



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

August, 2017 Newsletter

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FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER JAMES BAILEY



No one likes to have their performance reviewed and evaluated. Normally a thorough review and analysis will uncover deficiencies and flaws. No one wants to have these negative aspects revealed. But all organizations, including the military, are constantly being evaluated in terms of their performances.

Our DAV Chapters are **not** exempt from being evaluated. The overall purpose of the evaluation is **not** to criticize a Chapter, but only to identify shortfalls and areas of their improvement. In our recent Chapter Evaluation Process, we want to identify areas in which chapters can improve their effectiveness in the delivery of services to our veterans.

There is an old military adage that states: ***“You can’t really improve your effectiveness until you identify what you need to improve.”*** This was, and is, the underlying theme of the Ohio Department’s Chapter Evaluation Process. In creating the Evaluation Process, we combined Chapter requirements (such as, conducting a minimum of four meetings) with activities that Chapters should be performing (such as, Forget-Me-Not Drives) to be effective in delivering services to our disabled veterans. This is, a scorecard for all Chapters to use to see how they are performing.

With every change or innovation, there is a tendency to resist. In this case, it is the Evaluation Process. We are breaking “new ground” in implementing this process. At a recent Conference, I learned that the Department of Ohio is the only Department that is implementing an Evaluation Process for their Chapters. However, other Departments were very interested and seriously considering implementing our Model.

We are refining our Evaluation Process this year and will tailor it to meet the needs of the Department in the future. ***Lurge you to embrace this Evaluation Process for your Chapters. This Process is here to stay!*** Just remember these two things:

Chapters don’t have to **prove** themselves – **but** Chapters need to **improve** themselves!

We Can, We Should, and We Will!

James Bailey
State Commander

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

National Headquarters	(877) 426-2838
NSO Office, Cleveland	(216) 522-3507
Washington D.C. Office, DAV	(202) 554-3501
Cincinnati DSO , Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
<i>Tuesday, Thursday</i>	
Lisa Wilson	(513) 475-6443
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	
Chillicothe DSO , Charles Knipp	(740) 773-1141
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	Ext. 7916
Dayton DSO , Nikki Cochran	(937) 268-6511
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	Ext. 2962
Wade Park DSO , Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	Ext. 3395
Columbus DSO , Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	
Parma DSO , Richard Healy	(216) 739-7000
<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	Ext. 2405

2017-2018 STATE OFFICERS

State Commander:	James Bailey
Sr. Vice Commander:	John Plahovinsak
1 st Jr. Vice Commander:	John Parker
2 nd Jr. Vice Commander:	David Weeks
Executive Committee:	Timothy Dibble Robert Habern
PDC (2016-2017):	David Bilinovich

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 29-Aug. 1, 2017	National Convention, New Orleans, LA.
August 4-6, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Ch. #100, Walmart, Bucyrus, OH
August 11-12, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Ch. #100, Walmart, Bucyrus, OH
August 11-18, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Mercer County Ch. #76, Mercer County Fair, Celina, OH.
August 12, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Fayette County Ch. #89, Kroger, Walmart, TSC, Washington Court House, OH 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
August 26, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Auglaize County Ch. #73, Walmart, Community Market, True Value, Wapakoneta, OH 9 a.m.-12 Noon.
September 8-9, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Ch. #100, Walmart, Galion, OH
September 8-9, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Willie Marcum Ch. #72, Buehler's Grocery Store, Medina, OH 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
September 14-17, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Adams County Ch. #71, Peebles, OH.
September 16, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Ch. #100, Walmart, Crestline, OH
September 30, 2017	Chapter Financial Reports are due!
October 6-7, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Darke County Ch. #57, Eikenberries South Grocery Store, Ace Hardware, Marsh's Union City, John's IGA Versailles & Marathon Greenville, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
October 8, 2017	<i>3rd District Meeting</i> , American Legion, 1245 4 th Ave., Sidney, OH at 2 p.m.
October 14, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Putnam County Ch. #77, Walmart, Ottawa, OH
October 21, 2017	<i>8th District Meeting</i> , Pioneer City Ch. #52, 835 DAV Rd., Whipple, OH with lunch at 11 a.m. and meeting at 12 noon.
October 24, 2017	<i>5th District Meeting</i> , Huron County Ch. #62, 1544 US Hwy 20, Norwalk, OH.
November 3-5, 2017	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, OH.
November 10-12, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Dayton Ch. #9, Wright Patterson Air Force Base.
November 11, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Wayne County Ch. #44, Buehler's Food Market, Orrville, OH 9 a.m.-4p.m.
November 11, 2017	DAV 5k – Run/Walk to Honor Veterans, Cincinnati, OH
November 13, 2017	Golden Corral, Military Appreciation Monday.
February 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
June 7-10, 2018	97 th Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
November 2-4, 2018	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott Northwest, Dublin, OH.

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO MEMBERSHIP

As of *July 31, 2017*, the Department Membership Report stands at 31,946 members. The Department is 97.01% of goal and 894 members below the yearly goal of 29,889. Total full life membership is 28,995.

OHIO'S DAV TEAM ARE INFLUENCING CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATORS

Six (6) Congressional Representatives and one (1) Senator, all visited by the Ohio DAV Legislative Team during the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C., are co-sponsoring pending House and Senate legislation that was cited within the DAV 2017 Key Critical Policy Issues.

This legislation is ***H.R. 1472, the Military and Veterans Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017***. Representatives Aumua Radewagen, Julia Brownley, Mark Takano, Joyce Beatty, Marcy Kaptur and Tim Ryan joined with 57 other congressional representatives in co-sponsoring this key family caregiver legislation.

In addition, Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio, along with 25 other Senators, is co-sponsoring ***S. 591***, the comparable Senate bill version of the Military and Veterans Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017.

This legislation expands eligibility for the existing family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Throughout history, there has been a need to care for veterans who have sustained injuries which prevent them from living independently, without the assistance of others.

The family caregivers of veterans injured ***after*** September 11, 2001, are eligible for comprehensive support to include a living stipend to alleviate the financial burden of being a full-time caregiver. Unfortunately, veterans of previous eras including World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War are unjustifiably ***denied*** eligibility based on the era in which they served.

Family caregivers of veterans injured **before** September 11, 2001, currently receive virtually nothing, often leading to desperate hardships for them and their families. “The DAV has recognized this inequity in the treatment of our veterans,” explained 2nd Junior Vice-Commander David Weeks, “and we were briefed at the 2017 DAV Mid-Winter Conference on how to explain this inequity to various congressional representatives.”

Both the House and the Senate versions are expanded to include child care services, financial planning services and legal services. The legislation also authorizes the transfer of education assistance to family members by veterans, who are retired for a physical disability.

“When our Team briefed the legislators in Washington, we certainly got their attention to the unjust inequity of the existing family caregiver law,” noted Junior Vice-Commander Weeks. “However, by the number of legislators that we talked with that are actively co-sponsoring this family caregiver legislation, I know that the DAV Ohio Team at the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference made a definite impact and accomplished something significant for veterans of all generations.”

The Ohio DAV Legislative Team visited **all** sixteen (16) of the Ohio Congressional Offices and both Ohio United States Senator Brown and Portman’s Offices during the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference. This was the first time that **all** elected Ohio officials’ offices were visited by the Ohio DAV Legislative Team. In addition, ten (10) other high priority elected officials’ congressional offices from the States of California, Washington and New York (and also territories) were visited by the Ohio DAV Team.

“Several officials commented that this was the first time a representative of the DAV **ever** visited them to explain what the current DAV’s Legislative Policy Issues were,” concluded Weeks. “The fact that our DAV message positively impacted **twenty-six (26) congressional offices** and **two (2) senatorial offices** with our effort is certainly going to pay legislative dividends for all disabled veterans both this year and in the future, and the Ohio DAV Legislative Team led the legislative way in this effort!”

John Plahovinsak
Senior Vice Commander

NETWORKING AT THE 2017 COMMANDER’S ORIENTATION



State Commander James Bailey met with Senior Vice Commander Tommy Sellers of the Department of Oklahoma, while at the 2017 Commanders’ and Adjutants’ Orientation, at the DAV National Headquarters. Commander Bailey acquired valuable knowledge of the Department of Oklahoma’s Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP), since Oklahoma won the DAV trophy for their LVAP for the last two (2) years.

Senior Vice Commander Sellers received valuable information on the Department of Ohio’s Chapter Evaluation Process. “The Department of Ohio as developed a great Chapter Evaluation Sheet,” noted Vice Commander Sellers, “and we certainly will be looking at it in the future to help improve our chapters’ effectiveness in assisting veterans in Oklahoma.”

“These sessions are great for exchanging valuable ideas to improve the effectiveness of our Departments,” said Commander Bailey, “and it was great to meet with Oklahoma DAV members to find out what they did to win the LVAP award – so we can try to win this award next year.”

James Bailey
State Commander

THE DAV SALUTES ALL OUR VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBERS, BUT DO YOU KNOW WHERE GUN SALUTES GOT THEIR START?

I always knew grandpa was a veteran, and the knowledge always brought me a sense of pride, but it wasn't until his funeral that I truly understood the significance of his sacrifice to our country's War efforts long before I was born.

The burial on a rainy November day was a somber occasion, but to see the Navy gun-salute Grandpa in his final resting place, play "Taps" and present the American Flag to Grandma made me feel a connection to the bravest patriots throughout time. We later collected the used shell casings that had fallen from the sky, and there were enough for all the grandchildren and other close relatives to keep one in remembrance.

It was only later that I learned the military "salute" to my grandpa was not, in fact, a 21-gun salute, but a very separate and still significant gesture.

Military Funerals

Military personnel who die while on active duty or in the Selected Reserve, honorably-discharged veterans and military retirees are entitled to military funerals, which consist of various honors including a flag-topped casket, the playing of "Taps," three volleys fired from rifles and the flag closing and presentation. It's the three volleys that are often confused with a 21-gun salute.

Most military funerals do not feature a 21-gun salute, but instead an honor guard team firing three volleys from rifles. Each of the fires might consist of multiple gunmen, and there might even be a total of 21 shots through three sets of seven, but the origin and meaning of the tradition is unique from other gun salutes.

Three Volleys

The tradition of firing three volleys originated on traditional battlefields of old, when a temporary ceasefire would be proclaimed so that each side could clear away its dead. Three volleys were fired to indicate the dead were properly cleared and cared for, and the battle could resume.

21-Gun Salute

A 21-gun salute, on the other hand, is rendered to honor a national flag, upon the arrival or departure of the U.S. President, as well as ceremonies honoring former U.S. Presidents, foreign heads of state and royal-family members and Presidents-elect. It is also fired from U.S. military installations at noon on the day of a President's funeral, George Washington's birthday, President's Day and Independence Day. Other nations have their own protocols regarding 21-gun salutes.

Frank Williams
PDC

UPDATE ON SELECTION PROCESS FOR STATE ADJUTANT

The selection process for the DAV State Adjutant position continues and has been extended to **August 31, 2017**. All resumes must be received *no later* than the extension date at: Selection Committee Chairman Joseph Lenhart, 14982 Cemetery Road, Wapakoneta, OH 45895-9772. All questions on the position, including the job description, should be directed to Selection Committee Chairman Lenhart at (419) 738-6879.

James Bailey
State Commander

DAV CHAPTER #63 SUPPORTS BINGO AT VETERANS HOME

DAV Chapter #63 (Clermont County) Senior Advisor Ray Hutchinson called out Bingo numbers for veteran residents at the Southern Ohio Veterans Home, located in Georgetown recently. A total of ten (10) DAV Chapter #63 and DAVA Unit #63 members supported the Bingo activity for over 45 residents at the Southern Ohio Veterans Home.

All forty-five (45) prizes utilized for the veteran Bingo winners were collected and donated by the Laureate Delta Mu Chapter, of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, located in Cincinnati.

"This was the first time this year that we organized and ran the Bingo activity," said Senior Advisor Hutchinson, "and we anticipate we will be visiting them again in the future (on October 14th) to provide more Bingo enjoyment for the veteran residents at the Home."

"Also we will be visiting here again on Wednesday, August 9th, supporting the veterans with one of our special DAV dinners," concluded Hutchinson.

John Plahovinsak
Sr. Vice Commander



COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS ORIENTATION CONFERENCE



Annually the National DAV conducts a Commanders and Adjutants Orientation Conference to bring together the Departments' Commanders, Adjutants and key Department personnel for a three-day training session. This year a total of 47 Departments participated in the Conference.

In the second week of July, State Commander James Bailey, Senior Vice Commander John Plahovinsak and 2nd Junior Vice Commander David Weeks represented the Department of Ohio.

Although much of the Conference was dedicated to training aspects and briefings by the National DAV staff, there were several times where participants could network with each other and exchange ideas and information for improving the effectiveness of their chapters. This was sincerely enlightening since the Departments learned from the successful programs and projects of other DAV Departments.

From the **Department of New Jersey**, we learned about their successful food tray liner program which incorporated information about the DAV car acquisition/donation program and the mission of the DAV. From the **Department of Oklahoma**, we learned about their excellent Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) and how their LVAP program won the National DAV LVAP Award twice. From **the Departments of Nebraska and Alabama**, we learned about the implementation of an outreach program at local colleges to increase membership. From the **Department of Nevada**, we learned about their effective Department fundraising efforts.

Now it wasn't all about learning about other Departments' successes in operating their program/project. The Department of Ohio discussed the Department's Chapter Evaluation Process and Grading Matrix with several other Departments. The Departments of New Jersey, Kansas, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Texas and California requested copies of our Matrix, listing all the elements of our graded criteria.

We were proud to refer them to 2nd Junior Vice Commander Weeks, who authored the Matrix. Apparently, no other DAV Department had a Chapter Evaluation Process implemented and they were learning from our efforts.

I truly would rate the Commanders and Adjutants Orientation Conference as a huge success primarily because it opened our vision to what programs and projects we could adopt to make our Department more effective in the delivery of services to our disabled veterans.

The relationships that I made with other DAV State Commanders will certainly pay big dividends in the long-run as we continue to move forward in making our Department the **BEST** in the DAV.

James Bailey
State Commander

ALLIANCE OHIO SCHOOLGIRL'S THOUGHTS ON OUR "RED, WHITE & BLUE"

"What the American Flag Means to Me"

When I first saw the American Flag, and learned about what she stood for, it meant everything in the world to me. I love Old Glory in every possible way. I love its history and what it stands for. It is such a joy for me to see her proudly flying through the air.

On June 14, 1777, the first flag was established for our new country. Legend has it, a secret committee from the continental congress included George Washington and Betsy Ross. Washington visited Ross where she made the first official American flag. The flag has been changed 26 times and is now on its 27th version. The first American flag would now be 240 years old!

When I see the American flag, emotions are triggered. I feel passion, pride and happiness. I think I feel this way because I love the flag so much. My life would surely be different without her.

One true thing the American flag gives to me is hope. Hope that one day we won't have to fight for our freedom, hope that one day our men won't have to fall for us. I also hope that one the world will be a better place where I don't have to worry about being harmed. To me, this is what the flag stands for. That is why I get upset when someone kneels when the Star-Spangled Banner is played. They are protesting everything. Our soldiers, our fathers who made this nation, and the freedom we have. That is why when our class does the Pledge of Allegiance I proudly stand up, put my hand on my heart, and honor everything the flag has done for me.

Kristin Casto, Student
Granddaughter of Mrs. Darlene Faulkner