

# VISIT MICHIGAN'S DAV THRIFT STORE AT 8050 N. MIDDLEBELT ROAD IN WESTLAND!

January/February/March/April 2013



# Michigan Disabled Veteran

Volume 62 No. 2

[USPS 344-940]

*"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."  
-William Blake*

## Hats Off to Chapter 22 Past Chapter Commander Jim Provost and his wife, Judy

Recently, Jim Provost, Past Marquette County Chapter 22 Commander and his wife Judy, along with Carol Koski and Jack Elder gathered and delivered 57 very large boxes of clothing to the DAV Thrift Store in Westland. Judy and Carol volunteer at the D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans where they sort through donated clothing. The clothing that was not needed for the members of Jacobetti was placed in very large boxes and stored in their garages until a large amount

was accumulated.

Jim and Thrift Store Outreach Coordinator Aaron Lewber worked together to coordinate the donation. Chapter 22 paid for a U-Haul for Jim and Judy to drive to meet with Aaron just south of Flint, where Aaron was waiting with a Thrift Store truck to take the donations back to the store in Westland. Jim and Judy drove all the way from Marquette to Flint, thru snowstorms, traveling over 800 miles round trip to deliver the clothing and help support the Thrift Store and we cannot thank

them enough for their dedication.

The Department of Michigan would like to Thank Marquette County Chapter 22, Jim and Judy Provost, Carol Koski and Jack Elder, as well as Aaron Lewber and the staff at the DAV Thrift store for all their hard work and dedication.

If your Chapter is not near the store, but you would like to make a large donation or possibly hold a clothing drive in your community to benefit the DAV, please contact Aaron Lewber to coordinate at 734-513-6020.

## Department of Michigan's Newest Department Service Officers (DSOs)



**Corey D. Davis**

### Department Service Officer Disabled American Veterans

Corey Davis, a service-connected disabled veteran, joined the DAV's professional staff on January 2, 2013 as a Department Service Officer. Corey enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1994 and served as an Information Manager.

During his time in the military, Corey was stationed at Offutt AFB, Nebraska and Buechel AFB, Germany. He was a 6-time member of the All Air Force wrestling team that trained at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After separating from the military in 2002, he returned to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Corey earned a Business Administration Degree from Davenport University and is currently enrolled in Bellevue University, where he is pursuing a Masters in Project Management. He has two children: Torrey, age 19 and Mikayla, age 15 and currently resides in Kentwood, Michigan.



**Annette M. Dennis**

### Department Service Officer Disabled American Veterans

Annette Dennis, a service-connected disabled veteran, recently joined the Disabled American Veterans as a Department Service Officer. Annette is a prior active duty Staff Sergeant who served in the United States Air Force from 1985 to 1993. As a Medic/EMT in the Air Force, Annette served in various locations including an overseas long-tour at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal.

Ms. Dennis' professional experience includes providing primary care and emergency medical care to active duty military members and their families. She received her medical training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas and was certified as an Independent Duty Medical Technician in 1991. Upon returning to the civilian sector, Annette continued her education, receiving a BA in Health Services Management in 1997.

Most recently, Annette completed her Master of Science degree in Mental Health

Counseling. She worked as an Intern at Every Woman's Place domestic violence shelter in Muskegon, Michigan and the Vet Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan providing mental health services to combat veterans suffering from PTSD and related issues.

Currently, Annette resides in Muskegon, Michigan with her son, Eli, age 9.



**Toni L. Moses**

### Department Service Officer Disabled American Veterans

Toni L. Moses joined the United States Navy in January of 1993, six months after graduating from Frank Cody High School in Detroit, Michigan. While serving in the Navy, Toni was a designated as a Deck Seaman aboard the USS Sierra AD-18 and the Frank Cable AS-40. Toni's Navy career was cut short in 1995, due to a service-incurred disability.

Once back home in Detroit, she took advantage of her Vocational Rehabilitation benefits and attended Henry Ford Community College. Later she

**NEW DSOs Cont. on page 8**

## State Convention Quickly Approaching at The Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

June 7-9, 2013

Conference and Convention Attendees: Make your reservations today at the Kewadin Casino & Hotel by calling 1-800-539-2346. Mention Group Code 9F41G8 for the DAV when mak-

ing your reservation.

Please join us for the 88th Annual State Convention to be held June 7-9, 2013 at the Kewadin

**CONVENTION Cont. on page 2**

## Pre-Registration Form for DAV Department and Chapters 2013 DAV State Convention and 2-Day Service Officer Conference Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

DAV Convention June 7-9 • Service Officer Conference June 5-6

DAV Service Officer Conference Pre-Registration - June 5-6, 2013

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Representing \_\_\_\_\_  
(Title, Chapter Number, County Agency, etc.)  
Registration Covers: Service Officer Materials, as well as admittance to Thursday's Pic & Ice Cream Social

DAV Convention Pre-Registration - June 7-9, 2013

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
If Department Officer, print title and chapter number \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like to be considered to serve on a DAV Convention Committee

### DAV (Choose only one)

|  |         |     |
|--|---------|-----|
| Service Officer Conference Registration Only           | \$35.00 | ( ) |
| Convention Registration Only                           | \$30.00 | ( ) |
| Convention Registration & Banquet                      | \$50.00 | ( ) |
| Service Officer Conference and Convention Registration | \$60.00 | ( ) |
| Service Officer Conference/Convention Reg./Banquet     | \$75.00 | ( ) |
| EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS \$35.00 EACH                     |         |     |

Number of EXTRA tickets: ( )

### NEW MENU ITEMS (Choose ONE from choices below)

Bruschetta Bistro Filler topped with Alfredo sauce, paired with Tuscan Chicken, roasted red skin potatoes and sautéed asparagus with roasted red peppers  
- OR -  
Baked Whitefish with artichoke hearts and diced tomato with balsamic grilled veggies, served over brown rice

Bistro Fillet with Tuscan Chicken **OR**  Baked Whitefish with veggies  
**NO REFUNDS ISSUED FOR CANCELLATIONS MADE AFTER MAY 20, 2013**

Check or Visa/MasterCard available for payment  
Call 1-888-448-2378 for credit card payments or  
Mail form with check to

DAV Dept. Headquarters, 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026

All tickets will be in registration packet to be picked up at Registration at Water's Edge

Certified credentials **MUST BE** presented at Registration Desk.

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 20, 2013**

# Michigan Disabled Veteran

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**POLICY**

- To bond the disabled together as a unit
- To acquaint the members of the DAV and the public with the problems of the disabled and what the Department of Michigan, Disabled American Veterans, is doing to assist in overcoming their handicaps.
- To keep alive the Fires of Freedom that American ideals shall not perish from the earth.
- To promote the welfare of the Disabled American Veterans of the State of Michigan and the Nation

**NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE**

Bob Blevins, chairman  
 Frank Shepherd David Waldron  
 Russi Spalding Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

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Copy deadline: The copy deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month preceding publication. News, items and pictures for current publication must be mailed to reach Michelle Kosick and Kelly Trambley, Editors, on or before the 1st of the preceding month to 17779 East 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026. Art: Editors: Glossy black and white or good contrast color prints should be submitted for best reproduction. Photo negatives, Polaroid prints or prints of poor quality or color-inks cannot be used. Silk finish prints reproduce poorly. Photos cannot be returned.

DAV Nat'l Service Office  
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 (586) 415-9610

Web page: <http://www.davmembersportal.org/mi>  
 E-mail: [davdonut@aol.com](mailto:davdonut@aol.com)

Facebook  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/DAV-Department-of-Michigan/300117679186>

DAV Thrift Store  
 8050 N Middlebelt Road, Westland 48185  
 Donation Line (866) 520-5325  
<http://www.davthriftmichigan.com>



Bob Blevins

We won World War II, We fought and served during Korea and Vietnam. We answered the call during Desert Storm and served tour after tour in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We can quote the Pledge of Allegiance, and we know where to place our hand while doing so. We once wore the uniform of our country with pride and mourn the loss of many friends on the battlefield.

We are the men and women who fought and served for the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. We wore different uniforms, but carried the same flag. We know

## Commander's Message

### Who Are We??

the words of the *Star Spangled Banner, America, and America, the Beautiful* by heart...and you may even see some tears running down our cheeks as we sing.

We are the men and women who have lived what many only read about in history books. We are the men and women that feel no obligation to apologize to anyone for America.

We are the men and women that loved this country enough to serve during wars and times of conflict. We are the ones that took the oath to defend America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. To those of us who served, that was the most important part of living.

We are the men and women that have suffered injuries or critical illnesses while on active duty. Those conditions will always continue to impact many of us, and seriously limit the quality and length of life.

that came together nearly 100 years ago and became an organization dedicated to making the lives better for disabled veterans and their families.

We are the men and women that despite our injuries and health, we have discovered that living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It is not a matter of circumstance, but rather...a CHOICE!

Who are we?? "WE" are *Disabled American Veterans*. If you are "One of Us", you should be with us!

If you are not a member, then fill out the Membership Application that follows this article. If you are a Member and currently are not active with a Chapter, then I encourage you to locate a Chapter near you and join us in "Making lives better for disabled veterans and their families".

Bob Blevins  
 State Commander

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan, 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026 • 1-888-448-2328

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP** Life Membership is permanent. Life Membership dues are as follows and may be paid in interest-free installments, following a minimum \$40.00 down payment

Age 40 and Under: \$250 • Age 41-60: \$230 • Age 61-70: \$180 • Age 71-79: \$140 • Age 80 and Older: FREE

NAME (last, first, middle initial) \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MALE  FEMALE BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ENLISTED: \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE DISCHARGED \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign/Expedition Medals Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

I have a service-connected disability rated at: \_\_\_\_\_% (0-100%)

Did you receive a Purple Heart?  YES Disability Discharge?  YES

Ex-POW?  YES Military Reared?  YES

Chapter Number and Location requested (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsors Name and Membership Code: \_\_\_\_\_

MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MASTERCARD  VISA  AMERICAN EXPRESS  DISCOVER CARD

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

VA CLAIM NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**CONVENTION Card, from page 1**

din Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. We will again be hosting a two-day DAV Service Officers Conference on Wednesday, June 5 and Thursday, June 6. Service Officers must attend both days in order to get certified and covered under the National Organization's indemnification program. The training is designed to educate DAV Chapter Service Officers to become more knowledgeable and efficient in processing claims for Veterans in their communities. New Service Officers (or those that want to refresh their skills) are asked to attend.

We are working on centralizing the meeting rooms for this year's Convention to make it easier for all members. The DAV and DAVA Joint Opening Session will now be held in the Spruce, Oak, Cedar and Birch Rooms, which are located just behind the registration area - the same rooms that host the Service Officer Conference.

The Joint Opening session is scheduled for Friday, June 7 at 10:00 a.m. Commander Bob Blevins will preside over Department sessions and DAVA State Commander Loraine Connelly will be chairing the Auxiliary Convention sessions.

You will also notice a new pre-registration form in this edition to register for the Service Officer Conference, as well as the DAV and DAVA Convention. New this year are the banquet meals; you are now given two choices for the banquet dinner. Please only select one (1) entrée when registering; you have a choice of: Bruschetta Bistro Fillet topped with Alfredo sauce, paired with Tuscan Chicken, roasted red skin potatoes and steamed asparagus with roasted red peppers - **OR** - Baked Whitefish with artichoke hearts and diced tomato with balsamic grilled veggies, served over brown rice. The Banquet will still be held in the Dream Maker's theater on Saturday, June 8.

Those who plan on attending the Convention are asked to pre-register as soon as possible. The cutoff date for pre-registration is May 20, 2013. If you are planning on attending the banquet on Saturday night, you must pre-register to guarantee a banquet ticket. There will only be a few limited banquet tickets available at registration and once those are sold, the event will be closed. Please use the pre-registration forms included in this edition of the paper for the DAV Department Convention and the DAVA Auxiliary Convention.

## Circulation Data

This publication was cleared for printing and mailing February 19, 2013  
 Circulation of this issue is 24,750 copies.



Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

There is a point in everyone's life when they have to be a team player. Whether it is just within your own Chapter, family, on a sports team or at work, being a team player is a necessary part of life. If you are a team player, you know the basics. If you aren't, it's probably time for some personal development. Learning to be a team player can open up new doors and opportunities for you as people recognize you and all that you have to offer.

**Suggestions for Being a DAV Team Player**

- **Be responsible.** If you are asked to do something – do it. If you need to be somewhere for the team, whether it is a meeting or to support the team at an event, be there and be on time.
- **Listen** to other team members without trying to guess what they are saying or judging them. This is called active listening. For some people, it's one of the hardest things to do.
- **Be supportive.** Compliment other members of the team when they have worked hard

**Executive Secretary/Adjutant's Message**

**Forward in 2013**

**How to Be a DAV Team Player**

to overcome a challenge. Sometimes a person who gives everyone support is more valuable than the most technically skilled member of the team.

- **Communicate effectively.** If you have a problem, explain it, tactfully, before it becomes too big. It's okay to let people know if you feel something isn't right; just remember to be respectful of other feelings when you express yourself.
- **Be flexible.** Even if you have always done it one way, be willing to try another way. There is more than one way to skin a cat.
- **Contribute.** Be willing to take on responsibilities and share the workload. This doesn't mean you have to be a martyr, but work with your teammates to make things happen.

**Chapter Website Information**

The DAV wants to enable every Chapter to have its own website. DAV is currently hosting these sites at **no charge** to its members.

The websites are pre-populated with some basic information for each Chapter. This information includes items such as officer listings and general contact information.

To get your site initially set up, and to confirm the contact person to maintain your site, each Chapter Commander or Adjutant must first complete a Website Application Form. Contact DAV National Headquarters

to complete the application.

**Keeping Abreast on National Constitution Bylaws and Regulations**

**Article 19 Section 19.2: Use of Members' Names and Addresses**

The names and addresses of the members of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, in whatever format, shall not be used for commercial purposes, in support of any partisan political action committee or for any political use, or for any purpose other than one directly connected to the activities of the organization. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit their use in fundraising as permitted in this Constitution and Bylaws. Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph may result in the imposition of penalties under Article 16 of these Bylaws, and to such other remedies as may be provided by law.

**Remember to remain committed to our purpose: "Building better lives for America's Disabled Veterans and their families."**

**YES! YOU "CAN"**

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE; JOIN THE COMMANDER'S GROUP ACTION NETWORK. Visit the DAV National Website at [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org) for Veterans Information.**

*"A good plan executed today is better than a perfect plan executed at some indefinite point in the future."*

*– General George Patton, Jr.*

**Past Department Commander's Message**



els of the organization, and the staff members at both State and National. Those people gave me the boost I needed to find my place to participate and serve as an active member and become an officer at all levels, including 10th District National Executive Committee member and State of Michigan Department Commander.

During my more active time, I have seen many changes in all our purposes to help Disabled Veterans and their families.

In the early years of 1970 through 2000, we saw a good growth in membership and activities. Times were good and we, as a viable working organization, were helping veterans and fulfilling our mission.

I would like to remember several of our Past Commanders, office staff and our great National, State and Chapter Service Officers and the many

hours, days and weeks that they have served to all our members.

It would be hard to name many of our Outstanding State, Chapter and National Officers and not remember each and every one; however, the one I must remind you all of is Past State and National Commander Bonnie Mailee, who was a mentor to me and many other officers. The time that I have spent as an active DAV member has been the highlight of my life.

I have seen many changes to our goals and activities that have only been set forth to better serve this organization; there have been many changes in the total membership and chapters that were in the top of both membership and the organization of four zones, a big Administrative Board and the office staff, to a smaller number of members to do the necessary work of this great organization.

Let us find a way to open our membership to the new and younger Veteran families, so we can keep up the real purpose of the Michigan DAV.

To all current Past State Commanders, I challenge you to remain active and help the Michigan DAV become a better organization.

May God bless you and your families.

**Russ Spalding  
Past Department Commander**

**DAV Department of Michigan  
2012-13 State Officers**

Note: All official mail should be sent to  
DAV Department of MI Headquarters  
at 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026

State Commander: Bob Blevins (26)  
W14582 U S Highway 2, Engadine, MI 49827, 906-477-0025

Sr. Vice Commander: Carl Poest (14)  
2465 Rhodora Drive, Zeeland, MI 49464, 616-772-6909

1st Jr Vice Commander: Les Schneider (63)  
8499 East M-71, #222, Durand, MI 48429, 989-429-4310

2nd Jr Vice Commander: JoLinda White (20)  
143 F Butler Street, Adrian, MI 49221, 517-266-8089

Chaplain: Michael Knutson (4)  
628 Cheryl Street, Saginaw, MI 48609, 734-845-3501

Judge Advocate: Billie Cardona (93)  
15623 S. Centerline, Rudyard, MI 49780, 906-478-3302

Adjutant/Executive Secretary: Rolly D Lee, Sr (129)  
17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026  
department@davmichigan.com

Treasurer: Roger Jansen (14)  
15707 New Holland Street, Holland, MI 49424, 616-399-1023

Inspector: John Lamphere (39)  
220 E Cass Street, Cadillac, MI 49601, 231-846-0446

**State Administrative Board:**

Chairman 2012-13: Fred R. George (17)  
540 Manitou Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085, 269-429-0312

Vice Chairman 2012-13: Gerald Cool (20)  
1465 Ogden Street, Jasper, MI 49248, 517-436-3343

Commander 2012-13: Bob Blevins (26)  
W14582 U S Highway 2, Engadine, MI 49827, 906-477-0055

Past Department Commander: Frank T. Shepherd (7)  
P.O. Box 1121, Battle Creek, MI 49016, 269-968-9841

Peier A. Sardo (16)  
1102 Horton Road, Holly, MI 48442, 248-328-0672

Evo Burcar (61)  
2761 Pearl Street, Alpena, MI 49707, 989-657-4622

John Lamphere (39)  
220 E Cass Street, Cadillac, MI 49601, 231-846-0446

Dan Mulcahey (66)  
N10425 Mount Zion Drive, Ironwood, MI 49938, 906-364-4610

**District Executive Committee Members:**

District 1: Thomas A. Dempster (114)  
8101 Bloomsbury Circle, Northville, MI 48167, 313-671-5517

District 2: James Dempsey (13)  
11717 Island Lake Road, Dexter, MI 48130, 734-424-0168

District 3: Chairman Rich Straub (2)  
15435 Snauble, Cedar Springs, MI 49319, 616-318-8664

District 4: Ben Benzoug (18)  
14910 Craft Road, Hersey, MI 49639, 231-832-5339

District 5: Rodney Lettmer (94)  
2324 E Wheeler Street, Midland, MI 48642, 989-837-1893

District 6: Billie Cardona (93)  
15623 S Centerline, Rudyard, MI 49780, 906-478-3302

**Membership Chairman's Message**

We have now started another new year and I am hoping that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. With the New Year comes resolutions, which most of us break right away, but I am hoping that one of the resolutions could be that you will become *more active in the DAV*, and not break that resolution.

As Membership Chairman, I am disappointed in the lack of participation that we had in our program to sign up new members. The Department was willing to contribute to full and paid off Life Membership. We are working on some new programs that hopefully will bring in new members.

Membership is the backbone of our organization; if you know of anyone who is eligible, sign them up and get them active. Try

to do other things in the Chapter other than just meetings and try to keep your meetings interesting. Some of the members that I have signed up have PTSD, and they don't think that is a disability, but it is. Also keep in mind the women veterans, because there are many of them. We are working on getting some information about membership and workshops to help members with officer's duties for the Chapter.

Remember, as Officers of the State, we are here to try to help our Chapters and keep them active. If you need any help, please don't hesitate to call a Line Officer or Department Headquarters.

**Carl Poest  
Senior Vice Commander  
Membership Chairman**

**\* Reminder \***

**Letters from Members**

Don't forget – we are still accepting letters from members to print in upcoming issues of the newspaper. If you have something you would like to share or an informative piece of information you would like to get out to other members,

please feel free to mail your letter to

DAV Department of Michigan  
17779 E. 14 Mile Road  
Fraser, MI 48026

We reserve the right to approve/disapprove/edit any articles received for publication

**Testimonial Dinner Honoring DAV State Commander Bob Blevins**

Friday, April 12, 2013

VFW Hall, 1110 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49780

Social Hour (w/cash bar) begins at 5:00 p.m. –  
Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

Please hold a reservation for me (us) at the upcoming Testimonial dinner honoring DAV State Commander Bob Blevins.

Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$25.00 per person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Menu: Chicken, Baked Whitefish, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad and Dinner Roll

Make check payable to Billie Cardona and forward with this completed form to: Billie Cardona, Testimonial Chairman, 15623 S. Centerline Road, Rudyard, MI 49780

**Testimonial Dinner for DAV State Commander Bob Blevins**

Arrangements have been finalized for the Testimonial Dinner for Commander Bob Blevins.

The Testimonial Dinner will be on Friday, April 12, 2013 at the VFW Hall located at 1110 N. State Street in St. Ignace, Michigan.

The Social Hour begins at 5:00 p.m. with a cash bar, and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner Menu: Chicken, Baked Whitefish, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad and dinner roll.

The Testimonial will be emceed by PDC Billie Cardona and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25.00 each. Persons wanting to attend are urged to pre-register by using the

coupon provided on this page.

Overnight accommodations in St. Ignace are available at:

Budget Host, 700 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49780 / Phone: 906-643-9666 – 1 Queen \$59.99 / 1 King \$63.20 / 2 Queens \$64.80

Voyager Inn, 750 US Hwy. 2 W, St. Ignace, MI 49780 / Phone: 906-643-1530 – 1 Queen \$59.99 / 2 Queens (Handicapped) \$59.99

Quality Inn, N561 Boulevard, St. Ignace, MI 49780 / Phone: 906-643-9700 – 2 Queens \$79.00 / 1 King \$89.00

Additional information regarding the dinner can be obtained by contacting Billie Cardona at 906-478-3302.

**POW/MIA Report**

As we start 2013, there are still more than 83,000 POW/MIA from WWII, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam and the 1991 Gulf War.

There are currently hundreds of D.O.D. men and women, military civilians working around the world trying to locate and recover and bring our missing home.

A total of four recoveries in January of this year have been announced in recent news releases. For the year 2012, a total of 75 missing service members were accounted for, thirteen (13) from WWII, forty (40) from Korea and twenty-two (22) from Vietnam.

So we do see that work is being done in trying to locate and identify the remains of our service members; however, I do not believe enough is being done to keep this issue before the American public. This is what I would ask each of you to do. How about if each of us were to fly a POW/MIA in front of our house...or wear a baseball cap with the POW/MIA logo on it...or wear the POW/MIA logo on your shirt or jacket?

I ask that you keep this issue before the American public, and also not to let your elected officials ever forget.

Harvey Slotman/PDC POW/MIA Advisor

**Testimonial Dinner Honoring DAVA State Commander Loraine Connelly**

Friday, April 19, 2013

Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150

Social Hour (with cash bar) begins at 5:30 p.m. –  
Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Please hold a reservation for me (us) at the upcoming Testimonial dinner honoring DAVA State Commander Loraine Connelly.

Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$30.00 per person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check Your Selection for Meal:

Petite Sirloin & Chicken Picatta Combination Plate OR

Past: Primavera sautéed with olive oil, herbs and fresh vegetables (gluten-free option)

Make check payable to DAVA 114 and mail to: Helen Wayne, 22056 Purdue Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

**Auxiliary Testimonial Dinner for DAVA State Commander Loraine Connelly**

Arrangements have been finalized for the Testimonial Dinner for Auxiliary Commander Loraine Connelly.

Testimonial Dinner will be on Friday, April 19, 2013 at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

Social Hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar, and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The evening program will follow dinner.

Dinner Menu: Petite Sirloin and Chicken Picatta combination plate or a vegetarian, gluten-free option of Pasta Primavera sautéed with olive oil, herbs and fresh vegetables.

Tickets are \$30.00 each. Persons wanting to attend are urged to pre-register by using the coupon provided on this page.

Overnight accommodations in Livonia are available at: Marriott Livonia, 17100 North

Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, MI 48152; (734) 462-3100 – King Room \$89.30. The hotel advised when making reservations, tell them you are a AAA member (they do not ask for the card) to receive discounted room rate – 62 years and older – \$88.40

Marriott Courtyard, 17200 North Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, MI 48152; (734) 462-2000 – King Room \$109.00. With AAA discount – \$80.00 to \$88.00

Quality Inn & Suites, 30375 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150; (734) 261-6800 – King Room \$59.00 / 2 Full Beds \$69.00

Red Roof Inn, 39700 Ann Arbor Road, Livonia, MI 48152; (734) 459-3300 – King \$64.99 / 2 Full Beds \$59.99 – 10% discount for AAA/Seniors

Additional Information regarding the dinner can be obtained by contacting Helen Wayne at 248-514-8737.

**Department of Michigan VAVS Representatives and Michigan Veterans Homes Chairmen**

**ANN ARBOR**  
VAVS Representative  
Kevin White  
143 E. Butler Street,  
Adrian 49221

**BAITLE CREEK**  
VAVS Representative  
Thomas Lightbody  
283 Ashton Lake Drive,  
Battle Creek 49015

**DETROIT**  
VAVS Representative  
Harold DeForest  
11826 Meteor Drive,  
Sterling Heights 48313

**IRON MOUNTAIN**  
VAVS Representative  
David Karban  
W7004 N 45 Road,  
Vulcan 49892

**SAGINAW**  
VAVS Representative  
Jean Bolyard  
5453 Vanalco Drive,  
Saginaw 48638

**STATE VETERANS HOME – GRAND RAPIDS**  
Chairman Richard A. Straub III  
15435 Snauble,  
Cedar Springs 49319

**STATE VETERANS HOME – MARQUETTE**  
VAVS Representative  
Garry Henshaw  
145 Sheryl Street,  
Marquette 49855

Donation checks should be made payable to the respective DAV VAVS representatives or chairmen as indicated, and mailed to their address. Please **DO NOT** make checks payable to the medical center or veterans' home.

**Legislative Chairman's Message**

Fellow Comrades, listed below is a listing of our Elected Officials that are on the House Committee on Military and Veterans affairs for 2013-2014. They are responsible to all Veterans and their families. Remind them to do the right thing for Veterans.

**House Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs for 2013-2014:**  
Jim Stamas (R) – Committee Chair, 98th District  
Ray Franz (R) – Majority Vice Chairman, 101st District  
Gail Haines (R) – 43rd District  
Kenneth Kurtz (R) – 58th District  
Tom Kooker (R) – 77th District

Dale Zorn (R) – 56th District  
Joseph Graves (R) – 51st District  
Harvey Santana (D) – Minority Vice Chairman, 9th District  
George Darany (D) – 15th District  
Dian Slavens (D) – 21st District  
Brian Banks (D) – 1st District  
Henry Yanez (D) – 25th District  
Robert Kosowski (D) – 16th District  
Ben Cook, Committee Clerk: 517-373-2002

**Anderson House Office Building**  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514  
Phone: 517-373-6339  
businessoffice@house.mi.gov

**Capitol Building**  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514  
Clerk's Office: 517-73-0135  
clerk@house.mi.gov

Also, here are some of the Bills that the committee is working on so far this year.

Senate Bill SB 0035 of 2013: Traffic Control; Driver's License; designation of veteran status on driver's license.

Senate Bill SB 0082 of 2013: Military affairs; other; restriction of activities by Michigan National Guard and state and local employees; provide for

under certain circumstances; creates new act.

Senate Bill SB 0129 of 2013: Vehicles; fundraising registration plates; specialty plate to recognize women veterans; create.

House Bill HB 4020 of 2013: Crimes; other; making false representation about military status; prohibit under certain circumstances and provide penalties.

House Bill HB 4124 of 2013: Veterans; other; veteran's ombudsman; create new act.

Les Schneider  
DAV Legislative Chairman

**District Chapters / Department Officers / Executive Committeemen**

**District 1 Chapters:** 1-3-12-16-19-42-44-51-60-83-102-107-113-114-116-119-127-129  
**Department Officer:** 1st Jr Vice  
Commander: Les Schneider (63)  
**Executive Committeemen:**  
Thomas Dempsey (114)  
**District 2 Chapter:** 8-10-13-20-63-64-68-88-125

**Department Officer:** 2nd Jr Vice  
Commander: Jolinda White (20)  
**Executive Committeemen:**  
James Dempsey (13)  
**District 3 Chapters:** 2-6-7-11-14-17  
**Department Officer:** Sr Vice  
Commander: Carl Post (14)  
**Executive Committeemen:**  
Rich Snub (2)

**District 4 Chapters:** 18-38-39-43-105-106  
**Department Officer:** 2nd Jr Vice  
Commander: Jolinda White (20)  
**Executive Committeemen:** Ben  
Brazing (18)  
**District 5 Chapters:** 4-61-73-75-94-100-117-130  
**Department Officer:** Sr Vice

Commander: Carl Post (14)  
**Executive Committeemen:** Rodney  
Latimer (94)  
**District 6 Chapters:** 22-23-24-25-26-37-66-67-69-95-115  
**Department Officer:** Commander  
Bob Blevins (26)  
**Executive Committeemen:** Billie  
Cedone (93)



Douglas Wells

Service Director's Message

Deployment of Paperless Claims Processing System Underway

remaining 38 regional offices, to include Detroit, in 2013.

"For our Veterans, VBMS will mean faster, higher-quality and more consistent decisions on claims. We recognize that too many Veterans are waiting too long to get the benefits they have earned, and that is unacceptable. This is a decades-old problem, and we are implementing a robust plan to address it," said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "For our employees, VBMS will be a more user-friendly system that offers better access to decision-level information, rules-based calculators and automated tools that help them process claims more consistently."

This marks a major milestone in VA's transformation of the processes and systems used to deliver benefits to Veterans, their families and survivors, even while the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has completed a record-breaking 1 million claims per year the last three fiscal years. Critical to VA's transformation is ending the reliance on the outmoded paper-intensive processes which prevent timely and accurate claims processing. VA is deploying technology solutions which improve access, drive automation, reduce variance, and enable faster and more efficient operations to eliminate the backlog.

The current backlog of claims is the result of increased demand, over a decade of war with many

Veterans returning with severe, complex injuries, and increased outreach to Veterans informing them of their benefits. Secretary Shinseki also made important decisions to recognize medical conditions related to Agent Orange service in Southeast Asia, and to simplify the process to file claims for combat PTSD. These decisions expanded access to benefits for hundreds of thousands of Veterans and brought significantly more claims into the system.

VBMS was pilot-tested at select regional offices between 2010 and 2012, with improvements and greater functionality added to system software releases throughout the testing period. In pilot programs, the new system cut the time to process claims nearly in half. The most recent version of VBMS software allows VA claims representatives to:

- establish Veterans' claims entirely in a digital environment as "e-folders"
- receive, store and view Veterans' submitted claim documents electronically
- identify and track the evidence VA needs from beneficiaries and other outside sources
- quickly direct claims electronically among regional offices to better match VA's workload with available workforce capacity.

The system also enables VA claims processors to access online rules-based calculators and drop-down menus to enhance standardization and accuracy of decisions, for both electronic claims and those received by VA in paper form and uploaded into VBMS. Processors will also use VBMS to generate letters to Veterans concerning their claim status and send requests to private physicians for medical records needed to evaluate claims.

When VBMS is combined with VA's other Transformation initiatives – including improved claims rater training, cross-functional claims handling teams and prioritized lanes to speed processing based on type of claim – VA will be positioned to meet Secretary Eric K. Shinseki's priority goal of processing Veterans' claims in 125 days or less, at 98 percent accuracy, by the end of 2015.

"DAV has closely participated in the VA's development of the VBMS and other initiatives to not only reduce the claims backlog, but also to improve the decision-making process for the benefit of veterans," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski.

"The recent reassignment of nearly one-third of VA's veterans service representatives from Agent Orange claims to backlog claims and other streamlining measures will make a difference," Jesinoski said.

For more information on VA's transformation go to <http://benefits.va.gov/transformation/>

The Department of Veterans Affairs is currently transitioning to paperless processing of Veterans' disability claims at its regional offices. This new system is called the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) – and will hopefully help VA eliminate the backlog. VA is predicting a significant reduction or altogether elimination of the backlog by 2015.

"Our approach to claims processing is being modernized to better serve Veterans and address the complex claims our employees are dealing with every day," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We continue to transform our claims system to be more responsive through new processes and technology, because taking care of our Veterans and their loved ones is our highest priority."

As of December 2012, eighteen VA regional offices have implemented the new system and are beginning to process newly received compensation claims in an entirely digital format. The VA is on track for full deployment of the system to the

2013 Mobile Service Office Locations

Week 1

July 8, 2013  
 Escanaba  
 Delta Co. Chapter 24  
 VFW Post 2998  
 904 Sheridan Road, P.O. Box 276  
 Escanaba, MI 49829  
**CONTACT:**  
 Sandra Salchert (906) 786-0498

July 9, 2013

Newberry  
 Manistique Chapter 26  
 Comfort Inn  
 13954 M-28  
 Newberry, MI 49868  
**CONTACT:**  
 Aaron Fulton (906) 477-9019

July 10, 2013

Sault Ste. Marie  
 VA Out-Patient Clinic  
 509 Osborn Boulevard, Suite 306  
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
**CONTACT:**  
 Brad Nelson  
 (906) 744-3300, Ext. 32001  
 IM VAMC Public Affairs  
 Ken Greenfield (906) 748-1861  
 SSM Hospital Property Manager

July 11, 2013

St. Ignace  
 Straits Chapter 93  
 VFW Hall  
 1110 North State Street  
 St. Ignace, MI 49781  
**CONTACT:**  
 Billie Cardona (906) 440-5559

Week 2

July 15, 2013  
 Grand Rapids  
 William Alden Smith, Jr. Chapter 2  
 DAV Memorial Home  
 4809 Eastern Avenue, SE  
 Kentwood, MI 49508  
**CONTACT:**  
 Steve Pruitt (616) 308-1194

July 16, 2013

Lansing  
 State of Michigan  
 Office of Veterans Affairs  
 2423 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
 Lansing, MI 48906  
**CONTACT:**  
 Rob Price (517) 256-4807

July 17, 2013

Jackson  
 William Sparks Chapter 10  
 American Legion Post 29  
 3200 Lansing Avenue  
 Jackson, MI 49202  
**CONTACT:**  
 William Tripp (517) 414-9819

July 18, 2013

Livonia  
 Livonia Chapter 114  
 DAV Hall  
 30905 Plymouth Road  
 Livonia, MI 48150  
**CONTACT:**  
 Thomas Dempster (313) 671-6517

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The Bulletin Board

- DETROIT 1, 2nd Wed, 8 p.m. DAV Home, 12221 Pavilion St., Detroit 48227
- GRAND RAPIDS 2, 1st Thurs, 7 p.m., 4801 Eastlawn Ave. SE, Kentwood 49508
- GENESEE 3, 1st Mon, 7 p.m. DAV Home, 4270 E. 3rd St. Rd., Burton 48519
- GLANAW 4, 1st Mon, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 439, 5190 West St., Saginaw 49603
- KALAMAZOO BUCK-CROSBY 6, 4th Wed, 8 p.m., VFW Post 1527, 1920 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo 49001
- CALHOUN COUNTY CHAPTER 7, 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. at 101 E. Columbia Ave., Belle Creek 49015
- CAPITOL CITY 8, 2nd Mon, (Except July and August), 7 p.m. 9000 Howe, 125 E. Main, Lansing 48902  
 Mail: P. O. Box 24141, Lansing 48909
- WIM SPARKS 10, 2nd Wed, 6:30 p.m., American Legion Post 28, 3200 Lansing Ave., Jackson 49022
- WOOD-TAZELAAR 11, 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., 2415 E. Lakosian Ave., Muskegon 49449
- PORT HURON 12, 2nd Mon, Social 6 p.m.; Meeting 7 p.m., 2115 Military St., Port Huron 48060
- WASHTENAW COUNTY 13, 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. (Closed July 2012 and Dec. 2012) Great-O-Haul VFW Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Rd., (betw. Saline & Ann Arbor Rds.) Ann Arbor 48106
- HOLLAND 14, 1st Thurs, 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1185 West Urban Dr., Holland 49423
- PONTIAC 16, 2nd Wed, 7 p.m., VFW Post 1370, 791 1/2 Mile, Pontiac 48340
- TWIN CITIES 17, 1st Thurs, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge, 2160 Union Street, Benton Harbor 49022
- BIG RAPIDS 18, 2nd Thurs, 8:30 p.m., 402 N. Michigan Ave., Big Rapids 49307
- SOUTH OAKLAND 19, 2nd Wed, 7 p.m., 2717 Goodale Hwy., Berkley 48072
- LENAWE COUNTY 20, 2nd Wed, 8 p.m., 141 E. Albee St., Adrian 49221
- MARQUETTE COUNTY 22, 3rd Mon, 7:30 p.m., 101 Jacobus Home, 425 Fisher Street, Marquette 49855
- CLOVERLAND CHAPTER 23, 3rd Thurs, 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1227 West Green Ave., Kingsford 49022
- DELTA COUNTY 24, 1st Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 904 Shandon Rd., Escanaba 49829
- MEMORISSE COUNTY 25, 1st Thurs, 8 p.m., Senior Citizen Center, 905 10th St., Menominee 49858
- MANISTIQUE 26, 4th Thursday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 344 N. Maple, Manistique 49854
- ALLEN ALTO 28, 3rd Thurs, 7 p.m., American Military League, 2425 Sylvania, Traverse City 49736
- INLAND LAKES 29, 1st Thurs, 7 p.m., AMVETS Hall, 127 W. Cera St., Cadillac 49624
- SALT CITY 31, 1st Tues of month, 7:30 p.m., VFW Post, 28th St., Menasha 49660
- MONROE COUNTY 42, 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., Divides Veterans (cop., 418 Durban St., Dundee 48131)
- MICOMI COUNTY 44, 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Post 7573, 35011 28 Mile Rd., New Baltimore 48067
- CPL. IAN M. GRAY 51, 2nd Thurs, 7:30 p.m., DAV Hall, 6117 Chaska Rd. (near Ford Rd.) Dearborn 48128
- O'CONNOR-REINHART 52, 2nd Thurs, 7 p.m., National Guard Armory, 1170 E. Poniaque Ave., Sault Ste. Marie 49783
- CASIMIR ZABIK 60, 2nd Tues, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 25500 Sherwood (between 10 and 11 Mile Roads), Centerville 48015
- THUNDER BAY 61, 2nd Wednesday, 8 p.m., DAV Memorial Home, 1020 U.S. 29 North, P.O. Box 855, Alpena 49707
- SHAWASSEE COUNTY 63, 1st Tues, 8 p.m., Shawassee Council on Aging, 300 N. Washington St., Oshtemo 49307
- CLINTON COUNTY 64, 1st Wed, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 153, 110 E. Walker St., St. Johns 48379
- NORTHLAND CHAPTER 66, 1st Tuesday, 8 p.m. (Even numbered months), American Legion, Post 5, McLeod Ave., Ironwood 49036
- CHIPPEWA 67, 2nd Thurs, 8 p.m., VFW 3134, 4 E. Geneva St., Iron River 49832
- HILLSDALE 68, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., 229 East Main St., North Adams 49892
- MUNISING 69, 1st Friday, 7 p.m., DAV/VVA Clubhouse, E.8025 Jingle Bell Ln., Christmas 49867
- OSHTEMO HILLS 73, 3rd Monday, 8 p.m., Cummings Township Hall, 751 Morrison Rd. (South of Sege Lake Rd.), Rose City 49854
- THOMAS MEMORIAL 75, 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., American Legion, 110 W. Frank St., Caro 48723
- COL. HAMTRAMCK CHAPTER 83, 3rd Saturday, 4:30 p.m., PLAV Post 6, 9545 McDougall, Hamtramck 48212
- JACK JOHNSTON 83, 2nd Thurs, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 284 Fawn River Road, Sturgis 49091
- STRAITS 89, 3rd Thurs, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 1110 N. State Street, St. Ignace 48781
- MIDLAND COUNTY 94, 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 3013 Bay City Rd., Midland 48840
- STANDISH 100, 1st Tues, 2 p.m., VFW 3724, 3458 N. Huron, Standish 48858
- KARL H. BROWN 102, 3rd Tues, 8:30 p.m., American Legion Post 426, 2623 W. Jefferson, Trenton 48163
- WILSON-BLACKMER 108, 2nd and 4th Tues, 7 p.m., 9480 School St., Lake 48932  
 Second meeting is social meeting. Auxiliary meets at same time and place as chapter.
- PLAY RIVER CHAPTER 106, 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., 344 S. E. Mi. Hope, Casson City 48811
- EAST DETROIT 107, 3rd Wed of Quarter, 8 p.m., VFW Post 6782, 17945 East Nine Mile, Eastpointe 48021
- WILLIAM C. FORD 113, 4th Wed, 8 p.m., VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft Road, Redford 48239
- LIVONIA 114, 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., DAV Home, 30905 Plymouth Rd., Livonia 48150
- DR. PERCY H. WILSON 116, 2nd Tues, 8:30 p.m., Chassel VFW, U.S. 41, Chassel 48096  
 Auxiliary meets at same time
- JAMES V. PELLEGRINI/LINCOLN PARK 116, 2nd Wed, 8 p.m., American Legion Club, 1430 Southfield, Lincoln Park 48148
- HALEY BROTHERS 117, 1st Tuesday of month, 8:30 p.m., Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, 1800 Weiss St., Saginaw 48602
- ST. CLAIR SHORES 119, 3rd Thurs, 7:00 p.m., VFW 3424 Post, 1148, 28404 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores 48081
- REBEY - J. DEPRATO 125, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., American Legion Club, 3285 W. Grand River, Howell 48343
- SHIBUYCK-ROMANO 127, 1st Mon, 7 p.m., VFW Post 3130, 6782 New Hope Rd. (at Sherwood), Warren 48091
- ROBERT H. COX 129, 1st Tues, 7 p.m., DAV Hall, 47326 Sandpiper, Shelby Twp 48317
- TAWAS BAY 130, 4th Mon, 7 p.m., East Tawas City Community Bldg., 760 Newman, E. Tawas 48730

## Chapter/Unit Reminders, Notices and Updates

**Washtenaw County Chapter 13:** Special notice to all members of Washtenaw County DAV Chapter 13. Chapter meetings are the third (3rd) Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except July and December. Meeting place: Graf-O-Hara VFW Post 423, 2320 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor (Between Ann Arbor and Saline)

**Special Meeting Dates:**  
March 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. for Election of Officers

April 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. for Installation of Officers

Thank you Commander Gary R. Bourdeau and Adjutant August Wallman.

**Livonia Chapter and Unit 114:** Attention, Livonia Chapter and Unit Members: First Nominations and Elections will be April 15, 2013.

Second Nominations, Election and Installation of Officers will be May 20, 2013.

Thank you, Commander

Thomas Dempster and DAVA/Unit Commander Loraine Connelly.

**Cpl. Ian M. Gray Chapter 51:** Chapter Commander Thomas Houle and Chapter member John Ruselowski spent Veterans Day at Mary-Crest Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation in Livonia, meeting with

Sister Alexine and Joana Lobuono, Director of Activities. Commander Houle and Member Ruselowski presented colors and then recited the Pledge of Allegiance; they also gave each resident a flag. All residents and Commander Houle and Member Ruselowski had a great time.



*Pictured, L-R: Sister Alexine, Director of Activities Joana Lobuono, Commander Chapter 51 Thomas Houle and Chapter member John Ruselowski.*

## Free Income Tax Preparation for Veterans and Seniors

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Phone: 1-888-227-7669

AARP – American Association of Retired People

**District 1 Chapters:** 1-3-12-16-19-42-44-51-60-83-102-113-114-116-119-127-129

**District 2 Chapters:** 8-10-13-20-63-64-68-88-125

**District 3 Chapters:** 2-6-7-11-14-17

**District 4 Chapters:** 18-38-39-43-105

**District 5 Chapters:** 4-61-73-75-94-100-117-130

**District 6 Chapters:** 23-22-24-25-26-52-66-67-69-93-115

## VA Extends Health Care, Compensation for Gulf War Illness

The VA has extended presumptive service-connection for Gulf War veterans suffering from undiagnosed and medically unexplained chronic multi-system illnesses to December 31, 2016. The claims filing period had been set to expire at the end of 2012.

“This is a sound decision by the VA because researchers are still baffled by the extensive illnesses suffered by veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf War,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. “It’s crucial that the VA continues to provide service-connected health care and compensation to the men and women who served in that war.”

“Gulf War veterans are suffering from multiple symptoms that include persistent memory and concentration problems, chronic headaches, widespread pain, gastrointestinal problems

and other chronic abnormalities,” said National Service Director Garry Augustine. “At present, no effective treatments have been identified for Gulf War illness, and studies indicate that few veterans have recovered from their symptoms.”

Congress initially approved a 1994 law granting presumptive service connection for two years to the veterans experiencing chronic, undiagnosed illnesses that include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders and memory problems. Due to a lack of scientific understanding about the nature and cause of Gulf War illnesses, which affect more than 175,000 veterans, VA has extended service connection several times.

“The prevalence of these illnesses has continued nearly unabated since the war,”

Jesinoski said. “Extension of the presumption of service connection is warranted, and will now cover a period of 25 years after the war ended.”

“Gulf War illness is an example of the continuing cost of war paid for by the suffering of our veterans long after the battles have been fought,” he said. “While the war lasted less than 100 hours, the price of our victory will extend far into the future. Most of the criticism of the VA’s most recent extension is that 2016 is not long enough.”

“DAV has urged the VA to continue medical and scientific studies to determine the cause and nature of the multi-symptom illnesses affecting our veterans,” said Augustine. “The VA-supported studies by the National Academy of Sciences continue.”

## Chaplain’s Message

By Michael Knutson, LTC U.S. Army (Ret.) State Chaplain

### Is There a Place for God?

*Which commandment is the first of all? “The first is, ‘Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” – Mark 12: 28-31*

Recent events have occurred where individuals with no apparent reason have committed atrocities that have touched the hearts of every American. People ask and wonder why a God of love allows evil things to happen.

Maybe the answer to this question is not so difficult. Let me try and explain with a couple of comparisons. What is dark? Is it not the absence of light? Light can be measured, but darkness cannot be measured. Starting from total darkness, as light is added, we begin to see. What is cold? Is it not the absence of heat? Heat can be measured, but cold cannot be measured. Starting from absolute zero, as heat is added, the temperature begins to rise and we feel warmth.

So what is evil? Evil is nothing more than the absence of God or the absence of the value and respect of all creation. If

we remove God or the value and respect of creation in what we do every day in our dealings in our government, communities, neighbors, and in our families, then good is replaced with evil.

I am a simple-minded man who still keeps wondering and asking, “Is there a place for God in our country?” My answer is simple and absolute. God must have a place in everything that we do. And just as important, there must be a respect and value for all creation. God gave us two great commandments. The first is to love God with all that we are. And the second is no less than the first, to love our neighbors as ourselves.

When I think about veterans, I am reminded that they are living reminders of love of God, love of country and love for each other. To my fellow DAV members, lets us be united in love for God, in love for our country and love for our neighbor. Go and be of service to all.

God is good and God is love. Life is good. Let your life be a reflection of how much you care and how much you love. God loves you and so do I.

Michael Knutson, LTC  
US Army (Ret.)  
State Chaplain

## TAPS

| Name.....                  | Chapter | Name.....                 | Chapter |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Melvin Winn .....          | 2       | Dale C. Merrilat .....    | 20      |
| Carl Phillips .....        | 6       | Maurice Rider .....       | 20      |
| Mack Bates.....            | 8       | James Rinehart.....       | 20      |
| Victor Panozzo.....        | 11      | Kenneth Sell .....        | 20      |
| Sherman R. Ver Plank ..... | 11      | Robert L. Stevens.....    | 20      |
| Plymouth L. Freed.....     | 13      | Edward C. Stuydam .....   | 20      |
| Milton B. Scakett .....    | 13      | Kenneth Anderson.....     | 24      |
| Harold Bohl.....           | 14      | Francis DeRocher .....    | 24      |
| Cliff Fero.....            | 14      | Walter Joque.....         | 24      |
| Ralph Forsten.....         | 14      | Joseph W Stier .....      | 24      |
| Rhine Kars .....           | 14      | William A. Benchley ..... | 25      |
| Ed Nyland .....            | 14      | Charles A. Ball, Jr. .... | 33      |
| Donald Tuls .....          | 14      | George Fatses .....       | 33      |
| Harold Vande Bunte .....   | 14      | William Johnson .....     | 33      |
| Raymond J Guminski .....   | 17      | Robert Kolat .....        | 33      |
| Walter H. Kurata .....     | 17      | Richard B. Lukowski.....  | 33      |
| Robert C. Lozmack .....    | 17      | Louis R. Sebald.....      | 33      |
| Robert I McCoy .....       | 17      | Raymond Sischo .....      | 69      |
| Roger E Simpson .....      | 17      | Virgil Brewer.....        | 105     |
| Alfred Lee Drews .....     | 18      | Robert V. Gursky .....    | 114     |
| Harold W Camron .....      | 20      | PDC Lowell McKeohan ..... | 114     |
| James R. Faulaber .....    | 20      | George Agney .....        | 116     |
| Eustace C. Fields.....     | 20      | Edward Ramey .....        | 116     |
| Richard P. Gaver.....      | 20      |                           |         |

Entries for this column must be submitted to Department headquarters, in writing, no later than 45 days after the member’s death. Send notice to: DAV, Attn: TAPS, 17779 East Fourteen Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026. You may also send entries via e-mail to: [michelle@davmichigan.com](mailto:michelle@davmichigan.com)

## Women Veterans Committee

As we get started with the New Year and work on our resolutions, I ask that everyone take a moment to reach out to our sister veterans.

The articles in *DAV Magazine*, January/February issue, “Honoring Women” and “Celebrating Her Story”, were the inspiration for this article and if you skipped over them, go back and read them. It has been over 15 years since

the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) memorial got its start honoring women veterans. Many, including myself, helped to charter this memorial so that future generations could see the contributions of service-women to our great country. The Memorial is at the gateway of Arlington National Cemetery and is a legacy for future generations. In today’s military, the roles

that women fill have expanded beyond those of even 20 years ago when I served. The women of today’s military suffer combat wounds like their brothers in arms, losing limbs, eyesight, Traumatic Brain Injury and much more. Previous generations of women veterans may not stand out in a crowd, your neighbor may have an aunt that served, your child may have a teacher

that served or one could be a nurse that works in your local hospital. It is a challenge to find out who has been in the military; however, always be on the lookout for the usual signs – hats, T-shirts and such – and reach out. Find out if she is in the VA system, has a service officer, and if she is eligible for membership or is a member already. Get her a service officer if needed and

invite her out to your meetings. I make a challenge to all female DAV members not active to find out your chapter’s meeting date, time and location and get active. Your contribution is important; get involved and help bring about change, one voice at a time.

Jo Linda White  
Women Veterans Committee  
Chairman



Loraine Connelly

Auxiliary Commander's Message

Service and Support Fund

Have someone nominate you at the meeting or nominate yourself. There are many good, capable people out there who could do this simple job and I would love to see some new faces.

The Auxiliary Future

I worry about the future of the Auxiliary. We have been around so long that many inside and outside of the organization take for granted that we will always be here. With dwindling membership and low attendance at most Unit meetings, the survival of our remaining Units is being threatened.

I'm reaching out to Auxiliary members who read the state paper, but may never have attended a Unit meeting and potential members. We need you. Please find out when the next meeting in your area will be and walk in there and introduce yourself. I guarantee you will be welcome! Tell them I sent you! Any relative of a veteran is eligible for membership, so bring a friend with you if you like.

Think for a moment, what it would be like if the Auxiliary was no longer here to assist our veterans and their families. We are the ones who take the time to visit veterans in the hospitals and we see how they appreciate the time we spend with them. We are the ones who take the first step toward a young veteran or their family. We are the ones that write letters concerning veterans to our congressmen. We are the ones that assist our Chapters, make lap robes, take essential items to the hospitals and keep in touch with sick veterans and their families. What if all of that just stopped one day?

Family members with a loved one serving in the military or who have come home to deal with a disability, need us. Nothing replaces the compassionate hand on the arm that says, "I understand". That's who we are and why belonging to the Auxiliary is so rewarding. If we don't do it...who will?

I know it's hard for older members to embrace younger members with new ideas and it may make us a little uncomfortable. But, if we don't allow some changes so that new members find us a comfortable fit, then the Auxiliary

will not survive. Please...attend a meeting and try us on for size.

Last Monday a new DAV member came up to me and said if the Auxiliary has another garage sale his wife wants to help us...and she wants to come to the next meeting. Besides having a fresh new member and badly needed help, it also meant that this woman, without being approached, has been thinking about us and wanting to join and help the DAV Auxiliary. Many potential members are out there and some of them have even given the DAV Auxiliary some thought! Be The Thread...reach out and approach potential members. Give those that have us in mind an opportunity to join before another organization snags these good people up.

"Murder In Margaritaland"

The Commander's Reception at the State Convention is Friday, June 7. The Luau-themed Murder Mystery is titled "Murder In Margaritaland".

Check in at the Water's Edge at 6:30 p.m. The Mystery starts promptly at 7 p.m. I encourage everyone to don your most colorful beach or Luau outfit and attend. It's much more fun to play along. Though EVERYONE that attends will be assigned a character at the party, we need 20 Main Characters (10 female and 10 male) who will need to attend dressed as their character. If you are interested, please let me know and I will give your name to the committee. As in the past, there will be a light meal and refreshments.

My Testimonial Dinner date has been set for Friday, April 19 in Livonia.

The State Convention is June 7-9.

Forget-Me-Not Luncheon will be Saturday, June 8. Call Barb McComb at 734-476-8689 or Linda Walters at 616-402-5856 for tickets. Ticket price is \$15 each (Tentative).

Don't forget that you must make quota by April 1 to receive a Mae Holmes award.

Loraine Connelly  
Auxiliary State Commander

One Member at a Time...

By Barbara McComb, Auxiliary State Membership Chairman

"Is the glass half full or half empty?" We have had declining membership; however, we can make a difference. We can REACH OUT and MAKE A CONNECTION and MAKE A DIFFERENCE. I borrowed these words from our Commander Loraine Connelly. She asked us to be a strong thread and connection to all members, new members, hospitalized veterans, shut-ins, our communities and to work together. Abraham Lincoln once stated, "The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time."

The best thing about Membership is that it comes one new member at a time. A new member, a delinquent member, transferred member...one day at a time. My glass is not empty! I hope yours is half full and we can build our Units and build new Units.

Congratulations to Unit 12 Port Huron, Unit 68 Hillsdale and Unit 73 Ogemaw Hills for making Quota!! For our State Quota we are short 168 members. We are short 168 members. We are keep trying - some Units only need one new member - we still have time.

We will be giving \$90.00 towards a Life Membership this year. All senior members that have signed up for Life Membership (July 1, 2012 to April 1, 2013) will go into a drawing and four (4) winners will be drawn at State Convention. The money will go to National to help pay their Life Membership. Our top recruiter will receive \$40.00 this year.

National is offering incentives for a recruiter of 5, 10, 15 New Senior Members and for the top membership recruiter a sum of \$250.00. It is time...to Go for the GOLD.

Adjutant Ad Libs

By Carol Gray, State Adjutant



As of this writing, there are eight Units who have not sent their state mandate. That mandate was due in October. Remember - if your mandates are not paid, your Unit delegates will not have a vote at the State Convention and they can only be registered as guests.

Should your Unit choose to complete the annual program reports, the postmark date must be no later than May 15, 2013. To qualify for the Mae Holmes Award, a Unit must have attained their membership quota by April 1, 2013. It is important to complete this report, even if you did not attain your quota, as a copy of this report is

sent to the NEC for the report they must file with National Headquarters. I'm sure that you want all of the good works your Unit has done to be included.

We will again have an auction at the Convention on Thursday, June 6, 2013. New items, collectibles and/or gently used items are gratefully accepted.

My years of serving as your State Adjutant have been enjoyable, interesting and challenging at times and it has been a pleasure to have held that position 19 of the last 25 years. Last October, I informed State Commander Loraine Connelly and State Senior Vice Commander Anna Lockwood that I would be stepping aside from that position. Thanks to all of you for your assistance and cooperation over these many years.

Auxiliary Reminders

By State Sr. Vice Commander Anna Lockwood, Auxiliary State Mae Holmes Chairman

As this New Year begins, I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. There are seasons for many of your Auxiliary projects. Due to the weather, our projects tend to be more indoor projects. My Unit is not much into quilt making, but some make hats and scarves for the community and mitten trees at the churches. We also bring in cards for Christmas and Valentines, and take them to the Veterans at our Bingo and yes, the Junior members also help out.

This is also a good time to check on our new Legislation and write those Legislative letters and

make phone calls; many are newly elected and have just taken office in January. They like hearing about our thoughts on the issues.

Now is also the time to start thinking about spring and summer projects, making plans for Memorial Day activities and parades, Fourth of July and county fairs - these are great places to promote the organization and membership.

Don't forget about your reports. With new membership, Bylaws have been ratified; our membership is now open to a wide group of people and this can help you to make quotas.

Pre-Registration Form for DAVA Auxiliary and Units  
2013 DAV/DAVA State Convention  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

DAV/DAVA Convention June 7-9, 2013

DAVA Convention Pre-Registration June 7-9, 2013

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Registering with Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(If Auxiliary Officer, print title and Unit Number)

DAVA (Choose only one)

Convention Registration Only \$30.00 ( )

Convention Registration & Banquet \$50.00 ( )

EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS \$35.00 EACH

Number of EXTRA tickets: ( )

NEW MENU ITEMS (Choose ONE from choices below)

Bruschetta Bistro Fille: topped with Alfredo sauce, paired with Tuscan Chicken, roasted red skin potatoes and steamed asparagus with roasted red peppers

- OR -  
Baked Whitefish with artichoke hearts and diced tomato with balsamic grilled veggies, served over brown rice

Bistro Fillet with Tuscan Chicken OR  Baked Whitefish with veggies

NO REFUNDS ISSUED FOR CANCELLATIONS MADE AFTER MAY 20, 2013

Check or Visa/MasterCard available for payment  
Call 1-888-448-2328 for credit card payments or mail form with check to  
DAV Dept Headquarters, 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026

All tickets will be in registration packet, to be picked up at Registration at Water's Edge

Certified credentials MUST BE presented at Registration Desk.

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 20, 2013



**Pictured are Fraser High school students who brought in Christmas cards for the Detroit VA. Pictured in center front, L-R: VAVS Chairman Harold De Forest and Chapter 129 Member Mike Angelo. Pictured in center back, L-R: VAVS Deputy Bill Dezur and Chapter 129 Adjutant Dave Olson.**



**Santa (Eugene Wolfbauer) and Chapter 129 member Mike Angelo at the Detroit VA Christmas Party. Mike celebrated his 93rd birthday with a surprise party given by DAV Detroit VAVS Chairman Harold DeForest and Santa.**

## Honoring Women Veterans

In October, women veterans of every branch of the armed forces and every era of service had tremendous reason to celebrate their legacy. The Women in Military Service for America Memorial marked its 15th anniversary of honoring women veterans, and hundreds poured in from around the country to help celebrate the dedication of this beautiful memorial to our servicewomen.

From the earliest days of women's service in the military, their contributions have been invaluable. The same is true within our own organization, and as I watch our membership grow, I hope to see continued increases in the number of women veterans who choose to make DAV a part of their post-military lives.

Increasingly, DAV has moved in a direction that includes our women veterans and that can only bring great things to our community. We need to be ever expanding our focus to include the service and sacrifices of the women who have stood alongside our men-in-arms throughout the years.

So many women, especially those who served during World War II and the wars in Korea and Vietnam, have had their service go unrecognized for many years. Oftentimes they are not asked about their military service, but they are nonetheless a vital part of our nation's history and a key part of the DAV mission for the future.

One of the biggest challenges we face in this arena is identifying women who may be eligible

for membership. Too often, we look past them in the crowd and forget to ask women if they may be veterans of our armed forces. We should no longer be surprised to hear that a young mother of two is a Marine war veteran, that our neighbor served as an Army nurse in Vietnam or that the woman who sits next to us at worship services is a fighter pilot in the Air Force.

Today, the roles women fill have expanded to every corner of the military. This year has brought tremendous changes to the types of career fields and training programs that are open to our servicewomen. It is an exciting time for women, and it is an especially important time for DAV to welcome the brave women who have sacrificed so much for this nation.

Building a strong presence of our sisters-in-arms is one of the most important facets of our membership mission. DAV has always been out front on women veterans' issues, and the huge influx of women currently filtering into the veterans' community presents us the chance to bring untold experience, expertise and enthusiasm into our fold. If we show women veterans we are here for them, that they don't have to go it alone, and that they have a home and a family with DAV, our mission to fulfill promises to veterans will only grow stronger.

*Article taken from DAV National website*

## Wreaths Across America

The nonprofit organization Wreaths Across America hosted a wreath event at the Great Lakes National Cemetery on December 15, 2012. Chapter 19 member, John Williams, was one of over 4,000 volunteers that braved the cold weather to place wreaths on our heroes' gravesites.

Wreaths Across America's mission - Remember, Honor and Teach - is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies on a specific Saturday in December at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as veteran's cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. The events are made up of thousands of volunteers; they receive no government funding and the cost of their programs is paid by indi-



vidual wreath sponsors.

With nearly 200,000 volunteers, over 420,000 wreaths were placed in remembrance across the country and overseas for our Nation's fallen heroes.

The year 2012 was the group's 21st year laying wreaths at Arlington and marked the laying

of the one-millionth wreath since the program began in 1992 by Maine businessman and wreath maker Morrill Worcester.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating a wreath for a fallen hero, visit the Wreaths Across America website at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)



**Commander Bob Blevins and Adjutant Rolly D. Lee, Sr. on the bridge of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mackinac.**

### NEW DSOs *Cont. from page 1*

was hired as an assembly line worker at General Motors where she worked for 12 years. Due to a worsening of her disability, she decided to leave General Motors. Unaware of the benefit resources the Department of Veterans Affairs had to offer, she and her mother became homeless for three years.

Back and forth from one family member's home to another, she began to research and found that VA had a plethora of options available. She reapplied for Vocational Rehabilitation and was approved! It was this very breakthrough that sent her on a personal crusade to inform her

fellow brothers-in-arms about the VA's benefits. Toni is currently enrolled in the Bachelors of Business Program at Marygrove in Detroit, Michigan.

Through the coaching of her Employment Coordinators, Toni secured employment with the DAV. With an already passionate determination to "get the word out" to every veteran she comes across, this position was a dream come true. Her central goal is to ensure her comrades get what they deserve. It is her belief that if every disadvantaged veteran were given the tools they need to reassemble their lives, they could once again become productive contributors to our society.

## Volunteer Registration Application

Many Americans, just like you, are seeking ways to express their patriotic appreciation to disabled veterans.

Volunteering your time and love is a great way to show Veterans how much you care, and the DAV and its Auxiliary have plenty of volunteer opportunities to get you started.

Complete and mail the application below to start helping America's Disabled American Veterans and their families.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest VA Medical Center: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a:

DAV Member     DAV Auxiliary Member     Non-Member interested in Volunteering

I'm interested in:

Any program where I could help  
 The DAV Transportation Network  
 Volunteering at a VA Healthcare Facility

Please describe any specific interest or talent you would like to offer through DAV or Auxiliary Voluntary Service Programs

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send Form to:

Disabled American Veterans, National Headquarters, Voluntary Services Department  
 P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301