



**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES**  
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

November, 2017

35 East Chestnut Street, P.O. Box 15099, Columbus, Ohio 43215-0099  
FAX: (614) 221-4822 E-mail: [Frank.Williams@ohiodav.org](mailto:Frank.Williams@ohiodav.org)

Phone: (614) 221-3582  
Website: <http://oh.dav.org>

**FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER JAMES BAILEY**



Veterans Day is my favorite holiday because it honors all veterans, who have served in the military. Formally called Armistice Day, (or known as Remembrance Day by other countries), this day officially commemorated the ending of World War I. In 1954, the United States Armistice Day holiday was re-named Veterans Days.

Veterans are certainly a select breed. These men and women became veterans because they possessed the honor, bravery and patriotism that was needed to stand up for their country when called. These veterans represent everything that we, as a nation, fight to protect, everything that we value in life. I see it on their faces at the Ohio Veterans Homes in both Sandusky and Georgetown. Our honor and our liberty is because of them.

What sacrifices do veterans and their families make? The biggest sacrifice veterans have made for their country does not just happen on the battlefield. These sacrifices happen quietly and without fanfare or recognition. They happen in small homes and living rooms, with only those left behind as witnesses. Everything a veteran must do is a sacrifice, from leaving behind their lives, to stepping on a battlefield. These sacrifices are what made a veteran special.

This Veterans Day I am going to ask you for something special. Would you please take an hour out of your busy day and assist a veteran, or visit a veteran in a nursing home or attend some type of veterans' activity?

On Memorial Day, we honor our fallen comrades. On Veterans Day, we honor our comrades that are still with us. On Veterans Day, when someone says to you, "Thank you for your service, you should respond back, "Thank you for your support."

Message to you.

**Remember, WE SHOULD, WE CAN, and WE WILL!**

*James Bailey*  
State Commander



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<b>National Headquarters</b>	(877) 426-2838
<b>NSO Office, Cleveland</b>	(216) 522-3507
<b>Washington D.C. Office, DAV</b>	(202) 554-3501
<b>Cincinnati DSO</b> , Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
<i>Tuesday, Thursday</i>	
Lisa Wilson	(513) 475-6443
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	
<b>Chillicothe DSO</b> , Charles Knipp	(740) 773-1141
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	Ext. 7916
<b>Dayton DSO</b> , Nikki Cochran	(937) 268-6511
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	Ext. 2962
<b>Wade Park DSO</b> , Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	Ext. 3395
<b>Columbus DSO</b> , Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	
<b>Parma DSO</b> , Richard Healy	(216) 739-7000
<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	Ext. 2405
<b>Veterans Crisis Hotline</b>	1-800-273-8255
	Press 1

## DATES TO REMEMBER

November 3-4, 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 11, 2017	Forget-Me-Not Conrath-Bean Chapter #37, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tractor Supply, E. State St., Athens, OH
November 13, 2017	Golden Corral, Military Appreciation Monday.
February 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
April 21, 2018	DAV Commander James Bailey and DAVA Commander Marlene Zwiebel Testimonial Dinner, Wapakoneta, OH
June 22-24, 2018	97 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
November 2-4, 2018	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott Northwest, Dublin, OH.

## VETERANS ORGANIZATION PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION BILL CLEARS HOUSE

On October 11, the Ohio House passed House Bill 24 by a vote of 97-0. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tim Ginter, would grant the same property tax exemption to 501(c)(4) veterans organizations that currently 501(c)(19) and 501(c)(3) veterans organizations enjoy.

The bill limits the expanded exemption to those properties used primarily for meetings and administration of the veterans organization or for providing nonprofit programs and supportive services to veterans, members of the armed forces, or their family members.

H.B. 24 must still make it through the Senate in order to become law.

PDC Frank Williams, who testified at the State House in support of the bill worked with Rep. Tim Ginter, resulting in an unanimous vote at the Full House. We are optimistic the Senate will follow the example of the House vote.

## 2017-2018 STATE OFFICERS

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



## DEPARTMENT OF OHIO MEMBERSHIP

As of *September 5, 2017*, the Department Membership Report stands at 32,176 members. The Department is 97.48% of goal and 753 members below the yearly goal of 29,889. Total full life membership is 29,136.

## CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC RAILROAD

As in previous years, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad ride will be free to all veterans and family on November 10, 2017. The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Train ride is two hours with great seating and wheelchair accessibility. You will be able to view wild life, see wet lands, see holiday decorations, talk to staff and enjoy the company of fellow veterans. The location is 7900 Old Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio 44131. The train will be leaving for Akron on Track #1 at 9:30 a.m. **No Reservations needed!**

## OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME 2017 INDUCTION CEREMONY

The public is invited and Ohio veterans are encouraged to attend the Induction Ceremony: **Induction of the 2017 Class of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame**, Radiant Life Church, 7100 Post Road, Dublin, Ohio 43016 on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 2017. A Continental Breakfast Reception will begin at 9 a.m. and the Induction Ceremony will commence at 10 a.m. For more information: 614-644-0898 or [HallOfFame@dvs.ohio.gov](mailto:HallOfFame@dvs.ohio.gov)

## DAV CHAPTER #63 RECEIVES A \$5,846 DONATION

Over forty people attended a formal check presentation to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Clermont County Chapter #63 by the Paddling for a Cause Program at the Cardboard Kayak Museum in New Richmond, on October 14, 2017. The check was a donation of \$5,846, which were all the proceeds from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Paddling for a Cause event.

The Paddling for a Cause event was held on September 16, 2017, and is an annual kayak event in which paddlers traveled up to 22 miles down the Ohio River, starting at Utopia, Ohio.

"DAV Chapter #63 was selected this year, based on their effectiveness in delivering services to disabled veterans," said Ms. Angie Williams, Program Manager. "Copies of their Annual Reports indicating what the Chapter accomplished in providing direct services to veterans were reviewed and their Chapter was selected."

"The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Paddling for a Cause Program received donations from many sponsors, individuals and organizations in Clermont County," explained Ms. Williams, "and this yielded the \$5,846 amount, which was the largest amount raised in any previous events."

Clermont County Commissioner David L. Painter spoke at the event and cited the veterans' duty and dedication to the country. "The 76 DAV chapters throughout the State of Ohio, such as Chapter #63, provide needed services to our disabled veterans," noted Commissioner Painter. "Chapter #63 has been providing these services to Clermont County veterans since 1938 and I am happy to be there to witness the check presentation."

DAV Chapter #63 Commander John Plahovinsak accepted the donation on behalf of disabled veterans throughout Clermont County. "Chapter 63 believes in complete transparency for any funds donated to our organization," explained Commander Plahovinsak.

"Each year our Chapter provides an Annual Report listing what services we provided to disabled veterans and also what funds were received and, more importantly, how the funds were used to benefit disabled veterans." Noted Plahovinsak, "I pledged the Paddling for a Cause Program will receive a detail listing of how every single penny of the donation will be utilized for services to our Clermont County Veterans."

"The Paddling for a Cause Program placed our Chapter's Annual Reports on their webpage and I believe that those Annual Reports spurred sponsorships and donations for their program," explained Plahovinsak. "These Annual Reports are an excellent recruiting tool at Forget-Me-Not Drives and the Clermont County Fair when people ask what does your Chapter do to assist disabled veterans."

Chapter #63 Adjutant Doug Fike was selected for a Special Award at the presentation. He completed the course down the Ohio River and this was only the second time that he paddled a kayak. His award was a gray buoy painted with the DAV logo on it and the date of his journey.

Commander Plahovinsak presented DAV Chapter #63 pins to the key Paddling for a Cause program organizers, as well as to County Commissioner Painter. "I will be glad to wear this DAV pin on my lapel and tell everyone what the DAV stands for," said Commissioner Painter.

Senior Advisor Ray Hutchinson noted that this was the largest single donation ever received by Chapter #63. "The largest donation before the Paddling for a Cause donation was \$2,000," said Senior Advisor Hutchinson. "And we put that donation to good use serving our disabled veterans in Clermont County."

The Cardboard Kayak Museum, located at 311 Front Street in New Richmond, Ohio, was selected as the location for the check presentation since several of the kayaks used in the Paddling for a Cause Program were completely made from cardboard materials. Visitors are always welcome at this museum, to see the artistically designed and decorated kayaks.



Clermont County Commissioner David Painter (left) commends Project Director Angie Williams and all other Paddling with a Cause participants for their efforts in raising \$5,846 for the kayaking event on the Ohio River held on September 16, 2017. The proceeds of the paddling event will be donated to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Clermont County #63 for them to continue their mission of serving disabled veterans. Commissioner Painter was one of forty people who attended the check presentation at the Cardboard Kayak Museum on October 14, 2017.



Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter #63 Commander John Plahovinsak (right) addresses the audience, as Chapter Adjutant Douglas Fike (left) and Paddling for a Cause Project Director Angie Williams holds a check for \$5,846, which is being donated to the Clermont County-based Chapter. Commander Plahovinsak vowed that all the funds donated to the DAV Chapter will be utilized for veterans' services and he will provide a detailed accounting to the Paddling with a Cause Program on how the donated funds were spent. "Chapter #63 believes in supporting our disabled veterans and also being completely transparent in any received donations," said Plahovinsak.

### **A FEW WORDS FROM PDC FRANK WILLIAMS**

I have served the DAV, Department of Ohio, and "wearing many hats" for the past 27 years. There has been times when I was proud of almost everyone – every Chapter – every District – every employee and every Line Officer within the Department, as well as our National Services Officers on the "Front Lines" fighting the VA System for approval of claims by fellow Disabled Veterans for their earned benefits. There has also been times when I was truly concerned about the future of Team Ohio. But, I will not dwell on the past nor on negatives.

After the conclusion of our June Convention, I agreed to again accept the position of State Adjutant for DAV, Department of Ohio, with the stipulation that I would serve only until a viable, qualified candidate could be identified. And, I agreed to properly train such candidate to insure a smooth transition.

I am now quite pleased to announce that PDC Michael Stith, from Summit County Chapter 35, has been hired and I am working closely with him here at Department Headquarters. Mike is a practicing attorney, who has been actively involved in helping Ohio veterans for many years. He has also been involved with the County Veterans Service Commission at all levels. All of you attending our Fall Conference November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> will have the opportunity to meet Mike.

Finally, since I am confident that Mike is a "fast learner", I will soon be able to retire from full time duties with Department of Ohio. Of course, I will still be involved in lesser positions such as Inspector/Legislative, as we move forward.

May God Bless all of you, God Bless our troops and God Bless America.

### **A TRIBUTE** *Mike Stith, Adjutant*

Frank Williams tells me that he learned something new every day of his service as Department Adjutant. According to Frank, that comes with the job, one that requires a response to any and all issues that affect our organization in a constantly changing world.

Frank says that it is time to move on, time to put aside daily commutes, Department activities, administrative duties, officer counseling and problem solving, to allow more time to enjoy the company of family and friends.

In leaving, Frank ends with a lesson: "Learn something new every day!"

It is an honor to have been selected to succeed DAV Department of Ohio Adjutant Frank Williams. Frank has tried to prepare me for assumption of his position, for issues yet to come. Despite forty years of membership, seventeen years as a chapter adjutant and years of service in a variety of offices, I have a lot to learn! It shouldn't be too hard for me to do as Frank says.

DAV Department of Ohio Adjutant Frank Williams has exemplified service! He has served his watch, and served it well!!! Let it be said of him, and hopefully of all of us: "Well done!"

With sincere best wishes to Frank, and with appreciation for his service, we are the **Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Ohio.**