

Spring Forth



SPRING, the season of the year when nature shakes itself from the cold and slumber of winter to herald the continual cycle of life. The earth can no longer hold back new shoots from roots that have been resting and revitalizing themselves through the cold and quiet of the winter season. Verdant bursts of color fill the landscape. Nature announces with an unintimated voice "it is time for new growth, new investment in anticipation of a later return on that investment in the form of some type of harvest, a renewal is taking place."

A walk around any neighborhood reveals yards and some lawns in various stages of the renewal process. Some yards are filled with the grasses and weeds that get a running start and emerge before the desired and prized special grass that is nurtured in the hopes of having the best lawn on the block. Other lawns were carefully treated during the fall so that the prized and desired grass can get ahead of the weeds in spring. One goal motivates all: the best lawn on the block. Other lawns are filled with bright color because homeowners have made trips to the neighborhood flower source and purchased annuals to bring the fragrance and aromatics of blossoms to the air. Bees, birds, insects, and a variety of nature's creatures enjoy the bounty.

The countryside is not so formal in its embrace of spring. Trees bud. Flowers bloom. Birds sing louder in mating calls and responses. Insects of all kinds become plentiful. Animals bring forth young. Signs of life abound. Nature is in the process of renewal.

Each member of Roy B. Hodges Chapter 128 DAV will decide for him/herself if this will be a **SPRING** season in the life of the chapter or not. Let's **SPRING FORTH TOGETHER**.

DAVA Elects New Officers for 2012- 2013 (March-February)

The Unit elected the following officers on February 25, 2012.

Commander, Gernell Smart
Senior Vice Commander, Joanne Johnson
Junior Vice Commander, Barbara Marshall
Treasurer, Martha Fairbanks

Nellie Holloway will serve as Chaplain
Bettye Lamkin was appointed as Adjutant

DAVA Supports Fisher Houses and Camp Corral

The unit is proud to announce their monetary contributions to the Fisher Houses at Ft Sam Houston, Fisher Houses at Lackland AFB and to Camp Corral sponsored by Golden Corral. Thank you letters were received from each of these organizations.

Camp Corral is a two week summer camp for military children. There is no cost to attend; however, transportation is not provided. There are currently nine camps confirmed in the United States, for the Summer 2012. Interested contributors may go to www.campcorral.org to see locations and latest information or contact Ms. Dolly Mercer, Market manager, Golden Corral Corp[. (919) 781-9310, Raleigh, North Carolina.

DAVA State Department Convention

Plans are underway for attendance at the State Conference, Austin, TX June 22,24.

Mrs. Joanne Johnson, Senior Vice Commander

Springtime Melody

The melody of springtime just began. It can bring sweet flowers and sunshine within each of us. Springtime brings the trees that give us blessed shade on hot and sunny days and the songs of the little birds nestled above in trees. In today's complex world the things that are true in life are faith, hope, optimism, and joy; precious gifts that can be ours if we only believe. It is through faith, hope, love and realizing that God is the only way, that we develop a spirit of charity to serve the community. Together we make a difference. There is power in unity.

I want to thank all of the members of the DAVA Roy B Hodges Unit # 128 for electing me once again as Unit Commander. I thank you the officers and members for your many acts of kindness consideration and helpfulness which you have render to me the past year. I pray and hope that you continue to assist me as the days go by. Working together works. Team work never fails because the team needs all of its players to get the job done. Thanks to all of



our wonderful comrades of Roy B. Hodges DAVA Unit 128. To God be the glory.

Mrs. Gernell Smart
Commander Roy B. Hodges DAVA 128 Unit

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.

“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,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski.

“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.

Retroactive Traumatic Injury Benefits Expanded

Any veteran or service member who sustained traumatic injury between Oct. 7, 2001 and Nov. 30, 2005 may be eligible for the Traumatic Injury Protection benefit, known as TSGLI. The VA has extended retroactive benefits to all who have a qualifying injury, even if it was incurred while serving stateside or in other areas outside of OEF/OIF.

TSGLI provides a payment ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to service members sustaining certain severe traumatic injuries resulting in loss of the activities of daily living. National Guard and Reserve members who were injured during the retroactive period and suffered a qualifying loss are also eligible for a TSGLI payment, even if the cause was not related to military service.

For more information or to apply for a TSGLI payment, service members and veterans should go to

<http://www.insurance.va.gov/sqliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm> or contact their branch of service TSGLI Office (contact information available at above link).

PTSD and Gulf War Fibromyalgia Clinical Study

Targeted Medical Pharma (www.tmedpharma.com) is enrolling 250 veterans for a clinical trial to further establish the effectiveness of a safe medication regimen to treat the symptoms associated with military related post-traumatic stress disorder and Gulf War Illness (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCF-cJg5wDg>). Targeted Medical Pharma was awarded a research grant for this study from the IRS¹ Therapeutic Discovery program for new innovative and safe therapies.

This trial has received IRB approval and is primarily web-based. There are no office visits, medication is delivered to your home and all questionnaires are filled out and submitted electronically to a team of three highly qualified physicians (Dr. William Shell, Dr. David Silver, and Dr. Anthony Charuvastra).

Participants in the trial will receive Sentra AM® and Sentra PM®. These products have been administered by physicians since 2003 and are amino acid-based medications that have limited to no undesirable side effects or contraindications. They are covered by the DOD's TRICARE formulary as well as by many PPO plans and Workers Compensation carriers. There is no cost to participate in this study.

The study lasts for 30 days and you are given the option to continue the medication under the supervision of your own doctor once completing the study. Specifically, these medications are formulated to manage autonomic nervous system function associated with PTSD or toxic exposure. For example: sleep disorders, mood disorders and cognitive dysfunction.

Follow this link to register and apply:

http://tmedpharma.com/app/survey/ptsd_GWF001

Burn Pit Health Effects: Data Lacking in Study

Veterans and service members suffering a variety of ailments they believe may be related to exposure to pollutants from burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan can take cold comfort in a new study sponsored by the Department of Defense. The study conducted by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concluded that due to limited data and gaps in research, it cannot say whether those emissions could cause long-term health effects.

Unfortunately, veterans returning from the current wars are unable to obtain service connection for such health problems as constrictive bronchiolitis, a rare disease caused by exposure to an environmental toxin, as well as cancer, heart disease and most respiratory illnesses, National Service Director Garry J.

Augustine said. That then limits their access to VA medical care and precludes them from receiving disability compensation for those conditions

VA Adds 47 Vessels to Agent Orange Exposure List

The Department of Veterans Affairs has added 47 vessels to the list of Navy and Coast Guard ships whose crews may have been exposed to Agent Orange between 1962 and 1975. Veterans who served aboard these ships and the 200 others listed may be eligible for disability compensation.

VA updates its online database of ships as it is determined there is evidence a vessel operated within affected areas that potentially put crews at risk of exposure to the toxic chemical.

Veterans can view the updated inventory by visiting www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp. Affected veterans and their survivors may be eligible for disability compensation for 14 different medical conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure.

Contributor, Glenn Ellison, Assistant to Adjutant

The Claude and Minnie Boggs, Sr. Exceptional Commitment to Service Award

Under the leadership of Commander Bettie Vaughan, Roy B. Hodges Chapter 128 DAV instituted an award to recognize those chapter members who go above and beyond to ensure the attainment of the chapter's goals. The award is granted by the Commander in November for the previous 12 month period to a chapter member who in the opinion of the Commander has performed in an extraordinary manner to help the chapter achieve its yearly goals. Any chapter member in good standing is eligible to receive the award. Chapter members may submit written recommendations to the Commander for members who in the opinion of the member submitting the recommendation have performed in an exceptional manner. Nomination forms may be obtained from the adjutant and must be submitted by October to be considered for the current year.



Contact Chapter and Chapter Officers

The chapter may be contacted through any of the following methods.

USPS mail: DAV P.O. Box 670 Converse, TX 78109

Website: <http://davmembersportal.org>

E-mail: tx128@davfrat.org

Member Contact

Chapter members are encouraged to provide email addresses so that an electronic newsletter may be forwarded to their address. The chapter is in a transition from hard copy USPS mail delivered newsletters to an electronic format. This action is being taken to better manage our funds and reduce the cost of newsletter distribution.

Please encourage any members with whom you have contact to provide email addresses to the adjutant in order to receive newsletters.

**Roy B. Hodges, Chapter 128
Chapter Officers**

The chapter elected the following individuals to serve during the March 2012 ó February 2013 year.

Commander, Mrs. Bettie Vaughan
Senior Vice Commander, Mr. Jerry Roebuck
1st Jr. Vice Commander, Mr. Albert Alfaro
2nd Jr. Vice Commander, Mr. James Hudson
Chaplain, Mr. Henry Gallon

Continuing in office Treasurer, Mr. Glenn Ellison
Adjutant, Dr. Elizabeth A. Kennedy

Appointed offices have not been filled as of this printing.

Vaughan on the recent homegoing of Commander Vaughan's father, Mr. Laze Thomas. May the support of family and friends be a comfort to you in



this time of sorrow.

Future Events and Dates to Remember

The Texas State DAV Department Convention
Easter, April 8
Mother's Day May 13
High School, College and University Graduations

Congratulations

To

Comrade Harold and
Elizabeth Williams

celebrating 50 years of marriage
March 23, 2012



Condolences

DAV Senior Vice Commander Jerry Roebuck &
DAVA Commander Gernell Smarto
on behalf of Chapter 128 DAV and DAVA officers
and members extend heartfelt sympathy to
Commander Bettie Vaughan and Comrade Marvin