From: Manuel C. Soto, Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 1836

Are you aware of the Bexar County Veterans Treatment Court? The VTC is held at the **County Court at Law #6**, on the **2nd Floor (North end)** of the **Cadena-Reeves Justice Center**, at **300 Dolorosa Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205**. The Honorable Judge Wayne Christian is the presiding judge. Court generally starts at 3:00 p. m. We suggest being there at about **2:55 PM** to ensure that the court can be conducted with minimum disruption. You are welcome to attend and observe the court proceedings. We encourage you to invite other veterans as well. With new participants being accepted to the VTC at the last docket in December, the total number of participants will surpass 50. Participants in Phase 3 of the program are normally excused from attending the second docket of the month.

To learn more about the Bexar County Veterans Treatment Center Court or if you have any questions concerning attending the VTC, please e-mail me or call me or Marlena Kelly at 335-6775..

Thanks,

Craig Erickson

Bexar County Veterans Service Office

210-335-6738

vets@bexar.org

If you have time please support and attend the Veterans County Court.