

Michigan Disabled Veteran

Volume 58 No. 7

[USPS 344-940]

"You can't hit a home run unless you step up to the plate. You can't catch fish unless you put your line in the water. You can't reach your goals if you don't try."

– Anonymous

Disabled American Veterans 2009 Service Officer Conference – Thursday, June 4, 2009 and State Convention – June 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2009

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan Schedule of Events

All events will be held at the Kewadin Convention Center,
2186 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2009

5 p.m.-7 p.m. Registration: Water's Edge

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009

6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration: Water's Edge

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Service Officer Conference: Ontario 1 & 2 Rooms

7 p.m. Administrative Board Meeting: Birch Room

8 p.m. Ice Cream Social & Aux. Fundraising Auction:
Water's Edge

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2009

8-10 a.m.

& 12-3 p.m. Registration: Water's Edge

9 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting:
Dream Maker's Theater

10 a.m. National 10th District Conference:
Dream Maker's Theater

11 a.m. Joint DAV and DAVA Opening Session:
Dream Maker's Theater

11:30 a.m. Joint Past Department and Auxiliary Commanders'
Luncheon: Ontario Room

1 p.m. 1st Convention Business Session: Dream Maker's Theater

Roll Call

Membership Awards presentation

Committee Appointments

4:30 p.m. Memorial Service: Dream Maker's Theater

7-9 p.m. NOTR Business Meeting: Ontario 1 and 2 Rooms

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009

8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Registration: Water's Edge

9 a.m. 2nd Convention Session: Dream Maker's Theater

Committee Reports

Guest Speakers

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

Sound Off and Be Heard!

by Thomas E. Wendel, Michigan service director

As I am sure you are all aware, a recent Governor's Executive Order mandated an immediate 25 percent cut of all Veteran Service Organization funding for FY 09. The impact on our Organization is staggering: \$187,200 intended to fund our field service program for July, August and September of this year is now gone!

In the near future we may be forced to, at least temporarily, lay off ALL of our Department Service Officers (DSOs), denying access to service to many of those veterans and family members who depend so very much upon the Disabled American Veterans.

Further, since our DSOs also act as our Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) and schedule veterans for rides on our van transportations network, this program will also

suffer as we recruit, train, and coordinate volunteers on how to perform required tasks.

As such, on behalf of all of our DSOs, their families, and those they so diligently serve, I call upon everyone to rise up and let your voices be heard.

We understand the economic state that Michigan is in and that the Governor had to make cuts across the board, but when the average cut was 4 to 5 percent why then were the Veteran Service Organization's cut 25 percent? We are a country at war and this isn't the time to be cutting services to veterans.

Also, we all know there are many veterans in Michigan that have recently lost their jobs and many more will lose their jobs in the near future. These veterans will be seeking assistance to determine whether they qualify

for VA Health Care, Vocational Rehabilitation, Compensation or Pension, or any of the other benefits offered by the Veterans Administration.

All of these veterans need our assistance and these cuts will drastically affect our ability to help these veterans and their families.

If you truly believe in the mission of the DAV, "Building better lives for America's disabled veterans" – then this is your opportunity to prove it. Nothing more readily exemplifies our mission than the selfless work that our DSOs do everyday on behalf of our warriors and their loved ones!

We call upon you all to sound off to the Governor's office along with your state representatives and Senators offices. Let them know that we need this funding restored.

Budget plan welcome news for veterans

The spending blueprint lawmakers are expected to ratify is good news for our nation's veterans," said Disabled American Veterans National Commander Raymond E. Dempsey on April 28. "Not only does it provide a record increase for the Department of Veterans Affairs, it clears the way for much-needed legislation to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans health care."

The House-Senate conference agreement provides \$53.4 billion in appropriations for the VA, 11.7 percent above the 2009 level. In addition to a

\$5.6 billion increase for vital veterans programs, it would allow Congress to fund veterans' medical care one year in advance. So, in addition to funding the VA's three medical care accounts in the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bill, Congress could also set the level of funding to become available at the start of the 2011 fiscal year.

Bipartisan legislation to provide advance appropriations for veterans' health care, a top priority for the DAV, has been introduced in both the House and Senate. An important provision in the budget agreement removes a procedural barrier to

its enactment.

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act (S. 423/H.R. 1016) would end funding delays that have plagued the VA when Congress has failed to pass appropriations bills on time. The legislation also would add needed transparency to the process as the Government Accountability Office would review and report on the VA's annual budget request.

"This budget agreement signals that veterans are indeed a national priority" said Com-

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

Daniel Mulcahey, chairman
David Van Hill Larry Villeme
Clyde Hishok Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

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

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- 1st jr. vice commander.....Frank T. Shepherd, Jr.
- 2nd jr. vice commander.....Christopher M. Sardo
- 3rd jr. vice commander.....Garry Henshaw
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- Treasurer.....Roger Jansen
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8050 N. Middlebelt Road, Westland 48185
Donation Line (866) 520-5328

Web page: <http://www.davmembersportal.org/mi>
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Convention Messages



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

RAYMOND E. DEMPSEY
NATIONAL COMMANDER

March 9, 2009

My Friends in Michigan:

It is a distinct honor to send my best wishes as you convene at this year's Department of Michigan Convention. I know through the Department's outstanding leadership and dedicated members, you will have a productive meeting, achieving much important work to help ensure the DAV remains the world's premiere veterans service organization.

Your unparalleled commitment to our mission to Stand Up for Veterans gives me great pride as your National Commander. I have every confidence that your accomplishments will have lasting, positive effects on our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

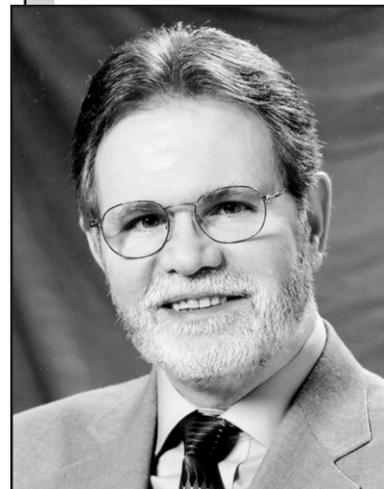
The men and women who have served and sacrificed for our nation will need your support and service for years to come. They must be able to rely on us today and for the long-term future. You should be very proud of your part in honoring America's sacred obligation to those who defend our nation and liberty.

I commend your dedication and your devotion to our guiding principles to serve America's disabled veterans as you go about your important work ahead of you.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND E. DEMPSEY
National Commander

CINCINNATI (859) 441-7300 ★ WASHINGTON, DC (202) 554-3501
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Raymond E. Dempsey
National Commander



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

ARTHUR H. WILSON
NATIONAL ADJUTANT

March 9, 2009

My Fellow DAV Members:

The work you are taking on at the Department of Michigan's annual meeting will have a profound effect on our entire organization and the millions of disabled veterans counting on the DAV, now in and the future. You should take pride in your diligence and devotion.

The National Organization staff and I wish you a successful and productive convention. There is no doubt crucial times are upon us with so many brave Americans in harm's way in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. It will take everyone's help to continue fulfilling our commitment to serve the men and women returning from wartime service and advocate on their behalf.

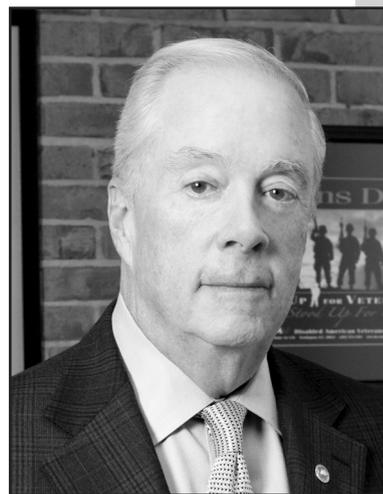
But please remember to take time to enjoy yourselves, renew old friendships and make new friends. Please express your appreciation for our Chapter, Department, Transition Service Officers and National Service Officers for all they do in serving our fellow disabled veterans and their families.

This gathering is also an excellent opportunity to build on the combined strength of DAV and Auxiliary members across America. Working together is vital to our goals of protecting and preserving veterans' rights. A combined commitment to Stand Up for Veterans is very much appreciated. Together, we can strengthen our grassroots activism, as well as our all-important volunteer and service programs.

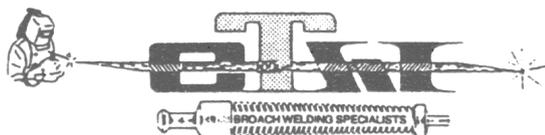
Take part in as much as you can of the activities and learning opportunities offered at the Department of Michigan Convention. We all need each other to achieve our goals and continue serving those who have given so much to preserve our precious freedoms and way of life.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR H. WILSON
National Adjutant



Arthur H. Wilson
National Adjutant



CENTURY TOOL WELDING

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**2009 State Convention
Department of Michigan
Disabled American Veterans
84th Annual Department Convention
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
June 5, 6 and 7, 2009**

2008-09 Convention Reports

2009 The Year in Review

by Daniel Mulcahey, State commander

This year has gone very fast. I have to say there are many good things going on – let's keep it up. We must focus on our common mission of service and get back to basics. When chapter members are trained, they must be taught the important things needed to keep a chapter open and in good standing. They must be taught to fill out officer and financial reports and to get them in on time. Attendance at local chapter and Zone meetings, State conventions and service officer's school are also important. We must continue to work strongly in our chapters, support the Department fundraisers and build up membership. Membership is our biggest strength. Membership is the backbone of this organization. When we

work together in our chapters, and chapters work together within the zone, the Department moves forward.

I spent some time visiting the VA hospitals across the state of Michigan and numbers were up from last year. Ann Arbor had 25,000 new veterans, as did Detroit. Both places added a second level of parking. Saginaw also saw an increase in veterans being treated, but had no extra parking. Many had to park on the street. With that being said, another area needing focus and support is the DAV Transportation (van) program. Planning ahead is critical.

The people who have been elected or appointed to positions must fulfill these duties and be more than just a name on a paper.

We must do a better job of promoting ourselves locally. Let people know what the DAV stands for. Announce local Chapter events on the TV, radio, newspapers, etc.

The entire committee must work together, starting DAY ONE of the new year. Don't be afraid of change. This year we are having service officer's school at the same time as the State Convention to increase attendance and save money. The world around us is changing; we have to change with it.

It has been a great honor to have been elected to serve as your State commander during this past year. I ask that you support the new Commander and the officers coming in just as you have supported me. Thank you all for an excellent year!

Looking forward to serving

by John P. Lamphere, State senior vice commander

I would like to start off by saying thank you. This goes out to all of you that have supported not only me as a line officer but my family. My son, Layton, is now on his second deployment to Iraq as a U.S. Marine and my wife, Ellie, lost her mother shortly after we returned from the DAV National convention. This year has also seen many of our friends in the DAV pass on and our thoughts go out to those families.

As we close the year out, Zone III is finishing up very well in membership for some chapters. Other chapters are short just one or two and put no effort into recruitment for the year. If we want to look to the future of our organization we must grow and mentor these returning veterans. For those

chapters that say they can't get new members, all they need to do is ask. I'm sad to report the closing of three chapters in Zone III: Cheboygan Chapter 90, Harrisville's Chapter 92, and Mt. Pleasant Chapter 112. I can't stress the importance of completing and turning in your reports on time.

This year I've gone to many chapters, conferences, conventions, and events. I started the year out by representing Commander Mulcahey at The American Legion State convention. In August, Ellie and I went to the National convention where I served on the Interim Employment Committee. The Fall Service Officers School and National 10th District Conference was held in Grayling and I was in attendance. In December

I was invited to attend the homecoming of our National Guard Unit from Cadillac. This year, while in Washington, D.C., Joe and Loraine Connelly went along with Ellie and me to The National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD and I attended all the Zone meetings.

As my term as a Zone Commander now has run its course, I will miss many of the day to day events. To the people that I've worked with that have moved on in their lives with other things, you are thought of often. I would like to thank all the Past Department Commanders that have mentored me from the time I joined. As the convention is upon us so are the elections and I look forward to serving you as your Department commander.

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 Tues., 7 p.m., DAV Home, 890 North Avenue, Battle Creek 49017.
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.
BAY CITY 9, 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m., DAV Clubroom, 1304 S. Wenona Ave., Bay City 48706.
WM. SPARKS 10, 2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m., American Legion Post 29, 3200 Lansing Avenue, 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., Graf-O'Hara VFW Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Rd. (between 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., Oakland County Deputy Sheriffs Assoc., 581 W. Kennett Road, Pontiac 48340.
TWIN CITIES 17, 2nd Wed., 7 p.m., Moose Lodge 1570, 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 Wednesday, 1 p.m., American Legion Post 374, 2079 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley 48072.
LENAWEE COUNTY 20, 2nd Wed., 6 p.m., 141 E. Albert Street, 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 Avenue, Kingsford 49802.
DELTA COUNTY 24, 1st Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 904 Sheridan Road, Escanaba 49829.
MENOMINEE COUNTY 25, 1st Thurs., 6 p.m., Senior Citizen Center, 905 10th Street, 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 Drive, 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 Street, Manistee 49660.
MACOMB COUNTY 44, 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., VFW Post 7573, 35011 23 Mile Road, New Baltimore 48047.
CPL. IAN M. GRAY 51, 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m., DAV Hall, 6117 Chase Road (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 Monday, 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 Street, St. Johns 48879.
NORTHLAND CHAPTER 66, 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 5, McLeod Ave., Ironwood 49938.
CHIPPEWA 67, 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., American Legion Post 21, 212 Washington Ave., Iron River 49935.
HILLSDALE 68, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., 228 East Main Street, North Adams, MI 49262.
MUNISING CHAPTER 69, 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., DAV/VVA Clubhouse, E.8025 Jingle Bell Lane, Christmas 49867.
OGEMAW HILLS 73, 3rd Monday, 5 p.m., Cummings Township Hall, 751 Morrison Rd. (South of Sage Lake Road), Rose City 48654.
THUMB MEMORIAL 75, 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., American Legion, 110 W. Frank Street, 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 Road, Sturgis 49091
STRAITS 93, 3rd Thurs., 7 p.m., N3984 Church Street, Moran 49760.
MIDLAND COUNTY 94, 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 3013 Bay City Rd., Midland 48640.
ROBERT BO MALISH CHAPTER 96, 4th Saturday, 12 Noon, PLAV Post, 4930 Central Ave., Detroit 48210.
STANDISH 100, 1st Tues., 2 p.m., VFW Post 3724, 3580 W. Huron Road, Standish 48658.
SYDNEY J. ALLEN 102, 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m., Trenton VFW Post 1888, 2763 Veterans Parkway, Trenton 48183.
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 Road, Eastpointe 48021.
REDFORD TOWNSHIP 113, 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., VFW Post 345, 37345 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 CHAPTER 117, 1st Tues. of month, 6 p.m., Saginaw VA Medical Center, 1500 Weiss Street, 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.
A. REED-J.DaPRATO 125, 1st Mon., 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 Road (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.

Communication is key

by Frank T. Shepherd, Jr., State 1st jr. vice commander

I'm again pleased with the support and patience I have received from the chapters in Zone II during the past year. I feel the need to apologize for not being able to meet all of your needs. I have made an attempt at visiting all of the chapters within the zone, but needless to say there are just not enough months in the year to accomplish that. I did, however, maintain telephone or e-mail contact with all Zone II chapters and in doing so, I am still reminded that we are losing our most motivated members through attrition and we are not replacing them with new members. This, again, threatens our survival.

In my first year as a line officer I focused on commitment, communication and visibility. I am still focused on all three but right

now I'm concentrating on commitment and I'm directing that commitment to membership. We need members to continue our fight for benefits and fair treatment. There are lots of potential members out there – you just have to be prepared to corral them. Look at it from a positive point of view – you would not go hunting without a rifle, just like you wouldn't go fishing without bait. The same applies to membership – when you meet a potential member be prepared by carrying a membership application with you so it can be filled out and ready for the prospect to sign.

We are reminded that our chapter officer reports are due in Department headquarters within 10 days after installation. Please see that the report is submitted so

as not to delay publication of the 2009-2010 directory.

This past year we had a great number of chapter financial reports that were returned due to numerous mistakes that were made. That is likely due to the predecessor not communicating correct information to the new officer. Remember, too, that the instructions for filing an annual financial report are customarily revised, so take time to read them before completing the report. All chapter financial reports must be submitted by 30 September or they will be counted as delinquent.

I have also noticed that a large number of chapter constitution and bylaws have not been revised in many years and it is a good rule to look at and revise them every five years.

Maintain strong, active chapters

by Christopher M. Sardo, State 2nd jr. vice commander

It has been an enlightening and educating year for me, especially seeing how the poor economy has affected our chapters and department in trying to fulfill our mission of making better lives for our disabled veterans. Chapters have had to find new ways to keep the contributions flowing into their chapters, while fund raising, as a whole, has been difficult to say the least. Many chapters have had to retool their techniques and I commend those chapters. A few chapters have tried car washes or dinners that have helped. Some chapters have turned to their local communities, and have fared better with their fund raising efforts. This has a dual affect of getting closer to the community and on a public relations level of getting the DAV name out there, which may bring in new members.

Membership has been

impacted as well and it is even more difficult in the recruiting of new members, although some chapters have been innovative with strategies that have paid off. I personally have had more calls this year from veterans in need than during any other year. Again, I believe it is due to the hardships we all are enduring. The silver lining is that the more veterans we have contact with, the more opportunities we have to complete our mission. I am pleased to see many chapters meeting these new challenges head on and being vigilant in completing our goals.

Chapters are the foundation of the DAV. By having strong active chapters, we can prosper through these difficult times. Let us not forget, the chapters also need to help out our Department during these trying times. What an excellent resource our Department can

be for guiding those chapters needing assistance. Our Department staff is there for all chapters that have questions or need advice. The amount of experience and knowledge the ladies at Department have is very extensive and honestly irreplaceable. For any new commander or officer who has questions, make sure to have them help you. You will be quite impressed with their professionalism and knowledge.

In closing, I look forward to working with the new commander and all of the line officers to attain our goals. I would like to encourage all chapters to our mission 'to make disabled veterans lives better' as the focus of what we all do. God Bless and I look forward to the challenges ahead of us. Together we will all be successful.

Focus on our mission

by Garry D. Henshaw, State 3rd jr. vice commander

It is convention time – A time for business, fun and friendship. I wanted to write this article on the light side but it's difficult to write humorously when your topic is about disabled American veterans. In tough economic times, our mission becomes much more serious. We need to stay focused and provide our veterans the

best services possible.

Furthermore, when we get to the convention, we know that we will have our inevitable disagreements about policies and procedures, but we need to resolve these issues with civil discourse and resolve them in a way that benefits all veterans.

In addition, I urge you to

attend the service officers' conference, the convention business sessions and volunteer to serve on a committee. Our DAV service officers will be available to provide valuable information.

Finally, we must have a strong State Department. It is our job to make sure that they have the resources to do the job that we expect them to do.

Convention Reports ... Continued

Success begins with our volunteers

by Rolly D. Lee, Sr., State adjutant

Looking back on this passing year, Commander Mulcahey's term and our accomplishments in the Department of Michigan, we can list things like fiscal responsibility, our legislative work in Lansing as accomplishments, and we must certainly recognize the excellent job Commander Mulcahey has done representing the DAV as Department commander and as chairman of the Commanders' Group during his term.

I would like to mention one of the most important parts of our organization – VOLUNTEERS. Many of us don't realize that taking time out of our busy schedules to go to our Chap-

ter meetings, and especially being a chapter officer, is volunteering. This is where volunteering begins. Occasionally we get a volunteer or two who doesn't start at the chapter meeting, but these people are the exception. It is more often that a member gets actively involved in volunteering once they've committed to getting involved at the chapter or unit.

We certainly need more volunteers to further the programs of the DAV, but we do have some great volunteers. The least we can do is give our volunteers a pat on the back and a big **Thank You!** Their efforts deserve to be noticed.

Our DAV/DAVA volunteers continue unselfishly to help make a difference in lives of disabled veterans. Volunteers spend a lot of time doing things at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs) and Healthcare Systems that are necessary to the welfare of our comrades in those facilities. Our volunteers help with fundraisers such as our DAV Annual Tom McMaster III Golf Outing, helping local veterans and raffles; they host and support the Mobile Service Office in their areas, providing refreshments and some order to the process of getting to talk to our service officers about

the VA claims process. They drive the DAV Transportation Network vans to get our comrades to their medical appointments at the VAMCs throughout the state.

When you take a hard look at what's been accomplished during the Department of Michigan year, you realize that it was a success because of our volunteers. This year's formula for success was simple: **thinking positive, equals being positive.**

In closing, we all need to be committed to our purpose of "building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families."

Some positives in a gloomy economic picture

by Roger Jansen, State treasurer

My treasurer's report this year has some positive aspects and some not so rosy.

We were successful in refinancing the mortgage on our Department headquarters, with a lower interest rate and better terms.

Our investment portfolio, like most others, did not have a stellar performance this year, but there is evidence a recovery has started because of the type of investments we have.

We have worked very hard to keep our expenses in line with our

shrinking membership and escalating costs. We want to thank our chapters and members for their donations to the Department budget.

Our Thrift Store is a work in progress. It got off to a great start; however, a few glitches developed

with the start-up costs and putting the right personnel in place. Positive progress is being made on both fronts and we expect to move forward with good results.

I wish to thank Commander Dan for choosing me as his treasurer this year.

Budget trimmed as economy struggles

by Joseph Connelly, State administrative board chairman

As my second year of serving as Ad Board chairman comes to a close, I would like to thank you for your support and for allowing me to represent you.

All over the state people are feeling the affects of our struggling economy. The Detroit area has been hit exceptionally hard. We have trimmed the Department budget as much as we could, still leaving important programs intact, but with more cuts in the offing it may

become necessary to trim programs that will further impact our veterans.

The State convention, Service Officers training and National 10th District have been combined this year in order to save Department funds, and hopefully save funds for some of our chapters, too.

Because of the hit that the Detroit area has taken, our Thrift Store, which had a booming beginning, has slowed some as people hang onto their clothing rather than donate and buy new.

Continued success in the store benefits all of our members. Now, more than ever I encourage our membership to do what they can to support our DAV Thrift Store. I encourage those living in Zone I to donate clothing and other items as often as possible and spread the word to others. I would also like to see members in Zones II, III and IV remember our Thrift Store as they do some cleaning. Perhaps chapters could collect items and every few months bring them

down when they travel south.

Lastly, if your chapter would like to help the Department, you can either select a budget line item to sponsor or just donate an amount that fits your budget.

Times are tough for everyone right now. I truly believe if we can all pull together and help where we can that a couple years from now we will be able to look back and say "We got through it." Remember...tough times don't last; tough people do!

Duty to provide DAV service

by Thomas Wendel, Michigan service director

Currently we have 26 vans throughout the State providing transportation to our veterans and we bought five new vans for the Transportation program. This was accomplished by donations from the National organization, the Department of Michigan, local chapters and in some instances, funds from other veterans' organizations.

In the past year, we provided transportation to 9,171 veterans in need of medical services from

the Department of Veterans Affairs. DAV drivers and volunteers logged 36,727 hours of voluntary services and drove over 786,912 miles in order to accomplish this task.

I would like to personally thank all of the individuals who contributed to the success of this program through their voluntary service, whether it was driving one of the vans or working in the office setting up the schedule for those

needing transportation. Without you, this program would not be the success it is. Your services are going to be needed even more than ever in the coming year, so please keep up the good work.

Through the success and professionalism of our staff, this year's financial recovery to the State of Michigan and the veterans of this state totaled \$76,086,012. During this reporting year, we have handled 6,746 claims; reviewed 6,356

claims folders and personally interviewed 9,326 clients. We personally appeared before the Rating Board (including personal hearings) 2,470 times. We received 78,514 pieces of correspondence and sent out over 31,570 letters. These statistics reflect our ongoing commitment to service and rehabilitation, and they are also a testimony to the quality of service our National and Department Service Officers provide.

Plenty of work to do

by Ronald Schrieber, State legislative chairman

We have had a fairly good year legislatively as far as the federal programs are concerned. The budget for last year was the highest it has ever been for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The budget was even more than requested in the *Independent Budget* that is put together by several major veterans' service organizations (VSOs). The budget for 2010 is even higher and includes allowing an additional 155,000 veterans into the VA healthcare system.

In the budget this year there were several new VA clinics authorized around the nation and

also several new vet centers. The VA established four new brain trauma centers, but unfortunately, none of them were in Michigan. However, I think we have one of the leading brain trauma programs in the nation outside of the VA. The work is far from over because we still need to obtain assured transparent funding for VA.

The picture on the state level is not as bright for Michigan veterans. Our Michigan Veterans Homes are threatened due to State budget cuts. The VSO program is under threat to be taken over by a Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. If this hap-

pens, we could lose our Department Service Officer program. We all really need to contact our State Representatives to have this stopped. Our service program is the most important part of the DAV Department programs. This will also have a very negative impact on our DAV Transportation Network, which is administered by our Department Service Officers. I feel the Michigan legislature is making a serious mistake if this happens.

Thanks to all of you for your support this past year. We have worked together to help veterans live better lives.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Summary

by Ronald Schrieber, DAV representative, Board of Trustees, Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

As many of you know the MVTF's Emergency Grant Program provides discretionary financial assistance to eligible veterans experiencing temporary, unforeseen financial emergencies.

Last year, during Fiscal Year 2008 that ended September 30, 2008, the Trust approved 1,647 grants totaling \$1,402,995.

As of April 2009, approved grants totaled 787, for a total of \$607,684 so far during Fiscal Year 2009.

Policy changes implemented in 2006 insured that all eligible veterans and dependents were being favorably considered for grants. It also insured that the original intent of the Program

was met in that a grant is provided to resolve an unforeseen, short-term emergency or hardship. Repetitive requests for assistance have stricter policy guidelines to meet, and reports indicate that many new veterans continue to be assisted through the grant program.

The Board of Trustees continues working on their long-term goals to:

- Improve viability of the Emergency Grant Program to meet the needs of the various eras of veterans and dependents:
 - Complete county site visits for committees and agents requiring individual training due to new personnel or

other issues needing assistance. The next statewide training is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2010.

- Work with the State Treasury to increase the value and revenue of the corpus through changes to investments, as adjusted fund revenue projections have decreased by \$200,000.
- Increase the number of approved grants directly to veterans and their families:
 - The number of emergency grants increased by over \$100,000 from 2007 to 2008.
 - Emergency grants in the last two years have increased by over \$500,000.

Membership strength

by Jim Uecke, State membership chairman

My duty as State membership chairman is to see that all the chapters in the state reach 100 percent in membership, which isn't an easy job to accomplish. I have been in contact, on a regular basis, with the members on the State membership committee, often keeping them updated on which chapters are lagging behind in membership. They have been helpful in doing their part

and I'm thankful to have such dedicated people on my team.

Last fall I received a list of potential eligible members for the state, so I sent each committee member those within their zone to send to the chapters in their area. It would really help if each chapter would contact their Zone people and give them a list of the chapter's zip codes.

All of us in every chapter need

to try to sign up members. We have to pull together to make this happen. I have made hundreds of telephone calls concerning membership, plus mailings to keep the membership committee updated on the zone standings.

I have had excellent cooperation with all the people I have dealt with this past year, and I want to thank all the people that have helped me in the past.

Continual improvements underway

by Harvey D. Slotman, DAV representative, Board of Managers, Michigan Veterans Homes

Greetings from the Michigan Veterans Homes in Grand Rapids and Marquette.

Both homes are running pretty

smoothly. We do have a few problems that are in the process of being corrected. One of the most pressing issues we face is replac-

ing the outdated fire sprinkler system in Grand Rapids. We are

IMPROVEMENTS See page 6

**Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
2009 State Convention
June 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2009
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
Schedule of Events**

**All convention events will be held at Kewadin
Convention Center,
2186 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie.**

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009

6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. *Registration: Water's Edge*
3 p.m.-5 p.m. *Finance Board Meeting:
Drummond Island*
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. *State Standing Rules Meeting:
Sugar Island*
8 p.m. *Ice Cream Social & Aux.
Fundraising Auction:
Water's Edge*

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2009

8-10 a.m. &
12-3 p.m. *Registration: Water's Edge*
9 a.m. *Executive Committee Meeting:
Oak/Spruce/Cedar Rooms*
10 a.m. *National 10th District Conference:
Dream Maker's Theater*
11 a.m. *Joint DAV and DAVA
Opening Session:
Dream Maker's Theater*
11:30 a.m. *Joint Past Department
and Auxiliary Commanders'
Luncheon: Ontario Room*
1 p.m. *1st Convention Session:
Oak/Spruce/Cedar Rooms*
4:30 p.m. *Memorial Service:
Dream Maker's Theater*
7 p.m.-9 p.m. *Auxiliary Commander Ott's
Reception: Water's Edge*

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009

8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. *Registration: Water's Edge*
9 a.m. *2nd Convention Session:
Oak/Spruce/Cedar Rooms*
11:30 a.m. *Aux. Forget-Me-Not Luncheon:
Upper & Lower
Tahquamenon Rooms*
1 p.m. *3rd Convention Session:
Oak/Spruce/Cedar Rooms*
5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. *Reception (prior to Banquet):
Dream Maker's Theater*
7 p.m. *Banquet: Dream Maker's Theater*

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009

9 a.m. *4th Convention Session:
Oak/Spruce/Cedar Rooms
* Election of Officers*

*Installation of Officers will take place
at the Post Convention Executive Committee
Meeting that convenes immediately following
close of convention.*

Convention Reports ... Continued

Work to keep our Auxiliary strong

by Brenda Ott, Auxiliary State commander

I can't believe this year has gone by so fast. When I was elected to be your State Auxiliary commander, I thought of all the things I wanted to accomplish. I hope that I have been the person you thought I would be. My goal for the year was "Giving our all...for those who gave theirs." I hope I have given enough to show our veterans just how much I appreciate the sacrifices they made and are still making. It has been an honor to serve this Auxiliary and to work with the DAV Commander Dan Mulcahey. He is truly dedicated to serving our veterans.

It is the goal of our Auxiliary to better the lives of our disabled veterans. We can do this by volunteering at our VA Hospitals or helping out at our State Veterans' Homes. Commander Mulcahey and I just finished our hospital tours and I have come away with a new appreciation of the many hours our volunteers put in helping our vet-

erans. There are so many dedicated people at these facilities. There are also many new improvements made to our VA medical facilities throughout the state. It is the goal of each facility to have new comfortable rooms for the patients. They try to make each room feel like home. They truly give our veterans the best possible care.

Our Auxiliary needs to grow so that in the future we are still able to help our veterans. We need to actively recruit new members in our Units. I was privileged to have had the honor of presenting two new Unit charters this year, and possibly a third one as well. Our State did make its membership quota and I thank all of you who worked hard to sign up new members. We must ask ourselves if there isn't more that we can do to recruit new members into our Auxiliary. We need everyone's help to make our Auxiliary the best it can be.

We need to strengthen the Auxiliary.

A successful Auxiliary Unit does not mean it has a lot of money. If we all work together we can make any Unit a success. After all, we are all here for the same purpose. We need to get out in our communities and see what needs to be done. We need to get the DAV and DAVA names out there so people know where to turn in a crisis. We need to volunteer our services and lend support to all of our men and women returning home from war. This generation is the future of our Auxiliary. *We must all make a difference.*

Thank you all for the support you have given me throughout the year. I will continue to work to take care of our veterans and also to make the Auxiliary as strong as we can be. Please support our new officers as you have supported me. Thank you for the honor of serving as your Auxiliary State commander.

IMPROVEMENTS *From page 5*

pretty high up on the Department of Veterans Affairs list to have this corrected as soon as possible.

One of the programs currently being worked on in Grand Rapids is Grato Park that was rebuilt with the participation of the Comstock Park Rotary Clubs. This park renewal was accomplished with the dedicated fundraiser of the Rotary and the veterans' organizations in the area. My thanks are extended to all supporters of this project. It is really a great improvement at the Home for all of the residents and their families to enjoy.

I would be remiss if I did not

thank all of the chapters and the department for all of the volunteers and the support for both Homes.

They are currently moving some offices in Marquette, to make it easy for the staff to accomplish their duties. One thing that is being done is the addition of a room where the staff can exercise during breaks. After talking with the staff, this is one thing we felt we could help the staff with so they don't have to go outside to exercise (running, walking, etc.) The space was available for this addition and we continue to see improvements at the facility.

We held the awards banquet in Marquette on April 16th and it was an honor for me to present the awards to

the many DAV and DAVA volunteers, as well as all of the van drivers. What a great group of people.

As this issue goes to press there are still open beds at both of the homes. By the end of this year, all veterans with a disability rated 70 to 100 percent can go into the Veterans Homes at no cost to them. The VA will pick up the whole tab.

BUDGET *From page 1*

mander Dempsey. "And enacting the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act would ensure that veterans, particularly sick and disabled veterans, have access to quality and timely health care."

The DAV and the eight other members of the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, along with a growing coalition of military and veterans groups, former VA officials and hospital directors, and an overwhelming majority of American voters, all support legislation to approve VA's health care funding one year in advance.

The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, which worked closely with the bill sponsors in drafting the legislation, is comprised of AMVETS, Blinded Veterans Association, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE *From page 1*

Approx. 11 a.m. *Zone Caucuses*
Zone I Caucus: Dream Maker's Theater
Zone II Caucus: Whitefish Point room
Zone III Caucus: Ontario 1 Room
Zone IV Caucus: Ontario 2 Room
1 p.m. *3rd Convention Session: Dream Maker's Theater*
Awards presentation
Committee Reports
Guest Speakers
5:45 p.m.-6:45 p.m. *Reception (prior to Banquet): Dream Maker's Theater*
7 p.m. *Banquet: Dream Maker's Theater*

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009

9 a.m. *4th Convention Session: Dream Maker's Theater*
Committee Reports
Election of Officers
Installation of Officers
Executive Committee Meeting after adjournment
Approx. 11:30 a.m. *Administrative Board Meeting: Birch Room*



**Remember
the DAV
in your will**



VA accepting applications for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced May 1 that veterans can begin submitting applications on-line for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

"There is no better investment than education," said Tammy Duckworth, VA's assistant secretary for public and intergovernmental affairs. "The Post-9/11 GI Bill will provide new opportunities that are essential to our veterans, our workforce and our economy."

Veterans, service members, reservists and National Guard members with active duty since Sept. 10, 2001, may be eligible for this benefit. Veterans will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from the date of last discharge or release from a period of active duty of at least 90 continuous days.

Eligible applicants must have served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days since Sept. 10, 2001, or served at least 30 continuous days on active duty since Sept. 10, 2001, and received a discharge for disability.

Benefit payment rates range from 40 percent of the maximum benefit for a person with at least 90 days, but less than 6 months of aggregate service and

up to 100 percent of the benefit for people with at least 36 months of aggregate service or 30 continuous days and a discharge due to a service connected disability. Prospective beneficiaries may apply online through the GI Bill Web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>

Qualified Veterans will receive a "Certification of Eligibility" as well as additional information regarding benefits they may qualify for under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which will become effective on Aug. 1, 2009.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, passed by Congress last year, is the most extensive educational assistance program authorized since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944. It provides eligible applicants with tuition payments to assist them in getting a college education. For many participants, it also provides a housing allowance and a stipend for books and supplies.

Information about the new program and VA's other educational benefits can be obtained through <http://www.gibill.va.gov> or by calling 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

Medical Journal praises VA Electronic Health Record

A recent study in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine* singles out the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for its successful implementation of a comprehensive system of electronic health records.

The study's authors, led by Dr. Ashish K. Jha of Harvard University, noted that VA's use of electronic health records has significantly enhanced the quality of patient care. They also found that only 1.5 percent of U.S. hospitals have comprehensive electronic health records; adding VA hospitals to the analyses doubled that number.

"VA hospitals have used electronic health records for more than a decade with dramatic associated improvements in clinical quality," the study's authors wrote.

VA clinicians began using computerized patient records in the mid-1990s for everything from recording examinations by doctors to displaying results of lab

tests and x-rays. Patient records are available 100 percent of the time to VA health care workers, compared to 60 percent when VA relied on paper records.

Dr. Michael J. Kussman, VA's under secretary for health, said VA has "one of the most comprehensive and sophisticated electronic systems" for patient records in the nation. "VA's electronic health record system has largely eliminated errors stemming from lost or incomplete medical records, making us one of the safest systems in the health care industry," Kussman said.

The authors of the *NEJM* article are the latest to praise VA for its technology and commitment to patient safety. In 2006, VA received the prestigious "Innovations in American Government" Award from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government for its advanced electronic health records and performance measurement system.

VA monitoring Swine Flu

VA is working closely with other Federal departments and agencies to monitor human cases of Swine Influenza in the United States. A Swine Influenza advisory has been issued to all VA medical facilities nationwide.

Swine influenza A virus infection (swine flu) can cause a wide range of symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. People with swine flu also can have vomiting and diarrhea. Like seasonal flu, swine flu in humans can vary in severity from mild to severe. Severe disease with pneumonia, respiratory failure and even death is possible with swine flu infection. Certain groups might be more likely to develop a severe illness from swine flu infection, such as persons with chronic medical conditions. Sometimes bacterial infections may occur at the same time as or after infection with influenza viruses and lead to pneumonias, ear infections, or sinus infections.

How it spreads

The main way that influenza viruses are thought to spread is from person to person in respiratory droplets of coughs and sneezes. This can happen when droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person are propelled through the air and deposited on the mouth or

nose of people nearby. Influenza viruses may also be spread when a person touches respiratory droplets on another person or an object and then touches their own mouth or nose (or someone else's mouth or nose) before washing their hands.

People with swine flu who are cared for at home should:

- Check with their health care provider about any special care they might need if they are pregnant or have a health condition such as diabetes, heart disease, asthma, or emphysema.
- Check with their health care provider about whether they should take antiviral medications.
- Stay home for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Drink clear fluids (such as water, broth, sports drinks, electrolyte beverages for infants) to keep from being dehydrated.
- Cover coughs and sneezes. Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub often and especially after using tissues and after coughing or sneezing into hands.
- Avoid close contact with others – do not go to work or school while ill.
- Be watchful for worsening symptoms and seek medical attention.

VA Welcoming Vets Home with New Web Site, Blog

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched its new "Returning Veterans" Web site – www.oefoif.va.gov – to welcome home veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, veteran-centric Web site focusing on their needs and questions.

"VA is entering the world of Web 2.0, because that's where this generation of veterans is already communicating," said Dr. Gerald M. Cross, VA's Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Health on April 20. "We're opening our doors to them virtually to let them know what they can expect when they step through our doors in reality."

The Web site will feature

videos, Veteran stories, and a blog where Veterans are encouraged to post feedback. The site also will restructure the traditional index-of-benefits format found on other VA pages into question-based, categorized, and easily navigated links by topic. This will allow veterans to find benefits of interest easily and discover related benefits as they explore.

"We hope our returning veterans find this site easy and helpful, but also engaging," Dr. Cross said. "As the site grows, we will be linking to veterans' blogs and highlighting more of their own stories from their own views. We are their VA, so we are eager to provide a forum for veterans to discuss their lives."

TAPS

Name	Chapter
Henry A. Kozminski.....	2
John Engle.....	4
Eugene Riley.....	4
John Young, Jr.	12
Louis G. Wolfe.....	13
Stanley W. Englund	24
Timothy P. Finlan.....	24
Robert H. Barker	33
Edward Kowalec.....	33
William M. Mys	39
Richard Herron	44
Darrell Carlisle.....	68
Daniel D. Perkins.....	88
Herman Schneider.....	105
Vincent Dabrowski.....	119

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.

Visit Michigan's DAV Thrift Store

Lightly used clothing – Old dishes – Costume jewelry. You'll be able to find anything and everything at the DAV Thrift Store located at 8050 North Middlebelt Road in Westland.

Located on Middlebelt at the northeast corner of Ann Arbor Trail, the DAV Thrift Store is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. A handy drive-thru donation drop-off area is available. For more information about the store, call 734-513-6020.

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

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

DAV praise for President's support for Health Care Funding Reform

The Disabled American Veterans applauds President Obama's statement of support for advance appropriations to provide sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans health care.

"The President has made it clear that he firmly believes the quality of care that our veterans receive should never be threatened by budget delays," said DAV National Legislative Director Joseph A. Violante on April 9. "As a Senator, he co-sponsored an advance appropriations bill and pledged on the campaign trail that his administration's first budget would recommend passage of advance appropriations legislation. Today, he publicly affirmed that as President of the United States."

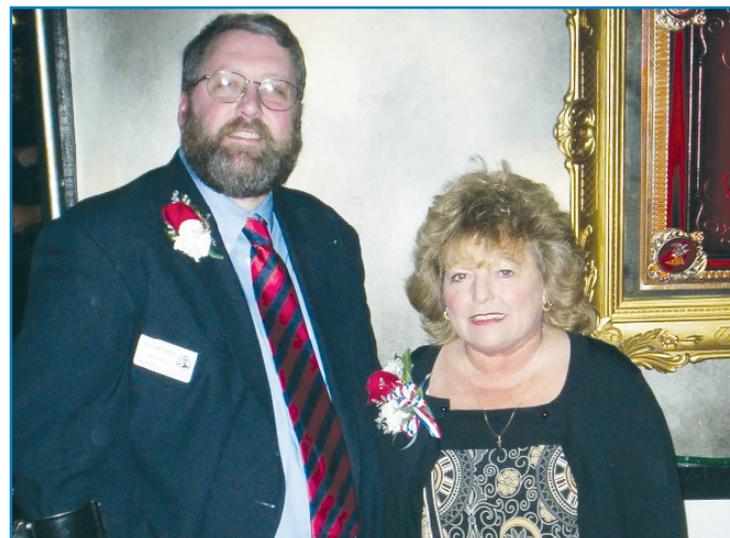
During a White House briefing on April 9 about a joint Defense-VA initiative to create a single, electronic record system the President noted that he and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki have worked together to support providing VA medical care appropriations one year in advance of the start of each fiscal year. This would help end funding delays that have plagued the VA when Congress has failed to pass appropriations bills on time.

Advance appropriations legislation, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, was introduced in both the House and Senate earlier this year, and the Senate-passed budget supported this

concept in a bipartisan manner.

"The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act would provide timely and predictable funding from year to year, but more important, it would mean better care for our veterans. That is something the President, Congress and veterans all agree is absolutely vital," said Violante.

The DAV and the eight other members of the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, a growing coalition of military and veterans groups, former VA officials and hospital directors and an overwhelming majority of American voters all support legislation to fund veterans health care funding one year in advance.



DAV and DAVA State Commanders Dan Mulcahey and Brenda Ott share the limelight at their joint testimonial held March 27 in New Lothrop.

Department Membership Trophy Standings

As of April 30, 2009

Category A (500-over members) HARCOURT TROPHY		Category B (150-499 members) AUST TROPHY		Category C (10-149 members) FRISKE TROPHY	
Chapter	% Gain	Chapter	% Gain	Chapter	% Gain
*9	106.11	*39	107.38	*100	105.88
114	102.67	25	106.25	26	105.71
12	102.29	117	105.60	63	105.00
6	101.99	105	104.50	67	104.41
		129	103.81	93	103.17

ZONE TROPHIES							
ZONE I		ZONE II		ZONE III		ZONE IV	
Chapter	% Gain	Chapter	% Gain	Chapter	% Gain	Chapter	% Gain
*129	103.81	*63	105.00	39	107.38	*25	106.25
44	102.96	20	102.94	9	106.11	26	105.71
114	102.67	14	102.07	100	105.88	67	104.41
12	102.29	6	101.99	*117	105.60	22	103.37

ZONE MEMBERSHIP RACE	
* ZONE III	102.70%
ZONE IV	102.30%
ZONE I	101.45%
ZONE II	101.11%

- (1) No chapter may receive more than one trophy.
- (2) Membership on record in the Department office as of April 30, 2009 will be used in computing trophy winners.
- (3) Trophies are based on largest percentage gain over chapter total membership as of July 15, 2008.
- (4) All ties will be broken and trophy winners declared on the basis of largest numeric gain.
- (5) Winners will be announced and final standings distributed at the State convention.
- (6) National Trial Members were excluded from calculation.

*Winner



DAV State Senior Vice Commander John Lamphere was one of many honored during the A Troop 1-126 Cavalry's Freedom Salute Ceremony held April 19 at the Cadillac Armory. The troops recognized him with an Outstanding Center of Influence award along with a framed picture of the National Guard's "I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER" print. Shown after the presentation at the armory are left to right, Ellie and John Lamphere.



DAV members of Zone I assemble before the start of the Zone I Meeting held April 4 in Livonia.