



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2010

HARMONY CHAPTER NO. 18

CHAPTER HOME

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DAV Harmony Chapter 18 meets throughout the year on the third Saturday of the month. A potluck lunch is scheduled to start at noon, with the meeting following at 1 p.m. The meetings last about one hour.

MEETING DATES:

- July 17, 2010
- August 21, 2010
- September 18, 2010
- October 16, 2010
- November 20, 2010
- December 18, 2010

Contact information:

Commander:

Mark Melton
Office: (253) 302-4960

Adjutant:

Jake Holeman
Office: (253) 472-4680
Home: (253) 588-7454

Chaplain

Mike Webb
(253) 288-5116

Chapter Service Officer

Mark Melton
Office: (253) 302-4960

National Service Office

Seattle: (206) 220-6225

American Lake VAMC

253-582-8440 Ext. 6990
or 253-583-1303

VA – 1-800-827-1000

(Dial 0 for a representative)

* You can also find us if you have facebook at DAV Harmony 18

Next Meeting Info Box

At our next meeting, which will be at 1 p.m. on 7/17/2010 at our Chapter location: 5604 75th Street West (on the street behind the McDonalds on Custer Road SW), we will continue to set priorities on how we can be of service to other Disabled American Veterans. Please post the dates of our meetings on your calendar and plan to attend.

Bring a dish at noon to participate in the potluck that proceeds the meetings at noon. Bring either a main dish or a salad, dessert or some other side dish that you would like to share with your fellow disabled veterans.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BRING TO THE SERVICE OFFICER TO MAKE OR UPGRADE A VA CLAIM?

1. Bring your DD 214
2. Bring your marriage certificate (if married)
3. Bring the birth certificates of your children.
4. Documents which answer the following questions:
 - a. **WHAT:** wounds, injuries, disease?
 - b. **WHEN:** Approximate time and date?
 - c. **WHERE:** Name of the battle, country, camp, ship?
 - d. **HOW:** Shot, mine, fall, POW?

- e. **UNIT:** Name, address, Location of unit assigned?
- f. **THEN:** Field Hospital, Med Center, Hospital, Clinic?
- g. **NOW:** Current doctor's name and address; Dates of surgery, treatment or evaluation?
- h. **LIST ALL DOCTORS AND TREATMENTS OUTSIDE THE MILITARY AND THE VA**

The more you can document, the better: and remembering details can help lead you to more supporting documents. Letters and statements from shipmates or comrades may also help to establish your presence in the events at which you were injured or infected.



Harmony Chapter 18 is sponsoring a game at Cheney Stadium on August 13. Tickets are \$10. Let's support the Rainiers.

MUSINGS OF THE ADJUTANT

Congratulations to those who were elected at our April meeting and inducted into office at our May meeting. We have a blend of new and old faces to work with. The Commander, Mark Melton, has been involved in DAV activities for about 26 years. He has held a number of positions in other chapters, and has been Chapter 18's Junior Vice Commander and Chapter Service Officer for the past year. Richard Carithers was again elected as our Senior Vice Commander. He can be counted on to participate in every function we sponsor. Our newly elected Junior Vice Commander is John Baxley. John is presently a National Service Officer for DAV and he brings to us a new perspective. Joyce Elter continues as our Treasurer, and Jake Holeman is our newly appointed Adjutant. The new three-year trustee is Frank Camodeca, and our new chaplain is Mike Webb.

Many thanks to Jim McDaniel who was the adjutant since October 1, 2009. He spent many hours of his time bringing us back from the brink after the death of John Spehar. Thanks again Jim. And many thanks to Reverend Doctor John Williams who has served as our Chaplain for a number of years.

CALENDAR UPDATES

Get your calendar out and post this important information before it slips your mind!

July 2 and 3: Members will be grilling hot dogs and passing them out as well as chips, drinks, and cookies and Tacoma West Marine in Fife. This is one of our fund-raising events.

July 4: Freedom Fest from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. near Cowan Field on Joint Base Lewis. We will post then flyer as an announcement once it is printed.

July 10: Executive Board Meeting if called, 10 a.m. at chapter home.

July 10: Members will be grilling hot dogs and passing them out as well as chips, drinks, and cookies and Tacoma West Marine in Fife. This is one of our fund-raising events.

July 17:: Monthly membership meeting. Pot luck at NOON; membership meeting starts at 1 p.m. and lasts approximately one hour.

August 13: Harmony Chapter 18 is sponsoring DAV at the Ballpark. Tacoma Rainiers play at Cheney Stadium at 7:10 p.m. Fireworks to follow end of game. Get tickets from Mark Melton. Tickets are \$10 and are good for a hot dog and drink.

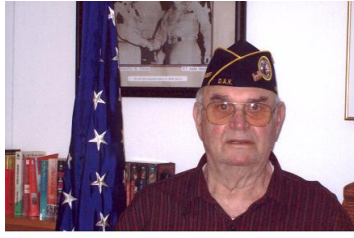
August 14: Executive Board Meeting if called, 10 a.m. at chapter home.

August 21: Monthly membership meeting. Pot luck at NOON; membership meeting starts at 1 p.m. and lasts approximately one hour.

NEWLY ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS FOR HARMONY CHAPTER 18



Commander & Service Officer
Mark Melton



Senior Vice Commander
Richard Carithers



Junior Vice Commander,
John Baxley



Treasurer
Joyce Elter



Adjutant & Third-Year Trustee
Jake Holeman



Chaplain
Mike Webb



First-Year Trustee
Frank Camodeca



Second-Year Trustee
Dick Benton

NEW SERVICE OFFICER IN OUR MEETING HALL

As many of you know, we have been very active in assisting our local veterans in many ways. One of the most important is that we have started a new Service Officer working here at our building. This means vets who need help with a new claim or in upgrading their claim, can get that help here as well as in Seattle or at the American Lake VA Hospital. His name is Mark Melton.

Service officers working at the VA Hospital do not accept reservations with their clients; they work on a first-come-first seen schedule, Mondays through Thursday. They do not work on Fridays. This is a good system because vets usually do not have to wait in line to be seen. However, to help our veterans even better, our Service Officer will take reservations and can see clients after working hours and even on weekends. The new service officer's phone number is: (253) 302-4960. Mark will be in the office on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. He will make appointments for evenings throughout the week and weekends. His email address is: davchpt18@gmail.com

DAV Member Benefit: Dell Computer Discount Program:

The DAV needs more members online to help spread the word, and our Dell discount makes it cheap and easy for you to upgrade or start your career as an online veterans advocate.

Through the program, members receive:

- * Up to 12% off Dimension, Inspiron and XPS products
- * Dell's award-winning 24-hour online and telephone technical support
- * Frequent special values and promotions in addition to standard discounts.

To partake of this special offer, members are required to provide the DAV's program identification when ordering: MEMBER ID: PS58767394. Orders can be placed through the internet, where members can choose a system, add upgrades, and use Dell's Secure Employee Purchase Store.

Dell's sales representative can help members place their orders over the phone at 1-800.695.8133. Customer Service and Telephone Technical Support are available through Dell's toll-free technical service and 24-hour customer support line at 1.800.695.8133.

News from the State Convention in Yakima

At the spring 2010 DAV State Convention held in Yakima, the chapter had three members who received recruiting awards from the Department of Washington DAV. John Baxley received third place for NSO; Mike Webb first place for NSO, and Mark Melton first place for chapter service officer. In addition, Mark Melton was elected to a three-year term on the Claims and Service Committee, DAV, Department of Washington.

Commander's Briefing

As your new commander, I have some plans for the future. First, we need to get our Auxiliary back functioning again. We need to support their efforts and it can only result in a win/win situation for us. There are very few DAV Auxiliary Units left operating in the area, and if we can get the spouses of DAV members involved in the Auxiliary, it will lead to greater numbers of members being involved with our chapter. I am trying to set up a meeting for those eligible for the Auxiliary in June. We need at least ten members to attend to get the group rolling. If you have a spouse, please encourage him or her to attend the initial meeting.

Next, I would like us to have a family picnic this summer at a local park. If you have suggestions as to where this can be held and when it should be held let me know. Just leave me a message on my phone which is 253.302.4960 or let me know through our adjutant.

I am very pleased with the officers you have chosen to work with me. We should be able to function well as a team; and it will have to be a team effort for us to be successful. We are scheduled to give out hotdogs twice this summer at the Tacoma West Marina in Fife and we will be conducting our annual Forget-Me-Not campaign in November. Please volunteer for these functions. We can only do so much with our funds and these additional fund raisers allows us to help other disabled veterans.

I am looking forward to a great year serving you. Remember, I will be in the office Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. You can also send me an email to me at: davchpt18@gmail.com

Mark Melton, Commander

TRICARE CHANGES – USERS UNAFFECTED

Six million military health care beneficiaries learned last July that their TRICARE support contractor would be changing April 1, 2010, because the companies that run TRICARE's North and South Regions had lost in competing for the next generation of contracts.

For the 6 million beneficiaries impacted, the extension means that there will be no shift in health care providers, and there will be no need to change telephone numbers or web addresses to make medical appointments.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance of Phoenix, Ariz., will remain the support contractor for 2.7 million beneficiaries in the West Region (including Madigan). That award was not challenged. TriWest's current contract is being extended until next March, when presumably new five-year contracts will take effect across the TRICARE system.

Steven Tough, president of Health Net, said, that TRICARE runs as smooth today as any health benefit plan in the country....

Health Net has been involved in TRICARE since its start in 1995 and before that with its predecessor, the CHAMPUS Reform Initiative. Architects of national health reform, Tough said, could use TRICARE as a model for reform nationwide.

VA BURIAL BENEFITS

Q - Who qualifies for burial in a national cemetery?

A – Burial in a national cemetery is available to all members of the armed forces and veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable who completed the required periods of service, as well as their spouses, minor children and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children. Also eligible for burial are members of the Reserves, the Army or Air National Guard with 20-years qualifying service as well as members of the college level ROTC of the Army, Navy or Air Force who die while on active duty for training.

Q – What information is needed about a veteran to arrange burial in a national cemetery, and who makes the arrangements?

A – Burial arrangements for an eligible veteran are made by the funeral director or the next of kin by contacting the national cemetery in which burial is desired. You must have the veteran's name, rank, service number and VA claim number if a prior claim has been made. Date and place of entry into and separation from the service, branch of service, date and place of birth, and date of death should also be furnished. A copy of the official military discharge document bearing an official seal or a DD 214 is required and is usually sufficient to establish eligibility for burial in a national cemetery. The document must specify active military duty and show that release was under conditions other than dishonorable. (Families of retired Reservists and Guard members may furnish their 20-year letter). The cemetery director sets a tentative date for the committal service, pending verification of eligibility, and notifies the applicant when the burial is authorized.

Q – What benefits are included when a veteran is buried in a national cemetery?

A – For eligible veterans and family members, VA provides a gravesite, preparation of the gravesite and burial, a headstone or flat marker, a Presidential Memorable Certificate, a burial flag, and perpetual care of the gravesite, but does not cover funeral home costs.

Q – my father, who recently died, was an honorably discharged veteran. Can the VA reimburse our family for the headstone he paid for through a pre-need burial plan?

A - No. VA provides headstones or markers without cost, but does not reimburse the cost of purchasing these from other sources. VA headstones or markers are available for the unmarked grave of veterans buried anywhere in the world and of eligible dependents buried in national, state veteran or military post cemeteries.

Q – If a veteran not in receipt of any monetary benefits from VA dies in a VA medical center, can the VA provide any financial assistance for the burial?

A – Yes. VA can pay up to \$300 in burial allowance. VA may also pay a \$150 plot allowance if the veteran is not buried in a national cemetery. Also, costs of transporting the remains to the nearest national or state cemetery with space available for burial may be reimbursed.

DAV Harmony Chapter 18
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Lakewood, Washington 98496-8925

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BITS & PIECES

Temporary Decrease in Minimum Down Payment for Membership Fee:

With so many disabled veterans and their families facing challenges during these difficult financial times, discretionary spending – even toward a worthwhile investment, like a membership in the DAV, may be put on hold for those struggling to make ends meet. In order to stimulate recruitment and to provide every eligible veteran an opportunity to experience all that the DAV has to offer, National Commander Bobby Barrera recently authorized the National Membership Department to accept a minimum membership down payment of \$20 through the end of the membership year on June 30, 2010.

A mass mailing from the national office's current net prospects list is being prepared to encourage potential members to take advantage of this limited offer.

The change should ease the challenges recruiters face from prospective veterans who want to join but could not afford a full \$40 toward membership. The commander hopes recruiters will redouble their efforts during this period. While the nation is facing economic challenges, the DAV's shifting demographics necessitate a steady stream of new veterans to fill our ranks.

Support from Hickory Farms: Winter is the time for comfort foods. Buy gifts to friends or family through Hickory Farms and get 15% off as a DAV member! Visit www.dav.org/hickory_farms.asp or call 1-800-222-GIFT and give the operator the code 823594 to receive the discount. Your generous gift also supports the DAV with a 3% commission!

Win A \$100 Harley-Davidson Gift Card! Are you a motorcycle enthusiast? For as long as there have been motorcycles, the passion for riding is shared by those who treasure the excitement of cruising the open road. With more and more riders taking to the roads each year to experience the sensation of freedom and adventure, Disabled American Veterans is looking for feedback from our members and advocates on the subject of owning and riding a motorcycle. Now you can take the survey and let us know. Simply go to www.dav.org/mcnews. Take the survey and be eligible to win a \$100 Harley-Davidson Gift Card. Hurry, the deadline is June 30, 2010.

FIRST ANNUAL DAV DAY AT CHENEY STADIUM

PRESENTED BY THE TACOMA RAINIERS AND
THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HARMONY CHAPTER 18



TACOMA RAINIERS VS ROUND ROCK EXPRESS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13TH @ 7:00PM



- **DISCOUNTED TICKETS**

Reserved seats cost just \$10 per ticket and includes a hot dog, chips, and small drink.
(\$21. value!)

As well as a pack of Rainiers player action cards!

- **FIREWORKS WILL FOLLOW THE GAME**

- **SCOREBOARD RECOGNITION**

DAV will be welcomed on the scoreboard during the game.

- **TO PURCHASE OR FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:**

Mark Melton
Chapter Service Officer
DAV Harmony Chapter 18
253-302-4960
davchpt18@gmail.com



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Share the Compassion

The summer months are truly a great time of the year. Family “stuff” is the best. Reunions and picnics offer fun events and a chance to get in touch and to get closer to family and friends. We are truly blessed to have the freedom to visit with loved ones in this great country. I ask each of you to keep in mind your DAV family. We share a unique brotherhood (and sisterhood too!); bound by our service to our country and to each other as disabled veterans. Chapter 18 conducts a general meeting every month; conveniently held on the third Saturday of each month. I invite all members to join us during the hour prior to our meeting and enjoy our “pot luck” meal. I guarantee you’ll make a friend with the good folks that make up our DAV family here at the “Harmony” chapter.

I have heard the rhetorical question, “Am I my brother’s keeper? Am I responsible for everything that happens to my neighbors?” I answered, “Yes!” not legally, but morally and spiritually. “Yes!” I believe that we are responsible for building better lives for our nation’s disabled veterans and their families.

Please remember our comrades who cannot get out and enjoy the summer. Feel free to let us know of anyone who needs our prayers. Take time during your busy summer to visit your comrades. Bring your children and grandchildren with you; show them what compassion and caring is all about; give them a valuable lesson that is not taught in schools. Take care and God bless.

Chaplain Mike

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