

York County DAV Victory Chapter 13

P.O. BOX 1652 TABB, VIRGINIA 23693



Monthly



Newsletter



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MAY 2011

ELECTED OFFICERS

Commander

Gregory Baskin

Sr. Vice Commander

Tim "Frosty" Pentecost

1st Jr. Vice Commander

Russell Jordan

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Sherba Essex

Adjutant

Tony Carlisle

Judge Advocate

Daniel L. Mac Donald

Treasurer

Terry Bohlinger

Chaplain

Ron Strong

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Certified Service Officers

Gregory Baskin

Terry Bohlinger

Russell Jordan

Oscar Kemp

Tim "Frosty" Pentecost

Officer Of The Day

Bill Townsley

Sergeant At Arms

Dave Bunch

Web Master

James Henry

Newsletter Editor &

Legislative Officer

Daniel L. Mac Donald

Historian

Will "Rawhide" Eastwood

Members-At-Large

(for the Executive Board)

Larry Brewer &

James Wimbley

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Comrades. This past month we have been fairly bust with more than 30 veterans assisted with claims and 2 Welfare and Relief requests for \$819 processed. Preparations for steak night have been completed and the Adjutant's and Treasurer's offices moved.

Chapter Officer elections are to be held at the next meeting – the 16th of April. Chapter unneeded documents and members' documents shredding is still on for the 23rd of April and the next Honor Flight trip to DC will be held on April 30th. We will be closed the week of May 30th through June 5th. All of our service officers and key officers will be in Roanoke for annual service officer recertification and the DAV Department of Virginia Convention.

I am still doing research, albeit slowly, on webcasting Chapter meetings and starting a Chapter facebook page. The Adjutant is still working on getting a television advertisement for us and the other Tidewater Chapters on the major cable networks.

Also looking forward, we have the Country Fair at the Hampton VA hospital on May 11th, and once again, we will be handing out bottled water at our booth.

We will be holding our quarterly pizza party for the Wounded Warriors on Ft. Eustis in May 17th at 1500 hours.

Remember, the office will be open as usual but there will be no meetings or breakfasts in July or August.

Enjoy the spring weather, stay healthy and have a happy Memorial Day.

Commander Gregory Baskin

Visit your web site at: www.yorkcountyva.org/index.cfm?action=c10&id=2098

E-mail us at: dav.davchpt13@verizon.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **MONTHLY BREAKFAST:** The next breakfast will be at 8 am on **May 21, 2011** at the Yorktown IHOP.
2. **MONTHLY MEETING:** The next meeting will be at 10 am on **May 21, 2011** at 10:00 am in the chapter home.
3. **EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The next meeting will be at 09:30 am on **May 21, 2011**, unless one is needed.
4. **DAVA Unit 13 MONTHLY MEETING:** The next meeting of the Auxiliary Unit will be on **May 17, 2011** at 7:00 pm in the chapter home.
5. **VAMC HAMPTON COUNTY FAIR:** On **Wednesday May 11, 2011** the Chapter will man a table, we need volunteers to set-up and hand out water beginning at 10 am.
6. **GRAND OPENING OF CHAPTER 58 HOME:** Chapter 58 (Gloucester) will celebrate the Grand Opening of their new Chapter home 6265 Professional Drive, Gloucester) on **May 14, 2011** beginning at 12 noon. Stop by if you can.
7. **WOUNDED WARRIORS PIZZA PARTY:** On **Tuesday May 17, 2011** at 3 pm, the Chapter will again join with VFW Post 824 and host a pizza party at the Wounded Warrior Unit on Fort Eustis.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The House and Senate recessed on Apr 14th and will return on May 2nd, the following new bills have been introduced in the House and Senate:

H.R. 804 - Operation New Dawn Veterans Benefits: A bill that will guarantee military members who serve in Operation New Dawn in Iraq will be entitled to the same health-related benefits as those who were part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. If passed, the bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the eligibility of certain veterans who serve in support of Operation New Dawn for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This is identical to the bill introduced in September

2010 during the last Congress. It would provide New Dawn veterans with the same veterans' hospital care, home nursing access and medical services through the Department of Veterans Affairs as veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There is a concern that language of the law currently providing benefits to Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans may inadvertently deny the benefits to those who serve in the current operation.

H.R. 805 - Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights: This legislation would require the VA to display an Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights in all prosthetic and orthotic clinics of the VA. This bill was introduced in the last Congress, but not passed. It would instruct the VA to inform veterans and educate employees at each VA prosthetics and orthotics clinic of the Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights. It also requires VA to conduct outreach to veterans. The legislation was referred to the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health and currently has 3 cosponsors.

H.R. 1407 - Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011. To increase, effective as of December 1, 2011 the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, was introduced in the House on April 6, 2011 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1481 - Veterans Appeals Improvement Act of 2011. To amend title 38, US Code, to improve the appeals process of the VA and to establish a commission to study judicial review of the determination of veterans' benefits. If passed this bill would waive VA Regional Office jurisdiction over incorporation of supplemental evidence into previously submitted a veteran claims for which a substantive appeal has been filed, such evidence shall be submitted to the Board of Veterans' Appeals directly unless the veteran requests that the evidence be reviewed by the Regional Office before being submitted to the Board. This change shall be apply with respect to evidence submitted on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. It also would create a Veterans Judicial

Review Commission to evaluate the administrative and judicial appellate review processes of veterans' and survivors' benefits and to make specific recommendations and other solutions to improve the accuracy, fairness, transparency, predictability, timeliness, and finality of such appellate review processes, including a recommendation as to whether the Court of Veterans Claims should have the authority to hear class action or associational standing cases. This bill was introduced in the House on April 12, 2011 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 696 - If passed this bill would treat Vet Centers as VA facilities for purposes of authorized payments or allowances for beneficiary travel to or from a VA facility in connection with medical care, which is currently 41.5 cents per mile. Vet Centers typically provide mental health and readjustment counseling services for veterans, was introduced on March 31, 2011 and referred to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

S. 780 - Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2011. Amends title 38 US Code, to exempt reimbursements of expenses related to accident, theft, loss, or casualty loss from determinations of annual income limits with respect to VA pensions for veterans and surviving spouses and children of veterans, was introduced in the Senate on April 8, 2011 and referred to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

S. 815 - A bill to guarantee that military funerals are conducted with dignity and respect was introduced in the Senate on April 13, 2011 and referred to the Veterans' Affairs Committee with 13 cosponsors. The text of this bill is not yet available.

