

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

September/October/November/December 2012



Michigan Disabled Veteran

Volume 62 No. 1

[USPS 344-940]

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

New Logo Presented at National Convention



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

The new logo for the Disabled American Veterans was unveiled at the National Convention in Las Vegas back in August 2012.

Everybody knows change is a difficult thing, but is often necessary to move forward and not

become too complacent.

This is the first logo change to the DAV logo since its inception. Although it may take some time to get used to it, please embrace it as our Organization moves forward and approaches the century mark before you know it.

1970 Convention Photo Restored



The Department of Michigan would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to Tony Lafferty for his great work in restoring a Department photo of the National Convention in 1970 in Detroit, Michigan for the Organiza-

tions 50th Anniversary.

The original photo was given back to the Department of Michigan by Commander David Spencer of O'Connor-Reinhart Chapter 52 at the 2011 State Convention. The photo was in rough shape with some water stains and had been rolled up and stored.

Tony did a fabulous job restoring and framing the picture, which is now proudly hanging in the entry way of the Department Headquarters office in Fraser, Michigan.

The Department staff is very proud of the beautiful job Tony did and welcomes all members to come in and take a look at the picture.

Should you have any photos that are in need of restoration, we can honestly recommend Tony Lafferty to do a fantastic job restoring and framing your memories.

Tony also does wedding photogra-

PHOTO *Cont. on page 8*

Nicholas G. Koulchar National Service Officer Trainee Disabled American Veterans



to Iraq in March of 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as both the Unit Armorer and a Gunner as part of a Counter Improvised Explosive Device Route Clearance package.

In August of 2008 Mr. Koulchar was catastrophically wounded by a roadside bomb leading to the amputation of both his legs above the knee. Mr. Koulchar was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge as a result of his service. Mr. Koulchar spent over 2-1/2 years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, having over 50 major surgeries while recovering.

Nicholas G. Koulchar, a service-connected disabled veteran, recently joined the DAV's professional staff as a National Service Officer. He is currently engaged in successfully completing his NSO on the job training.

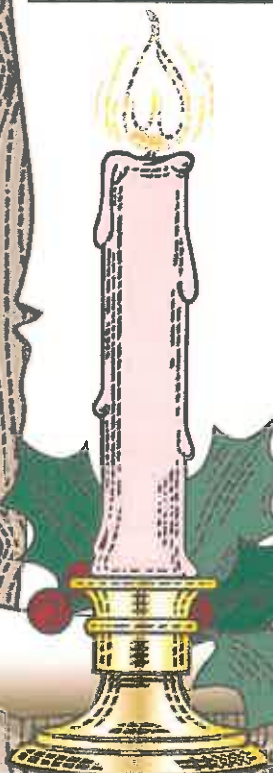
Enlisting in the United States Army in 2006, Mr. Koulchar served as a Combat Engineer with the 40th Engineers in Baumholder, Germany. In addition to his standard MOS duties Mr. Koulchar performed duties as the Unit Armorer, where he maintained 100% accountability for millions of dollars of U.S. Government-sensitive items. Mr. Koulchar was deployed

Since medically retiring from the U.S. Army at the rank of Sergeant, Mr. Koulchar has dedicated his time to helping raise awareness for disabled veterans. Sitting on the board of Help for Our Disabled Troops and publicly speaking for select other nonprofit organizations, Mr. Koulchar has helped raise hundreds of thousand of dollars in support of disabled veterans all across the country.

Currently Mr. Koulchar resides in Macomb, Michigan and is engaged to fiancée Dani Elizabeth Higgins, whom he plans to marry in June of 2013.

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*

*from
Commander Bob Blevins and
Auxiliary Commander Loraine Connelly
and the entire
Department Staff and Officers*



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

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



Bob Blevins

I have recently acquired a new found appreciation and respect for those who have undergone open-heart surgery. This old Marine thought this surgery was going to be a "piece-of-cake" compared to what he had endured during a lifetime of occasional misfortune. Let's just sum it up by saying "the road to recovery is slow and painful". I thank all of you that sent me cards and well wishes!

However, I am not writing this "article" to inform you of my personal dilemma or to gain your sympathy. Rather, I want to tell you a personal story that will "touch" each of you.

I had been home two days and was wondering how long it would take before I could dress myself and get out of a chair without help. I was hurting and was natu-

Commander's Message

"Purpose"

rally feeling sorry for myself and was also greatly depressed.

Our doorbell rang and my wife went to the door and returned to inform me that a lady needed help with VA concerns and questions because her husband had recently passed away.

My wife asked if she should send her away or ask her to come in? Reluctantly, I said to ask her to come in. She introduced herself and told us the story about her husband dying of a heart attack two weeks prior. She said that her neighbors told her that I was a Service Officer for the DAV...and would help her. She sat beside me and we talked for about an hour. She had questions about help and support from the VA and I answered those questions, and provided the help she needed. She also talked about her husband and how proud he was to serve his country. She squeezed my hand and thanked both my wife and myself for helping her and then quietly left.

Now...keep in mind that in all the years that we have lived in our home, no person has ever showed up at our door asking for help. At a time when I was not able to put on my own socks, I was able to help someone else!

I also thought that I could have easily died as well, and it could have been my wife knocking on someone's door for help and answers. I quietly thanked our Lord for His blessings and thanked Him for giving me "Purpose". This lady will probably never know how much she did for ME.

I feel so fortunate to belong to a Veterans Organization where the vast majority of us belong for the same reason - "Making lives better for Disabled American Veterans and their families". I thank each of you for what you do, for the kindness you provide in your communities and the Chapters you belong to. I encourage you to share this "Blessing". I ask you to continue with this "Purpose", and always carry a membership application with you to bring others into "Our Family".

Bob Blevins
 State Commander

Editor's Note: The State Commander recently experienced some heart complications that resulted in quadruple heart bypass surgery and he was released from the Hospital on October 2nd.

Membership Chairman's Message

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a very happy holiday season from myself and my family. Time goes so fast and this sneaks up on us very quickly.

My job as Sr. Vice Commander is Chairman of the Membership Committee. So far we are very disappointed in the return of the special offer that we have. In case you missed it, the Department will put in \$10 off a full paid life member or someone who wants to pay off his or her life membership dues. What we are asking is that the Chapters also try to make a contribution, along with the Department. We have only received a couple of Chapters that showed

any interest. Even if the chapter cannot afford to put any funds in, at least you could take advantage of our offer.

We need to target the new Veterans that are coming home with new disabilities. This group also includes women veterans that are suffering from any disabilities, especially P.T.S.D. Women make up nearly 15% of today's active duty military and 18% of Guard and Reserves. Approximately 40,000 women served in Desert Storm and many have combat-related injuries. Women are one of the fastest growing groups within the Veteran population. One in five women veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are diagnosed with P.T.S.D.

What we need to do is try to reach out to these Veterans and enroll them in the DAV. Some of the ones I talked to said they don't really deserve it and we have to insure them that they are eligible to belong. We have to make sure that we meet our membership goal to keep our benefits for the future. There is strength in numbers. If you have any questions, please call me or the Department about our offer.

Again I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. May it be a good one for everyone.

Carl Poest
 Sr. Vice Commander

Treasurer's Report

This is my first report as an Elected Department Treasurer.

You may have heard me in the past talk about how important it is to get your Chapter's Federal 990 into the I.R.S. We have been notified by DAV National that several Chapters will be suspended if they do not get their last three (3) reports into the I.R.S.

If you do not know how to

do this, Please get HELP, find a bookkeeper or a CPA to help you through this process. **If you let this go and do not respond, your tax-exempt status will be gone; fees and penalties will be assessed and your Chapter Charter will be revoked.**

Now some good news! Our Thrift Store is doing very well and is now making us money. I want to thank all our members

that have helped by donating items and shopping at the store. Keep up the good work.

Stay active in your chapter and keep the chapter active in your community. Let the community know you are dedicated Veterans helping your area's Veterans and their families.

Roger Jansen
 Department Treasurer

Circulation Data

This publication was cleared for printing and mailing August 9, 2012
 Circulation of this issue is 25,299 copies.

Thank you to everybody for the sympathy cards, flowers and phone calls we received due to the passing of my

mother, Bernice Wade, in September 2012.

Your thoughts and prayers were very much appreciated

during this difficult time.

Carol Lee, Auxiliary PDC
 Rolly D. Lee, Sr., State Adjutant



Mission Statement of the DAV

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

This mission is carried forward by providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government; providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally,

and to disabled veterans and their families specifically; representing the interests of disabled veterans; their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government; extending the DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state level departments and local chapters; and providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

MEMBERS

Please visit our website at www.davmembersportal.org/mi to view/print the new updated Constitution and Bylaws and Directory, so you can become familiar with all of the changes that have taken place.

Department Officer reports as well as the Annual Financial

Report and instructions can also be found under the news tab along with other helpful information for members and chapter officers.

Located under News Tab
 Dept Documents/Forms
 Also check out the Links Tab for additional websites that are helpful to veterans



Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

The Disabled American Veterans Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) is designed to facilitate and recognize creative volunteerism to support veterans and the DAV's mission.

Direct Assistance

Through the program, any volunteer activity that contributes to our mission of building better lives for disabled veterans and their families is recognized.

Adjutant's Message

Make a Difference

a sidewalk, assist with cooking or cleaning, paint or perform home repairs - any task that might brighten a veteran's life.

Individuals with special skills or qualifications can earn recognition for using their unique training and professional abilities in ways that benefit veterans.

Units, Chapters

DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers can receive credit for donating time to further the DAV's mission. Participation in sanctioned fundraising activities, outreach efforts, service officer activities and other official DAV and Auxiliary duties are all deserving of recognition through LVAP.

Scholarship Information

LVAP volunteer hours are eligible toward applications for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship. Eligible volunteers under the age of 21 can earn up to \$15,000 toward college tuition.

a difference in the lives of our disabled veterans.

If you have any questions, e-mail us at department@damichigan.com or call us at 1-888-448-2328.

Support our business, local jobs

In these tough times, we all have a part to play in revitalizing our economy and getting Michigan back on track. 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."

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." - Winston Churchill

Board of Trustees Message

Greetings from your MVTF Board of Trustees. We have finished another fiscal year and it was a great year. We finished the year with nearly \$1.7 million in grants to veterans and dependants of eligible veterans.

Earlier this year the Board of Trustees took action for the county committees to approve grants at a higher dollar level without being sent to Lansing for approval, and I think that made more applications approved at county level.

The new Trust Fund Board alignment is working very well. We now have three independent members serving and they are doing an outstanding job, as are the other members in making sure the Trust Fund assets are properly managed.

Ron Schrieber
Chairman
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Board of Trustees

ATTENTION!

Members of Wood-Tazelaar Chapter and Unit 11

Muskegon's Chapter and Unit 11 will be closed January and February 2013 due to the high cost of heat, electric and snow plowing.

2012 will be the last meeting of 2012. The first meeting in 2013 will be March 14.

Wilson at 616-842-4021.

Thank you, Al Hekkema Chapter 11

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 E 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@damichigan.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 P. George (17) 540 Manitou Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085, 269-429-0312

Vice Chairman 2012-13: Gerald Cool (20) 1465 Ogden Street, Jasper, MI 49246, 517-436-3343

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

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

Peter A. Sardo (16) 1102 Horton Road, Holly, MI 48442, 348-328-0672

Eve 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 Miloshey (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, 313-671-6517

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 Benzing (18) 14910 Craft Road, Hersey, MI 49639, 231-832-5339

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

District 6: Billie Cardona (93) 15623 S. Centerline, Rudyard, MI 49780, 906-478-3402

POW/MIA Report

I want to start this report by saying thank you to Commander Blevins and Adjutant Lee, all of the Executive Committee members, line officers and anyone else that voted for me to have this position. It is an honor to serve as the Advisor to Department on this issue.

Since the first of this year there has been a lot of activity on this issue, we continue to find and account for quite a few of our fellow service members, some as recently as September of 2012.

The only way to search for any remains is if a resident of a particular country (WWII Europe, Korea, Vietnam or from a Middle East country) remembers a plane being shot down or seeing an American in their country, or remembers someone being buried and then they notify the search team. The team then tries

to confirm that there is, in fact, someone buried at that site.

Recently our search teams have been receiving information from these residents...after all these years. When a grave is located, the search team must still attempt to identify the remains, which is very time consuming. If they are lucky, dog tags might be with the remains. The team has even identified remains from Laos and Cambodia.

Since I first formed this committee some 20 years ago, this issue has been very dear to my heart. At least some of the families have closure and their family members are buried with honor, most of which are buried in Arlington National Cemetery. More to follow later.

Harvey Slotman, PDC POW/MIA Advisor

Statement of Membership, Management, and Circulation for Michigan Disabled Veterans. Includes contact info for Rolly D. Lee, Sr. at 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.

Michigan Disabled Veteran report for August 2012. Includes financial data and membership statistics.

Women Veterans Committee

The definition of Veteran hasn't changed, but the population has. Today, there are over 1.8 million women Veterans and it is estimated to grow to 2.1 million by 2036. They account for an increasingly significant percentage of the total population of Veterans in the United States. Many are returning home from war or long deployments overseas bringing home the emotional and physical scars of combat.

Did you know that women represent nearly 15% of today's active duty military and 18% of reserve and guard forces?

Women serve in every branch of the military: as gunners, police, pilots, truck drivers and fuel suppliers, in addition to the more traditional roles of doctors, nurses and clerical MOS's. Women have seen intense combat and receive combat-related injuries.

Did you know that the average age of women Veterans is 48 years, compared to 63 years for male Veterans? Women Veterans are the fastest growing segment of the homeless Veteran population and are more likely to be homeless with children. All returning Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are faced with

increasing unemployment. Furthermore, as the population of women Veterans, the total Veteran population is decreasing.

The newest women Veterans from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are younger and with different health care needs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working to enhance this growing population. If you know a woman who served, ask her if she's checked out VA lately.

Jo Linda White
Womens Veterans
Committee Chairman

MSO Van Visits Department Headquarters

On Friday, October 5, 2012 the DAV MSO Van was at department headquarters for the day assisting veterans in the area with their claims. Veterans were treated to coffee, doughnuts and cookies inside the office while they waited for their turn to see a service officer from the MSO unit.

The two service officers were from the Chicago area. John Rodriguez, a National Service Officer from the VA Regional Office in Chicago, Illinois and James Daugharty, a Chapter Service Officer from Will County Chapter 103 out of New Lenox, Illinois were assisting veterans that day.

It was a very successful and busy day for the officers

who assisted many veterans in need of help. On behalf of the veterans that were serviced that day, and the Depart-

ment of Michigan, we would like to thank John and James for bringing the MSO van to department headquarters!



Pictured is DAV Chapter Service Officer James Daugharty from Will County Chapter 103 in Illinois and John Rodriguez from the NSO VA Regional office in Chicago, Illinois.

Department of Michigan VAVS Representatives and Michigan Veterans Homes Chairmen

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

BATTLE 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 Vanalleo Drive,
Saginaw 48638

STATE VETERANS HOME - GRAND RAPIDS
Chairman Richard A. Straub III
15435 Sunable,
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

2013 State Convention Dates Have Been Set

Location: Kewadin Casino and Hotel
2186 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Phone: 800-539-2346
DAV CONVENTION CODE: 9F41G8
(Remember to mention above code to receive DAV special rates)

Room Rates: Single or Double Room: \$75.00
Triple Room: \$85.00
Suite: \$95.00

Service Officer Conference:
Wednesday, June 5 and Thursday, June 6

Administrative Board Meeting:
Thursday, June 6

Convention:
Friday through Sunday, June 7-9, 2013

Hotel Reservations are now being accepted at the Kewadin Front Desk.
Call 800-539-2346 and reserve your room now to guarantee the room of your choice.

Please look for the Registration Form in the next edition of the newspaper in April 2013.

Women Veterans

As the nature of wartime deployments have changed over the last decade, women's roles in the military have changed as well. Of women veterans who left the military before 1990, approximately 7% were exposed to combat compared to 24% of women who served after 1990.

Between 2000 and 2009 the number of women veterans using VA health services has doubled from 150,000 to 300,000. To date 80,000 women veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (OEF / OIF / OND) are enrolled in VA Health Care - and 89% have used it more than once.

The new influx of women veterans using VA are younger in general than their male counterparts and tend to have more complex health needs. Women Veterans who use VA health services are also more likely than men to have a service-connected disability, 55% compared to 41% of men.

Significantly increasing numbers of women veterans coming to VA for care has created a challenge for the Department to provide consistent, comprehensive, quality health care services to women veterans at all VA facilities.

VA must hire new providers with expertise in women's health and train its existing staff of primary health care providers on

women's basic health care needs through hands-on, case-based mini-residencies.

To ensure that every woman veteran has access to comprehensive, convenient health care services in a safe and welcoming environment at all VA facilities.

VA must devote sufficient resources to address identified gaps in privacy, safety and delivery of quality health care services as identified by the Government Accounting Office (GAO).

DAV urges VA to continue its focus on its strategic priorities designed to deliver the best health care services to women veterans of all eras. VA's goal is that by 2013, all VA health facilities will offer women comprehensive primary care, including gender specific care, from a single provider who is proficient in women's health.

DAV urges VA to continue its outreach and gender specific media initiative, as well as its gender specific research on women veterans to better understand the unique impact of military service on women's lives and health - especially women who have served during wartime deployments.

Article provided from the DAV National Headquarters website Resolution No. 1855

Fort Custer National Cemetery Is Planning Ahead

Article submitted by Past Auxiliary Commander Rena Penny

This past summer at Fort Custer National Cemetery 3,000 graves were dug for Veterans and their family members. "The plots will allow us to have enough space for all the vets who have earned this type of benefit," said Roy Luera, Director of the cemetery.

The pre-dug plots will save land at the cemetery, instead of digging two graves side by side; the caskets will be stacked on top of each other. Each casket will be in its own individual crypt. Each 4,000-pound pre-fabricated crypt will have pea gravel on the bottom and a metal separator in the middle.

When a burial service is held at the cemetery, only 18 inches of soil will need to be dug up for the burial instead of 6 feet, Luera said.

The plots will be smaller; 3 feet by 8 feet instead of the previous 6 feet by 12 feet. Only family members will be buried together in the same plot.

Luera said the crypt system has been used at other National

cemeteries where space is more of an issue than it is at Fort Custer. "We are one of the last cemeteries to get crypts because we have so much land out there."

For Fort Custer employees, once the project is completed, future burials will take about five minutes of digging instead of 15-20 minutes on the old plots; this will allow employees to spend more time working on other beautification projects at the cemetery.

Fort Custer has 755 acres, and 144 acres have been used so far, Luera said. The cemetery has about 500 casket burials per year; the new plots being dug will take about eight to nine years to fill.

Digging on the project began in March 2012 and likely will end in September 2012. The first burials in the crypt will occur in the fall of 2012. Until a gravesite is needed, it will be covered in grass. Including cremations, Fort Custer buried about 1,100 veterans and dependants in 2011, which is the most since 2008; the number of burials dropped in 2009.

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 Committeeman:
Thomas Dempsey (114)

District 2 Chapters: 8-10-17-20-63-64-68-88-125

Department Officer: 2nd Jr. Vice
Commander Jolinda White (20)
Executive Committeeman: James Dempsey (13)

District 3 Chapters: 2-6-7-11-14-17
Department Officer: Sr. Vice
Commander Carl Poest (14)
Executive Committeeman:
Rich Straub (2)

District 4 Chapters: 18-38-39-43-105-106

Department Officer: 2nd Jr. Vice
Commander Jolinda White (20)
Executive Committeeman: Ben Benzing (18)

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

Department Officer: Sr. Vice

Commander Carl Poest (14)
Executive Committeeman: Rodney Lattimer (94)

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

Department Officer: Commander
Bob Blevins (26)
Executive Committeeman: Billie Cardona (93)



Douglas Wells

If you served on active duty at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987, you may have been exposed to contaminated drinking water.

Under a new law just signed by President Obama, you can receive VA medical care if you are suffering from any of the medical conditions described in the law and resided or served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for not fewer than 30 days between January 1, 1957, and December 31, 1987. Conditions considered

Service Director's Message

New law allows VA to provide the best quality care for eligible Veterans and their families who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune and were exposed to contaminated water.

under this law are as follows:

- Esophageal cancer
- Breast cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Renal toxicity
- Female infertility
- Scleroderma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Bladder cancer
- Leukemia
- Myelodysplastic syndromes
- Hepatic steatosis
- Miscarriage
- Neurobehavioral effects

VA will provide care immediately for those conditions while your eligibility under the new law is confirmed. Veterans already enrolled in VA health care should go local VA healthcare facility

to receive care under the new law. Those not already enrolled should call 1-877-222-8387 for assistance.

Care for family members will be available after Congress appropriates funds and VA publishes regulations. The new law applies to health care, not disability compensation.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to providing the best quality care for eligible Veterans and their families who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune and were exposed to contaminated water.

The law signed by President Obama on August 6, 2012, is titled Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

Legislative Chairman Message

New Michigan Law Gives Disabled Veterans Free Hunting and Fishing Licenses Beginning in March 2013

The Department of Natural Resources announced that free hunting and fishing licenses will now be available for disabled veterans beginning in March 2013.

House Bill 5292, signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder in October 2012 will allow a disabled veteran to obtain any resident hunting or fishing license for which a lottery is not required, free of charge. The veteran will be required to provide proof of eligibility and carry this proof when using any license obtained under this legislation. Under provisions of the law, the new licenses become available at the beginning of the next license year, which is March 1, 2013. The licenses cannot be

obtained before that date.

The law defines a "disabled veteran" as a resident who either:

- Has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and total disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans benefits; benefits at the 100 percent rate for disability other than blindness; or
- Is rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as individually unemployable.

"Providing free licenses for disabled veterans is just a small token of our deep gratitude for their sacrifice for all of us" said Denise Gruben, manager of

licensing and reservations for the DNR. "We want veterans to be full participants in outdoor sports. We are pleased to make these licenses available to qualifying veterans beginning next March under this new law."

For more information about Michigan hunting and fishing licenses, visit www.dnrmr-eflicense.com

A big thank you to Commander Bob Blevins for all his hard work in helping to get this bill passed. Every once in a while even a blind squirrel gets a nut.

Les Schneider
USAF (Ret.)
Legislative Chairman

Report from the Board of Managers for the Michigan Homes for Veterans

At our board meeting on October 16 we were informed that the homes completed the 2012 budget year in the black. Thanks to the legislature, a supplemental appropriation was approved to cover the cost that occurred due to the lawsuit that I mentioned in my last report.

Our 2013 budget has been set and we were approved for some capitol outlay projects. The Jacobetti Home is getting new roofing and the entrances are being

redone. The Grand Rapids home is replacing some 40-year-old windows, and the canopy project is finally going out for pre-bid on October 25. In the process, the main entrance is to be renovated for easier access. Hopefully by this time next year, we will have all projects finished.

Admissions continue on a regular basis and the waiting lists are short. I was able to attend the volunteer banquets at both homes and was able to thank the

volunteers personally. We thank the volunteers as it makes the members very happy.

The legislature is now working on the 2014 budget and I urge you to contact your legislative people to keep the homes on their minds.

Jerry Cool
Member, Michigan Veterans Homes Board of Managers
1465 Ogden Street
Jasper, MI 49248

REMINDER

Letters from Members

Don't forget we are still accepting letters from members to print in upcoming editions 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 Headquarters, 17779 14 Mile Road Fraser, MI 48026.

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., 4808 Eastern Ave. SE, Kentwood 49506.
- GENESEE 3, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 4270 E. Bristol Rd., Byron 48518.
- SAGINAW 4, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., American Legion Post 436, 5190 Weiss St., Saginaw 48603.
- KALAMAZOO BUCK-CROSSBY 6, 4th Wed., 6 p.m., VFW Post 1627, 1920 E. Kijgore 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 48908. Meet: P. O. Box 24141, Lansing 48909
- WM. SPARKS 10, 2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m., American Legion Post 29, 3200 Lansing Ave., Jackson 48202.
- WOOD-TAZELAAR 11, 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., 2415 E. Lakeview 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. (Closed July 2012 and Dec. 2012) Gral-O'Hara VFW Post 423, 3290 S. Wagner Rd., (betw. Saline & Ann Arbor Rds.), Ann Arbor 48106.
- HOLLAND 14, 1st Tues., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1165 Matt Urban Dr., Holland 48423.
- PONTIAC 16, 2nd Wed., 7 p.m., VFW Post 1370, 701 Mac, Pontiac 48340
- TWIN CITIES 17, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., Moose Lodge, 2180 Union Street, Benton Harbor 49022.
- BIG RAPIDS 18, 2nd Thurs., 6:30 p.m., 402 N. Michigan Ave., Big Rapids 49307.
- SOUTH OAKLAND 19, 2nd Wed., 1 p.m., 2717 Coolidge Hwy., Benton 48072
- LENAWEE COUNTY 20, 2nd Wed., 6 p.m., 141 E. Albert St., Adrian 49221
- MARQUETTE COUNTY 22, 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m., DJ Jacobetti Home, 425 Fisher Street, Marquette 49855
- CLOVERLAND CHAPTER 23, 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 1227 West Green Ave., Kingsford 49302.
- DELTA COUNTY 24, 1st Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 904 Sheridan Rd., Escanaba 49829.
- MEMONIEE COUNTY 25, 1st Thurs., 6 p.m., Senior Citizen Center, 905 10th St., Monroeville 49858.
- MANISTIQUE 26, 4th Thursday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 344 N. Maple, Manistique 49854.
- ALLEN ALTO 28, 3rd Thurs., 1 p.m., American Military League, 2493 Sylvania, Ypsilanti 48197.
- ISLAND LAKES 30, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., AMVETS Hall, 127 W. Cuse St., Cadillac.
- SALT CITY 43, 1st Tues. of month, 7:30 p.m., VFW Post, 226 St., Marquette 49850.
- MONROE COUNTY 42, 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., Dundee Veterans Corp., 418 Durham St., Dundee 48131.
- MACOMB COUNTY 44, 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Post 7573, 3511 1/2 Mile Rd., New Baltimore 48067.
- COL. IAN M. GRAY 51, 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m., DAV Hall, 617 Chase Rd. (near Ford Rd.), Dearborn 48128.
- O'CONNOR-REINHART 52, 2nd Thurs., 7 p.m., National Guard Armory, 1170 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie 49753
- 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, 6 p.m., DAV Memorial Home, 1020 U.S. 23 North, P.O. Box 668, Alpena 49707
- SHAWASSEE COUNTY 63, 1st Tues., 6 p.m., Shawassee Council on Aging, 300 N. Washington St., Oshtemo 49367.
- CLINTON COUNTY 64, 1st Wed., 7 p.m., American Legion Post 193, 110 E. Walker St., St. Johns 48379
- NORTHLAND CHAPTER 66, 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m. (Even numbered months), American Legion Post 6, McLeod Ave., Ironwood 49838.
- CHIPPewa 67, 2nd Thurs., 6 p.m., VFW 3134, 4 E. Genesee St., Iron River 49835
- HILLSDALE 63, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., 226 East Main St., North Adams 48269
- MUNISING 69, 1st Friday 7 p.m., DAV/VA Clubhouse, E.2025 Jungle Bell Ln., Chatham 48367
- OShtENAW HILLS 73, 3rd Monday, 6 p.m., Cummings Township Hall, 751 Morrison Rd. (South of Sage Lake Rd.), Rose City 48854
- TRUMB Memorial 76, 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, 264 Fawn River Road, Sturgis 49091.
- STRAITS 93, 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 1110 N. State Street, St. Ignace 48761
- MIDLAND COUNTY 94, 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 3019 Bay City Rd., Midland 48640.
- STANDISH 100, 1st Tues., 2 p.m., VFW 3724, 3466 N. Huron, Standish 48658.
- KARL H. BROWN 102, 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m., American Legion Post 428, 2425 W. Jefferson, Trenton 48183.
- WILSON-BLACKMER 104, 2nd and 4th Tues., 7 p.m., 3480 School St., Lake 48832; 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. of Quarter, 3 p.m., VFW Post 6782, 17645 East Nine Mile, Eastpointe 48021.
- WILLIAM C. FORD 113, 4th Wed., 6 p.m., VFW Post 345, 27346 Schoolcraft Road, Redford 48239.
- LIVONIA 114, 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., DAV Home, 30805 Plymouth Rd., Livonia 48150
- DR. PERCY H. WILSON 115, 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m., Chazsall VFW, U.S. 41, Chazsall 49816. Auxiliary meets at same time.
- JAMES V. PELLEGRINI/LINCOLN PARK 116, 2nd Wed., 3 p.m., American Legion Club, 1430 Southfield, Lincoln Park 48148
- HALEY BROTHERS 117, 1st Tuesday of month, 8:30 p.m., Aloda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, 1800 Weiss St., Saginaw 48602.
- ST. CLAIR SHORES 118, 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m., VFW Bruce Post 1148, 28404 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores 48081
- REED - J. DePRATO 125, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., American Legion Club, 3265 W. Grand River, Howell 48843.
- EBELUYCK-ROMANO 127, 1st Mon., 7 p.m., VFW Post 3130, 6782 Nine Mile Rd. (at Sherwood), Warren 48091
- ROBERT H. COX 128, 1st Tues., 7 p.m., DAV Hall, 47328 Daquandra, Shelby Twp. 48317
- TAWAS BAY 130, 4th Mon., 7 p.m., East Tawas City Community Bldg., 760 Newman, E. Tawas 48730.



George Coward (19) at the 2012 Veteran's Wheelchair Games. George won Silver in Traps.



George Coward (19) at the 2012 Veteran's Wheelchair games. George won Gold in Archery.

Armed Forces Word Search

M R O J A M J P V F H O V V N S M I
 M A R I N E S Y P M U T E X Z Y N A
 C T B P Q O V X R J K U U F Q E T N
 S E R G E A N T T N E M T I M M O C
 N S W K N P R I V A T E N C W E P I
 M I L I T A R Y D V O G E N E R A L
 O E A Y I H I W D E L B A S I D R W
 I M E S C Y X I T H O N O R V V K A
 U B O B B L E V I N S Y F E C J D I
 F X K L Q R O Q H T V E T E R A N R
 C D C H E L X M I C H I G A N A V F
 U D R A U G L A N O I T A N M K Z O
 T Z U R M K L A R O P R O C A Q E R
 B U Y T F V K R E D N A M M O C L C
 A K L C A M E R I C A N P A R M Y E
 I N Q L Y T I R G E T N I R Y R V G
 Z Y E G A R U O C J F I E O A O A J
 G C D Z C H N Y H O U L W B W O P D

- Airforce
- American
- Army
- Bob Blevins
- Commander
- Commitment
- Corporal
- Courage
- Disabled
- General
- Honor
- Integrity
- Major
- Marines
- Michigan
- Military
- National Guard
- Navy
- Private
- Sergeant
- Veteran

(Words can be found vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backwards and forwards.)

Congratulations to Chapter 129

Chapter receives grant from Home Depot for renovations to their building.

Commander Marc Williams has been working with Home Depot and received a grant from them for some much needed repairs and upgrades at the DAV Hall at Chapter 129 in Shelby Township, Michigan.

One of the oldest DAV Chapter buildings in Michigan, this is an historic site that has been a pillar

in the community for a very long time. Built in the late 1800s, it sits on approximately three acres.

On November 1, 2012 a team of Home Depot members and volunteers started the construction process. The chapter received Allure flooring, wainscoting and minor repairs to the interior and some minor land-

scaping, as well. The Chapter and Home Depot are in talks for future grants in 2013, as well, to get their bathrooms updated and finish up any remaining minor indoor repairs.

Commander Williams is inviting anyone that is interested to come on over and take a look.

Thank you, Home Depot!

VA Offers a New Tool to Help Veterans Prevent Diabetes

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced the implementation of a pilot version of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a program being promoted nationally by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aimed at reducing the number of Veterans who develop diabetes.

"The Diabetes Prevention Program will provide Veterans with another tool to help them lead healthier, fuller lives, reducing their risk for diabetes," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The DPP was a major multi-center clinical research study aimed at discovering whether modest weight loss through dietary change and increased physical activity or treatment with the oral diabetes drug metformin could prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 diabetes.

The study enrolled participants who were pre-diabetic - overweight and with blood glucose (blood sugar) levels higher than normal, but not high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes. Results showed those who lost a modest amount of weight through dietary changes and increased physical activity

sharply reduced their chances of developing diabetes.

"Approximately 24 percent of Veterans have Type 2 diabetes," said Dr. Linda Kinsinger, VA's chief consultant for preventive medicine. "We've monitored the DPP's results and we feel that it could be another tool to make a difference for Veterans."

Through VA's pilot DPP, which will be offered on a strictly voluntary basis, some Veterans who are at risk for, but not diagnosed with, diabetes will attend a series of group sessions and will be given predetermined weight loss and physical activity goals. Research has shown that, while many Veterans benefit by establishing their own health goals, others show positive improvement working towards goals determined by the program.

Other Veterans at risk for diabetes will receive weight management care through MOVE! - VA's current weight management program. The program targets a broad range of patients who are obese or overweight with obesity-related conditions, whereas the DPP specifically targets those obese individuals who have laboratory evidence

of pre-diabetes.

Because VA is eager to try new approaches to promoting health and preventing disease, it is implementing a pilot VA version of the DPP. A limited number of Veterans with pre-diabetes will be able to participate in this pilot clinical program at the medical centers in Minneapolis, Baltimore and Greater Los Angeles, with VA Ann Arbor serving as the coordinating center.

For more information on this program, contact Jay Shiffler (jay.shiffler@va.gov) at the VA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. To learn more about the VA's prevention program, visit <http://www.prevention.va.gov/index.asp>

VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country. With a health care budget of more than \$50 billion, VA expects to provide care to 6.1 million patients supporting 920,000 hospitalizations and nearly 80 million outpatient visits this year. VA's health care network includes 152 major medical centers and more than 800 community based outpatient clinics.

Chaplain's Message

By Michael Knutson, 11C U.S. Army (Ret.) State Chaplain

"Dale, Jim and Bill"

"When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come." - Mark 13:7

On many Sunday mornings, I used to have theological discussions with three WWII veterans: Dale, Jim and Bill. We talked about many things...life, God, family and friends and some interesting conversations on fishing. Sometimes we would sit and drink our coffee and say nothing at all. But we seldom talked about their time in the service. Was there something too painful? I will never know because all three have attended their last pass and review and have gone to join the Captain of their salvation. I miss my friends and our conversations.

And so it is with all veterans. Much of what veterans have seen and done is buried deep in their hearts and minds. When a veteran does finally speak out, often the comment heard from

family and friends is, "I never knew."

This Veterans Day we need to reach out to the 15 million veterans who still have not been reached and have issues buried in their hearts and minds. You and I may not be able to reach every one of those 15 million veterans, but each of us can go and find the "One" veteran who may be our neighbor, our co-worker or our family member. There is help available for all.

On Veterans Day, November 11th, 2012 find a veteran and thank that veteran for their service. Better yet, find a veteran and tell that veteran "Welcome Home." But most importantly find that "One" and tell them God loves you, America loves you and from "One to One" - I love you.

TAPS

Name.....	Chapter	Name.....	Chapter
William J Kurth, Jr.	1	Steve Rowland.....	19
Percy Stamps, Sr.....	1	Francis J DeRocher.....	24
Marvin Dodde.....	2	Alvin K Rieter.....	25
William Scherbinski.....	2	Gerard W Gauthier.....	26
Larry Fletcher.....	6	Charles Robert Krause.....	33
Harold W. Meyle.....	6	Walter H. Shoultz.....	33
Dale D Lesniak.....	9	Harvey Beerens.....	39
Edward P. Steele, Jr.....	13	Frank Grosso.....	44
William R. Allerton.....	17	John H. Mattson.....	66
Joseph S DeMatteo.....	17	Francis Lungs.....	68
Lloyd O Gearhart.....	17	John F. Krasinski.....	116

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

VETERANS ID CARD APPLICATION

U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs
 An Adams Media Group, LLC Company

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT 2nd Order 3rd Order ORDER FORM

IDENTIFICATION DATA
 Name (last, middle, first) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____
 M: any Branch _____
 Date of Birth (month/day/year) _____ SSN Last4 _____ Male _____ Female _____
 Discharge Type: Honorable Under Honorable Conditions General Dishonorable

Awards (Check all that apply). Must have supporting documents if awarded on Veteran ID Card:
 Air Force Cross Distinguished Service Cross Navy Cross
 Airman's Medal Distinguished Service Medal POW
 Bronze Star Medal Legion of Merit Purple Heart
 Coast Guard Medal Medal of Honor Silver Star
 Defense Superior Service Medal National Defense Service Medal Soldier's Medal
 Distinguished Flying Cross Navy & Marine Corps Medal No Special Recipient

Current Compensation Rating
 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100% No Rating

Diagnoses / or Special Medical Information: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Telephone: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION
 Credit Card MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Security No. _____ Expire on Date (month/year) _____

Signature _____

Read: Send card to: Department of Veterans Affairs, Attention: ADVA, 17779 East Fourteen Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026. Send to: 17779 East Fourteen Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026. Send to: 17779 East Fourteen Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026. Send to: 17779 East Fourteen Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.



Loraine Connelly

Auxiliary Commander's Message

shaw came to my rescue, but she had to pay an extra dollar because apparently two people paid to have me arrested, so the fine to bail me out was double. It's a fun part of the carnival that raises funds for the Auxiliary.

Golden Corral now has Camp Corral, a camp for the children of wounded or disabled veterans. This weeklong camp is free of charge to the family. The National Auxiliary recently donated \$10,000 to be used for transportation costs for camp attendees to ensure that those chosen to attend will be able to get to the campsite. Units are urged to donate to this very worthwhile cause. In fact, Juniors could participate in the fundraising. Please remember Camp Corral when making unit donations. Send to National earmarked for Camp Corral. To learn more or to apply, go to www.campcorral.org

Important Changes

A member in good standing is one whose dues are paid for the current membership year and is not indebted to the organization.

The Initiation Ceremony may still be given to new members; however, it is no longer necessary to receive the initiation in order to have a voice or to vote in the Auxiliary. As soon as a new

member starts a Life or annual membership, they are entitled to full membership benefits.

Don't forget to file your 990-N. The gross receipts amount has been raised from \$25,000 to \$50,000. It is now necessary for the Unit Adjutant to send a copy of the acknowledgment you receive to State and National Headquarters when you file the Form 990-N E-Postcard.

A Beautiful Tribute: My husband, PDC Joseph Connelly, recently had surgery at the Ann Arbor VA and then spent some time in their Community Living Center (CLC). The Palliative Care Unit is also in the CLC. We witnessed something I want to share with you.

Upon the death of a Veteran and consent of the family, the Veteran is placed in a coffin, which is then draped with a flag. With family and friends present, they play *Taps*. Everyone on the floor is urged to come to the door of their room or into the hall or pause where they are, in honor, as the Veteran is moved from the room and out of the area. A beautiful, moving tribute to a veteran.

Loraine Connelly
Auxiliary State Commander

Adjutant Ad Libs

By Carol Gray, State Adjutant



The newly updated and printed National Constitution and Bylaw books are printed and can be ordered for \$2.00 each.

The Bylaw books and all other supplies are to be ordered and/or purchased through the DAV National Service Foundation. That's right – the **DAV National Service Foundation**. Payment is needed prior to the shipment of your order. You may order online with a credit card with a minimum order of \$10.00 or you may send your unit check for the items ordered with the check made payable to the DAV National Service Foundation. Available Auxiliary items can be viewed online at www.DAVstore.org

Bylaw changes that were adopted at the most recent National Convention delegates can be found in the updated Bylaw books very easily as they are shaded in gray.

Unit Adjutants – By sign-

ing the officer report form, you affirm that you understand that you are the officer designated to receive the mail sent for the Unit. Just *YOU* have that responsibility. However, receiving the mail for the Unit also means that you are to bring any mail to the Unit meeting. If you don't bring it to your Unit meeting, the Unit Commander, the other officers nor the unit membership will get the information that was intended for *all* members. An informed Auxiliary is better able to accomplish the mission of the Auxiliary, which is "Making a difference for disabled veterans and their families."

State Commander Loraine Connelly's theme for the year includes you as Unit Adjutant very aptly. "Be the Thread" to a Unit Adjutant means that you have the "needle" (Unit mail) that will put the "patches" (updates and information) that will give your Unit the opportunity to also follow the theme of Auxiliary National Commander Donna Adams which is "The Key Is Understanding".

The Holidays are almost here! I wish each and every one of you a holiday season that is full of family and friends, kisses and hugs, joy and laughter, babies and great-grandparents and the food for your soul that comes with being around those you love. The holidays can be stressful, but nothing warms my heart more than being with those I love and care about. Happy Holidays!!

Most recently, I attended the Auxiliary Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. As always, I thoroughly enjoyed myself. The educational skits and carnival are always fun. There was a warrant for my arrest and I was put in jail (at the carnival). I was about to bail myself out when they announced, "You've been bailed out!" Donna Hen-

Membership – Our Future

By Barbara McComb, Auxiliary State Membership Chairman

Our future depends on our Membership. Membership takes you and me working together. It takes our persistence and determination to achieve our quota. It would be great for every Unit to make quota this year. We need to get a few new members every month. Encourage your Chapter members to enroll their spouses and family members in the Auxiliary. Chapter members can also have dual memberships. Be part of the community.

As a representative for the DAV Auxiliary, you can help out on parade committees, holiday programs, Veteran programs and other events. Invite guests to your Auxiliary meetings; they may become future members. Remember to welcome all guests, new and regular members to the

Auxiliary meetings and don't forget to sign up Junior members.

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-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 recruiters of 5, 10, 15 senior members and for the top membership recruiter of \$250.00. *It is time to... Go for the Gold.*

Happy holidays to everyone. If you have any questions, I can be reached at Mccomb.ba@gmail.com

The DAV Auxiliary Needs You

Joining is simple and easy and the criteria has changed, so please ask your friends, family, neighbors to join and help out our Disabled Veterans.

Family and extended family members of Veterans who were or were not disabled in the military, active military family and extended family members, family and extended family of current Auxiliary members.

Grandparents, did you know that your grandchildren can also join as a Junior membership. This is a great learning tool; they learn the rewards of volunteerism and service to the community, as well as the significance of honoring our nation's Veterans. Children who are age 17 and under can join.

You decide how active you want to be in the DAV Auxiliary; everyone has different demands on their time. If you have the time to help the Auxiliary's work, there is plenty for you to do; but if you can only support the Auxiliary through membership, we welcome you!

DAV Members, did you know you can also join the Auxiliary? Send in your membership application and join to help out the organization.

The DAV Auxiliary is making a difference for disabled veterans and their families through service – past, present and future.

Make A Plan for Mae Holmes

By Anna Lockwood, Auxiliary State Mae Holmes Chairman

National Auxiliary Commander Mae Holmes, who was from Michigan, served from 1954-1955. She wanted to reward the Units that participated in all the Auxiliary programs and showed exemplary work in all areas. They also had to make quota by April 1.

The Mae Holmes report documents what your Unit has done to support our Disabled Veterans, their families and how we have made a mark in our community.

The Mae Holmes report is completed by using informa-

tion from all other reports. The most important question on it is: if you would like to win the award and if you have met quota by April 1.

In order to prevent your Mae Holmes, or any other reports you want to submit from being disqualified, be sure they are post-marked by May 1. Make sure each question at the top of the report is answered and signed at the bottom.

Anna Lockwood
Auxiliary State Mae Holmes Chairman

Membership Application

MAIL TO:
Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan
17779 E 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP is offered on a fiscal year basis, July 1 through June 30. Dues for this type of membership are \$15.00 a year. Dues must be paid each year to continue this type of membership.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Life Membership is encouraged for those who want to be permanent members of the DAV Auxiliary. The life membership fee includes all dues, fees and assessments for the member's lifetime. Fees are based on the member's age, as follows:
Age 18-30...\$250, Age 31-45...\$730, Age 46-60...\$200, Age 61-70...\$180, Age 71-79...\$140, Age 80 or older...FREE

STATE: _____ UNIT: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE/E-MAIL: _____

New Life (\$200 down payment) New Junior (\$3.00) Life Payment
 New Annual (\$15.00) Junior Renewal (\$3.00) Annual Renewal

If Annual/Junior Payment, specify year: July 1, 20____ to June 30, 20____

Date of Birth Required: _____

If this is a RENEWAL or Life Membership Payment, skip to the Signature Line

Eligibility Through Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

Applicant's Signature _____

Sponsors Code Number: _____

AE/VA/SMC/DISCOVER # _____

Exp. Date: _____

**Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
2012-2013 Officers and Chairmen**

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e-mail: LoraineMC@ymail.com

State Sr. Vice Commander
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e-mail: faem@copper.net

State Jr. Vice Commander
Barbara McComb, (18)

State Judge Advocate
Betty Benzing, (18)
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e-mail: davhsben@hughes.net

Adjutant/Treasurer
Carol Gray, (11)
616-785-3473
e-mail: dava_m_adj@comcast.net

State Chaplain
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616-399-3398
e-mail: smudget@aol.com

YAVS Representatives
Ann Arbor VAMC
Elizabeth Riley (20)
43 Santee River Drive
Adrian, MI 49221
517-266-9345

John D. Dingell VAMC
Jessie Davis Randolph (1)
23599 Coach Light Drive, Apt 303
Southfield, MI 48075
313-445-6357

State Veterans Home Chairmen
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
Jackie Lomonaco, (2) Chairman
1659 Plainfield NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616-450-3894

D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans
Donna Henshaw, (22) Chairman
145 Sheryl Street
Marquette, MI 49855
906-249-3608

7th Annual Thomas McMaster Golf Outing

Another successful outing and a great time had by all



Pictured, L-R: Rolly D. Lee; Wing Commander Ronald W. Wilson, Alpena ANG; PDC John Lamphere; and Eve Burcar (61).

This year marked the 7th Annual Thomas McMaster Golf Outing at Fern Hill Country Club in Clinton Township, Michigan on September 8, 2012. The weather cooperated and a 21-gun salute started off the festivities at 9:00 a.m. Golfers were treated to a continental breakfast upon arrival, a hot dog and drink at the turn and a wonderful buffet dinner. SGT Michelle Sroka and MSG Gatto donated 100 cans of beer at the turn for golfers, too – how very generous they were.

We were very fortunate to have some really nice raffle items and silent auction items. Some of the top raffle prizes were a 32" flat screen TV, a Garmin GPS and a Nook Tablet, just to name a few. There were about 30 raffle prizes in all. The Silent Auction also had some very nice items as well, including an autographed baseball by Triple Crown winner

Miguel Cabrera, an autographed Alex Avila picture and for the Red Wing fans, we had an autographed Pavel Datsyuk framed picture. Other items that drew a lot of attention were overnight stays and gift cards from area casinos with the top one being valued at \$350.00.

The Department would like to congratulate and thank Golf Chairman Paul Klosterman (Chapter 44) for all of his hard work and dedication in putting together this golf outing. Paul was presented with a plaque at the banquet by Commander Bob Blevins to show the Department's appreciation for what he does to make this outing successful.

Thank you to all who participated, volunteered or just came out for dinner and the raffle. Everybody had a great time and we already have a list of golfers who want to come back next year.



2012 National Convention in Las Vegas. Pictured are Department and National Service office staff, along with other Michigan members.



PHOTO *Cont. from page 1*

phy, high school senior pictures, family portraits, children's portraits, pet portraits and event and commercial photography.

Detroit Photography is one of Tony's passions and he goes weekly to areas in Detroit where the old architecture is still standing and captures beautiful pictures taking you back to the good 'ol days. Tony also offers Detroit Photography Training, giving lessons and workshops in a condensed hands on, no bull, fun fashion – the "learn right and

learn fast" method.

Tony's studio is located in Macomb County, Michigan and he can be reached by phone at 586-996-3686. Please visit his website at www.detroitphotographytraining.com if you are interested in lessons and make sure to visit Tony's website at www.tonylafferty.com and visit and "Like" his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/photography-by-tonylafferty/121585257875632

Thank you, Tony, from the staff at the Disabled American Veterans Department of Michigan.



Pictured, Back Row, L-R: Chris Garcia, Sandi Mudget, Gloria Boozer, Carol Gray and Garry Henshaw. Front Row, L-R: Florencio Lopez, Anna Lockwood, Kathy Adams, Helen Wayne, State Commander Lorraine Connelly and Donna Henshaw.

Calling All Chapters

Please tell us what you are doing and what you have done in the community. We would love to let other Chapters out there know what great things you have done and what is coming down the road. Maybe we can all get some ideas from one another or at least be proud of what other Chapters and members in our state are doing for the Disabled American Veterans in Michigan. Feel free to send photos, as well. We would

like to start doing a "Chapters Corner" section in the newspaper featuring the wonderful work that all of you do.

Please send any information or photos to: michelle@davmichigan.com or kelly@davmichigan.com

You can also mail to Department Headquarters at: DAV Dept. of Michigan, 17779 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.