

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

November 2009

# Michigan Disabled Veteran

Volume 59 No. 2

[USPS 344-940]

*"The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself."  
– Benjamin Franklin*

### VA Health Care Funding Reform Major Victory for Veterans

The Disabled American Veterans applauds President Obama for signing the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act on October 22 calling it "the most significant legislative victory for veterans in a generation."

"This is a great, historic day for all veterans and their families," said DAV National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera, who was at the signing ceremony in the White House. "Veterans, families, survivors and everyone else who cares about the plight of veterans can rejoice knowing that for the first time ever, the Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system can be assured it will be funded on time and adequately every year."

"We have worked for this for more than two decades as veterans suffered. Approval of advance appropriations is the most signif-

icant legislative victory for veterans in a generation," he said. "This legislation will help ensure timely access to medical care for the men and women who have served, are serving and will serve in defense of our nation."

"This long overdue legislation will make a difference for every disabled veteran and every future disabled veteran," said Commander Barrera. "Most important, this is happening because veterans across the country, including so many DAV members and supporters, stepped up and called on Congress to put an end to chronic funding lapses occurring for decades. Together, we stood up for veterans, and veterans and their families are going to benefit."

"This historic legislation will ensure an uninterrupted flow of funds for veterans health care programs even if Congress is unable

to complete work on the rest of the federal budget by the start of a fiscal year," said DAV National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "With funding assured, VA officials will be able to plan ahead how best to provide veterans with the medical care they have earned."

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act authorizes Congress to approve veterans medical care funding one year in advance to better meet the anticipated demand for veterans health care services. The advanced funding will give the Department of Veterans Affairs up to a full year to plan for the most effective and efficient way of delivering medical care. Additionally, this now requires the Government Accountability Office to audit the budget development process to ensure that sufficient funds are included.

### Military Appreciation Monday

**Free "Thank You" Dinner  
Monday, Nov. 16, 2009 • 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Golden Corral's 9th annual Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be held on Monday, November 16, 2009, from 5 to 9 p.m. in all Golden Corral restaurants nationwide.

The free dinner meal is a special "thank you tribute" to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a veteran, retired, currently serving, in the National Guard or Reserves, you are invited to join us at the Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday dinner.

To date, Golden Corral restau-



rants have provided over 2.2 million free meals and contributed over \$3.3 million to the Disabled American Veterans organization.

Here are the locations in Michigan:

- Ft. Gratiot – 4783 24th Avenue  
Phone 810-385-3855
- Muskegon –  
1788 East Sternberg Road  
Phone 231-798-2200
- Westland – 37101 Warren Road  
Phone 734-641-9163

### Next Issue – February, 2010

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

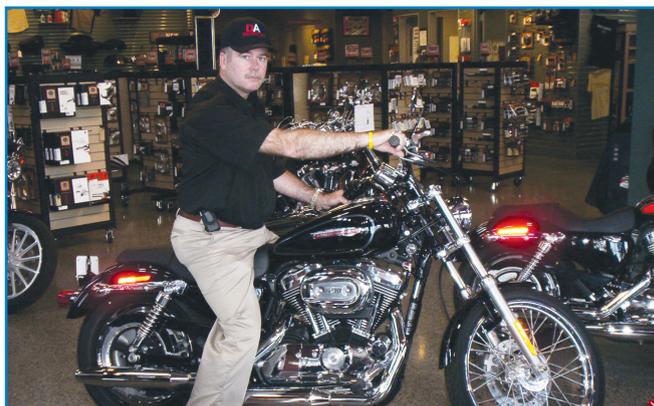
Effective September 1, 2009 the *Michigan Disabled Veteran* began publishing each quarter – every February, April, August and November.

### Win a Harley-Davidson Sportster 1200 Custom Motorcycle!

**Enter DAV Motorcycle Raffle Today!**

Tickets are \$10 each, and an order form can be obtained by calling 1-888-448-2328. The raffle drawing will be held on May 27, 2010 at DAV Department headquarters.

*DAV State Commander John Lamphere is shown on the custom Harley motorcycle that the DAV Department of Michigan is raffling off. Commander Lamphere selected the Harley-Davidson Sportster 1200 Custom motorcycle at the ABC Harley-Davidson dealership in Waterford.*



*DAV AND DAV AUXILIARY STATE COMMANDERS John Lamphere and Donna Henshaw admire the DAV stained glass window located in the chapel when they toured the D. J. Jacobetti Michigan Veterans Home on October 6.*

# Michigan Disabled Veteran

MICHIGAN DISABLED VETERAN (ISSN 1091-8086)

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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.

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## Calling for your help

by John Lamphere, State commander

By the time you receive this issue, I will have visited over half of the chapters in the state at least one time. Most of you are doing great, some could use a little guidance, and some are in trouble. I'm asking all members to attend their chapter meetings to see what is going on in your area. Be part of a great organization – Don't sit back and let just a few officers run everything. They might be doing a good job, but question decisions and how they came about.

I urge all chapter officers to see that the chapter books are audited at least quarterly. Don't let things get out of control. See that the chapter treasurer only pays for items authorized at a chapter meeting, with a receipt. Never pre-sign checks and leave them sitting around.

Communication is the key. Be sure to pass along all information. I know that State Adjutant Lee sends out a lot of information, yet nothing is reported under communications at a few of the chapter meetings I've attended.

## Constitution and Bylaws

All active members should take the time to review the National, Department and Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. They are true guidelines to all that we do. Keep in mind that the National and Department Constitution and Bylaws are amended annually by those assembled in convention, and the chapter members should review the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws periodically. An update of the National and Department Constitution and Bylaws are printed annually after convention.

I recently had to do the hardest part of this job. Two chapters lost their charters due to different reasons – Robert King, Jr. Chapter 9 in Bay City and Harold Snyder Chapter 30 in Ludington. I'm asking all members of these chapters to please transfer into chapters close to you. All members who are paying on their life dues should continue to do so; it will not affect your membership. If there are further questions on these matters, please contact me



**John P. Lamphere**

or State Adjutant Lee.

## Harley Raffle

Finally, I'm hoping for your support of our latest fund raising project. The DAV Dept of Michigan has partnered with ABC Harley Davidson in Waterford to come up with the selection of an exciting Harley Davidson Sportster 1200 Custom Motorcycle to raffle off. We only have 5,000 tickets to sell and if 2,000 tickets aren't sold, the raffle will revert to a 50/50 drawing. The Motorcycle Raffle Tickets are \$10 each and can be obtained by calling 1-888-448-2328.

## VA goes Green

### Secretary Shinseki announces "Green Routine" initiative

On October 5, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced a new "Green Routine" campaign at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The campaign is designed to increase the awareness among VA employees of their environmental impact as individuals and as members of the federal government.

"Easy changes in our daily routines can make a substantive impact on the environment," Secretary Shinseki said. "By being good stewards of the environment, we can enhance the lives of our veterans and their families."

The campaign, which kicked off in October, includes VA's new "Green Routine" Web site devoted to helpful environmental tips – [www.va.gov/greenroutine](http://www.va.gov/greenroutine) – release of a video featuring the VA Chief of Staff educating employees on how to "green" their workplace and a toolkit

designed to help VA employees implement the Green Routine.

Through VA's Green Routine Web site, VA's Office of Asset Enterprise Management and the Greening VA Working Group are providing tips and tools that help employees make the Earth a better place in which to live. It includes links to other VA and government-wide "green" resources.

The video includes a challenge set forth from the VA Chief of Staff for all employees to do their part in reducing their environmental impact and contains examples from fellow VA employees on how to accomplish this. It also highlights success stories from VA facilities across the country.

Additionally, a reference tool for managers and employees entitled the *Greening Action Guide and Toolkit* recommends actions such as selecting a "green champion" in each office to help promote environmentally friendly steps including printing double-sided, holding electronic meetings without paper handouts, turning off cubicle lights when not in use, unplugging cell phone chargers, and recycling printer cartridges and other items.

As a Department, VA is making strides toward operating more energy efficient facilities, using more renewable energy sources, and "greening" its vehicle fleet. VA has reduced energy consumption in buildings by 11 percent since 2003.

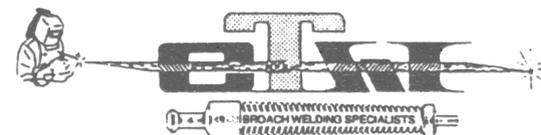
## ATTENTION Members of Wood-Tazelaar Chapter and Unit 11

Muskegon's Chapter and Unit 11 will be closed January, February and March due to the high cost of heat, electric and snow plowing. The meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. will be the last of this year.

The first meeting of 2010 will be Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. For further information, contact Al Hekkema at 231-744-1746.

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Rolly D. Lee Sr.

An Information Seminar is a useful tool available to your Chapter. This is a seminar on veterans' benefits that is conducted by the DAV National Service Office. It requires no less than 8 weeks advance notice in order to coordinate materials and personnel. Your Chapter can take advantage of the National organization's resources for this function. They will provide a mailing to all DAV members in that area along with all potential members in that area. The letters are addressed to encourage the spouse to attend with the veteran. Let the Department know if your Chapter would like to have one!

#### What about our new members?

There are a number of things that we can do when we sign up a new member. One of the first is to welcome the new member to the Chapter. It doesn't matter if the new member just transferred or that they just signed up in the DAV. We need to let them know when and where our Chapter meets and that they are very welcome to attend. This

## Information Seminars

by Rolly D. Lee, Sr., State adjutant

can be accomplished with a short personal letter signed by the Chapter commander.

When they come to a meeting, be sure that they are welcomed by most if not all of the "regulars." Don't let them feel ignored. Allow new members to participate at their own pace. Let them "get their feet wet." You don't need to elect them commander or appoint them adjutant at the first meeting. Getting more members active and coming to the Chapter meetings is one of those goals that we can set to keep our Chapters active and focused. Don't waste all the hard work your membership recruiter went through to get the new member signed up, by not inviting them to be active.

#### Major Department raffle

The ballot is back from the National Executive Committee granting Department of Michigan permission to raffle a Harley Davidson 1200 Custom Sportster. She is a beauty! We have our raffle license.

Only 5,000 tickets have been printed at \$10.00 each and are available from the Department office. We'll have a couple of teams selling them at various DAV Mobile Service Office events around the state. We are looking for some volunteers to get involved with this fundraiser. Let us know if your chapter wants to help with this raffle. With your help, this can be very successful!

#### Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Survey

VA is evaluating the effective-

ness of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program and has engaged Economic Systems Inc. and ICF International to conduct the evaluation. A major part of the study will be a survey conducted in December 2009 through February 2010 of veterans who have participated or are currently participating in the VR&E program and those who would have been eligible to participate but, for various reasons, did not to do so. Approximately 23,000 veterans will be surveyed.

The survey will ask questions about VA outreach, reasons for not applying or not completing VR&E, use of other programs, employment and income, health status, and plans to use the Post 9/11 education program. Veterans will be able to complete the survey in writing or by using the web.

The survey is completely voluntary and veterans' anonymity is guaranteed. VA endorses this survey as an important effort to improve the VR&E program and encourages all veterans who are selected and receive the survey to complete it as soon as possible. In addition, approximately 100 members of veterans' households will be randomly selected for telephone interviews to gather their thoughts about the VR&E program.

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

## VA adds online Chat Service to Suicide Prevention Program

The VA's suicide prevention campaign is expanding with the addition of an online, one-to-one "chat service" for veterans who prefer reaching out for assistance using the Internet.

Called "Veterans Chat," the new service that began September 1, enables veterans, their families and friends to anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor. If a "chatter" is determined to be in a crisis, the counselor can take immediate steps to transfer the person to the VA Suicide Prevention Hotline, where further crisis intervention, counseling and

referral services are provided.

Veterans Chat can be accessed through the suicide prevention Web site ([www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)). A Veterans tab on the left-hand side of the Web site will take visitors directly to resource information. The page also displays the Suicide Prevention Hotline number (1-800-273-TALK). Visitors can click on the Veterans Chat tab on the right side of the Web page to consult with a counselor who is trained to provide information and respond to the requests and concerns of the caller.

If the counselor decides a caller is in a crisis, the counselor will encourage the veteran to call the Suicide Prevention Hotline, where a trained suicide prevention counselor will determine whether crisis intervention techniques are required.

Both Veterans Chat and the VA's Suicide Prevention Hotline have been established under the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline through collaboration between the VA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services.

## 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.  
**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. (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., 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.  
**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 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, 6 p.m. (Even numbered months), American Legion Post 5, McLeod Ave., Ironwood 49038.  
**CHIPPEWA 67**, 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 17, 326 1st Street, Iron River 49935.  
**HILLSDALE 68**, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., 228 East Main Street, North Adams 49262.  
**MUNISING 69**, 1st Friday, 7 p.m., DAV/VVA Clubhouse, E.8025 Jingle Bell Lane, Christmas 49867.  
**OGEAW 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.  
**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, 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 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.  
**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 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.

# Congress passes Continuing Resolution to fund VA

by Ronald Schrieber, State legislative chairman

Things looked promising last year when the Congress passed a VA budget before the beginning of the fiscal year, but here we are at the beginning of year two and no budget has been passed. Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to keep VA running while they decide what is important. I, for one, am really unhappy with congress because they don't have a problem sending America's young men and women to war yet when it comes to benefits entitlements, they lack any effort to get them out in a timely matter.

Funding reform moved through the legislative process before the President signed the bill into law on October 22. The Senate's unanimous approval on October 14 came on the heels of a 419-1 vote in the House on October 9 that approved appropriations for VA Medical programs a year

in advance.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2010 passed the House and Senate and is currently awaiting House approval on Senate Amendments:

- PTSD/TBI Guaranteed Review For Hero's Act.
  - Support the House Provision phasing out the disability offset to Military Retired pay for all members whose service-caused illnesses and injuries forced their medical retirement from active service.
  - Senate provision would end deduction of DIC from SBP annuities when the members death was service caused.
  - Would extend person to person mental health assessments for service members deployed in support of contingency operations. This would help to detect PTSD, suicidal tendencies and other service caused problems.
- On August 4th President

Obama told journalist that his national health care plan would not force anyone to change health care from VA or Tricare. There were amendments made to the bill to exclude VA Health from reform. Veterans could use the new health care program or portions that would be beneficial to them. We'll wait and see.

Michigan legislative action was taken on SB 250, which is devastating to the Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) of Michigan. The section relating to VSO operation is specifically 707. As far as the grant for FY 2010, it is only about one third of the grant we received previously and is only until the end of April. After April, VSOs and others will have to bid on State Contracts through the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMVA). It appears there will be four or five VSOs to do all the service work.

Michigan DMVA has not yet put forth a plan explaining how they will do the same work that the VSOs have been doing for over 50 years, with the same quality of skill. This is the biggest slap in the face to our warriors that comes out of the Michigan legislature. When an attorney gets involved in claims processing the veteran loses 20 percent right off the top. This also includes DIC claims and education claims. All I can say is I hope the veterans in this state are serviced at least equal to what they were by our dedicated corps of veterans service officers, but I really don't see that happening.

Other Michigan legislation of interest:

- SB108 – Expends charitable gaming licenses to the Auxiliary of National Veterans Service Organizations. Became Public Act 41 of 2009.
- SB 137 – Proposes a monthly

stipend for post 9/11/01 recipients of the purple heart or medically retired from military service. Referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations.

- HB 4452 – Proposes a property tax exemption for veterans awarded a total and permanent disability rating. Referred to House Committee on Tax Policy.
- HB 4127 – Proposes to include a designation of veterans status on the State's Drivers License. Referred to House Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs.

Once again I close by saying please be involved in the legislative process both Nationally and Statewide because most of the legislation can have something to do with your well being. Stay in contact with your legislators and let them know your feelings on the issues. They are only a phone call away. Thank you for your continuing support.

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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	<b>308</b>	<b>308</b>
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	<b>28,282</b>	<b>27,235</b>
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**"KEEP  
YOURSELF  
INFORMED."**



**Thomas E. Wendel**

The Vietnam War has been over for 25 years, but its legacy lives on in so many ways. The Veterans Administration recently announced it plans to expand the list of illnesses that it recognizes as having been caused by exposure to Agent Orange. That's the defoliant used heavily in Vietnam back in the 1960s. The decision means that Vietnam vets who suffer from Parkinson's and certain forms of heart disease and Leukemia will be eligible for government benefits.

Relying on an independent

## VA extends Agent Orange benefits

by Thomas Wendel, Michigan service director

study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki decided to establish a service-connection for Vietnam veterans with three specific illnesses based on the latest evidence of an association with the herbicides referred to Agent Orange.

The illnesses affected by the recent decision are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease.

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present. Between January 1965 and April 1970, an estimated 2.6 million military personnel who served in Vietnam were potentially exposed to sprayed Agent Orange.

In practical terms, veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

The Secretary's decision brings

to 15 the number of presumed illnesses recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Other illnesses previously recognized under VA's "presumption" rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War are:

- Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy
- Chloracne
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers, and
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

We are still awaiting the official regulations to be written, but if you are a Vietnam veteran suffering from one of these conditions, or the widow of a Vietnam veteran that passed away because of one of these conditions you need to file a claim with the VA. If you need assistance in filing a claim or have questions, please contact us at 313-964-6595.

## Veterans give high marks to VA Pharmacies

Survey documents "Customer Satisfaction"

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki recently announced J.D. Power and Associates, a firm specializing in consumer surveys, has given VA pharmacies some of the highest customer satisfaction scores in a national sampling of pharmacy customers.

"Veterans are our clients. Providing the highest quality pharmacy services is an essential part of delivering health care to our nation's heroes," said Secretary Shinseki. "As we transform VA and move forward, we will make certain that our approach in delivering health care is, first and foremost, veteran-centric."

J.D. Power and Associates surveyed about 12,000 pharmacy customers who use pharmacy retailers, including independent and mail-out pharmacies, chain drug stores, mass merchandisers and supermarkets. VA received an "Among the Best" ranking for the mail order category, the same

overall ranking as Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy and Prescriptions Solutions.

Among the factors examined in the *J.D. Power and Associates 2009 National Pharmacy Study* were pharmacy environment, price and value of prescription drugs, experience with online ordering and mail delivery, and experience with pharmacist and non-pharmacist staff.

Every veteran enrolled in the VA health care system is eligible to receive prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, and medical and surgical supplies.

In 2008, VA provided approximately 126 million outpatient prescriptions to more than 4.4 million patients.

VA operates seven mail-out pharmacies, known officially as consolidated mail outpatient pharmacies. They are located in Charleston, S.C.; Dallas; Hines, Ill.; Leavenworth, Kan.; Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Chelms-

ford, Mass.; and Tucson, Ariz. These facilities support VA's health care mission through advanced automated production technologies to dispense and mail prescriptions to eligible Veterans.

In addition to supporting VA health care facilities, the mail-out pharmacies also support the Civilian Health and Medical Program for VA and the Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

To see the full survey results, visit <http://www.jdpower.com/healthcare/articles/2009-National-Pharmacy-Study>

## VA warns of telephone prescription scam

In late September the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) warned veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information.

"VA simply does not call veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over

*Give from the heart...Make a holiday donation to help brighten the spirits of those veterans who will spend the upcoming holiday season in a hospital, away from their family and friends.*

**Disabled American Veterans  
Department of Michigan  
VAVS Representatives and  
Michigan Veterans Homes Chairman**

**ANN ARBOR**

**VAVS Representative Florenzio Lopez  
612 Holly Court, Jonesville 49250**

**BATTLE CREEK**

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

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**VAVS Representative Dale LaPalme  
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**VAVS Representative Frank Brown  
408 Raymond Street, Bay City 48706**

**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 49841**

**Holiday 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.**

## Missing WWII Memorial Names

Due to a fire at the National Archives in 1973 that destroyed many service records, it's believed that the database of names of people honored by the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. is incomplete.

The memorial pays tribute to the 16 million people who served in the US Armed Forces during that conflict. The names of the people who served can be accessed at [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com). To make sure you or your loved one is included in the data-

base, go to the Web site. Under the heading "World War II Registry" click on the link for the "Introduction Page" which explains the database and brings you to the search page.

If you or your loved one is not listed in the database, you can call 1-800-639-4992 to speak to a representative or register through the Web site at [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com). You will be asked for the service person's name, branch of service, city and state where inducted, and the location where stationed.

the phone," said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA's Under Secretary for Health.

In an attempt to gain personal information over the phone, the callers say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the veteran's credit card number. "VA has not changed its processes for dispens-

ing prescription medicines," Cross said. "Nor has VA changed its long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of this nation's Veterans."

Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA medical center or call, toll-free, 1-877-222-8387.



## The "One"

by Michael Knutson, LTC, U.S. Army (Retired), State chaplain

*"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which is lost.'"*

LUKE 15:8-9

At the DAV National convention, statistics were put out that were most disturbing. There are approximately 23 million veterans

living in America today. Of that, 8 million have sought treatment and care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. That means there are 15 million veterans (roughly 2/3rds of all veterans) who have yet to be reached. As veterans we have done things, witnessed things, or have seen the results of things that have forever changed our lives. And we wonder why the numbers suffering from PTSD are so high or that suicides rates are so high among veterans.

Just like in the parable listed above, each veteran who has not

been reached is like that silver coin that must be looked and searched for. We may not be able to reach every one of those 15 million but each of us can go and find the "One" veteran who may be our neighbor, our co-worker, our family member. There is help available for all.

America has been blessed throughout its history. It has been blessed because its sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and mothers and fathers have been willing to sacrifice all of their tomorrows so that we can enjoy

our precious freedoms today. Our veterans make a difference. They make the world, not just our country, a better place. Our nation must be forever grateful to our veterans who serve as our nation's peace-keepers. For it is the veteran more than any other human being who loves and cherishes peace and freedom, because it is the veteran who knows the horrors of war.

Let the word go out on this Veterans Day, November 11th, to each veteran, God loves you, America loves you, and from "One to One" – I love you.

## Membership eligibility explained

### Definition of "Time of War"

"During time of war," as used here shall include the following periods of service:

Mexican War: April 24, 1846 to May 30, 1848

Civil War: April 15, 1861 to August 20, 1866

Indian Wars: From 1869 to 1898 there were 34 campaigns and military expeditions; disability because of service in any one is sufficient.

Spanish-American War: April 21, 1898 to April 11, 1899

Philippine Insurrection: April 11, 1899 to July 4, 1902

Boxer Rebellion: June 20, 1900 to May 12, 1901

Cuban Pacification: October 6, 1906 to April 1, 1909

Vera Cruz Expedition: April 21, 1914 to November 26, 1914

Punitive Expedition into Mexico: March 15, 1916 to February 5, 1917

World War I: April 6, 1917 to July 2, 1921

World War II & Korea: September 16, 1940 to January 31, 1955

Vietnam and other engagements: January 31, 1955 to October 14, 1976

Iranian Crisis, Lebanon Crisis, Invasion of Grenada, Invasion of Panama and other engagements: November 4, 1979 to January 31, 1990

Persian Gulf, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq or other Crises: August 2, 1990 until terminated by Presidential Proclamation or Congressional resolution

The requirement "during time of war" is also met if it is deter-

mined that the applicant's wound, injury or disability, was incurred at any time (1) as a direct result of armed conflict, or (2) while engaged in extra-hazardous service under conditions simulating war, or (3) while the United States was engaged in any war. A disability incurred or aggravated during service between September 16, 1940, and December 7, 1941, is included in the term "under conditions simulating war."

"If you still question an applicant's eligibility, send it to the DAV National Membership and they can sort it out," Commander Lamphere concluded.

## Marquette DAV chairman dies

Stanley Kolbusz, 88, who served as a DAV representative at the D. J. Jacobetti Michigan Veterans Home in Marquette, died on September 14, at the home.

Kolbusz, who served as DAV chairman and assistant chairman at the home since

1988, was replaced by Larry J. Blondeau of Marquette County Chapter 22 in July.

Following a funeral mass on September 18 at St. Michael Catholic Church, burial was made in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Marquette.

## VA Contacting Veteran-Students About New GI Bill

### Calls Part of Systematic Outreach to Improve Service

Representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will be telephoning veterans across the country to explain their education benefits under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill and ensure beneficiaries are able to receive payments due them.

"The Post-9/11 GI Bill is one of our highest priorities," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Eric K. Shinseki on October 19. "Instead of making people wait to hear from us, we're reaching out to veterans, so they can get the money they need to stay in school."

The Department is conducting this telephone outreach in response to the large numbers of veterans who have applied for education benefits for the fall 2009 semester. The calls are

scheduled to go to veterans who have applied for benefits under the new educational assistance program. Those who registered for advanced payments will be called, too, to ensure they received their benefits.

To protect the personal identity of veterans, VA representatives making calls will not ask for any personal information, such as birthdates, bank account

or social security numbers, but they may ask family members for information to contact veterans who are away at school.

"Our procedures and policies to provide advanced payments remain in effect," Shinseki said. "Meanwhile, we're completing the on-time development of our automated processing system that will ensure timely delivery of checks in the future."

## TAPS

Name .....	Chapter
Willie D. Owen .....	4
Robert P. Sylvester .....	4
James F. Campau .....	9
Robert L. Buck .....	11
Donald E. Green .....	11
Isidore Helsen .....	11
Frank H. Mansko .....	11
William Meszynski .....	11
Hans E. Mortensen .....	11
Lewis A. Slocum .....	11
Andrew J. Trombley .....	11
Ralph A. Gerecke .....	13
Eugene E. Lindsey .....	13
Raymond W. Loy .....	13
Leo K. Luckhardt .....	13
Paul R. Rosasco .....	13
Delwin Augustyn .....	14
John Clark .....	14
Hubert Dillin .....	14
Joe Fitzpatrick .....	14
James Genzink .....	14
Carl Riefe .....	14
Mike Skaggs .....	14
Fred Stowell .....	14
Jay Vander Mulen .....	14
Paul Wolfson .....	14
Frank Woods .....	14
Robert R. Edinger .....	17
Carman D. Bean .....	18
Lorenzo J. Dickson .....	18
Stanley A. Kowalski .....	18
Stanley M. Kolbusz .....	22
James W. Laine .....	22
Wallace Anderson .....	24
Steve Malnar .....	24
Arthur L. Anderson .....	25
Lawrence M. Eichhorn .....	25
Herbert G. Wickman .....	25
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**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 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026.**





**Donna Henshaw**

Imagine how it will be when you are faced with the inevitability that your loved one is about to go into a nursing home. Whether you are dealing with a State Veteran's home, a nursing unit at the VA, or a private nursing home, you will need vital information and support. Why not be proactive and compile what you will

## Prepare ahead for life's changes

by Donna Henshaw, Auxiliary State commander

need now?

Love computers or hate them, there is a wealth of information on the Internet to help you with your decisions. The State Veteran's homes and VA hospitals all have Web sites. Most local nursing homes have them, too. These sites are loaded with all types of information. You can print the Application for Admission, or ask the facility to mail one to you, so you can review the information in the comfort and privacy of your home.

There will be information on eligibility, cost of care, staffing, programs, medical care, volunteer services, activities and much more. While checking on private nursing homes in the U.P., I found out that when Medicare and Med-

icaid have their state inspections, the homes are rated on a five-star system based on staffing levels, quality measures, etc. Need computer help? Ask a friend, your church, the library, a neighbor, or a DAV or DAVA member.

When applying for admission, you will be asked to supply information in the following categories: MEDICAL; DOCUMENTS; INSURANCE INFORMATION; FINANCIAL; TAXES; FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT; CONTACT PERSON; WHEELCHAIR RENTAL.

Armed with the information you have gathered, you will be ready to ask the questions that are important to you and to make one of the most difficult decisions of a lifetime.

## Focus on our future

by William Taylor, Auxiliary State Mae Holmes chairman

I want to take you on a journey with me in our great State of Michigan because everywhere I go I meet good people who enhance my knowledge by being themselves.

The only way we learn anything is by listening. Let me put it this way. Everyone knows something you don't, so pay attention when you are being spoken to. I want to welcome our newest line officer, Sheila Stockero, who is the daughter of State Commander Donna Henshaw. Sheila will be a great asset to our organization because she is young, smart and wants to advance our cause.

August was our National convention in Denver, CO. One of the first things that comes to mind is the warm welcome we received. This contributed to the success we experienced,

during which time Kay Egan was elected our new DAVA national commander. I was honored to accept an appointment to serve as her National sergeant-at-arms, and I will strive to do my very best. In September I attended our Fall Conference in Ft. Mitchell, KY. What a learning experience that was. DAVA Commander Kay took charge with her no-nonsense attitude which made the conference anything but just status quo. We met old friends and made new ones. The meetings were packed with Commander Egan at the helm and we all "Stayed Connected." This conference was the first time a DAV national commander attended all the meetings...Thank you DAV National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera!

## Caregiver legislation

by Loraine Connelly, Auxiliary State legislative chairman

Our country has always had its share of disabled veterans but with the medical technology we now have, they are able to save the lives of troops who wouldn't have made it in any other war. Therefore, we have even more disabled veterans who require the assistance of a caregiver.

The House and Senate each have a comprehensive bill pertaining to veterans and their caregivers. H.R.3155 the Caregiver Assistance and Resource Enhancement Act and S.801 the Family Caregiver Program Act of 2009.

H.R.3155 is comprised of several issues, one being women veterans healthcare and it is also

comprised of H.R. bills 2342, 2734, 2738 and 2898 – all bills relating to caregivers in terms of healthcare, compensation, training, respite, travel expenses, etc. for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

S.801 has all of this plus the added provision that in two (2) years it will be available to veterans and their caregivers of all eras. This provision would not only include OIF and OEF veterans but would open up benefits to all caregivers of veterans from all wars.

This is long overdue. Please contact your legislators. While both bills are very good the DAV

National legislative staff said the added provision in S.801 makes it extremely attractive.

H.R.3155 has already passed the house and full house. S.801 has passed the senate and is now in the full senate. If both bodies pass their own bills they would have to confer to change the wording to please both the house and senate. It looks like we are on our way. More information on these and other bills is available at [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org) – Legislation – Take Action.

Caregivers have been, and as numbers increase are even more so now, an integral part of the healthcare process of our veterans.

## Be fruitful

by Linda Walters, Auxiliary State membership chairman

Fall is here and the land is bursting forth with a glorious, bountiful harvest. One of Michigan's top crops is her apples. Most of you know the story of Johnny Appleseed and how he went around the U.S. scattering apple seeds.

This year I want you to be a Johnny Appleseed and sow the seeds of new members. I want you to water them with kindness, nurture them with understanding and fertilize them with opportunities to help your unit

and our organization.

As new members grow and become more familiar with the Auxiliary they will also be fruitful and bring in more new members. Think about when you first became a member. What made you stay? Have older members mentor new ones.

At State convention in June I will have an apple tree. Every unit that makes quota will have a gold apple on that tree. With your help we can have a bountiful harvest of new members.

### DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY STATE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN 2009-2010 OFFICERS

#### Elected State Officers

Commander: Donna Henshaw, 145 Sheryl, Marquette 49855

Sr. Vice Commander: William A. Taylor, 3395 N. Lakeshore Dr., Mears 49436

1st Jr. Vice Commander: Linda Walters, 4757 1/2 44th St., Holland 49423

2nd Jr. Vice Commander: Loraine Connelly, 32148 Camborne Lane, Livonia 48154

3rd Jr. Vice Commander: Sheila Stockero (22) 265 Lind Rd., Crystal Falls 49920

Chaplain: Ruth Hinds, 2511 Windywood Dr., Burton 48519

Judge Advocate: Betty Benzing, 14910 Craft Rd., Hersey 49639

Adjutant/Treas.: Carol Gray, 3432 Pine Knob NW, Grand Rapids 49544

Assistant Adjutant: Hilda Cool, 1465 Ogden St., Jasper 49248

#### VAVS Representatives

Ann Arbor – Elizabeth Riley, 43 Santee River Dr., Adrian 49221

Aleda E. Lutz – Brenda Ott, 11384 N. Genesee Rd., Clio 48420

John D. Dingell – Elizabeth Ellis, 9000 E. Jefferson, Apt. 4-5, Detroit 48214

Oscar G. Johnson – Mary Anderson, 500 E. Stanton, Iron Mountain 49801

#### State Veterans Home Chairmen

Grand Rapids – Jackie Lomonaco, 1659 Plainfield NE, Grand Rapids 49505

D. J. Jacobetti (Marquette) – Jean Contois, 327 Mesnard, Marquette 49855

#### National Cemetery Advisory Committee Member

Fort Custer – Rena Penny, 3911 Devonshire, Kalamazoo 49006

Great Lakes – Ruth Hinds, 2511 Windywood, Burton 48519

**NOTE: All official Auxiliary mail should be sent to Auxiliary State Adjutant Carol Gray**

## WAR RELICS WANTED

**Private collector paying  
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uniforms, etc.**

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**William Harbowy,  
7247 Weddel St.  
Taylor, MI 48180  
(313) 386-2384**

## Applicants sought for service officer positions

The Department of Michigan, DAV is seeking job applicants for service officer vacancies that exist around the state – a full-time position in Detroit and part-time positions in Ann Arbor, Grayling, Iron Mountain, and Sault Ste Marie reports Michigan Service Director Thomas Wendel.

Applicants must be DAV members who are active participants in the organization, preferably those with a background of chapter service work. Two years of college is desirable, but not mandatory.

The full-time position in Detroit is not a conventional,

eight-hour day, five-day work week position. Duties involve providing service at evening chapter meetings and attendance at Zone meetings, DAV conferences, etc., on weekends. Ability to operate an automobile safely, day or night, is also required. Starting salary is commensurate with experience. Fringe benefits include health, dental and eyeglass insurance, life insurance, 401(K) plan and paid vacations.

The part-time positions in Ann Arbor, Grayling, Iron Mountain, and Sault Ste Marie are 24 hour work weeks, and additional duties may involve providing service at evening

chapter meetings and attendance at Zone meetings, DAV conferences, etc., on weekends. Ability to operate an automobile safely, day or night, is also required. Fringe benefits include 401(K).

A six-month probationary period precedes DAV employment status. Required job skills will be taught in a training program provided by the DAV National Service Office in Detroit.

Interested applicants should submit a resume with a copy of DD-214 to the DAV National Service Office, Attn: D. Wells, 477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1200, Detroit, MI 48226, no later than November 20, 2009.

## GET YOUR VERY OWN DAV MICHIGAN RIBBON CAR MAGNET!

The full-color, red, white & blue, ribbon magnet measures 4" X 8" and can be applied to a flat or reasonably curved, cleaned and waxed, dry vehicle surface, with no air pockets or gaps between the ribbon and vehicle. Remove the ribbon weekly for surface cleaning. It's not recommended for repainted surfaces or on hoods.



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Total amount enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Make check or money order payable to: **DAV Department of Michigan** and forward with this completed form to DAV Department of Michigan, 17779 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser 48026. Magnet(s) will be shipped once payment is received.

**DAV STATE  
COMMANDER  
JOHN LAMPHERE**  
has a great time  
during Holland  
Chapter and Unit 14's  
annual pig roast held  
August 14.



**MEETING IN THE LOBBY** just before they began a tour at Iron Mountain's Oscar G. Johnson VA medical center on October 7 are, left to right, DAV Auxiliary State Commander Donna Henshaw, her husband Garry Henshaw, DAV State 2nd jr. vice commander; and DAV State Commander John Lamphere.

### Highlights from 88th National Convention held in Denver



Michigan Past State Commander Russ Spalding (right) joined by his brother-in-law, William Warner of Hollywood, FL, enjoys one of many National convention social activities.

Sharing DAV Auxiliary friendship and fun at the Forget-me-not luncheon held during National convention are, left to right, Gloria Boozer (20), Theresa Lawton (113), PDC Carol Lee (129) and State Commander Donna Henshaw (22).



DAV Auxiliary National 10th District Executive Committee-woman AlmaMarie Taylor is escorted by DAV National 10th District Executive Committee-man J. David Boozer following the closing of the convention on August 25.



DAV Auxiliary National Judge Advocate Carol Gray of Michigan is joined by DAV National Judge Advocate Michael Dobmeier of North Dakota during the Introduction of National Officers and Dinner held August 25.