



Information Bulletin

Disabled American Veterans Department of North Carolina July 2007

DAV Mission: "To build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families."

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Thank you for the honor of electing me as Department Commander for a second time. First, I want to acknowledge the superb year the Department enjoyed under the leadership of Commander Dave Irby and his staff. I am humbled to have the opportunity to strive to continue this momentum and build upon their successes.

This Department is here to serve our members and Chapters. I plan to assign Department Officers to visit chapters in an effort to assist and teach, NOT to harass and preach. It is not my intention to solve Chapter problems at the Department level if the problem should be and can be solved at the Chapter level. If you desire the visit of a specific officer to your Chapter, please let us know and we will make every effort to accommodate your request in a timely manner.

It is my strong desire to see the effectiveness of our Legislative Committee to continue its strong efforts concerning veterans' issues on the state and national levels. It is also my desire to continue to be a leader on the National level in membership growth as North Carolina continues to grow in population, especially among veterans. We expect a new Chapter to be chartered in Union County later this month and hopefully, two additional Chapters this year. We have so many opportunities to excel, however, we can only do so if we all pull together in the same direction.

If you have not done so, please get your Chapter Officer Reports in as soon as possible. This will enable us to publish the Department Directory and establish a good, open line of communication. Also, please get started on your Annual Chapter Financial Report as soon as you receive the June 30 bank statements.

We still have vacancies for some Department Committees. If you are interested and willing to serve, please call the Headquarters and make your intentions known. Our mission statement says it all – freely given assistance which builds better lives for service-connected disabled veterans and their families.

Rodney Tucker, Commander

2007 - 2008 DAV and DAV Auxiliary Department Officers

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Commander: | Rodney S. Tucker (#39) | Linda Kafka (#27) |
| Sr Vice Commander: | Art Taylor (#16) | Daniel Hughes (#46) |
| Jr Vice Commander: | W.R. "Bill" Dowe (#09) | Shirley Hill (#44) |
| Treasurer: | Ron Masters (#45) | Carolyn Irby (#61) |
| Chaplain: | Rev. Frank Huffman (#61) | Shirley Odom (#83) |
| Judge Advocate: | George E. Balch, PDC (#17) | Jane Troutman, PNC (#27) |
| Immed Past Commander: | Dave Irby (#61) | Melba Sayers (#48) |
| Inspector: | Robert Moffett, PDC (#11) | N/A |
| Legislative Officer: | Paul Hampton (#61) | N/A |
| Adjutant: | Wally Tyson (#46) | R. Renee Jones, PNC (#18) |

Fall Conference to be held October 26 - 28, 2006

The North Raleigh Hilton Hotel will once again host the annual Department Spring Conference October 26 - 28, 2006. The hotel is located at 3415 Wake Forest Road (Exit 10 from the I-440 Beltline) in Raleigh. The completely renovated Hilton, is offering DAV and Auxiliary members a special conference room rate of \$75 plus applicable taxes per night. **The DAV room block of 82 rooms at this rate will be held until October 6, 2007. The hotel telephone number is (919) 872-2323, extension 716. You must state you are with the DAV.** Reservations made after October 6 are subject to room availability and significantly higher rates.

We are planning several changes to the Conference Agenda, changes which will prove much more enjoyable while allowing us time to get the business completed. We expect to complete arrangements with the hotel staff soon and provide the Conference agenda and advance registration forms with the August 2007 Bulletin.

Please, take time now to make your room reservations to avoid availability and price issues.

*******PLEASE NOTE --- NEW E-MAIL AND WEB SITE ADDRESSES ON BACK PAGE*******

Membership Report

Way to go membership recruiters! What an extraordinary achievement! The Department has once again reached membership records for the sixteenth consecutive year. As of June 30, 2007, **Department membership was 45,834**, a gain of 1,410 since June 30, 2006. **DAV Full Paid Life Membership was 33,704, a gain 1,719** since June 30, 2006. Full Paid Life Members are now 73.51% of our total membership. The Department finished the year in fourth place among the ten Departments in National Division One.

We cannot rest upon our laurels. Now the challenge will be threefold: One, to maintain our membership strength; Two, to bring the 9,176 "part-life members" into the Full Paid Life ranks, and Three, to bring the younger Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraqi War veterans into the DAV. Many of these veterans need DAV services and we need their energy and enthusiasm. We need their talents and abilities. We need them to be the future leaders of the DAV. Therefore, let us not pass up an opportunity to recruit a new member and/or assist a service-connected disabled veteran, their family members, or their survivors. If we show them the best of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary, they, in turn, will want to be part of the DAV family. Remember, they will not join the DAV, if we do not ask them to join the DAV. Don't delay, let's start now!

To assist your recruiting efforts, the Department Executive Committee has recently approved a \$10.00 discount offer to those members paying their remaining balance in full before May 31, 2008. Chapters are also urged to offer a \$5 or \$10 discount to combine with the Department offer.

Enclosed with this Bulletin is the Membership Report by District for July 1, 2007. As you can see, NC has another challenge placed before us. However, our 2008 goal is 209 Full Paid Life Members less than we achieved during the recent membership year. We believe nothing is impossible for our great recruiters, Chapters and Department.

An Important Message From the DAV Membership Department

Have you or your new members experienced a delay in receiving their DAV Membership card and information? The reason may be very simple. Many Membership Application Forms are being received by the Membership Department without the required information. The most common errors slowing the process are misspelling of names, complete mailing addresses, missing dates of birth, date enlisted, branch, date discharged, rank and S/C disability. Once again, please provide all of the necessary information on the membership application for the benefit of the new member and the chapter.

Please review each membership application before mailing the form to either Department or National Headquarters. This is an easy way to show our members that we appreciate their service.

The Chapter Officer Report will be accepted ONLY if complete and signed by BOTH the Commander and Adjutant. If the report is incomplete, a Hold will be placed on Chapter mail and membership per capita distribution.

Department Constitution and Bylaws Changes Approved during 2007 Convention

Convention delegates approved several changes which have been forwarded to National for approval. Once approved by the DAV National Judge Advocate, the complete C&BL will be printed and mailed to all chapters. The major changes to our governing document are as follows:

- Added "the Second Junior Vice Commander" as a Department Officer, effective at the 2008 Department Convention.
- Added a Standing Committee to be known as the "Public Relations Committee."
- Added "The Outstanding Legislator of the Year" as an award to be given at the annual Convention.

Important Contact Information

Department Headquarters Phone: (919) 833-5567 or 1-888-432-8838 (toll-free in-state only)
Department Headquarters Fax: (919) 832-1692
DAV National Service Office: (336) 631-5481 NSO Fax: (336) 724-2101
DAV Service Officer - Asheville (828) 298-7911 or (800) 932-6408, Ext 5349 - Eric Dillingham
DAV Service Officer - Durham: (919) 286-0411 or (888) 878-6890, Ext 7671 - Dave Young/Calvin Turner
DAV Service Officer - Fayetteville (910) 488-2120 or (800) 771-6106, Ext 7458 - Kenneth Joy
DAV Service Officer - Salisbury (704) 638-9000 or (800) 469-8262, Ext 3904 - Ada Whitten
DAV National Web Site: www.dav.org

*****PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS CHANGES - EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY*****

Department of NC Web Site: www.davmembersportal.org/nc
Department Headquarters E-mail: ncmail@davfrat.org
Department Adjutant E-mail: ncadj@davfrat.org