



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

December, 2016 Newsletter

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FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER DAVID BILINOVICH

HOPE, RENEWAL, OPTIMISM



The holiday season is upon us. People are very busy and the weather has turned cold. Yet there is also a feeling of *hope*, *renewal* and *optimism* in the air. It is a time to rekindle relationships and to make resolutions for improvement. I love this time of the year and I hope that you enjoy it too. I am also optimistic that 2017 will be even better than 2016 was.

Hope springs eternal. Hope is the belief in and expectation of success in our endeavors. My hope is that all of you and your families have a great holiday season. I also hope that all of our Chapters will rekindle their dedication to our mission, to our core values and to our most valuable assets; our members and their families. Not wanting to be a scrooge, but my hope is also that all 76 current Ohio Chapters will still be with us during the next holiday season.

Yes, hope springs eternal.

Renewal rekindles the best in all of us. Renewal is nothing more than making better decisions and executing better practices to achieve better results. Make your resolutions now to renew yourself physically, mentally and spiritually. I want all of our members to be able to actively participate in DAV Team Ohio. It is also a great time to mend broken relationships and hurt feelings. Then pledge to make your Chapter a better place to meet, enjoy each other's company and to better serve your local disabled veterans' community. Through better decisions, best practices and forgiveness, a better outcome will be achieved. Renewal does rekindle the best in all of us.

Optimism abounds everywhere I go. Optimism is our belief that no matter what the actions or events occurring now, we will find the best possible solution and outcome. This is true because every Chapter that I have visited believes that its best days are yet to come. My Officers and Staff are optimistic with the direction that DAV Team Ohio is now going in. Even our National organization sees a bright future for the DAV. Yes, optimism abounds everywhere in the DAV.

The year is almost over and the holiday season is upon us. Despite the hectic pace of this time of the year and the chill in the air, take time out to enjoy the hope, renewal and optimism of the season. On behalf of your Department Officers and Staff, myself and my family, I wish all of DAV Team Ohio a blessed holiday season and a prosperous new year.

David Bilinovich
State Commander



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

National Headquarters	(877) 426-2838
NSO Office, Cleveland	(216) 522-3507
NSO Office, Cincinnati	(513) 684-2676
Washington Office, DAV	(202) 554-3501
Cincinnati DSO, Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
<i>Tuesday, Thursday</i>	
<i>Lisa Wilson</i>	(513) 475-6443
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	
Chillicothe DSO, Charles Knipp	(740) 773-1141
	Ext. 7916
Dayton DSO, Leland Sink	(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



DATES TO REMEMBER

December 4, 2016	Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home Holiday Party.
Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2017	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
April 1, 2017	<i>District 5 Meeting</i> , Huron County Ch. #62, 1544 US Highway 20 West, Norwalk, OH. Time TBA
April 2, 2017	<i>District 6 Meeting</i> , Brooklyn-Parma Ch. #116, Memorial Hall, Parma, OH. Time TBA
April 22, 2017	DAV & DAVA Commanders' Testimonial Dinner, Wadsworth, Ohio. More information to follow.
April 29, 2017	<i>District 2 Meeting</i> , Champaign County Ch. #31, 220 E. Court St., Urbana, OH 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
April 30, 2017	<i>District 4 Meeting</i> , American Legion, 500 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, OH. Meeting at 1 p.m., Lunch at 2 p.m.
April 30, 2017	<i>District 7 Meeting</i> , Alliance Ch. #50, 9540 McCallum Ave., Alliance, OH with Lunch at 12 noon and the Meeting at 1 p.m.
April 30, 2017	District 8 Meeting, Bellaire Ch. #117, 3134 Guernsey St., Bellaire, OH with Lunch at 12 noon and the Meeting at 1 p.m.
June 22-25, 2017	96 th Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
July 29-Aug. 1, 2017	National Convention, New Orleans, LA.
Nov. 3-5, 2017	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, OH.
February 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
June 7-10, 2018	97 th Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
Nov. 2-4, 2018	Fall Conference. Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, OH.

NOTES FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT KENNETH MARCUM

VETERAN SUICIDE

Suicide is an important problem affecting military service members and veterans. The military services include an Active Component (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy) and a Reserve Component. Estimates from the U.S. Department of Defense suggest that although suicide rates vary across these groups, they remain higher than they were in 2003.

Among veterans, the suicide rate appears to have stabilized in recent years. But this rate remains unacceptably high. Recent estimates suggest that 22 veterans may die by suicide each day.

To address this serious problem, the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have put into place comprehensive suicide prevention programs.

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Suicide prevention efforts seek to reduce risk factors for suicide and strengthen the factors that help strengthen individuals and protect them from suicide. Here are a few examples:

Risk Factors:

- Mood and Anxiety Disorders
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Prior Suicide Attempt
- Stressful Situations (e.g., childhood trauma, relationship problems, legal issues, financial troubles)
- Physical Health Problems

Protective Factors:

- Effective care for mental and physical health problems
- Life skills training (e.g., financial management, communication, marriage, and family relationships, conflict resolution)
- Social Connectedness

DID YOU KNOW???

How many members of Congress have served in the military?

Only 20% of the 535 members of the new Congress have served in the military, 25 from the Senate and 90 from the House of Representatives. Juxtapose that with 1975, when over 70% of those elected had served in the armed forces.

How many war veterans are there in the United States?

There are 21.8 million veterans of the U.S. armed forces as of 2014, according the Census Bureau, approximately 10

percent of whom are women. To put that in context there are 319.2 million Americans, according to the bureau.

What percent of the population serves in the military?

Less than 0.5 percent of the population serves in the armed forces, compared with more than 12 percent during World War II. Even fewer of the privileged and powerful shoulder arms.

There are 8,400 attack helicopters in the world. The US owns 6,400 of them. Also, the US has 10 aircraft carriers. The rest of the world also has 10....combined.

The 442nd Infantry Regiment, composed of largely Japanese American unit that served during WWII, did so while their families were held in internment camps. Their motto was "Go for Broke" and they were the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

The US Pentagon will fund Hollywood movies that portray the military in a positive light.

The U.S. government spent years holding fake arrival ceremonies honoring the return of American soldiers killed in WWII, Vietnam, and Korea to American soil, but the planes were actually empty. The ceremonies were known by staff as "The Big Lie."

In 2014 Congress spent \$120 million on tanks even though the Military repeatedly told them they have no use for them. For the second time.

The U.S. military originally planned to provide personnel, vehicles, and costumes for the film 'Independence Day', but backed out after producers refused to remove the script's Area 51 references.

Apache pilots train their eyes to work independently.

Even decades later the U.S. military is still tracking and arresting deserters from Vietnam. President Jimmy Carter pardoned civilian draft evaders in 1977. The pardon did not apply to those already serving in the military.

In the Gulf War, 9 M1 Abrams Tanks destroyed 28 T-Series Iraqi Tanks, 16 Iraqi personal carriers and 39 Iraqi trucks in under 23 minutes.

Russia built and flew a nuclear powered bomber that killed its own crew by lack of radioactive shielding.

A French Canadian soldier during WWII single-handedly captured 93 German soldiers and He declined the invitation to be decorated, because according to him General Montgomery (who was giving the award) was "incompetent" and in no position to be giving out medals.

There was a small group of Korean soldiers during World War II who were captured and forced into the Japanese army, then captured and forced into the Soviet army, then captured and forced into the Nazi German army, and ended up fighting in the Invasion of Normandy where they were captured once again by American forces.

Women make better fighter pilots than men because the female body is better suited to handle g-force and less likely to lose consciousness during flight.

Due to American Public Law 94-479, by the 94th Congress, George Washington is protected from being outranked by any officer in past, present and future – so if there's a 6 star general, Washington is automatically upgraded to 7.

The US Military has a cemetery where the 'dishonored dead' are buried.

Medal of Honor recipient Thomas Baker was gravely wounded and had his comrades leave him behind, propped up against a tree with a pistol that had 8 bullets remaining. Later they found his body next to the tree, surrounded by 8 dead Japanese soldiers.

The only person a 5-star U.S. general will salute first (other than the president) is a Medal of Honor recipient.

A man who joined the Marines as a private, got promoted to Sergeant and then became an officer as a Lieutenant, then got discharged, enlisted as a Private again, then became an officer again, and ended up being a Lieutenant General.

Military dogs were branded as "equipment" and soldiers were ordered to leave them behind if necessary. A bill is now in place that makes them veterans of war and once they return home, they are retrained and re homed to finish living their lives.

To prevent mistreatment, dogs in the military are always higher ranked than their handlers.

The United States Marine Corps tested the usefulness of ordinary skateboards in urban combat.

The U.S. government has specifications for its pens used by personnel: The pen consists of seven different parts and meets 16 pages of military specs, including that it be able to write for a mile with no fading and withstand temperatures up to 160 degrees and down to 40 degrees below zero.

The U.S. Air Force issues "Go Pills" to pilots to reduce fatigue and increase awareness on long-term flights.

SOME WAYS TO ENCOURAGE YOUNGER VETERANS INTO THE DAV

1. Update chapters with free WIFI, offer video gaming like XBOX or PlayStation 4, and install flat screen TVs, and select programming, such as sports programming, that would appeal to all veterans.
2. I know the more seasoned veterans have life experience and perhaps a different frame of reference. But we should never think that the younger generation is any different. As a leader, I've always welcomed new ideas from

everyone, and the younger veterans are full of ideas- just as we were at that age. You should embrace their energy and let them share their ideas about improving your chapter; you will be pleasantly surprised with the innovative ideas that they come up with. Be open to these new ideas.

3. Welcome all veterans into your chapter. When you see someone new walk in, welcome them with open arms, make them feel like they are part of your chapter and have found new family and friends. And don't criticize the way they look now or their time in the service. If you're welcoming, we may overlook the stale beer smell and nicotine stained walls and windows and stay for a while.
4. Keep your meetings short and to the point. If you have younger veterans at your chapter, assign them a task during the meeting and ask them to work with the membership and complete it. Get them involved in the administration of your VSO and encourage their involvement. The younger generation, especially the millennials like to solve problems by working and teaming with a group. This is a prime opportunity for the VSO leadership to mentor those younger veterans. Be patient. Some of these younger veterans suffer from a malady of challenges, such as Traumatic Brain Injury.
5. Turn your chapter or part of your chapter into a community type of center. Our younger veterans want a place to network, drop their child off for daycare, or do homework.
6. Turn your chapter into a place where veterans can network with the community. Invite local business owners, company executives, your local college Veteran's Representatives, or members of the local Chamber of Commerce to speak at your meetings.
7. Don't be afraid to work with other veteran organizations within your community. Build a strong support network for all veterans.
8. If you have a chapter close to a military base, begin working with the base transition office or AW2/AF2/USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment or the Navy's Safe Harbor Program. These once flourishing programs have had their share of budget cuts, but the mission remains the same. This is where VSOs could make a positive impact with the base leadership as well as the surrounding veteran population.
9. Introduce yourself and your chapter to your local Guard and Reserve centers. Most of the members live, work and shop in your community.
10. Sign up for and attend every veteran event that you can. Make sure the people in your community know that you are the person and chapter to contact when it comes to supporting veterans. Talk the talk and walk the walk.
- *The forgoing ideas for encouraging younger Veterans into the DAV are to be credited, with thanks, to Les Davis, AMVETS National Recruiter at AMVETS National Headquarters', Saint Augustine, FL who wrote an article titled, "Why are Younger Veterans Avoiding Veterans Organizations" on 3/2/2106.*

Kenneth Marcum
State Adjutant



VAN WERT CHAPTER #54

Van Wert Chapter #54 members Steve Pollock, Bob Hogan, Merl Saam, DAV Chapter Commander and District 3 Commander Robert Habern, Lonnie Miller and Chapter Treasurer Paul Wilson participated in the Van Wert County Fair. Also pictured is jockey, Kelly Spannabell and horse, Rushmore.

YOUNGSTOWN CHAPTER #2 TURKEY GIVEAWAY



In honor of Thanksgiving, members of Youngstown Chapter #2 gave away 150 turkeys, along with stuffing, yams and cranberries to veterans in need.



DAV FALL CONFERENCE HAWAIIAN LUAU

The Department of Ohio would like to thank everyone who participated in our Hawaiian Luau that was held at the Department Fall Conference on Saturday evening, November 6, 2016. It was a great turn out and lots of fun!

Thank you to Fayette County Chapter #89 for sponsoring the event and thank you to Willie Marcum Chapter #72 for providing the Hawaiian Theme gift basket for the raffle.



BEST DRESSED



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR VETERANS AND/OR FAMILY MEMBERS

A Legacy of Service, Hope for the Future

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than 1 million veterans in positive, life-changing ways each year. The organization provides more than 700,000 rides for veterans attending medical appointments and assists veterans with more than 300,000 benefit claims annually. In 2015, DAV helped attain more than \$4 billion in new and retroactive benefits to care for themselves and for veterans, their families and survivors.

DAV is also a leader in connecting veterans with meaningful employment, hosting job fairs and providing resources to ensure they have the opportunity to participate in the American Dream their sacrifices have made possible.

With almost 1,300 chapters and nearly 1.3 million members across the country, DAV empowers our nation's heroes and their families by helping to provide the resources they need and ensuring our nation keep the promises made to them.

Capital City Chapter 3 is one of these 1,300 chapters that supports DAV's mission by raising funds and helping local veterans in need.

Chapter 3 has a recycling program which collects aluminum cans and scrap metal. The proceeds are used to purchase or repair medical equipment that is provided to Veterans and/or their family members at no cost.

Chapter 3 has partnered with several local organizations to expand its collection and dissemination of the medical equipment. Some of the medical equipment available are power chairs, wheel chairs, hospital beds, walkers, etc.

Call (614)398-0316 if you are a veteran or family member who needs medical equipment.

How can you help Chapter 3 continue its support of various veteran-related organizations and events and our Disabled Veterans:

Call (614)398-0316 if you are a business or an individual who has aluminum cans or scrap metal to donate to Chapter 3.

Call (614)398-0316 if you have medical equipment to donate to Chapter 3.

Thomas Cunningham
Capital City Ch. #3 Commander

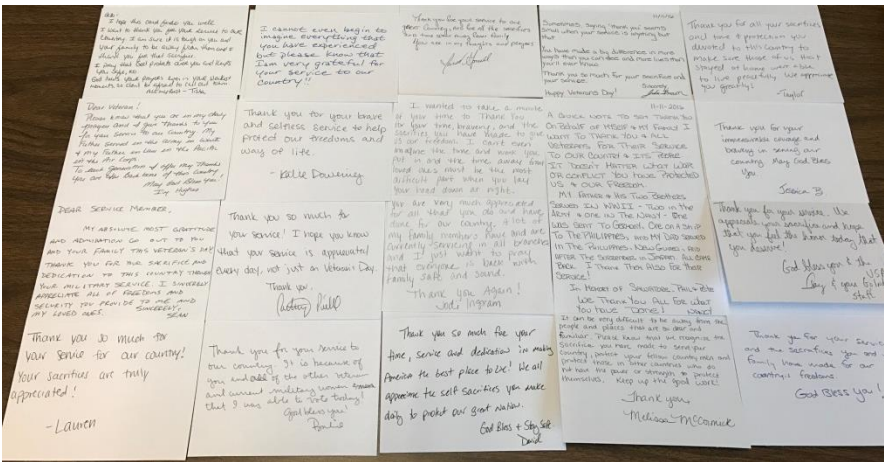
SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN

District 7 Commander and Youngstown Chapter #2 Member Leo Connely will be Santa for the kids, Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Austintown Senior Center, 110 Westchester Drive.

*He's making a list and checking it twice.
He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice!*



THANK YOU VETERANS



Iudium employees participate in multiple activities as a team throughout the year, and decided for the month of November to THANK A VETERAN. They sent the Department thank you notes that they had handwritten to show their appreciation to our veterans.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Beginning the first of the year (January 2017 Newsletter), if anyone wants an article in the Department Newsletter it must be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than the 15th of each month. Articles received after this date will be placed in the next month's newsletter.

You can mail articles to P.O. Box 15099, Columbus, Ohio 43215-0099 or email them to Kenneth.Marcum@ohiodav.org.

