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

August 2010

Michigan Disabled Veteran

Volume 60 No. 1 [USPS 344-940]

"We are always the same age inside."
– Stein

Michigan's newly-elected 2010-11 State officers take the oath of office on Sunday morning, June 13.

Shown are, left to right, Officer of the Day Karl Brown (who passed away on July 25, 2010), State Commander Frank T. Shepherd, Jr., St. Sr. Vice Commander Christopher M. Sardo, State 1st Jr. Vice Commander Dale La Palme, State 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Rebecca Mott, State 3rd Jr. Vice Commander David Mims, State Chaplain David McClary, as well as 8 new State Administrative Board Members: Zone I – David Van Hill, Joseph Connelly; Zone II – David C. Martin, Fred R. George, Jr.; Zone III – John Lamphere, Tim Bever and Zone IV – Daniel Mulcahey, Todd Lindahl. Photo by S. Pruitt

Convention delegates elect Frank Shepherd as State commander

Elections held Sunday, June 13, at closing sessions of the Department's 85th State convention named Frank T. Shepherd, Jr., a U.S. Air Force veteran, to command the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan.

Frank Shepherd was unanimously elected commander at weekend sessions held June 11-13, at the Kewadin Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie. His slate includes Christopher M. Sardo of Holly, sr. vice commander; Dale La Palme of Hermansville, 1st jr. vice commander; Rebecca Mott of Alpena, 2nd jr. vice commander and David Mims of Kalamazoo, 3rd jr. vice commander. Dr. David McClary of Southfield was elected to serve as State chaplain.

In accordance with a resolution that was adopted by the convention body last year, all terms of all Administrative Board members ceased and a new 8 member Administrative Board was elected. Elected to serve regular 2-year terms were Tim Bever of Saginaw; Joseph Connelly of Livonia; Fred R. George, Jr. of St. Joseph; John Lamphere of Cadillac; Todd Lindahl of Iron River; David C. Martin of Battle Creek; Daniel Mulcahey of Ironwood and David Van Hill of Flat Rock.

Shepherd joined the U.S. Air Force in 1950 and his basic training was cut short by the outbreak of the Korean Conflict, when he was assigned to the Air Police and shipped out to Portland, OR, Ashiya, Japan and Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C. Upon discharge he met and married his wife, Louise.

After reenlisting in 1957, Shepherd attended Avionic School at Scott AFB, IL and upon completion was assigned duty with the 55th Recon Wing at Forbes AFB, Topeka, KS. He was assigned duty with the 548th Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Squad at Forbes in 1960, as a test equipment/calibration technician to install and make operational the Altus Missile to deter an attack from the Soviet Union.

In 1965 he was assigned to the 90th Bomb Wing at Westover AFB, MS and in 1966 Shepherd went to Da Nang Vietnam. In 1967 he served with the 70th Bomb Wing, Clinton Sherman AFB, OK and in 1969 went to Pleiku AFB Vietnam. In 1970 he was back at Forbes AFB assigned to the 1st Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service as a radar operator on C-130A Aircraft until his retirement in 1973.

After serving in the Air Force, Shepherd became an insurance salesman before returning to the Air Force in 1974 as a civilian Flight Facilities' Technician at Forbes AFB (now a National Guard Base). In 1978 he transferred to Battle Creek Federal Center as a standardization technician in logistics.

Shepherd studied three years at Washburn University in Topeka, KS while working, and after retiring from the Air Force, completed his studies at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, where he earned an Associate Degree in General Studies in 1972.

Shepherd has been a DAV member since 1980 and he and his wife, Louise reside in Battle Creek.

Auxiliary leaders

Elevated from the office of Auxiliary sr. vice commander to head Department activities in 2010-11 is State Auxiliary

CONVENTION *See page 2*

VA launches development of new Online Claims System

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced plans on July 2 to develop a fully automated, online system for handling veterans' disability compensation claims. More than a simple digitization of existing paper-based claims, the new system is part of VA's modernization of the end-to-end processing workflow. Automation will substantially reduce processing time and increase accuracy while simplifying the way that veterans interact with the claims process.

"This new program accelerates our effort to eliminate the claims backlog through automation and modernization of our systems," said Secretary Shinseki. "It's another step in transforming VA into a 21st Century department that better serves our veterans."

Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Republic of Vietnam who today have B-cell leukemia (hairy-cell leukemia), Parkinson's disease, or ischemic heart disease are slated to be the first users of the automated system. The final regulation implementing the presumption of service connection for these three diseases is poised to become effective later this year. While the first use of the new system will be limited to this pending subset of disabilities, usage will expand over time to include claims for other conditions.

The new system will guide veterans through automated, program-assisted menus to capture the information and medical evidence that will drive faster claims decisions. In the initial configuration, VA estimates the new system may assist as many as 100,000 veterans.

As part of the implementation of the new claims system, VA has awarded a $9.1 million development contract to Bethesda, Md.-based IBM. The IBM team will work closely with VA developers and will implement the online application system by November, permitting veterans easier and faster access to VA and more accurate and quick claims processing for the initial set of qualifying conditions.

The new system, funded by the VA Innovation Initiative, represents one of several efforts VA has underway to transform the department into a 21st Century organization. As a first step in integrating new technologies into claims processing, it represents a significant step towards meeting VA's goal to "break the back of the claims backlog" and provide all veterans with high quality decisions on their claims in no more than 125 days.

The DAV Department of Michigan's motorcycle raffle drawing took place on May 27, 2010 at 1 p.m. Since they were not able to sell 2,000 tickets, it became a 50/50 raffle and a fellow out of Eaton Rapids won – winning ticket number 135 – $8,560. Shown at the drawing, are left to right, Joe Spencer of Fraser, State Commander John Lamphere and Paul Klosterman of Clinton Township.

NEXT ISSUE – November, 2010

Due to budget constraints, the Department of Michigan, Disabled American Veterans recently reduced the number of issues published annually from 7 to 4. The next issue of the *Michigan Disabled Veteran* will be November 2010.

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

Frank T. Shepherd, Jr. chairman
Clyde Hishok Reuben Swisher
Russ Spalding Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

K. Bledsoe, editor (586) 415-8610 - FAX: (586) 415-9201

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.

STATE OFFICERS

Commander ..... Frank T. Shepherd, Jr.
Sr. vice commander ..... Christopher M. Sardo
1st jr. vice commander ..... Dale La Palme
2nd jr. vice commander ..... Rebecca Mott
3rd jr. vice commander ..... David Mims
Chaplain ..... David McClary
Treasurer ..... Roger Jansen
Adjutant ..... Rolly D. Lee, Sr.
Judge advocate ..... Ronald Schrieber

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David Van Hill, chairman
Fred R. George, Jr., vice chairman
Frank T. Shepherd, Jr., cmdr.
Tim Bever
Joseph Connelly
John Lamphere
Todd Lindahl
David C. Martin
Daniel Mulcahey

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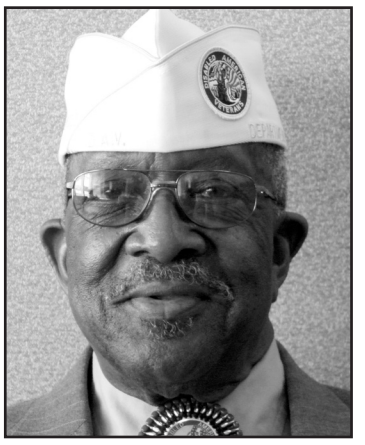
What we are about

by Frank T. Shepherd, Jr., State commander



Frank T. Shepherd, Jr.

I would like to thank my comrades for having elected me as Department commander, and I hope I will measure up to your expectation.

We are still seeing a decrease in membership through attrition, and a disproportional increase through recruitment. Membership is the backbone of our organization, and we, the existing members, are the keepers and builders. We have an appointed membership committee or chairman; however, we are all inherently part of the membership committee and should be applying ourselves to these duties. For this year I am challenging each member to sign-up at least one new member.

You notice I continually use the word we. This is to signify that we are a family, an organization; not separate entities. We have chapters, zones and departments, all working toward a common goal, that being, veterans helping veterans. Let us not lose sight of what we are about, and remember our mission.

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 veterans and their families.

I will admonish all members to read and become familiar with the National, Department and Chapter Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations.

With these points in mind and adhered to, we can look forward to a good year.

VA Questions & Answers

Change in prescription co-payments

As of July 1, 2010, a change to prescription copayments went into effect. Veterans who are in Priority Groups 7s and 8s that previously paid $8, will now be charged $9 per 30 days' supply of medication or less per prescription. This increase is required by federal regulation which links VA's copayment increases with the Medical Consumer Price Index (Reference 38 CFR 17.110). Those patients in Priority Groups 2-6 will continue to pay $8 per 30 days' supply of medication and will also continue to have a $960 annual copay cap.

1. **Question:** I don't have to pay for my prescriptions now. How will this new change affect me?
   Answer: If you didn't have to pay for prescriptions previously and your eligibility and/or income level have not changed, you will not be charged for prescriptions.
2. **Question:** My father only pays for some of his prescriptions because he has service connected disabilities. How much will he have to pay for his prescriptions now?
   Answer: If your father is 10-40% service connected, he will continue to pay $8 per 30 days' supply or less for each medication. Also, he will only pay a maximum of $960 per year, which is the annual co-pay cap.
3. **Question:** I'm 50% service connected, will I have to pay for my drugs now?
   Answer: No, if veterans are 50-100% service connected, they will not pay copayment charges for treatment or prescriptions at VA medical centers.
4. **Question:** Why is VA making Priority Group 7 and 8 veterans pay more for their medicine and not everyone?
   Answer: Federal regulations mandate that once the Consumer Price Index goes above a certain point, that VA is required to raise the copayment rate by $1 per 30 days' supply or less of medication. In an effort to help those veterans who have service connected disabilities and those with a lower income level, VA was able to freeze the copayment for those veterans who would be the most impacted by the additional cost.
5. **Question:** I'm an ex-POW and don't pay for medicine I receive from the VA. Will I have to pay for it now?
   Answer: No, those veterans that are ex-POW and those who receive pensions from the VA, such as a NSC Pension, Aid & Attending and Housebound will not have to pay for medications.
6. **Question:** I'm a combat veteran. Will I have to pay the new $9 rate?
   Answer: Combat veterans will not pay for medications that are related to combat veteran status for five years after their date of discharge or for medications related to any service connected conditions you may have.
7. **Question:** I was charged $9 for each of my prescriptions that I received on June 29th.
   Answer: We apologize for this problem and we will decrease your bill or if previously paid, we will process a refund to you.

CONVENTION *From page 1*

Commander William A. Taylor of Mears, a member of Wood-Tazelaar Unit 11 in Muskegon.

His line officers include Linda Walters of Holland as sr. vice commander and Loraine Connelly of Livonia as jr. vice commander.

Carol Gray, of Grand Rapids, serves as State adjutant/treasurer and Ruth Hindes of Burton is Auxiliary State chaplain.

Installation ceremonies took place following the Sunday morning elections with Past State Commander Russ Spalding installing the Department officers and Auxiliary Past State Commander Donna Henshaw installing Auxiliary leaders.

Chapter Financial Report Deadline Nears

Each Chapter is required to submit an annual financial report to DAV Department headquarters by September 30, 2010 (within 90 days after the close of the accounting year – June 30, 2010). Chapters with income over $10,000 are also required to submit an annual financial report with DAV National headquarters.

Circulation Data

This publication was cleared for printing and mailing August 5, 2010

Circulation of this issue is 27,076 copies.

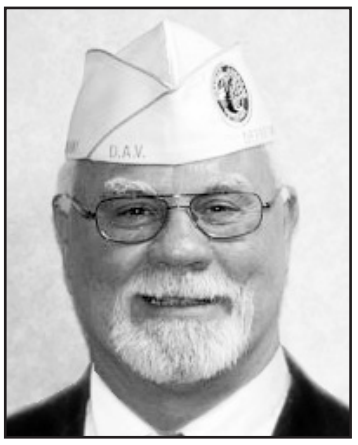
Honor Roll of Donors

The DAV Department of Michigan wishes to thank the following individuals and groups for stepping up in support of Department and Rehab programs through monetary donations this past year. Your generosity is only surpassed by your dedication to our cause!

Charly Mathews of Chapter 129
Jo Linda White of Chapter 20
Tom Wendel of Chapter 102
William Alden Smith, Jr. Chapter 2 in Memory of Terry Jacamel
William Dollar of Chapter 22
Edwin Holden of Chapter 7
Russ Spalding, PDC in Memory of Johann Spalding
Dale LaPalme of Chapter 24
Robert Thomas of Chapter 12
Thomas Dempster, Chapter 114
John Lamphere, PDC of Chapter 39
Michael Knutson of Chapter 4
Garry Henshaw of Chapter 22
Frank T. Shepherd, Jr. of Chapter 7
Oakland County Chapter 19
Holland Chapter 14
National Sr. Vice Commander Wally Tyson
DAVA, Department of Michigan
O'Connor-Reinhart Chapter 52
AlmaMarie and Bill Taylor, Unit 11

Take this Readership Survey

By Rolly D. Lee, Sr., State adjutant



Rolly D. Lee Sr.

Please help us make our DAV Michigan publication an even better resource for Michigan Disabled veterans, their families and advocates, by filling out and mailing us this form. Your input can help us improve!

Mail the completed survey to DAV, 17779 E. 14 Mile Rd., Fraser, MI 48026.

When you read Michigan Disabled Veteran publication, how much of the issue do you read?
☐ I flip through and look at photos
☐ I read many of the stories
☐ I skim stories
☐ I read most everything

Rate your interest in the following:

	Interested 1	No opinion 2	Dislike 3
Columns and Commentaries	1	2	3
Legislative Information	1	2	3
Membership Information	1	2	3
Service Feature n	1	2	3
Special Events/Programs	1	2	3
News Briefs	1	2	3
Volunteerism	1	2	3

Rate the following aspects of Michigan Disabled Veteran in terms of quality:

	Excellent 1	2	Fair 3	4	Poor 5
Writing	1	2	3	4	5
Feature Topics	1	2	3	4	5
Photography	1	2	3	4	5
Content Choice	1	2	3	4	5
Design/Layout	1	2	3	4	5
Paper Stock	1	2	3	4	5
Print Reproduction	1	2	3	4	5

Rank the following in terms of how you prefer to find news and information

	Very Important 1	Important 2	Not Important 3
Printed Newspapers	1	2	3
Online News Sources	1	2	3
Printed Journals/Magazines	1	2	3
Online Journals/Magazines	1	2	3
Websites	1	2	3
Social Networking	1	2	3
E-mailed Updates/Newsletters	1	2	3
The Internet in General	1	2	3

Have you visited www.davmembersportal.org/mi
☐ Yes ☐ No

How would you prefer to receive Michigan Disabled Veteran…
☐ As a printed publication
☐ Through E-mail
☐ As an online publication
☐ By visiting **www.davmembersportal.org/mi**

What is your age group?
☐ Under 25
☐ 26-34
☐ 35-44
☐ 45-54
☐ 55-64
☐ 65+

What are you most likely to do with this publication after you've read it?
☐ Place it in my files
☐ Leave it somewhere for other to read
☐ Pass it along to a fellow veteran or acquaintance
☐ Discard or recycle

Provide us with any other suggestions or comments regarding the Michigan Disabled Veteran publication that you feel will help us make it more interesting and relevant to you and your fellow veterans and advocates.

Interests
☐ I am a member of the Michigan DAV or DAV Auxiliary
☐ I am interested in membership in the DAV or Auxiliary
☐ I am not a member but am interested in the issues facing veterans and their families
☐ I am not interested in receiving updates on information impacting disabled veterans and their families

Please provide your name and phone number or E-mail so we can contact you:

_____

_____

_____

DAV, Department of Michigan Elected State Officers 2010-11

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

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8039 Groveland Rd., Holly 48442, (248) 328-9660

1st Jr. Vice Cmdr.: Dale LaPalme (24)
P.O. Box 253, Hermansville 49847, (906) 4908-2407

2nd Jr. Vice Cmdr.: Rebecca Mott (61)
717 Tawas St., Alpena 49707, (989) 356-3151

3rd Jr. Vice Cmdr.: David Mims (6)
2649 Hickory Nut Lane, Kalamazoo 49004, (269) 381-2381

Chaplain: David McClary (19)
27599 Lahser, Apt. 219, Southfield 48034, (248) 948-0794

Judge Advocate: Ronald Schrieber (135)
513 Jefferson Blvd., Roscommon 48653, (989) 821-6759

Adjutant: Rolly D. Lee, Sr. (105)
17779 E. 14 Mile Rd., Fraser 48026, (586) 415-8610

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

State Administrative Board
Chairman 2010-11
David R. Van Hill (116)
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Vice Chairman 2010-11
Fred R. George, Jr. (17)
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Commander 2010-11
Frank T. Shepherd, Jr. (7)
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Tim Bever (4)
4440 Lynndale, Saginaw 48603, (989) 790-2066
Joseph Connelly (114)
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John Lamphere (39)
220 E. Cass St., Cadillac 49601, (231) 876-0446
Todd J. Lindahl (67)
140 E. Boyington St., Iron River 49935, (906) 367-2185
David C. Martin (7)
129 Viking Ct., Battle Creek 49017, (269) 966-8726
Daniel Mulcahey (66)
E5181 Sunset Rd., Ironwood 49938, (906) 932-4308

Veterans' medallion available for order

Each service has own medallion.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased's status as a veteran.

"For veterans not buried in a national or state veterans cemetery, or those without a government grave marker, VA is pleased to offer this option that highlights their service and sacrifices for our country," said Secretary Shinseki on June 29.

The new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Under federal law, eligible veterans buried in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the new medallion, but not both. Veterans buried in a national or state veterans cemetery will receive a government headstone or marker of the standard design authorized at that cemetery.

The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1-1/2 inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded burial flag adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word "Veteran" at the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

Next of kin will receive the medallion, along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover.

More information about VA-furnished headstones, markers and medallions can be found at **http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmtype.asp**

VA is currently developing an application form for ordering the medallion. Until it is available, applicants may use the form for ordering government headstones and markers, VA Form 40-1330. Instructions on how to apply for a medallion are found on the VA Web site at **www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp**

Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or grave marker.

The new medallions will be available only to veterans buried in private cemeteries without a government headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3 million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict – from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan – are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the VA Web site on the Internet at **www.cem.va.gov** or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

2010 CONVENTION TOP HONORS GO TO . . .

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

HARCOURT MEMBERSHIP TROPHY – 500-OVER MEMBERS – FOR LARGEST PERCENTAGE GAIN OVER CHAPTER TOTAL MEMBERSHIP A/O JULY 2, 2009:

LIVONIA CHAPTER 114

AUST TROPHY – 150-499 MEMBERS – FOR LARGEST PERCENTAGE GAIN OVER CHAPTER TOTAL MEMBERSHIP A/O JULY 2, 2009:

WILLIAM C. FORD CHAPTER 113

FRISKE TROPHY – 10-149 MEMBERS – FOR LARGEST PERCENTAGE GAIN OVER CHAPTER TOTAL MEMBERSHIP A/O JULY 2, 2009:

TAWAS BAY CHAPTER 130

ZONE TROPHIES

For the largest percentage gain over Chapter total membership as of July 2, 2009:

ZONE I **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER 42**

ZONE II **SHIAWASSEE COUNTY CHAPTER 63**

ZONE III **INLAND LAKES CHAPTER 39**

ZONE IV **MANISTIQUE CHAPTER 26**

OVERALL ZONE MEMBERSHIP AWARD –
PRESENTED TO ZONE III – REBECCA MOTT, ZONE CMDR.

TOP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITERS

For signing up 5 or more new members the following recruiters were recognized:

R. Landis Lawton (113)
Thomas Dempster (114)
James A. Linton (3)
Nicholas Ackerson (39)
David C. Martin (7)
Robert D. Robinson (3)
Morris G. Cole (24)
Paul John Harlan (129)
Stacey Plunkett (4)
Patrick M. Adams (114)
James D. Uecke (25)
Todd J. Lindahl (66)
Nicholas Luxon (19)
Steven C. Pruitt (2)
David W. Spencer (52)

For signing up 10 or more new members, the following recruiters were honored:

R. Landis Lawton (113)
James A. Linton (3)
David C. Martin (7)
Thomas Dempster (114)
Nicholas Ackerson (39)

Overall Top State Membership Recruiter, who signed up 47 new members, convention delegates honored R. Landis Lawton of Chapter 113.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

2009-2010 James R. Friesema Public Relations Award for best Public Relations program goes to Calhoun County Chapter 7.

NEWSLETTER AWARD

2009-2010 Best Chapter Newsletter Award is presented to Holland Chapter 14.

AMERICANISM AWARD

Lenawee County Chapter 20 was recognized for conducting the most Outstanding Americanism Program over this past year.

CHILD WELFARE ACTIVITIES

Calhoun County Chapter 7 and Hamtramck Chapter 83 were honored for their child welfare efforts during the 2009-2010 year.

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

The 2010 Outstanding Chapter Of The Year award is presented to Calhoun County Chapter #7 of Battle Creek who received an award and $500 presentation at the Convention banquet.

Presented at State convention June 11-13, 2010 A look at Michigan's Winners!

HARCOURT MEMBERSHIP AWARD – LIVONIA CHAPTER 114. Shown are, left to right, State Membership Chairman Jerry Cool, Chapter Commander Thomas Dempster and State Commander John Lamphere.

AUST MEMBERSHIP AWARD – WILLIAM C. FORD CHAPTER 113. Shown are, left to right, State Membership Chairman Jerry Cool, Chapter Commander Peter Graham and State Commander John Lamphere.

FRISKE MEMBERSHIP AWARD – TAWAS BAY CHAPTER 130. Shown are, left to right, State Membership Chairman Jerry Cool, Chapter Commander Robert Champine and State Commander John Lamphere.

ZONE II MEMBERSHIP AWARD – SHIAWASSEE COUNTY CHAPTER 63. Shown are, left to right, Zone II Commander Frank Shepherd, State Membership Chairman Jerry Cool, Chapter Adjutant Les Schneider and State Commander John Lamphere.

ZONE III MEMBERSHIP AWARD – INLAND LAKES CHAPTER 39. Shown are, left to right, State Membership Chairman Jerry Cool, Chapter Membership Chairman Gregory Burk, Zone III Commander Rebecca Mott and State Commander John Lamphere.

ZONE IV MEMBERSHIP AWARD – MANISTIQUE CHAPTER 26. Shown are, left to right, Zone IV Commander Garry Henshaw, State Membership Chairman Jerry Cool, Chapter Commander Robert Blevins and State Commander John Lamphere.

ZONE OVERALL MEMBERSHIP AWARD, FOR LARGEST PERCENTAGE GAIN – ZONE III. Shown are, left to right, State Membership Chairman Jerry Cool, Zone III Commander Rebecca Mott and State Commander John Lamphere.

MICHIGAN'S BEST MEMBERSHIP RECRUITERS include: Steven C. Pruitt (2), James A. Linton (3), Robert D. Robinson (3), Stacey Plunkett (4), David C. Martin (7), Nicholas Luxon (19), Morris G. Cole (24), James D. Uecke (25), Nicholas Ackerson (39), David W. Spencer (52), Todd J. Lindahl (66), R. Landis Lawton (113), Patrick M. Adams (114) Thomas Dempster (114) and Paul John Harlan (129).

Help us with YOUR VOTE!

Plea to all Michigan citizens

by Ronald R. Schrieber, State legislative chairman

The Commanders Group, consisting of the eleven congressionally chartered veterans organization here in Michigan met on May 19 and unanimously passed the following motion made by the commander of the Vietnam Veterans of America and supported by our State commander of the DAV:

MOTION

The Commanders Group will strongly support any candidate for governor of the State of Michigan who will state publicly that he/she will establish an Office of Veterans Affairs within state government separating the state's veterans from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs thereby granting them autonomy and a voice in state government.

Presently, the Office of the Governor has placed veterans groups, charged by their federal charters to provide veterans services, under the absolute administrative control of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, without voice or vote.

This placement negatively impacts the veterans groups' ability to deliver veterans services, and, nowhere in those charters does it grant the State the right to control or direct the veterans organizations work.

Further compounding this condition is the fact that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, likewise, controls the funding provided by the State Legislature to the veterans organizations for veterans services. (Act 112 of 2010)

The veterans groups, prior to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs funding control, consistently delivered fiscally efficient veterans services.

Through the work of their Certified Veterans Service Officers in 2008, for example, the groups brought $235,000,000 federal dollars into Michigan's economy through Veterans Administration claims processing, while spending only $3,900,000 of state funding.

The Commanders Group is not aware of any other department within Michigan's government that can generate that kind of investment return.

A newly elected Governor who creates an Office of Veterans Affairs, independent of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, will assure continuation of fiscally prudent delivery of veterans services by the veterans groups.

This fact is also supported by the simple additional reality that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs currently has jurisdiction of both veteran and military issues.

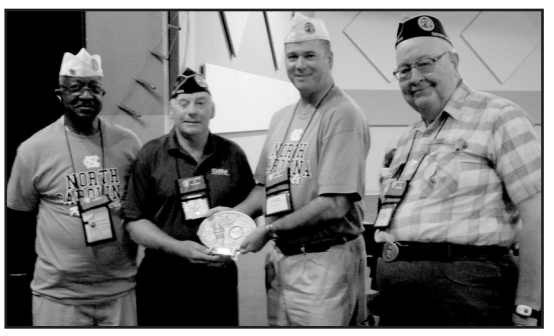
And veterans, though having proudly served their nation in military service, are no longer military personnel; they are veterans with specific veteran service needs.

Michigan veterans, as well as Michigan's military personnel, will both be better served through the creation of an independent Office of Veterans Affairs. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will be able to concentrate on troop concerns, while the new Office of Veterans Affairs will be able to focus its resources on veterans' issues.

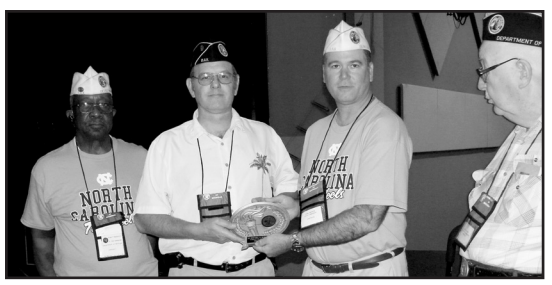
There are 721,000 veterans who reside in our state and we ask them to help us accomplish this goal.

When you go to the polling booth, we ask you to vote for the candidate who supports our position. **Please – Help us with your vote!**

MICHIGAN'S ULTIMATE TOP MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER FOR 2009-10 is R. Landis Lawton of Chapter 113, who signed up 47 new members. Shown are, left to right, State Membership Chairman Jerry Cool, R. Landis Lawton and State Commander John Lamphere.



JAMES R. FRIESEMA PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD for best Public Relations program goes to Calhoun County Chapter 7. Shown are, left to right, Zone II Commander Frank Shepherd, Chapter Commander Edwin J. Holden, State Commander John Lamphere, and PR Committee Member Russ Spalding.



BEST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AWARD is presented to Holland Chapter 14. Shown are, left to right, Zone II Commander Frank Shepherd, Chapter Commander Chris Morey, State Commander John Lamphere and PR Committee Member Russ Spalding.

Lenawee County Chapter 20 was recognized for conducting the most Outstanding Americanism Program over this past year. Shown are, left to right, Zone II Commander Frank Shepherd, Americanism Chairman Carl Poest, Chapter E.C. Robert Polhamus and State Commander John Lamphere.

HONORED FOR CHILD WELFARE EFFORTS DURING THE PAST YEAR ARE: Calhoun County Chapter 7 and Hamtramck Chapter 83. Shown are, left to right, Zone II Commander Frank Shepherd, Chapter 83 E.C. Gary Nosis, Chapter 7 Commander Edwin Holden and State Commander John Lamphere.

Accolades to Calhoun County Chapter 7 for claiming the OUTSTANDING CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2010. Shown accepting from State Commander John Lamphere the award and a $500 check at the banquet is Chapter Commander Edwin Holden (left).

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, 2nd Wed., 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.
GOODRICH-SKIDMORE 122, 2nd and 4th Thurs., 7 p.m., DAV Home, G-3185 W. Pasadena Ave., Flint 48504.
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.

"KEEP YOURSELF INFORMED."

Thomas E. Wendel

If you are a veteran, or you know a veteran that may be suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), this may be the best opportunity to file a claim. On Monday, July 12, 2010, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a final regulation that will make access to care and the claims process easier for veterans seeking compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The rule reduces the evidence needed if the PTSD stressor claimed by a veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of the veteran's service.

Under the new rule, the VA will not require corroboration of a PTSD stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA psychiatrist or psychologist confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD, and the veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor.

The VA expects this rulemaking to decrease the time it takes VA to decide access to care and claims falling under the revised criteria. More than 400,000 veterans currently receiving compensation benefits are service-connected for PTSD. If service connection for PTSD is established under the new rule, a veteran disabled by PTSD will be entitled to disability compensation, which is a tax-free benefit paid to a veteran for disabilities that are a result of – or made worse by – injuries or diseases associated with active service.

The new rule will apply to claims:

- received by VA on or after July 12, 2010;
- received before July 12, 2010 but not yet decided by a VA regional office;
- appealed to the Board of Veterans' Appeals on or after July 12, 2010;
- appealed to the Board before July 12, 2010, but not yet decided by the Board; and
- pending before VA on or after July 12, 2010, because the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims vacated a Board decision and remanded for re-adjudication.

The final regulation will simplify and streamline the processing of PTSD claims, which will result in veterans receiving more timely decisions. A veteran will be able to establish the occurrence of an in-service stressor through his or her own testimony, provided that: (1) the veteran is diagnosed with PTSD; (2) a VA psychiatrist or psychologist, or a psychiatrist or psychologist with whom VA has contracted confirms that the claimed stressor is adequate to support a PTSD diagnosis; (3) the veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor; and (4) the claimed stressor is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of the veteran's service and the record provides no clear and convincing evidence to the contrary. This will eliminate the requirement for VA to search for records, to verify stressor accounts, which is often a very involved and protracted process. As a result, the time required to adjudicate a PTSD compensation claim, in accordance with the law, will be significantly reduced.

If you are interested in filing a claim or have any questions, please contact our National Service Office at 313-964-6595.

VA simplifies PTSD claims requirements

by Thomas Wendel, Michigan service director

Help is available

by Dr. David McClary, PhD, Major Retired Army, State chaplain

Greetings in the name of the Lord Christ. I have been newly elected to the post of State chaplain.

I would like to know who my fellow chaplains are in this state and form a ministry team by name, e-mail, telephone number, and address. Would you send a brief bio on yourself? My contact number is: Chaplain Dr. David McClary, PhD, Major Retired Army; **d_lmcclary@yahoo.com**; (313) 575-0922 or (248) 948-0794; 27599 Lahser Rd., Apt. 219, Southfield, MI 48034.

One of the greatest threats to our American soldiers is the threat of suicide. This threat has been increasing over this century. There is help being offered by the VA. Please call toll free 1(800) 273-8255. Warning signs are: thinking about hurting or killing yourself; looking for ways to kill yourself; talking about death, dying, or suicide; self destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.; hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out; anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings; feeling like there is no reason to live; rage or anger; engaging in risky activities without thinking; increasing alcohol or drug abuse; withdrawing from family and friends; making out a will as a teenager or in early twenties; believing you are a soulless person without a God.

If you can read this, thank a teacher. If you can read this in English, thank a vet.

Give from the heart…
Make a donation to help brighten the spirits of those veterans who are in a hospital, away from their family and friends.

Disabled American Veterans Department of Michigan VAVS Representatives and Michigan Veterans Homes Chairmen

ANN ARBOR
VAVS Representative Florencio Lopez
612 Holly Court, Jonesville 49250

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

DETROIT
VAVS Representative Paul Harlan
3211 24 Mile Road, Shelby Twp. 48316

IRON MOUNTAIN
VAVS Representative Dale LaPalme
P.O. Box 25, Hermansville 49847

SAGINAW
**** VAVS Representative Tom Jones**
8525 Dixie Highway, Birch Run 48415

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

STATE VETERANS HOME – MARQUETTE
Chairman Larry J. Blondeau
106 Savage St., Gwinn 4984

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.

*** Newly appointed VAVS Representative*

Cheers

We congratulate Sarah Nowitzke of Canton who has been selected by the DAV as the nation's Outstanding Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Member for 2010.

Sarah accepted her award at the DAV National Convention held July 31st through August 3 in Atlanta, Georgia.

A job well done

Accolades to young Derek Peterson of Petoskey who raised $1,743 for the DAV in a 5k Run/Walk held May 31st. Derek says his goal was to raise $1,000 and he was astonished to see the number almost doubled. He couldn't have set up the race without the help of his mentor, Kathy Slack.

TAPS

Name	Chapter
Terry Jacamel	2
David A. Bakos	11
Daniel M. Carr	11
Robert E. Cole	11
Edward H. Drabik	11
Talbert F. McClure	11
Alan J. Storm	11
Charles D. Cabana	13
James A. Jones	13
Dorothy L. Karson	13
Stewart H. McMillan	13
Walter F. Orth	13
Milton W. Steffen	13
Denvel D. Adams	16
Robert L. Browning	17
Leo R. Johnson	17
James F. Williams	17
Melvin H. Dague	18
Raymond V. Fagerberg	22
Paul J. Ogea	22
Lowell M. Fox	24
Francis R. Lesice	24
Bette Lunde	24
Lyman S. Severson	24
Emery Skradski	24
Robert G. Weingarter	24
Loren J. Salewsky	25
Kathryn R. Stucker	25
Alfred Whittle	33
Richard L. Garlets	39
John F. Sutton	39
Hugh Rau, Jr.	73
John Baranowski	83
Daniel J. Cress	115

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

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

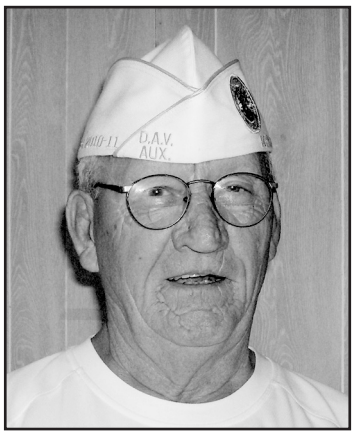
WAR RELICS WANTED

Private collector paying top dollar for daggers, swords, medals, uniforms, etc.

CALL OR WRITE:
William Harbowy,
7247 Weddel St.
Taylor, MI 48180
(313) 386-2384

Moving forward

by William A. Taylor, Auxiliary State commander



William A. Taylor

In the 88 years that the DAV Auxiliary has been in existence, no man has ever held the position of Auxiliary State commander. I want to thank each and every Auxiliary member for making me your first commander for the State of Michigan. It will be my honor to serve this position and represent you to the best of my ability. "Thank you!"

After being sworn in I was kind of blindsided and at a loss for words, because I was to be escorted by a U.S. Marine, PFC Stephen Ignatowski. This young man made me stand tall and proud to be a Marine, and glad that I'm living in America because of soldiers like him and others all over the world.

My motto for 2010-11 is very simple. It's called "Movin' Forward." We can't relive yesterday but we can do something about today and tomorrow. Don't allow our past to slow down our future. My prospects of the future of the Auxiliary have not deviated from any of our previous commanders. "We need new members" in order to make this happen. Your vocabulary should consist of these few words – "Hello, have you ever been in the service?" Just about everyone is proud of being in the service, so this is a great way to get started at increasing our membership.

Everything about our week in Sault Ste. Marie went pretty good during the Auxiliary State Convention. I'm sure that all will agree that our National guest speaker, then National 4th Jr. Vice Commander LeeAnn Karge is a gracious lady who knows what's going on in the DAVA. Anytime they don't want her just ship her to Michigan. We'll take her and her husband, Van, anytime.

Do yourself a favor and hug, shake hands, smile, or buy a cup of coffee for a veteran. It will make you feel good. Don't forget our veterans and remember to love your country.

"God Bless America."

Strive for well rounded programs

by Linda Walters, Mae Holmes chairman

Mae Holmes represents the best of everything we do as Auxiliary members. The Auxiliary offers many different programs and projects that we can become involved in. Some require more effort than others. Community Service is our most flexible program. It can be as simple as cutting coupons for your child's school or more demanding like volunteering at a local hospital, school or church. The possibilities are endless. Membership on the other hand, seems to be the problem child. We all have things we do well and sometimes we tend to get too comfortable just doing those one or two things we do well. Doing the same thing over and over again can lead to burnout. Trying something different will give you a fresh view of our organization and your abilities. I'm not saying totally give up what you do well or other projects you've been working on. Just back off a bit and focus on a new project. Those talents you have may just surprisingly work in a different program you've been hesitant to try.

Talk membership

by Loraine Connelly, Auxiliary State membership chairman

Membership truly is the backbone of our organization. I am sure that each of you knows at least one person who is eligible. I am asking you to approach that person. Once you start talking they want to know more, and most people really do want to be a part of an organization like ours but have no idea that they are eligible. Explain to them who in their family is eligible and that for $40 they can start a life membership and they will have three years to pay it off. Keep applications on hand. After you sign up that SENIOR LIFE member, and mail in the application, send me a copy of it so I can put it in for the State drawing. I must receive them BY APRIL 1, 2011. The winner will receive a $75 check. Sign up as many members as you can and don't forget the juniors but they won't count for the drawing. Loraine Connelly, 30905 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150. *Good Luck!*

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

FOR DAV ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE ON VETERANS BENEFITS

DETROIT VA REGIONAL OFFICE
Detroit National Service Office
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1200
Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 964-6595

VA ANN ARBOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
James Dempsey, DSO
VAMC, Room B157A
2215 Fuller Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105
(734) 845-3839

BATTLE CREEK VA MEDICAL CENTER
David C. Martin, DSO
Building 2, Room 077
5500 Armstrong Road
Battle Creek, Michigan 49037
(269) 223-5106

DETROIT –
JOHN D. DINGELL VA MEDICAL CENTER
Joseph M. Marczak DSO
4646 John R, Room A1013
Detroit, Michigan 48201
(313) 576-1000, Ext. 63508

GRAND RAPIDS VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC
Steven C. Pruitt, DSO
3019 Coit, NE - Room 1114
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505
(616) 365-7576

GRAYLING AREA
Ronald McNally, DSO
Crawford County Building
200 W. Michigan Avenue
Grayling, Michigan 49738
(989) 348-5645

IRON MOUNTAIN –
OSCAR G. JOHNSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
Aaron Hayward, DSO
VA Medical Center
325 E. H Street
Iron Mountain, Michigan 49801
(906) 779-3194

MARQUETTE –
D. J. JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS
Aaron Hayward, DSO
425 Fisher Street
Marquette, Michigan 49855
(906) 226-3576, Ext. 362

SAGINAW –
ALEDA E. LUTZ VA MEDICAL CENTER
Stacey J. Plunkett, DSO
1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48602
(989) 497-2500, Ext. 13382

Don't wait until the last minute

Golfers: Sign up to play TODAY in The DAV's 5th Annual Golf Outing set for Saturday, September 18

Golfers should be out on the course on Saturday, September 18, 2010, the date of our 5th Annual Thomas McMasters Charity Golf Outing to be held at the Selfridge Air National Guard golf course which offers 18 holes over 6,477 yards.

This year promises to be better than ever with numerous prizes to be raffled off, and they'll be serving up a NY Strip Steak dinner with all the fixings, as well as a hot dog, chips and a soft drink at the turn.

The price has been dropped to $70.00 per person, which still includes 18 holes of golf, a power cart, food at the turn, a steak dinner with all the fixings and prizes!

A special price of $60.00 has been set for all active duty personnel in order to thank them for all they are doing and to show our support.

Planners anticipate a great turnout and urge all who wish to play to register early. A registration form is located on the DAV Web site or can be obtained by calling 1-888-448-2328.

In addition, the DAV is looking for Cart sponsors as well as Hole sponsors. The Cart sponsorship price is $25 per cart and it's only $100 to sponsor a Hole.

Overnight Accommodations near the Base are:

Concorde Inn of Clinton Township, 44315 Gratiot Ave., Clinton Twp. 48036 586-493-7200 – Jacuzzi Ste. Rate: $109.99 – w/Military I.D.: $85.00

Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 458905 Market Place Blvd., Chesterfield, MI 48051 586-598-4000 – Room Rate: $104.99 – w/Military I.D.: $77.00

State Commander Frank Shepherd and organizers look forward to seeing all golfers on September 18!

Washtenaw County Chapter 13 installs new 2010-11 officers on May 18 at VFW Graf-O'Hara Post 423 in Ann Arbor. Shown are, left to right, Reuben V. Swisher, Adjutant; James R. Dempsey, Service Officer; Gary R. Bourdeau, Jr. Vice Commander; August F. Wallman, Commander; Gregg M. Weaver, Sr. Vice Commander and Stanley T. Magiera, Judge Advocate.

Zone III Commander Rebecca Mott installs officers at Allen Alto Chapter 38's installation held on June 17. Shown are, left to right, Zone Commander Rebecca Mott, Legislative Chairman Kim Cronin, Chapter Commander Doug Jordan, Sr. Vice Commander Jack Pickard, Jr. Vice Commander Larry Buchter, Adjutant Paul Smith and Chaplain Joe Rode.

Father's Day activities at the Oscar G. Johnson VA medical center were made possible by generous donations by DAV chapters in Michigan and Wisconsin reports DAV VAVS Representative Dale LaPalme. The festivities on June 20 included a meal catered by KFC and entertainment by "The Hat Guys" a two-man band who change hats with every song performed.

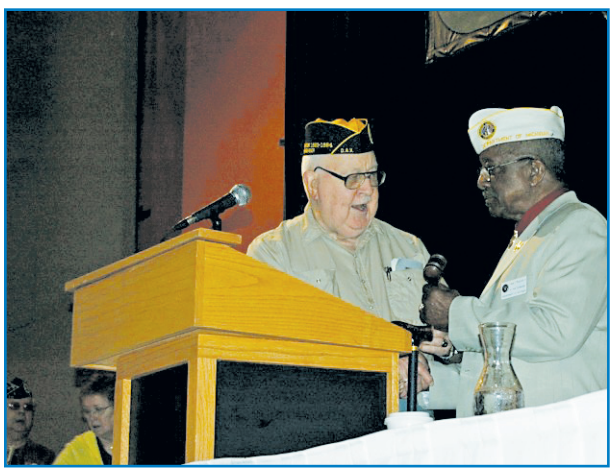
Highlights of Department of Michigan State Convention

June 11-13, 2010 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

State Commander John Lamphere and his wife, Ellie look elegant, as they are introduced during the Grand March held at the Convention banquet on June 12.

Members of Calhoun County Chapter 7 of Battle Creek made sure to be on-hand during all the Convention sessions.

DAV Auxiliary Commander Donna Henshaw and her husband Garry, participate in the Grand March at the Convention banquet held Saturday June 12.



DAV Past State Commander Russ Spalding hands the gavel over to newly-elected State Commander Frank Shepherd during installation ceremonies held Sunday, June 13.

Auxiliary State Commander Donna Henshaw and her husband Garry enjoy the "Yooper" themed reception held in her honor on Friday, June 11.

DAV members who reorganized Sydney J. Allen Chapter 102 chat during the Convention banquet. Shown are, left to right, E.C. Keith Brown, NSO Director Thomas Wendel and NSO Karl Brown, who passed away July 25.