

Roy B. Hodges, Chapter 128  
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

## Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 1

P.O. Box 670 Converse, TX 78109

Fall Winter (September) 2011

# September 2011

## Ten years later: Remembering 9 /11



December 7, 1941, a date before the time of my birth. My parents and grandparent talked about that day. Their stories and vivid memories, of where they were when the news came and the impact of the events upon their lives, filled my childhood and adolescent years. Our DAV members fit into the same age group of those who heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor in their childhood and young adult years.

The horrendous events of September 11, 2001 forced us to walk in the same footsteps as our parents and grandparents before us. We vividly remember where we were and what we were doing when our television screens were filled with images of the World Trade Center Twin Towers collapsing to the ground in a rain of destruction and death. We watched in varying degrees of shock and disbelief as we witnessed our world changing forever in front of our eyes. Little did we realize at the time the extent to which one horrific act or set of events would alter our perceptions of who we are and what the world around is or has become. Today, September 11, 2011, ten years later, we too share our memories of those days with our children and grandchildren.

Those adults of 1941 who were tasked with the responsibility of preparing the next generation for a life of productive citizenship instilled in us the values and beliefs that there is no amount of evil that will not eventually be overcome by good. We, the 2001 generation, share our memories to convey the same noble values and beliefs. Members of the DAV and DAVA are no strangers to war and its attendants. We reflect upon 9/11 knowing that we stand shoulder to shoulder, combatants united in our common values and beliefs that evil will eventually be overcome by good. In our reflections are the silhouettes of our fellow veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice that we continue to remain united in purpose and free.



# DAV Commander's Brief

Dear Comrades,

First of all, I would like to say thank you for bestowing the honor of Commander upon me, with your confidence and votes. I do not take this role lightly. I will do my utmost to be a credit to this chapter with my words and deeds.

Since becoming Chapter Commander I have been attending numerous functions making our presence known throughout the San Antonio Metro area and community. My purpose has been twofold. In addition to making our presence known, I have been gathering information that will assist the chapter to achieve its goals. Each month Comrade Glenn Ellison, Treasurer and Assistant to the Adjutant, Chaplain Napoleon Williams and I attend a San Antonio Coalition of Veterans (SACV) luncheon. This a meeting where representatives from different organizations bring us a wealth of information relative to veterans and their veterans concerns. This organization accepts members from the community of veterans. If you are not a member I urge you to consider joining.



You may have noticed some changes that have been put into place over the past few months. These changes were done to help the chapter run smoothly, efficiently and effectively (SEE). This concept will be our operational principle. Under SEE, our webmaster, Calvin Bateman, has done a great job dusting off the cobwebs from our website and making it SEE. New committees are in place working on our Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to make the operation of the chapter SEE. The newly formed DAV- DAVA liaison committee is working to develop a SEE relationship with the Unit.

I along with the other chapter delegates have just returned from the DAV National convention that was held in New Orleans, LA. I was nominated and elected to be the National Alternate representing District #20 on the Resolutions Committee. Chapter 128 has two national officers serving. Comrade Dr. Charles Edwards was elected for another term as National Chaplain. Comrade Jay Johnson continues to serve on the NEC. Fellow San Antonio DAVA member, Patty Rapisand was elected as National DAVA Commander. Our congratulations go out to each of them as well as our pledge of support. The convention proved to be insightful and informative. Thank you to each of the Chapter 128 delegates who attended the convention representing our chapter and supporting me.

The next months are filled with activities in which the chapter will be fully engaged. Forget-Me-Not time is here. We will have more information at the September general meeting. The banquet committee is presently making plans for the chapter's annual Thanksgiving Banquet. Information will be forthcoming as the plans become finalized.

Finally, thank you to the line officers and support officers without whom none of the work that we have accomplished so far would have been possible.

Bettie Vaughan, Commander

## Newsletter Connections

Technology is moving us ahead a speeds with which we are hardly able to contend. It is the same at Roy B. Hodges Chapter 128 DAV. This second publication of the newsletter is the last issue that will be mailed by hard copy to the entire membership. Several factors have helped the chapter arrive at this decision. First is the postage cost for mailing the newsletter. As with so many other entities the level of our continued funding is uncertain, therefore, we are forced to consider cost saving measures. Reducing postage for newsletters is one area where we can save.

A second factor is our website. Webmaster Calvin Bateman has our site up and operational. This is a mean to make the newsletter available to members and at the same time reduce production costs. The online version eliminates the cost to the chapter for paper and printing as well as the man hours for folding, addressing and preparation for mailing.

We are aware that many of our more senior members may not be as comfortable with an electronic newsletter as some of the more junior members. The Adjutant's office is seeking help from the membership in order that a list of members who desire electronic or hardcopy newsletters can be developed. Information on the form at the bottom of this page should be returned to the Adjutant no later than November 1, 2011 so that your name may be placed on the correct list. It is necessary to provide the correct information to continue receiving a newsletter. Newsletters will be published four (4) times per calendar year.

**The Roy B. Hodges Chapter 128 website address is: [www.davmembersportal.org/chapter/tx/128](http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapter/tx/128)**

To access the site

1. Type into your browser address bar **<http://davmembersportal.org>**
2. On the left side of the page look for the Departments link. Click on Departments.
3. Look down the list until you find Texas. Click on Texas. On the page that comes up you may sign in or Click on Links
4. Texas chapter links find Chapter 128
5. Click on Chapter 128

**Contact chapter by email send to: [tx128mail@davfrat.org](mailto:tx128mail@davfrat.org)**

**Contact chapter by USPS mail: DAV P. O. Box 670 Converse, TX 78109**

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# DAVA NEWS, Chapter 128

## First Place Community Service Award

Chapter 128, DAVA members engage in three areas of service throughout the year. Services were provided to a variety of members of the military community under the three categories of: Family Service; General Service to the Community; and Special Projects and Programs. At least one unit member had to have performed services in at least one category in order that the Unit be considered for the award. One or more members provided service in the **Family Services** area. Types of services include:

- Nursing home and hospital visitations
- Transportation assistance for senior citizens
- Professional and Trade Services
  - Donation of hair styling service
  - Participation in 44 hours of Citizen Police Academy Training
  - Service on Citizen Advisory Action Board reviewing cases investigated by the San Antonio Police
  - Membership in the Edwards Ministerial Association which provides scholarships to students
  - Presentation as speaker at the San Antonio Adult Probation on “Women in the Workplace”
  - Served as Moderator of Job Fair Seminar for Federal Job Opportunities
  - Volunteer at “Soldiers Angels” opening over 2000 envelopes from citizens to be forwarded to active duty military.

Similar types of activities are included under the category **General Services to the Community**. Activities in which some or all members of the Unit participated are:

- Church and church related activities and religious events
- Volunteer service at the Fisher House, Lackland Air Force Base TX
- Clothing donations to the Haven of Hope homeless shelter
- Preparation of meals for the elderly and families needing assistance
- Sponsored a program by the Army Liaison Specialist, Ft. Sam Houston, “How You Can Assist Families of Wounded Warriors
- Recreation and Entertainment:
  - Assistance at the Chapter Annual Thanksgiving Banquet
  - Assistance with putting up decorations at Audie Murphy VAMC.

The final area of activities considered for the award is titled Special Projects and Programs. Under this program area individual unit members gave and /or provided the following gifts and services:

- Financial support to organizations such as Purple Heart, Salvation Army, Special Olympics, March of Dimes, Komen Cancer Fund, Feed the Children, St Jude Children’s Hospital, Other Veteran Organization and individual student scholarship support
- Prepared an essay of 25 pages presented to First Lady Michelle Obama focused on life as a military spouse, the rewards received and challenges encountered, with a written acknowledgement from Mrs. Obama
- Distribution of welcome packages to family members of military members recuperating at Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) now San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC)
- In addition to individual acts the unit provided cash donations to
  - Fisher House
  - Haven For Hope
  - Audie Murphy VAVS Program
  - Audie Murphy Christmas Fund.

Members of Roy B. Hodges Chapter 128 DAVA contributed many hours in service to the community through personal commitment. These acts were not done for recognition but through caring and compassion, which is foremost in the activities and daily lives of these members. Their efforts earned them the First Place for Community Service Award accepted on behalf of the membership by Commander G. Smart at the Department Convention held in Austin, TX June 2 – 5, 2011.

### DAVA National Convention

At the National Convention August 5-9, New Orleans, Louisiana, members served on various committees and attended all activities and seminars offered to the units. Members attending were Mrs. Minnie Boggs, Mrs. Nellie Hardaway, Mrs. Joanne Johnson and Mrs. Angelyn Scott. Mrs. Angelyn Scott served as the National Executive Committee alternate for the Department of Texas and provided outstanding administrative support during the District 20 Caucus.

Contributed by Mrs. Joanne Johnson for Commander Gernell Smart

## "Saying So Long"



The military salute, a sign of recognition, greeting and departure, so with a final salute to Roy B. Hodges, Chapter 128 DAV, I take my leave of you. Time's message to me is that I pull up anchor and set sail for my next port and assignment. I have experienced a beautiful stay with you in Chapter 128, DAV. I know that with God's help things will become even more beautiful for those of you who I leave behind. I challenge you as I go to always remember and understand that the same care, the same solutions that we found for each other during our combat and active duty days are needed by today's veterans. We remember the struggle back into civilian life and our "cry" rings on. We can hear the "cry" of today's young men and women, as only someone who has been there can, as they make that same transition. We made a pledge that "we will always uphold the integrity and character of a comrade veteran; that we will do our best to exemplify the principles of Comradeship, Loyalty and Devotion." Our Commander ends all of our meetings with the motto:

"IF I CANNOT SPEAK GOOD OF MY COMRADE, I WILL NOT SPEAK ILL OF HIM OR HER."

Work with your new Chaplain, Rev. William F. Garner, to make the position greater than it has ever been. May God continue to keep you, and may the winds at your back and seas underneath be smooth for sailing.

Rev. Napoleon Williams,  
Previous Chaplain Chapter 128

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