

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

February 2011

Michigan Disabled Veteran

Volume 60 No. 3

[USPS 344-940]

"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."

-Tom Brokaw

VA processes first claims for new Agent Orange Presumptives

New program speeds approval for Vietnam veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has decided more than 28,000 claims in the first six weeks of processing disability compensation applications from Vietnam Veterans with diseases related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki reported on December 17, 2010.

"With new technology and ongoing improvements, we are quickly removing roadblocks to processing benefits," the Secretary said. "We are also conducting significant outreach to Vietnam veterans to encourage them to submit their completed application for this long-awaited benefit."

VA published a final regulation on August 31 that makes veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam and who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease, or a B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia eligible for health care and disability compensation benefits. With the expiration of the required 60-day congressional review on October 30, VA is now able to process these claims.

Vietnam veterans covered under the new policy are encouraged to file their claims through a new VA Web portal at www.fasttrack.va.gov. Vietnam veterans are the first users of this convenient automated claims processing system.

If treated for these diseases outside of VA's health system, it is important for veterans to gather medical evidence from their non-VA physicians. VA has made it easy for physicians to supply the clinical findings needed to approve the claim through the new Web portal. These medical forms are also available at www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams. The portal guides veterans through Web-based menus to capture information and medical evidence required for faster claims decisions. While the new system currently is limited to these three disabilities, usage will expand soon to include claims for other conditions.

VA has begun collecting data that recaps its progress in processing claims for new Agent Orange benefits at www.vba.va.gov/VBA/agentorange/reportcard/index.html



DAV and Golden Corral join forces



DAV STATE COMMANDER FRANK SHEPHERD (left) JOINS LIVONIA CHAPTER 114 COMMANDER THOMAS DEMPSTER at the Westland Golden Corral during Military Appreciation Monday, November 15. Nationwide, Golden Corral welcomed over 375,000 of the nation's active duty troops and military veterans into its restaurants and served them a free thank you meal. During the 10th annual event, local DAV chapters across the country raised a record \$1,001,734 in donations.

Zone I Meets in Redford Township on April 2

Plans are being finalized for the Zone I Meeting being held on Saturday, April 2 at the VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft Road in Redford Township.

On-site registration will open at 8 a.m., followed by a Joint DAV and Auxiliary session that begins at 9 a.m., reports host Chapter Commander R. Landis Lawton. Morning speakers will include local and state government representatives, as well as officials from Piquette Square and the Great Lakes National Cemetery. At 10:15 a.m., delegates will take a break and then go into separate Department and Auxiliary business sessions at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and then separate DAV and DAV Auxiliary meetings will begin at 1 p.m. to complete Zone business.

Pre-register

The \$8 registration fee includes beverages during the day, as well as lunch and a pre-registration form appears in this issue on page 3. Attendees are asked to use the pre-registration form so that adequate luncheon arrangements can be made.

A block of rooms is available at the Comfort Inn, located at 29235 Buckingham Street (at the intersection of I-96 and Middlebelt Road) in Livonia. The hotel is offering discounted rates of \$44.99 single room/ \$54.95 double room from Friday, April 1 through Sunday, April 3. To reserve a room, telephone 734-458-7111 and be sure to mention you are with the DAV Zone I Meeting.

The host chapter plans on conducting a raffle and 50/50 tickets will be sold during registration

and prior to the drawing at lunch. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each and the 50/50 will be \$1 each or \$5 for an arm's length. The drawings will be held at the end of lunch, prior to the afternoon sessions.

In addition, DAV/DAVA 113 will be making tables available for Chapters and Units to bring fundraising items to sell during registration, lunch and during breaks. Please contact Theresa Lawton via cell phone at 734-674-9791 or e-mail her at tdlawtondava113@yahoo.com to reserve a table for this purpose. There are a limited number of tables available and a copy of the authorization of fundraising from Department is required. If you reserve a table, please arrive prior to registration to set up your table.

Calendar of Upcoming DAV Events

Zone I Meeting	April 2, 2011	Redford Twp.
Joint Testimonial for DAV and DAVA State Commanders	April 8, 2011	Battle Creek
Zone II Meeting	April 9, 2011	Battle Creek
Zone III Meeting	April 16, 2011	Lake
Zone IV Meeting	April 30, 2011	Manistique
Service Officers' Conference	June 8-9, 2011	Sault Ste. Marie
State Convention	June 10-12, 2011	Sault Ste. Marie

NEXT ISSUE - April, 2011

Due to budget constraints, the Department of Michigan, Disabled American Veterans has reduced the number of issues published annually to 4, one issue a quarter. The next issue of the *Michigan Disabled Veteran* will be April 2011. The copy deadline for that issue is March 1st.

Michigan Disabled Veteran

MICHIGAN DISABLED VETERAN (ISSN 1091-8086)
 Is published, effective September 1, 2009, each quarter – every February, April, August and November by the Department of Michigan, Disabled American Veterans, 17779 East 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT FRASER, MI AND ADDITIONAL OFFICES. Members receive publication as part of their dues. Subscription fee: \$2.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Michigan Disabled Veteran, c/o DAV Membership Department, P. O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250.

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

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 Russ 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 K. Bledsoe, editor, on or before the 1st of the preceding month to: 17779 East 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026, Attn: Editor. 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-tone cannot be used. Silk finish prints reproduce poorly. Photos cannot be returned.

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

DAV Thrift Store
 8050 N. Middlebelt Road, Westland 48185
 Donation Line (866) 520-5328
<http://www.davthriftmichigan.com>

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY 13

Washtenaw County DAV Chapter 13, meets at the Graf-O'Hara VFW Post 423
 3230 S. Wagner Road,
 Ann Arbor, MI 48106
 (between Ann Arbor and Saline)

Meeting Dates:

March 15, 2011 at 7 p.m. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS
 April 19, 2011 at 7 p.m. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 May 17, 2011 at 7 p.m. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

August Wallman, commander Reuben Swisher, adjutant

Circulation Data

This publication was cleared for printing and mailing
 January 25, 2011

Circulation of this issue is
 26,322 copies.



Frank T. Shepherd, Jr.

Comrades we are still in a rut and digging it deeper! Our membership is dwindling, and we seem to not care, or have little or no desire to do anything about it. As of January 6, we have only five chapters that have made membership quota. Publicity and membership go hand-in-hand. When you use your local newspaper, radio, and television stations by making them aware of any and everything you are doing in the community, prospective members will know how to contact you. Membership is what gives the DAV clout in Washington, D.C. With all the severely injured war veterans coming home, we should make every effort to help them to get the benefits they are entitled to. They will appreciate everything we can do to put them on the right track. We need to make a serious commitment to membership and make it a high priority. Should you need help in

Commander's Message

Membership, Membership, Membership!

membership, please contact your membership committee person.

I would like to give a very big congratulatory thanks to all that participated in and helped to make the annual "Military Appreciation Monday" event held at our Michigan Golden Corral restaurants a huge success.

We have made an effort at many fundraisers with modest success, and we have invested in one large fundraiser, our DAV Thrift Store, that is slowly developing. In my opinion this is the one that we should be asserting our energy into. This was and is a long term investment. However I believe it is the most stable fundraiser we have and we should support it to the fullest.

During the month of January management at the Thrift Store implemented a friendly competition between our Michigan chapters. This being of short notice and a difficult, near impossible time for our chapters in the northern part of the state to compete, I am hoping we will have an opportunity to repeat this clothing drive at a more favorable time.

Our involvement and devoted interest in fundraisers and increasing our membership should be our number one priority for continuance and stability of the Department of Michigan

Disabled American Veterans for our young veterans.

Convention just around the corner – Make reservation today

Convention activities are being finalized and begin with pre-convention meetings and events on Thursday evening, June 9 and wind down on Sunday, June 12 following the election and installation of officers. A Convention pre-registration form will appear in our April issue, but I am urging everyone to not wait when making a room reservation.

Call for reservation

Room reservations at the Kewadin Hotel can be obtained by calling the Kewadin automated voice system at 1-800-539-2346. The special DAV room rates are \$75 for a single or double, \$85 for a triple and \$95 per night for a quad or Suite. When making your reservation be sure to specify you are attending the Disabled American Veterans convention and mention Group Code 9CL1GI.

DAV Mission Statement

Made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense, the Disabled American Veterans is dedicated to one, single purpose: building better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

Drop off unwanted items or shop at our Michigan DAV Thrift Store

The DAV Thrift Store is located at 8050 North Middlebelt Road in Westland, at the northeast corner of Ann Arbor Trail.

The DAV Thrift Store is open

Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A handy drive thru donation drop-off area is available. For

more information about the store call 734-513-6020.

To make arrangements for home pickup in the Metro Detroit area, call toll-free 1-866-520-5328.

DAV Service Officers Conference – NOW A TWO-DAY EVENT –

(Service Officers must attend both days in order to get certified!)

Wednesday, June 8 and Thursday, June 9, 2011 and the DAV 86th

Annual State Convention – June 10, 11 and 12, 2011 will be held at the Kewadin Convention Center, 2186 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Make you reservation today at the Kewadin Hotel.

Room Rates:

Single/Double: \$75
 Triple: \$85
 Quad: \$95
 Living Room Suite: \$95
 (Room Upgrade add \$10 – If available)

For room reservations call the Kewadin automated voice system at 1-800-539-2346. At the first set of options, press or say 2. At the second set of options, press or say 1. At the third set of options, press or say 1 to reach the hotel. Be sure to mention DAV and Group Code 9CL1GI.

Battle Creek hosts Zone II Meeting on April 9, 2011

Zone II Commander David Mims invites all Zone II chapter members to spend a day in Battle Creek Saturday, April 9, attending the Zone II Meeting.

Hosted by Calhoun County Chapter 7, all sessions will be held at the American Legion Post 54 located at 11215 E. Columbia Avenue in Battle Creek.

The schedule

On-site registration will be held from 8-9 a.m., followed by a joint DAV and DAVA session beginning at 9 a.m. Delegates will hear from various guest speakers, until 10:30 a.m. when they will break

into separate meeting sessions. The afternoon business session is called for 1 p.m. following lunch.

The business agenda calls for conducting routine zone affairs including nomination of the 2011-2012 zone officers.

Overnight accommodations

Room reservations must be made directly with the motel of your choice. Be sure to mention the DAV when making your reservation at one of the following establishments:

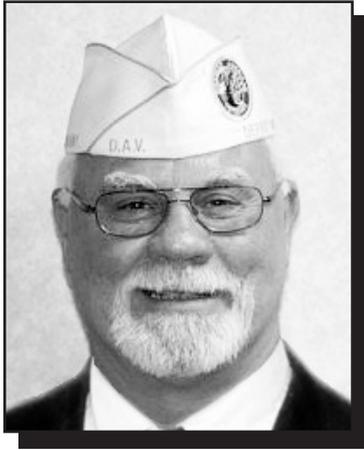
- Motel 6, 4775 Beckley Road, Phone 269-979-1141, \$36.00+, handicap accessible.

- Best Western, 5050 Beckley Road, Phone 269-979-8506, www.bestwestern.com, \$65.00+ for veterans, handicap accessible.

- Baymont Inn, 4725 Beckley Road, Phone 269-979-5400, \$80.00+, handicap accessible.

Pre-register

Registration should be made in advance of the meeting so that adequate luncheon arrangements can be made. Registration fees are \$8 each, and a convenient coupon to pre-register appears on page 3. The pre-registration cut-off date is March 25, 2011.



Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

Adjutant's Message

will be accepted from December 1, 2010 to February 25, 2011.

2011 George H. Seal Memorial Awards

This award honors the memory and accomplishments of the late George H. Seal, a World War II combat-disabled paratrooper who made many significant contributions during his lengthy career as National Director of Membership and Voluntary Services and as DAV's National VAVS Representative and a member of the VAVS National Advisory Committee.

Only DAV and DAV Auxiliary members enrolled as accredited VAVS volunteers are eligible for this prestigious award. You can make a difference by helping the special DAV/DAVA volunteer be recognized. Nominations must be received no later than February 25, 2011 and submittal of nominations must first be signed and certified by the Voluntary Service Program Manager at the facility where the candidate volunteers.

Keeping abreast on National Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations Article 18 – Accumulation of Funds

Section 18.2 Restriction on Accumulation

Subordinate units may not accumulate funds, whether for services, purposes or otherwise, in excess of three times the expenses of their last fiscal year.

Legislative

2011 will begin with new mem-

bers in our Federal government and our State government. If veterans legislation is going to be successful and ensure enactment of veterans legislation, our DAV and Auxiliary members must be **active** members of DAV's grassroots – DAV Commander's Action Network (CAN) – and we all must do our part to let our elected officials on both the National and State levels know about our support for legislation that helps to build better lives for our nation's service-disabled veterans, their families, and survivors. We as Department of Michigan members need to discuss and educate these members on DAV's legislative priorities, programs and services.

Support our businesses, local jobs

In these tough times, we all have a part to play in revitalizing our economy and getting Michigan back on track. As a Disabled American Veteran you should visit www.BuyMichFirst.com, a FREE Web site for businesses and consumers that showcases first-class Michigan-made products and services.

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

"It is easier to do a job right than to explain why you didn't."—Martin Van Buren

2011 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program was created to honor outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary (VAVS) program. The scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have generously donated their time and compassion to sick and disabled veterans in their communities.

The Department of Michigan urges you to solicit recommendations and information from your local VAMC Director, Service Managers and other staff members directly involved with the VAVS Program for this worthwhile award. Nomination forms and eligibility requirements for the scholarship can be accessed on www.dav.org under Voluntary Services. Applications for this scholarship must be mailed to National Headquarters, Voluntary Services Department, Cold Spring, Kentucky. Applications

DAV Zone III meets in Lake on April 16

Arrangements have been finalized for the Zone III Meeting being held on Saturday, April 16 at the DAV Hall located at 9480 School Street in Lake.

Registration is set to begin at 8 a.m. and will be followed by a Rap Session from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. After a short break the business session will be held from 10:15 until 11:30 a.m. when lunch will be served to those who pre-register.

Attendees will reassemble after lunch for an afternoon business session, if needed.

Chapter and Unit members are urged to pre-register their attendance, using the coupon provided on this page. The Zone III

pre-registration deadline is April 1.

Overnight accommodations in Clare are available at:

Days Inn of Clare
10318 S. Clare Avenue
Clare, MI 48617
(4 handicapped rooms)
989-386-1111

\$65.00 plus tax.
Tell them you are with the DAV (16 minutes from meeting)
Make reservation before April 3rd to obtain this rate.

Doherty Hotel
604 N. McEwan Street
Clare, MI 48617
(7 handicapped rooms)
1-877-236-4378

\$77.00 plus tax for Standard 2 full-size beds
\$65.00 plus tax for Economy 1 full-size bed
Be sure to mention you are with the DAV for the conference.
(19 minutes from meeting)

Zone III Commander Rebecca Mott, who will be chairing the meeting, urges all chapters to come up with a gift certificate, gift basket or donated prize for the Raffle and bring it to the Zone III Meeting. "I want to thank Chapter 105 for hosting this informative event," she said, "but I'm hoping we can all pitch in to help make it a success."

Zone IV meets Saturday, April 30, 2011 in Manistique

Plans are nearly complete for the Zone IV Meeting being held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 in Manistique, reports hosting Chapter Commander Bob Blevins.

All meeting sessions will be held at the Comfort Inn located on U.S. 2, right next door to the Big Boy Restaurant in Manistique.

On-site registration will be from 8-9 a.m.; however, host Chapter 26 encourages attendees to pre-register using the form printed on this page. The \$8 registration fee includes a sit-down chicken lunch and the pre-registration deadline is April 15.

The DAV and DAVA will hold a joint session starting at 9 a.m. when they will see a short DVD presentation of the Old Warrior Camp, as well as hear from guest speakers until 10:30 a.m., when the DAV and DAVA will go into separate sessions. Both DAV and DAVA sessions will break for lunch at 12 Noon and will reconvene at 1 p.m., if needed.

Early arrivals in Manistique can attend a Veterans Reception at the Comfort Inn Conference Room on Friday night, April 29 beginning at 8 p.m.

where there will be a live band and cash bar. A host of vendors will set up on Friday night as well as through Saturday, where there will be craft items for sale, as well as Amish-made quilts and baked goods. Many of the vendors will be veterans from the Upper Peninsula.

Overnight accommodations are available at the Comfort Inn at a nightly rate of \$59.00 and reservations can be made by calling 906-341-6981.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Commander Blevins at 906-477-0025.

Pre-Registration Request

Zone I Meeting Saturday, April 2, 2011

Hosts: William C. Ford Chapter and Unit 113 VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft Rd., Redford Twp., MI 48239

Please register me (us) for the upcoming Zone I Meeting. Enclosed is Check No. _____ covering _____ registrations at \$8.00 each for:

NAME _____ PHONE _____
CHAPTER/UNIT _____ NUMBER _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
CODE _____

Registration includes pop, water, coffee and other hot beverages available during the day and lunch, consisting of deli meats and cheeses for sandwiches, condiments, macaroni and cheese, lettuce salad with dressing, potato chips and an assortment of desserts.

If registering for more than two people, please provide the same information for each individual on a separate piece of paper.

Make check payable to: *William C. Ford Chapter 113* and forward with this completed form to: Zone I Pre-registration, 29961 Florence Street, Garden City, MI 48135.

Pre-registration deadline is March 18, 2011.

Pre-Registration Request

Zone II Meeting Saturday, April 9, 2011

Hosted by Calhoun County Chapter 7 at American Legion Post 54, 1125 E. Columbia Avenue, Battle Creek

Please register me (us) for the upcoming Zone II Meeting. Enclosed is Check No. _____ covering _____ registrations at \$8.00 each for:

NAME _____ PHONE _____
CHAPTER/UNIT _____ NUMBER _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
CODE _____

If registering for more than two people, please provide the same information for each individual on a separate piece of paper. Registration fee includes morning coffee and donuts and lunch.

Make check payable to: *Calhoun Co. Ch. 7 DAV* – earmarked *Zone II Meeting*, and forward with this completed form to DAV Calhoun Co. Chapter 7, P.O. Box 200, Battle Creek, MI 49016.

Pre-registration deadline is March 25, 2011.

Pre-Registration Request

Zone III Meeting Saturday, April 16, 2011

Host: Wilson Blackmer Chapter 105, Lake, Michigan

Please register me (us) for the upcoming Zone III Meeting. Enclosed is Check No. _____ covering _____ registrations at \$8.00 each for:

NAME _____ PHONE _____
CHAPTER/UNIT _____ NUMBER _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
CODE _____

If registering for more than two people, please provide the same information for each individual on a separate piece of paper.

Make check payable to: *DAV Chapter 105* and forward with this completed form to DAV Chapter 105, Attn: Zone Meeting, Marvin Van Haitsma, 602 N. Hemlock St., Evart, MI 49631.

Pre-registration deadline is April 1, 2011.

Pre-Registration Request

Zone IV Meeting Saturday, April 30, 2011

Hosted by Manistique Chapter 26 at Comfort Inn, 617 E. Lakeshore Drive (on U.S. 2) in Manistique

Please register me (us) for the upcoming Zone IV Meeting. Enclosed is Check No. _____ covering _____ registrations at \$8.00 each for:

NAME _____ PHONE _____
CHAPTER/UNIT _____ NUMBER _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
CODE _____

If registering for more than two people, please provide the same information for each individual on a separate piece of paper.

Make check payable to: *Manistique Chapter #26* and forward with this completed form to Commander Bob Blevins, W14582 U.S. Hwy. 2, Engadine, MI 49827.

Pre-registration deadline is April 15, 2011.

The Bulletin Board

DETROIT 1, 2nd Wed., 6 p.m., DAV Home, 13221 Puritan St., Detroit 48227.

GRAND RAPIDS 2, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 4809 Eastern Ave., S.E., Grand Rapids 49508.

GENESEE 3, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 4270 E. Bristol Rd., Burton 48519.

SAGINAW 4, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., American Legion Post 439, 5190 Weiss St., Saginaw 48603.

KALAMAZOO BUCK-CROSBY 6, 4th Wed., 6 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., Battle Creek 49015.

CAPITOL CITY 8, 2nd Mon., (Except July and August), 7 p.m., Scott House, 125 E. Main, Lansing 48909. Mail: P. O. Box 24141, Lansing 48909.

WM. SPARKS 10, 2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m., American Legion Post 29, 3200 Lansing Ave., Jackson 49202.

WOOD-TAZELAAR 11, 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., 2415 E. Laketon Ave., Muskegon 49442.

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. (No meetings in Aug. & Dec.) Graf-O'Hara VFW Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Rd., (betw. Saline & Ann Arbor Rds.) Ann Arbor 48106.

HOLLAND 14, 1st Tues., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1185 Matt Urban Dr., Holland 49423.

PONTIAC 16, 2nd Wed., 7 p.m., VFW Post 1370, 791 Mae, Pontiac 48340

TWIN CITIES 17, 1st Thursday, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge 1570, 2180 Union St., Benton Harbor 49022.

BIG RAPIDS 18, 2nd Thurs., 6:30 p.m., 402 N. Michigan Ave., Big Rapids 49307.

SOUTH OAKLAND 19, 2nd Wednesday, 1 p.m., American Legion Post 374, 2079 W. 12 Mile Rd., Berkley 48072.

LENAWEE COUNTY 20, 2nd Wed., 6 p.m., 141 E. Albert St., Adrian 49221.

MARQUETTE COUNTY 22, 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m., Marquette Veterans Facility, 425 Fisher St., Marquette 49855.

CLOVERLAND CHAPTER 23, 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1227 West Breen Ave., Kingsford 49802.

DELTA COUNTY 24, 1st Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 904 Sheridan Rd., Escanaba 49829.

MENOMINEE COUNTY 25, 1st Thurs., 6 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 38, 3rd Thurs., 1 p.m., VFW Hall, 3400 Veterans Dr., Traverse City 49684.

INLAND LAKES 39, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., AMVETS Hall, 127 W. Cass St., Cadillac.

SALT CITY 43, 1st Tues. of month, 7:30 p.m., VFW Post, 28th St., Manistee 49660.

MONROE COUNTY 42, 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., Dundee Veterans Corp., 418 Dunham St., Dundee 48131.

MACOMB COUNTY 44, 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Post 7573, 35011 23 Mile Rd., New Baltimore 48047.

CPL. IAN M. GRAY 51, 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m., DAV Hall, 6117 Chase Rd. (near Ford Rd.), Dearborn 48126.

O'CONNOR-REINHART 52, 2nd Thurs., 7 p.m., National Guard Armory, 1170 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie 49783.

CASIMIR ZABIK 60, 2nd Tues., 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 25500 Sherwood (between 10 and 11 Mile Roads), Centerline 48015.

THUNDER BAY 61, 2nd Wednesday, 6 p.m., DAV Memorial Home, 1020 U.S. 23 North, P.O. Box 856, Alpena 49707.

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY 63, 1st Tues., 7 p.m., Council on Aging Building, 300 N. Washington St., Owosso 48867.

CLINTON COUNTY 64, 1st Wed., 7 p.m., American Legion Post 153, 110 E. Walker St., St. Johns 48879.

NORTHLAND CHAPTER 66, 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m. (Even numbered months), American Legion Post 5, McLeod Ave., Ironwood 49038.

CHIPPEWA 67, 3rd Wednesday, 5 p.m., ICCHS (Northstar) 1400 W. Ice Lake Rd., Iron River 49935.

HILLSDALE 68, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., 228 East Main St., North Adams 49262.

MUNISING 69, 1st Friday, 7 p.m., DAV/VVA Clubhouse, E.8025 Jingle Bell Ln., Christmas 49867.

OGEMAW HILLS 73, 3rd Monday, 5 p.m., Cummings Township Hall, 751 Morrison Rd. (South of Sage Lake Rd.), Rose City 48654.

THUMB 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 88, 2nd Thurs., 6:00 p.m., VFW Hall, 264 W. Fawn River Rd., Sturgis 49091

STRAITS 93, 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., N3984 Church St., Moran 49760.

MIDLAND COUNTY 94, 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 3013 Bay City Rd., Midland 48640.

STANDISH 100, 1st Tuesday, 2 p.m. VFW Post 3724, 3548 W. Huron Road, Standish 48658.

SYDNEY J. ALLEN 102, 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., VFW Post 9363, 25570 Telegraph Rd., Flat Rock 48134.

WILSON-BLACKMER 105, 2nd and 4th Tues., 7 p.m., 9480 School St., Lake 48632; Second meeting is social meeting. Auxiliary meets at same time and place as chapter.

FLAT RIVER CHAPTER 106, 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., 8484 S. Mt. Hope, Carson City 48811.

EAST DETROIT 107, 3rd Wed., 3 p.m., VFW Post 6782, 17645 Nine Mile Rd., Eastpointe 48021.

WILLIAM C. FORD 113, 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft Rd., Redford Twp. 48239.

LIVONIA 114, 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., DAV Home, 30905 Plymouth Rd., Livonia 48150.

DR. PERCY H. WILSON 115, 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m., Chassell VFW, U.S. 41, Chassell 49916. Auxiliary meets at same time.

JAMES V. PELLEGRINI/LINCOLN PARK 116, 2nd Wed., 3 p.m., American Legion Club, 1430 Southfield, Lincoln Park 48146.

HALEY BROTHERS 117, 1st Tuesday of month, 6:30 p.m., Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, 1500 Weiss St., Saginaw 48602.

ST. CLAIR SHORES 119, 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., VFW Bruce Post 1146, 28404 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores 48081.

REED - J. DaPRATO 125, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., American Legion Club, 3265 W. Grand River, Howell 48843.

BIEBUYCK-ROMANO 127, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., VFW Post 3130, 6782 Nine Mile Rd. (at Sherwood), Warren 48091.

ROBERT H. COX 129, 1st Tues., 8 p.m., 47326 Dequindre, Shelby Twp. 48317.

TAWAS BAY 130, 4th Mon., 7 p.m., East Tawas City Community Bldg., 760 Newman, E. Tawas 48730.

MID-STATE 135, 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m., Lyon Township Hall, 7851 West Higgins Lake Dr., Higgins Lake 48627.

State Legislative Report

FYI – Of the 78 bills of interest to Michigan veterans that were introduced during the 95th Legislature (January 2009 – December 20, 2010), only the following 15 took effect:

EO 09-22 – Reduces the State's FY09 appropriations by \$221.86 million in General Funds and \$127.47 million in Special Purpose Funds.

SB 108 – Expands charitable gaming licenses to the Auxiliary of a National veterans service organization.

SB 204 – Prohibits liens on the property of active duty military personnel who have not paid rent on self-storage units.

SB250 – FY10 appropriation for Department of Military and

Veterans Affairs.

SB 371 –To permit active duty military personnel to cancel cell phone contracts without penalty.

SB 1499 – Expands admission eligibility to the State veteran homes.

HB 4512 – Amends the state's contracting law concerning veteran's preference in awarding construction projects.

HB 5219 – Renames a portion of M-203 "PFC Harold R. Cooley-WWII Marine Corps. League Memorial Highway."

HB 5245 – Requires funeral directors prepare a list of the names of unclaimed remains and grants immunity to the release of the names to veterans

service organizations.

HB 5246 – Grants immunity from liability to funeral directors who arrange for the burial of the unclaimed remains of a veteran in a National Cemetery.

HB 5885 – Department of Military and Veterans Affairs FY 2011 appropriation.

HB 5899 – Revises the effective date of Public Act 149 of 2009 to May 20, 2010 (HB 5246).

HB 5900 – Revises the effective date of Public Act 148 of 2009 to May 20, 2010 (HB 5245).

HB 6270 – Modifies The Adjutant General's salary and retirement (tie barred with HB 6271).

HB 6271 – Modifies The Adjutant General's salary and retirement (tie barred with HB 6270).

Drafting a Convention resolution

With Zone meetings taking place in April, it's time to draft and finalize resolutions to be presented at the upcoming State convention being held June 10-12, 2011 in Sault Ste. Marie.

If you have difficulty conveying your thoughts or the idea of drafting a resolution discourages you, the Interim General Resolutions Committee can help. The committee consisting of Daniel Mulcahey,

David Martin and Robert Polhamus, is eager to help develop resolutions to outline a course of action or policy for the betterment of the organization.

Just jot down what you want the resolution to accomplish, giving your ideas and reasons why this action is necessary and send it with your name, address and telephone number to: *DAV Int. General Resolutions Committee, 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.*

Amending the Constitution and Bylaws

Resolutions to amend the Department Constitution and Bylaws must be submitted to the State Adjutant at the Department office no later than 14 days prior to commencement of the State convention.

Final versions of all resolutions should be submitted in triplicate, double-spaced and preferably in typewritten form to the Department office for consideration at the convention.

DAV Social Networking on Facebook

by Wallace Tyson, DAV National commander

If you're an individual who is interacting with family and friends online, there are some important but simple things you can accomplish for the DAV with just a little extra effort. Well more than half of American adults now actively use social networking, and the fastest growing demographic is 50 and older. Facebook is widely considered the most accessible form of social media to the Vietnam era generation – those of us who didn't grow up with the Internet. And studies show as much as 95 percent of the generation currently serving in uniform is using at least one social network.

Veterans need each other for support, and now the DAV Facebook page **Facebook.com/**

TheDAV is a place where you can find that. I've heard directly from people who've found other veterans that they served with 30 years ago and now are "Facebook friends."

Facebook.com is the largest, fastest growing network in history. For that reason, the DAV has a concerted effort to reach out on Facebook, offering the latest news on veterans' issues, informational materials and legislative alerts. More so, we listen to and address concerns raised by veterans, their families and friends.

Many DAV members are using it to talk to each other about their problems and successes, and it's been great for camaraderie, doing a good job of bridging the generational

gap. This tool has allowed members to help each other, ask for help and ultimately create new connections. There are a great deal of questions posed about benefits assistance, membership eligibility and current happenings in Washington. But the most common posts are from veterans telling their stories, praising the DAV and expressing their support for veterans.

We are working hard to harness social networking to improve our grassroots advocacy. Social networking has surpassed e-mail as the number one way to communicate electronically. Gone are the days when sending out mass e-mails was the best method to spread the word.

VA testing quicker ways to access medical records

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working to significantly reduce the average time needed to obtain health-care records from private physicians with the help of a private contractor and the Internet to speed claims decisions.

One innovation is using a private contractor to assist VA in collecting health-care records. When private medical records support a veteran's application for benefits, a contractor will quickly retrieve the records from the health-care provider, scan them into a digital format and send the material to VA through

a secure transmission.

This pilot project hopes to validate initial estimates that a specialized contract can yield records required to process veterans' disability compensation claims in seven to 10 days instead of VA's average 40 days. In addition, the additional contract frees VA staff to focus on core duties to process claims more quickly.

Exploring economical contract support for time savings is one of more than three dozen initiatives supporting VA's claims transformation plan, which aims to ensure that by 2015, veterans' claims are

decided within 125 days.

VA officials emphasize that in all cases veterans must sign documents approving the release of their medical records to the department from private health-care providers.

The test is expected to involve about 60,000 records requests among regional benefits offices in Phoenix; New York City; St. Louis; Portland, Ore.; Chicago; Anchorage, Alaska; Indianapolis, and Jackson, Miss. At the conclusion of the test, VA officials will decide whether to cancel, modify, or expand any changes in procedures nationwide.



Thomas E. Wendel

Service Director's Message

Upcoming Service Officer Classes

Service Programs, the Service Officer must be listed on your Official Officer Report as a Chapter Service Officer. If the individuals attending the Conference are not listed on the Official Officer Report as Chapter Service Officer they will **only** receive a Certificate of Attendance and they will **not** be covered under the Indemnification of Department and Chapter Service Program. Therefore, it is important that all individuals attending the Conference as a Chapter Service Officer be listed on your Official Officer Report. If they are not listed on your Official Officer Report then you will need to amend the report to include them.

For this year's Conference we want our Chapters to send the Service Officer(s) that have been appointed by your new Commander, after this year's Election of Officers. I know that some Chapters don't install their Officers until after State Convention, but I'm asking that the Installation of Officers be completed prior to Convention, so that we do not run into any problems.

National has updated the Training Course and we plan on modifying our presentation this year. You will note we have added an additional day to our Service Officer Conference. The first day will be the mandatory National Training. The second day will be broken into two groups, ADVANCED and BEGINNERS. If you have less than two years experience as a Chapter Service Officer, you will be considered a BEGINNER for this training. We hope that every Chapter will try and send at least one Service Officer to this year's Service Officer Conference.

If you are planning to attend, mark your calendar and don't wait – make a room reservation at the Kewadin by calling their automated voice system at 1-800-539-2346. At the first set of options, press or say 2. At the second set of options, press or say 1. At the third set of options, press or say 1 to reach the hotel. Be sure to mention DAV and Group Code 9CL1GI when making your reservation. The room rate is: Single/Double: \$75; Triple \$85; Quad \$95 or Living Room Suite \$95.

Once again our Service Officer Conference will be held in conjunction with the State Convention. The dates for the Service Officer Conference are Wednesday, June 8, 2011, and Thursday, June 9, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Kewadin Convention Center in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. The cost of the Conference will be \$30.00 and a pre-registration form will be printed in the April issue.

Each Chapter is allowed to send as many Service Officers to the Conference as they wish, but in order for a Service Officer to receive the Annual Service Officer Certification and to be covered under the Indemnification of Department and Chapter

National Salute to Veteran Patients

The week of February 14 each year is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, more than 98,000 veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical

centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries and nursing homes. The 2011 National Salute program is scheduled for February 13-19.

The purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients Program is to:

- pay tribute and express

- appreciation to Veterans;
- increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center;
- encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers.

Reservation Request

**Testimonial Dinner Honoring
DAV State Commander Frank T. Shepherd, Jr. and
DAV Auxiliary State Commander William A. Taylor
Date: Friday, April 8, 2011**

**American Legion Post 54
1125 E. Columbia Ave.
Battle Creek, Michigan**

Social Hour: 6 p.m. (Open Bar)

Dinner at: 7 p.m.

Please hold a reservation for me (us) at the upcoming Testimonial tribute honoring DAV State Commander Shepherd and DAV Auxiliary State Commander Taylor. Enclosed is a Check or Money Order (No cash, please) for _____ tickets at \$27.00 per person.

TITLE/NAME _____
 CHAPTER/UNIT NUMBER _____ PHONE NUMBER _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Dinner, served buffet-style, includes main entrée, mashed potatoes, vegetable, rolls and dessert.

Selection: _____ Swiss Steak or _____ Fried Chicken

Make check payable to: **Calhoun County Chapter 7 DAV** and earmarked **Testimonial Dinner**. Forward check with this completed form to Attn: Testimonial Dinner, DAV Chapter 7, P. O. Box 200, Battle Creek, MI 49016.

Reservation deadline is March 25, 2011

Kudos Go To...

Named by DAV National Commander Wallace E. Tyson to serve on the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee is Rolly D. Lee, Sr. of Roseville. Also appointed to serve as National Deputy Chiefs of Staff are Les Schneider of Durand and Jo Linda White of Adrian,

and selected as Aides to the National Commander are Garry Henshaw of Marquette and William Roush of Hastings. DAV Past State Commander Joseph Connelly currently serves as Vice President of the DAV State Commanders and Adjutants Association.

**A MESSAGE FROM
DAV PAST STATE COMMANDER
RUSSELL SPALDING,
1983-84**

This message is dedicated in memory of all past DAV State Commanders who have made this DAV State organization a real benefit to many Michigan veterans and their families. To name them individually would be difficult and I don't want to chance missing any one of our real leaders. I also want to memorialize my dear wife, Johann M. Spalding, and take a moment to remember all she did for the Auxiliary State Department.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:
TO MEMBERS OF CHAPTER & UNIT 114**

Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth, Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Belleville, Wayne

Livonia Chapter 114 • 30905 Plymouth Road • Livonia, MI 48150
Chapter & Unit Meet on the Third Monday at 7 p.m.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES FOR CHAPTER AND UNIT

April 18 • First Nomination of Officers
May 16 • Second Nomination, Election and Installation of Officers

**VA urges veterans to sign up
for direct deposits
Treasury publishes final regulation to
phase out paper checks by 2013**

The Department of the Treasury announced a new rule that will extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to millions of Americans and phase out paper checks for federal benefits by March 1, 2013. Officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) urge veterans to sign up for electronic payment of their benefits.

"Receiving VA benefits electronically will increase the security, convenience and reliability of these vital payments," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki on December 20, 2010. "VA encourages veterans who are now receiving their benefits in paper checks to set up direct deposits before the deadline."

On March 1, 2013, VA will stop issuing paper checks. People who do not have electronic payments for their federal benefits by that time will receive their funds via a pre-paid debit card. Called the Direct Express

card, it is issued by Comerica Bank as the financial agent of the U.S. Treasury.

Another deadline affects people receiving VA's compensation or pensions for the first time after May 1, 2011. Those people will automatically receive the benefits electronically. Anyone already receiving federal benefit payments electronically will be unaffected by the changes. To learn more about the federal government's switch to direct deposit – or to change VA benefits to direct deposit – visit www.GoDirect.org. Information about the federal government's "Go Direct" campaign is also available by calling 1-800-333-1795.

Along with payments for VA benefit, the change will also affect recipients of payments from Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board, or Office of Personnel Management.

Visit the DAV Store in Westland



**8050 N. MIDDLEBELT RD. (AT ANN ARBOR TRAIL)
WESTLAND, MICHIGAN
Store Phone (734) 513-6020
Donation Line: (866) 520-5328**

Chaplain's Message David McClary

The year 2010 has become history with much activity. Now we begin a New Year with all its resolutions to make improvements and promises to change things for the better. This time, I will use the same list I wrote out last year and may actually do some of them – in particular, the weight loss and exercise plan – or not. Take time to smell the roses and enjoy this short life. Happy New Year.

President Signed Improvements to Post-9/11 GI Bill

Many Non-College Programs and State Service of Reserves and Guard now covered

To bring the educational benefits of the Post-9/11 GI Bill closer to more veterans and service members, President Obama signed legislation January 4 that streamlines the 18-month-old education program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

“Since the first GI Bill in 1944, this unique educational program has adapted to the needs of America’s veterans, active-duty personnel, reservists and Guardsmen,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “Like its forbearers, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is growing to ensure the men and women who serve this nation in uniform receive valuable education benefits from a grateful nation.”

Among the provisions of the legislation are:

- Paying for on-the-job training, some flight training; apprenticeship training and

correspondence courses;

- Allowing reservists and Guardsmen to have their time supporting emergencies called by their state governors credited to the time needed to qualify for educational benefits;
• Providing one half of the national average for the program’s housing allowance to students enrolled in distance learning;
• Pro-rating the housing allowance to exclude payments when students are not in class;
• Allowing students on active duty receive the stipend for books and supplies;
• Allowing people eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, but participating in VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits to choose between the GI Bill’s housing allowance

or VR&E’s subsistence allowance;

- Permitting reimbursement for more than one “license and certification” test;
• Reimbursing fees to take national admission tests, such as SAT, ACT, GMAT and LSAT; and
• Establishing a national cap of \$17,500 annually for tuition and fees in a private or a foreign school, not including contributions by educational institutions under the “Yellow Ribbon” program.

Information about the new provisions is available on the Internet at www.gibill.va.gov

By the end of December 2010, VA issued nearly \$7.2 billion in tuition, housing, and stipends for more than 425,000 veterans or eligible family members pursuing higher education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

New approach to smoking cessation boosts quit rates

Smoking cessation treatment that is made part of mental health care for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) improves quit rates, according to a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) study published in the Dec. 8 Journal of the American Medical Association.

“The smoking cessation techniques used in this new approach will give veterans an important step towards a better quality of life,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Robert Petzel. “Veterans will be at a lower risk for cardiovascular or lung disease if they do not smoke.”

On measures of smoking abstinence for shorter periods of time, researchers found that quit rates were as high as 18 percent for the integrated care group, versus 11 percent for those receiving usual care. When compared to usual care – referral to a standard smoking cessation clinic – the new, integrated approach nearly doubled the rate at which study volunteers stayed smoke-free for a year or longer, from 4.5 percent to almost 9 percent.

Importantly, veterans in the study who quit smoking showed no worsening of symptoms of PTSD or depression. In fact, study participants averaged a

10-percent reduction in PTSD symptoms, regardless of which treatment they received or whether they quit smoking or not. The findings help dispel concerns that combining care for PTSD and smoking cessation detracts from PTSD treatment or makes it less effective.

Study leaders Miles McFall, Ph.D., and Andrew Saxon, M.D., say the results validate a promising new VA model of care that can make safe, effective smoking cessation treatment accessible to far more veterans with PTSD. The new approach may also be effective for smokers receiving mental health care for other psychiatric illnesses, they add.

VA smoking cessation care generally involves a mix of group and individual counseling, typically in combination with nicotine replacement therapy or other medication prescribed by a VA health care provider. In VA’s study, veterans in the integrated-care group worked with the same therapist on PTSD and smoking issues. Medication for smoking cessation, if used, was prescribed on an individual basis by the same medical provider managing pharmacologic treatment of the veteran’s PTSD symptoms.

The study followed 943 veterans at 10 VA medical centers nationwide. Prolonged abstinence from tobacco, as reported by participants, was confirmed using breath and urine tests to detect evidence of smoking. Using such “bio-verification” measures in combination with self-reports is considered the “gold standard” in smoking cessation research, says McFall.

Of some 400,000 veterans being treated for PTSD in the VA health care system, roughly 30 to 50 percent are smokers, compared to a smoking rate of about 20 percent among VA enrollees and U.S. adults in general. Research shows, also, that those with PTSD smoke more heavily than smokers without PTSD and have an especially hard time quitting.

Based on the findings and evidence from prior research, VA has begun piloting the integrated smoking cessation approach as a standard of practice at six VA medical centers. The researchers say they hope to see the new approach further expanded over time.

The study was conducted by VA’s Cooperative Studies Program. For more information on CSP, visit www.csp.research.va.gov

Senate fails to pass proposal to offset lack of COLA

The U.S. Senate on December 8, defeated an attempt to provide a \$250 payment to disabled veterans and Social Security recipients. The bill would have provided the payment to account for no cost-of-living increase for 2010.

Lawmakers brought the bill forward after the Social Security Administration determined there would be no cost-of-living adjustment because the inflation measure it uses recorded no increase in 2010.

Help prevent a stroke

You may save the life or prevent disabilities of family members and the general public by knowing how to administer a simple three-part test to someone you suspect might be having a stroke.

Memorize it: Have the person raise both arms and keep them up. Ask him or her to speak a

simple sentence coherently. Ask the person to smile.

If the person doesn’t respond normally to any or all of these three requests, call for emergency help. A quick response to symptoms gives patients a better chance at receiving medication early enough to effectively treat damaging blockages in brain vessels.

VA post annual medical quality report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued the 2010 annual VA Facility Quality and Safety Report on Jan. 5 that reports on VA health care for Congressional review.

This is the third year the VA is posting the annual report and the second provides a snapshot of the quality of care VA provides at each of 153 medical facilities across the nation. When compared to private sector plans, VA’s findings showed higher quality marks for VA

health care. The VA used industry-standard measures to score the quality of the care it delivers, and the report shows that, overall, VA’s scores are better than private sector health plans.

In addition to allowing VA to provide the public with an accounting of the quality and safety of its care, the report cards provide an opportunity for the VA to make improvements where clinical indicators reflect cause for concern.

Visit museum while in Frankenmuth

The next time you plan a trip to Frankenmuth, visit Michigan’s Own Military & Space Museum located at 1250 Weiss Street. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to

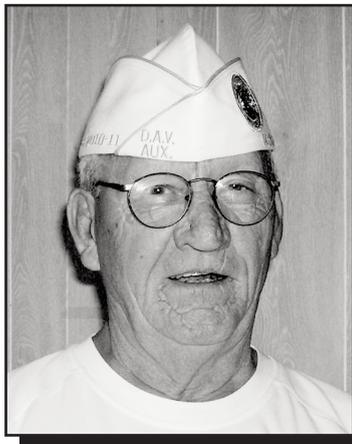
5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday (they are closed in January and February). For more information, telephone 989-652-8005.

TAPS

Table listing names and chapter numbers for the TAPS program, including Franklin J. Armstrong (11), Howard L. Smith (11), James E. Tazelaar (11), Franklin W. Amsdill (13), James W. Cundiff (13), Thomas E. Ernst (13), Michael D. Hogue (13), Frank Mastie (13), Robert A. McConnell (13), Jene E. Stafford (13), Don L. McNeely (17), William M. Spink (17), Ronald Pulford (19), Kenneth L. Ussher (19), William H. Clark (22), Louis R. LeClaire (24), Sigurd Sunby (24), Lawrence A. Swanson (24), Lawrence R. Wils (24), Russell O. Anderson (25), George F. Porod (25), Eldred A. Rose (25), John Simonic (25), and Joseph Ventline (75).

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.

Remember the DAV in your will. Includes logos for Disabled American Veterans.



William A. Taylor

Auxiliary Commander's Message

Moving forward into 2011

silent moment to reflect on how our lives would be without them. Don't let our desire to stay free keep us from our ultimate goal, which is helping our soldiers and their families live the life that we enjoy every day. I want to thank every soldier who allows me to live my life in freedom. Thank You!

I hope you have set aside time to attend your Zone meeting and our upcoming State convention. It is our duty to make our meetings a success. Everyone works hard to prepare their articles for the newspaper, so please read each of them to keep informed, as well as regularly checking out your DAV Web site for current news.

Don't forget, membership is still our backbone. In June 2011 you will elect a new DAVA State commander, but I want to thank one and all for electing me as your first male State commander. I have learned a lot and will continue to learn. In appreciation, I want to thank DAV State Commander Frank Shepherd, for always thinking of me and including me in many of his activities. All of you are a plus in my book for putting up with us males. Times are changing. See you at a Zone meeting or at the convention in June.

"Doing nothing is very hard to do... You never know when you're finished."

As we prepare for a busy 2011, let us all remember our service men and women. It is important for the DAVA to support our soldiers who keep our freedom intact. They need us to fight for them the way they are fighting for us. Please take a

Use Unit projects to attract new members

by Linda Walters, 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 winter projects tend to be more indoor projects. My unit is not much into quilt-making, although we do bring in knitted, crocheted or purchased mittens, hats and scarves for the community mitten tree. We also bring in cards for Christmas and Valentine's Day (yes, the little kid's valentines), sign them

and take them to the veterans' homes. The veterans love it. This is also a good time to check on new legislation and write those legislators. Many are newly elected and have just taken office in January. One senator put out a legislation guide (although petitions and form letters do show that a number of people are concerned about an issue) that states, "One thoughtful, factual and well-reasoned letter carries more weight than 100 form letters."

Now is also the time to start thinking about spring and summer projects. Making plans for Memorial Day activities and parades, Fourth of July, county fairs (a great place to promote the organization and membership), zone meetings, conventions and don't forget about your reports. With the new membership Bylaws ratified, our membership is now open to a wider group of people and this can help you make quota.

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Department of Michigan 2010-2011 Officers and Chairmen

COMMANDER:	William A. Taylor (11) – 3395 N. Lakeshore Dr., Mears, MI 49436
SR. VICE COMMANDER:	Linda Walters (14) – 4757-1/2 44th St., Holland, MI 49423
JR. VICE COMMANDER:	Loraine Connelly (114) – 32148 Camborne Lane, Livonia, MI 48154
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Betty Benzing (18) – 14910 Craft Rd., Hersey, MI 49639
CHAPLAIN:	Ruth Hindes (3) – 2511 Windywood Dr., Burton, MI 48519
ADJUTANT/TREASURER:	Carol Gray (11) – 3432 Pine Knob, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544
ASST. ADJUTANT:	Hilda Cool (20) – 1465 Ogden St., Jasper, MI 49248
LEGISLATION:	Sherry Jones (3) – 2145 E. Bergin Ave., Burton, MI 48529
AMERICANISM:	LuAnn King (22) – 210 Northwoods Rd., Apt. 5, Marquette, MI 49855
COMMUNITY SERVICE:	Teresita (Tess) Morey (14) – A6161 138th Ave., Holland, MI 49423

Send all official DAVA Department of Michigan mail to:
Carol Gray, State Adjutant, 3432 Pine Knob, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544

WAR RELICS WANTED

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BUSINESS PHONE: 734-662-4485

FAX: 734-662-8868

E-mail: swisher_larry@yahoo.com

Committee working to replace flag poles at Ft. Custer National Cemetery

The Fort Custer National Cemetery Advisory Committee is raising money to replace the flag poles, reports Rena Penny, DAVA chairman. The poles that comprise the "Avenue of Flags" have been in place since 1973. The committee says that all 152 of them need to be replaced. The flags that fly on the poles at the cemetery are burial flags that were donated by family members.

The committee says the cost of each flag pole is \$329 installed. Donations are tax-deductible. Any amount donated towards this project would be greatly appreciated. Make check payable to: FCNC Advisory Committee and mail it to Rena Penny, 3911 Devonshire, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. If there are any questions, you can call Rena at 269-345-7029.

Auxiliary expands membership eligibility

by Loraine Connelly, Auxiliary State membership chairman

On December 21, 2010, the National ballot concerning eligibility expansion was ratified. National has provided us with a series of questions and answers to best explain it:

What does this mean? Effective immediately, this amendment not only expands DAV Auxiliary eligibility requirements, it opens the door to a new horizon for our organizations (DAV and DAV Auxiliary).

What affect will this have on my Auxiliary unit? This change will cultivate membership growth and allow those new members to help with the mission of service to disabled veterans and their families. Our National leaders are committed to the long-term stability and growth of our organizations and with new enthusiastic members we will be able to accomplish a great deal more.

Until new membership applications are printed, continue to use the applications on hand. The new eligibility requirements are:

Who is eligible for membership in the DAV Auxiliary? The DAV Auxiliary can now welcome those who were not eligible under the previous structure. Eligibility has been expanded to include:

- Family and extended family members of any person who is or was eligible for membership in the DAV.
- Family and extended family members of any person injured and may still be in active service in the armed forces of the United States of America and eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans.
- Family and extended family members of any person who has served in the armed forces of the United States of America and has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service.
- Family and extended family members of any person who served with the armed forces of any nation associated with the United States of America as an ally, who was honorably

discharged, and became an American citizen.

• Family and extended family of Auxiliary members who are not otherwise eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

What is considered extended family? Some examples of extended family are, but not limited to: step-children, step-grandchildren, step-siblings, step-parents, step-grandparents, uncles and aunts, great uncles and aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, sons- and daughters-in-law, fathers- and mothers-in-law, brothers- and sisters-in-law.

What's next? For starters, you can SIGN UP those who want to join but, until now, were not eligible for DAV Auxiliary membership. National reports new membership applications are currently being revised. Until a new supply is available use the current in-stock applications while you are signing up those extended family members.

RECAP OF STATE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2010-2011

Deadline to turn in forms is APRIL 1, 2011

\$75.00 – To Top recruiter in State of NEW SENIOR members by APRIL 1, 2011.

\$30.00 – To Top recruiter of NEW SENIOR members by APRIL 1, 2011 in the three remaining zones.

\$60.00 – To the Unit in each zone that signs up the most new Senior and Junior members.

\$100.00 WINNER!!!
There will be a drawing to help you enthusiastically entice new LIFE members to join. The name of every New LIFE Member and annual member Converting to LIFE that I receive by April 1, 2011 will go into a drawing.

For one lucky winner we will pay National \$100.00 towards their membership balance. If they have a zero or less than \$100.00 balance, whatever is not needed will go to the member in the form of a check.

New Department Service Officer joins staff

On January 3, the Department hired a new part-time service officer to begin the initial phase of training at the Detroit DAV National service office.

Daniel McClorey of Davisburg will take up a field position to assist in covering the DAV Offices located at the Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System and

Detroit's John D. Dingell VA medical center.

A U.S. Army veteran from 1996 through 1999, Mr. McClorey has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Oakland University.

Michigan Service Director Wendel said McClorey's schedule will be posted at a later date.



AN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON IS HELD DECEMBER 4 for DAV volunteer drivers from Battle Creek, Niles and Benton Harbor. The festivities took place at the Stevensville American Legion Post.



D. J. JACOBETTI RESIDENTS ENJOY A BUFFET BREAKFAST at an outing held October 19th at Wahlstrom's Restaurant in Marquette. About 30 members participated in the trip that was organized and sponsored by DAV Chairman Larry Blondeau.



MEMBERS OF DAV SOUTH OAKLAND CHAPTER 19 participate in the 5th Annual Metropolitan Detroit Veterans Day parade held Saturday, November 6, in downtown Detroit.



THUNDER BAY CHAPTER 61 OFFICERS Eve Burcar and Rebecca Mott visit Walter Reed Army Medical Center, taking the patients cases of Faygo soft drinks that aren't available in the Washington, D.C. area.

Joint Commanders' Testimonial set to be held in Battle Creek on April 8th

DAV State Commander Frank Shepherd Jr. and Auxiliary State Commander William A. Taylor will be honored Friday evening, April 8, at American Legion Post 54, 1125 E. Columbia Avenue in Battle Creek.

A social hour starts at 6 p.m. with an open bar. Dinner is at 7 p.m. The evening will wrap up with tributes to both honored guests.

Complete the reservation request form on page 5 and

mail it by the March 25 deadline. Tickets are \$27 per person. Plans for the fete coincide with the Zone II meeting being held at the same location the next day.

Event Coordinator Carl Baker reports there are a number of motels in the area for those planning on spending the night in Battle Creek. Most are on Beckley Road, about 4.5 miles from Post 54. In addition, visitors wanting to explore local attractions can check

out www.battlecreekvisitors.org or phone 1-800-397-2240.

- Motels in the area are:
- Motel 6, 4775 Beckley Road, Phone 269-979-1141, \$36.00+, handicap accessible.
 - Best Western, 5050 Beckley Road, Phone 269-979-8506, www.bestwestern.com, \$65.00+ for veterans, handicap accessible.
 - Baymont Inn, 4725 Beckley Road, Phone 269-979-5400, \$80.00+, handicap accessible.



LUCKY RAFFLE WINNER AT HILLSDALE COUNTY FAIR – Shown October 2, 2010, left to right, are: Debbie Williams from the veterans affairs office; Nina Taylor, 2nd place raffle winner; Auxiliary Unit 68 Commander Anna Lockwood and Chapter 68 Commander Florencio Lopez.



A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL took place on November 10 at 10:30 a.m. What started as a dream has become a reality, with a fitting tribute for disabled veterans and their families on site at Capitol Hill. Shown are, left to right, Michigan State Vice Commander Rebecca Mott of Alpena and Lois Pope, co-founder and chairman of the Disabled Veteran's LIFE Memorial Foundation.



MEMBERS OF DEARBORN'S CPL. IAN M. GRAY CHAPTER 51 CONTINUE A CHRISTMAS TRADITION of visiting and distributing gifts to hospitalized veterans at Detroit's John D. Dingell VA medical center on December 19. This year the group gave out sweatshirts, lap robes and canteen books. The volunteers include Tom Roney, chairperson; Fred Kinzel, Chester Bator, Tom Houle, Craig Tillman, George Harvey, John Ruselowski, Leonard Pitek and Al Tortonesi.



DONATION TO THE VETERANS HOME IN GRAND RAPIDS – Muskegon's Wood-Tazelaar Chapter 11 recently donated a Hoveround electric wheelchair. Shown standing are, left to right, Chapter officers Lenz Temple, Rick Wilson and Albert Hekkema. Seated is Cheryl McMullen, who accepted the gift on behalf of the veterans home.