

# DAV Department of Missouri

**"Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans"**

Disabled American Veterans,  
Department of Missouri  
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## *Dates to remember:*

- **Veterans Day at the Capital**  
Jan 28 & 29, 2008
- **National DAV Mid-Winter Conference**  
March 1-5 (Sat-Wed), 2008  
Marriott® Hotel Crystal Gateway  
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
Phone: 1-703-920-3230 Fax: 1-703-271-5212  
Room rates \$150
- **15<sup>th</sup> District Meeting**  
April 11 & 12, 2008  
Stony Creek Inn, 1201  
North Woodbine Road  
St. Joseph, MO 64506  
Phone: 816-901-9600  
Room rates \$61.00  
Registration \$26.00 which includes Banquet  
\$5.00 late fee after 24 March.
- **State Convention**  
May 30-Jun 2, 2008  
Capital Plaza Hotel  
415 W. McCarty St.  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Fax: 1-573-635-9485 (800) 338-8088  
Room rate \$73.00  
573 636-1234 for Reservations
- **DAV National 2008 Convention**  
August 7-13, (Thur-Wed), 2008  
BALLY'S LAS VEGAS  
3645 Las Vegas Blvd South  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
1-800-634-3434  
Room rates \$108
- **Fall Conference**  
Oct 18, 2008  
Chapter 17 Home  
5054 Monticello Rd.  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

## Greetings from Gene Wheat, State Commander

Greetings:

It's that time again when the hustle and bustle of the holidays are upon us. I hope that everyone had a pleasant Thanksgiving, for we have so much to be thankful for. As you go about your shopping and preparing for the holidays, don't forget about our veterans and servicemen who could use a card or letter from back home. Little acts of kindness can go a long way. I leave you with these words of concern; take time to reflect on what this season is really about.

Seasons Greetings, Peace on Earth and Good Will to all.

Respectfully,  
Gene Wheat, State Commander

## From the Adjutant:

Last month I sent out the requirements for membership by each Chapter and gave you an update on the Goal numbers. Go to [www.davmo.org](http://www.davmo.org) Our web site and look under news.

The Chapter Service Officers are reminded to send all your claims work to the nearest DSO office close to you. If you are in doubt, give me a call.

**I Hope to see you at Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C.**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. Be safe and be happy.**

Larry Daniels, Adjutant



*"Only Thing We Have to Fear  
Is Fear Itself."*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt - 1932*

## Important Numbers

Nat'l Hdqrs., NSO Office, St. Louis	DAV	(877)426-2838 (314)552-9883
<b>Medical Clinics:</b> John Cochran VAMC	St. Louis DAV	(314) 652-4100 289-6443
Jefferson Barracks VAMC	St. Louis DAV	(314)487-0400 416-6984
Kansas City VAMC	DAV	(816)861-4700 922-2884
Columbia VAMC	DAV	(573)814-6000 814-6002
Poplar Bluff VAMC	DAV	(573)686-4151 778-4616
Mt. Vernon VAMC	DAV	(417)466-4000 466-0179
Gene Taylor Clinic		1-800-827-1000
DAV Veterans Administration		

## LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LVAP)

Opportunities have always existed for individuals to assist veterans and their dependents—and members of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Auxiliary have always answered that call. We see examples of this each and every day aimed at meeting the main objective of our organization to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their dependents. With this in mind, I am pleased to announce the creation of the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP). We have always enjoyed the success of a great corps of volunteers who volunteer in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Voluntary Service (VAVS) programs at VA medical centers as well as our Transportation Network. Given the fact that not all volunteers live in close proximity to a VA medical center or other VA facility, the LVAP will allow volunteers to provide needed services to veterans and their families in their local community and be recognized for that service. We can't afford to have volunteers who currently volunteer in VAVS programs or drivers in our Transportation Network reallocate their volunteer time in this new program. Our VAVS and Transportation Network volunteers are vital to the continued success of those programs and the veterans who rely on them each and every day. We simply needed to create a program for those who want to do something for veterans and their families, but could not due to their geographical location in relationship to VA facilities. DAV is the only veterans' service organization which has a national volunteer recognition program to provide incentive awards for volunteers who provide service in activities in the name of DAV.

LVAP volunteers will receive the same incentive awards as enjoyed by volunteers in the VAVS program. LVAP volunteers may report volunteer time for a variety of activities which include, but are not limited to:

1. Chapter and Department Service Officer work.
2. DAV specific outreach efforts (DAV Air Show Outreach Program, Harley's Heroes, National Guard mobilizations and demobilizations, etc.).
3. Fundraising efforts (Forget-Me-Not and other approved fundraisers).
4. Direct assistance to veterans, widows, or families (yard work, home repairs, grocery shopping, etc.).

We invite each chapter to report the activities of their LVAP volunteers to the department Adjutant. Please be sure you report only the time volunteered under the LVAP. The Hospital Service Coordinator and DAV VAVS Representative will continue to report time for the Transportation Network and programs within VAVS. The department Adjutant is responsible for reporting the volunteer time for the activities of volunteers in their state on a monthly basis.

## Chaplains Corner

### *Christmas Letter from Jesus*

This came in my email at the perfect time. I recently got into a discussion online with some ladies about Christmas and what it means... and stores and companies and how they do or do not celebrate the season! Boy, this really opened my eyes. I don't know if you will use it, but here it is anyway!

Dear Children,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival.

Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own.

I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just **GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

Now, having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santa's and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree.

Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.

2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

3. Instead of writing George complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.
7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.
8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary - especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.
9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.
10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest.

Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember:

I LOVE YOU, JESUS

~Earthly Author Unknown~

May the Lord Bless you and your family this Holiday Season.  
Chaplain August Barnhouse