



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

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

September, 2017

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



Often, as a State Commander, I find it interesting to review records and data on file at Department Headquarters. Such review over the past few weeks has caused concerns regarding DAV's Forget-Me-Not Program. I even began to think, perhaps our Chapter Members are not aware of the history, as well as the value of this important program.

The first Forget-Me-Not drive was held in 1926, to raise funds for services and assistance for Veterans of the first World War. It is a symbol that commemorates those fallen in War, while promising the hope of renewal. For nearly 100 years, the small blue flowers of remembrance has been the staple of Chapter level fundraising to support local disabled veterans.

My concern is, that despite the proven value of this historical program, of the 76 chapters in the Department of Ohio, only 28 Chapters conducted a Forget-Me-Not fundraising drive during the last fiscal year. This means that 48 Chapters (or 63%) did not participate! TO THE MEMBERS OF THESE 48 CHAPTERS WHO DID NOT HOLD A FORGET-ME-NOT DRIVE, I MUST ASK "ARE YOU NOT AWARE OF THE LUCRATIVE VALUE OF THIS NATIONAL-SPONSORED PROGRAM?" Two of the 28 Chapters who did conduct a Forget-Me-Not Drive each collected over \$8,000.00!

In addition to accepting donations, a Forget-Me-Not Drive establishes visibility in your community, thus helping recruit new DAV members. Also, Chapter members receive credit for Volunteer hours in the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP).

I am certainly aware that we are all Volunteers, and everyone's time is limited and valuable. However, it is hard to accept that a DAV Chapter cannot have at least two (2) members conduct a four (4) hour Forget-Me-Not Drive within their community for a few days each year.

Since the Forget-Me-Not Program has a positive impact on RECRUITMENT of new members, I am going to task our Membership Chairman, and his Committee, to: (1) Monitor the 28 Chapters that conducted Forget-Me-Not Drives last year (that was less than 7 days) and urge them to do just one additional day. (2) Contact 12 Chapters that did not participate in the Forget-Me-Not Program last year, urging them to participate this fiscal year.

The Forget-Me-Not Program for the current fiscal year started July 1, 2017, so there is plenty of time to accomplish these worth-while goals.

**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>	
(216) 739-7000	
<b>Parma DSO</b> , Richard Healy	Ext. 2405
<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	
<b>Veterans Crisis Hotline</b>	1-800-273-8255
	Press 1

## 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 August 30, 2017, the Department Membership Report stands at 32,081 members. The Department is 97.18% of goal and 843 members below the yearly goal of 29,889. Total full life membership is 29,046.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1, 2017	Mobile Service Office, Medina Veterans Hall, 620 N. Broadway, Medina, OH 9 a.m.-5p.m.
September 2, 2017	Annual Ft. Thomas Labor Day Cookout, Cincinnati VA Hospital, Cincinnati, OH at 10 a.m.
September 8, 2017	Mobile Service Office, OSU, 185 Student Academic Services Bldg., Columbus, OH. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
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 8-9, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Hamilton-Fairfield Ch. #15, Bass Pro Shop, 300 Cincinnati Mills Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45240.
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
<b>September 30, 2017</b>	<b>Chapter Financial Reports are due!</b>
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>3<sup>rd</sup> District Meeting</i> , Am. Legion, 1245 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Sidney, OH at 2 p.m.
October 8, 2017	<i>4<sup>th</sup> District Meeting</i> , Defiance Ch. #36, 201 Clinton St., Defiance, OH, Meeting at 1 p.m. and dinner at 2 p.m.
October 14, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Putnam County Ch. #77, Walmart, Ottawa, OH
October 14, 2017	<i>5<sup>th</sup> District Meeting</i> , Huron County Ch. #62, 1544 US Hwy 20, Norwalk, OH at 1 p.m.
October 14, 2017	<i>9<sup>th</sup> District Meeting</i> , Dovel Myers Ch. #141, 108 Liberty St., Gallipolis, OH, Lunch at 12 p.m. and Meeting at 1 p.m.
October 18, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Cincinnati Ch. #1, Texas Roadhouse, 7860 Montgomery Rd., Cincinnati, OH
October 21, 2017	<i>8<sup>th</sup> District Meeting</i> , Pioneer City Ch. #52, 835 DAV Rd., Whipple, OH with lunch at 11 a.m. and meeting at 12 noon.
October 18, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Cincinnati Ch. #1, Texas Roadhouse, 7860 Montgomery Rd., Cincinnati, 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 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
November 2-4, 2018	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott Northwest, Dublin, OH.

## PDC HARLAN PLUMMER RECEIVES DAV 2017 GEORGE SEAL TROPHY



"I never thought that I would be standing on this side of the podium in front of the DAV's National Convention," exclaimed Past Department Commander (PDC) Harlan F. Plummer. He was selected by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to receive the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy at the DAV's 96th Annual Convention in New Orleans.

This Trophy is given to the top volunteer for the DAV every year. This prestigious volunteer award honors the best national recipient of thousands of remarkable men and women, who serve in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program.

"At 97 years old, PDC Plummer has overcome health and family obstacles to always return and give back, and he couldn't be more deserving of this great award," said DAV National Commander David W. Riley at the trophy presentation. "With 32 years of volunteer service to our disabled veterans, Harlan has demonstrated why volunteerism is the cornerstone of the DAV's mission and has shown an unmatched commitment to all the men and women who served in our military."

PDC Harlan Plummer, a veteran of the Army Air Corps and Air Force is a Life Member (LM) of Chapter #71 in West Union, Ohio, has volunteered through the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program for 32 years. Dedicating over 10,500 hours to his fellow veterans at the Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Plummer has volunteered in various capacities, including serving as a volunteer driver, which ensures veterans are able to access the health care that they have earned.

“When it comes to supporting our nation’s heroes, DAV is lucky to be home to the most prolific volunteer programs in the nation,” noted DAV National Commander Riley. “From our hospital volunteers and Transportation Network drivers to our Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP), we’re fortunate to have experienced veterans like Harlan leading the way in a meaningful way that not only honors the sacrifices of those who’ve served, but improves their quality of life.”

“Our 2017 George H. Seal Trophy recipient, Harlan Plummer, stepped up and answered the call to service,” said Riley. “He goes above and beyond to honor the promises made to the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our freedom.”

“When I attended my first DAV Chapter meeting 32 years ago, I was nose-y and I wanted to know how to help veterans,” concluded Plummer, “and now 32 years later I’m still being nose-y in trying to assist our veterans. This is a great award and I would like to accept it on behalf of all the volunteers in the DAV who are assisting our disabled veterans.”

*John Plahovinsak*  
Senior Vice Commander

### **OHIO NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER RECEIVES AWARD**



Cleveland National Service Officer Michael Brady was presented the National Service Foundation, Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetter Performance Award for Division 5 at the 2017 National Convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The award is given to only five (5) National Services Officers throughout the country, who have collected the most donations for the DAV.

### **ACT OF RECOGNITION (AOR) STATE COMMANDER’S AWARD**

Starting in September, the Department of Ohio will be instituting a new State Commander’s Award entitled, “Act of Recognition” (AoR), which will be issued on a monthly basis by the State Commander. The purpose of the award will be to recognize DAV members for single Acts of service and distinction for disabled veterans, which many times are not recognized.

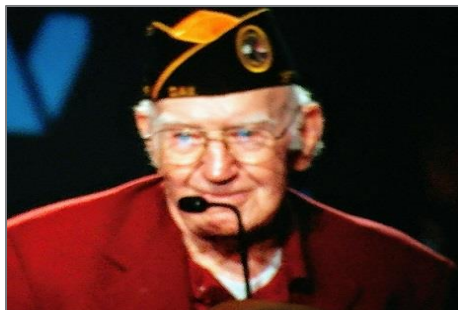
All DAV members perform service to our disabled veterans – however, some members have performed service above and beyond the call of service. It is the purpose of this monthly award to recognize these individuals.

To submit a nomination of a worthwhile individual, any DAV member may mail a postcard or letter to Executive Committeeman Robert Habern, 12181 Bend Road, Defiance, Ohio 43512-9049, with only two or three sentences identifying the (1) DAV member, and (2) what single act the DAV member performed to warrant an Act of Recognition (AoR) Award.

The person nominating the DAV member must include his/her telephone number for further information. All submissions will be reviewed and additional information may be required from the nominee. Recipients will receive an Ohio DAV pin and citation describing their single Act of Recognition (AoR).

The State Commander will make the final determination of the monthly Act of Recognition (AoR) award.

*John Plahovinsak*  
Senior Vice Commander



### **GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL TROPHY WINNER**

PDC Harlan Plummer speaks to the DAV National Convention in New Orleans after receiving the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy for being the 2017 Outstanding Volunteer for assistance to disabled veterans. This Trophy is given to the top volunteer for the DAV every year. This prestigious volunteer award honors the best national recipient of thousands of remarkable men and women, who serve in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program.

### **CLERMONT COUNTY CHAPTER #63**

DAV Chapter #63 (Clermont County) Adjutant Doug Fike gives a check from DAV Chapter #116 (Brooklyn-Parma) to Mr. John Ansell, of the Southern Ohio Veterans Home in Georgetown. The donation was for a Computer Lab Project to purchase desktop computers for the residents at the Home. PDC William Caine had discussed the Computer Lab Project at a monthly Chapter #116 meeting and the Chapter donated \$200 for the project. Chapter #63 has been spearheading the computer acquisition project effort and donations for six (6) computers (each one costing \$669) have already been secured.



### **DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER, OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER**



Retired Army veteran Delphine Metcalf-Foster was elected National Commander of the nearly 1.3 million-member DAV (Disabled American Veterans) during the organization's 96th National Convention. She becomes the first woman veteran, as well as African-American female, to assume the organization's highest post. She is also the first female elected to lead one of the country's major veteran's service organizations.

"When a man or woman raises their hand and says, 'send me' when our nation calls, no one knows better than the members of DAV that they're writing a blank check to our country, and the ultimate payment could be their lives," continued National Commander Metcalf-Foster. "For those who have sacrificed for our country and their survivors, we must insist on a strong VA and healthcare system to meet their needs. I look forward to continuing DAV's nearly century-old mission of service as National Commander".

She currently serves on the First Data Military Advisory Council and is a member of the DAV Department of California Claims and Service Committee, and has served as Chairman for the DAV Department of California Resolution Committee. Metcalf-Foster also completed a four-year appointment as a member of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans in November 2015.

She served as chairman of the Hospital/Volunteer Intern Committee, National 16th District Executive Committee, and has served as director and treasurer for DAV at the national level.

*David Weeks*

2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander

### **CONGRESS ENACTS CRITICAL VETERANS-RELATED LEGISLATION IN AUGUST**

August of 2017 was an extremely productive month for disabled veterans-related legislation that was passed by the 115th Congress and subsequently signed by the President. On August 16, 2017, President Donald Trump signed H.R. 3218, officially known as the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. This piece of legislation is also known as the Forever G.I. Bill.

The bill protects the benefits that the disabled veterans have earned, while expanding access and eligibility. "(This legislation) properly recognizes the long service and sacrifice of the one percent of Americans who have voluntarily put their personal lives on hold to fight an unimaginable multi-front war for almost 16 years," said one key Washington official. This bill improves provisions in the existing G.I. Bill and provides more flexibility for using educational benefits for disabled veterans and their families.

The six (6) key aspects of this bill include: (1) Increases monthly Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) payments by about 40 percent effective October 1, 2018; (2) Eliminates the 15-year limit for using the G.I. Bill, (allowing for the use of the educational benefits for life); (3) Grants full G.I. Bill benefits to Purple Heart Recipients, effective August 1, 2018; (4) Provides G.I. Bill eligibility for reservists undergoing medical care for active duty injuries; (5) Restores used G.I. bill benefits to enrolled students whose school permanently closes after January 1, 2015; and (6) Allows National Guard and Reservist who are receiving Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits, to "pause" their eligibility so their time under the VR&E program is not negatively affected while called up for active duty orders.

During the 2017 DAV Mid-Winter Conference, the Department of Ohio Legislative Team met with nine (9) of the congressional co-sponsors of H.R. 3218 to discuss veterans-related issues. They were Congressional Representatives Brad Wenstrup (2nd District Ohio); Joyce Beatty (3rd District Ohio); Tim Ryan (13th District Ohio); Mark Takano (California); Julia Brownley (California); Kathleen Rice (New York); Aumua Amata Radewagen (American Samoa); Madeleine Bordallo (Guam); and Gregorio Sablan (Northern Marianas).

The second key legislative bill passed by Congress and signed by the President in August was the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017 (Senate Bill 114). This law provides funding for a shortfall to the Veterans Affairs (VA) Choice Program, which is a community care program designed to provide access to health care for veterans facing long wait times or travel far distances for health care appointments. In addition to extending the Choice Program for an additional six (6) months, the bill also improves hiring authorities for the VA and authorizes the VA to enter into 28 new leases for medical clinics and research.

Senate Bill 114 incorporated many of the key provisions contained in H.R. 1367, which was introduced and sponsored by Congressman Brad Wenstrup (2nd District Ohio), whose congressional office was visited by the Department of Ohio Legislative Team during the 2017 DAV Mid-Winter Conference. It certainly appears that the DAV Department of Ohio is playing a significant role in fighting for the rights of our disabled veterans on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. and making progress!

*John J. Plahovinsak*

Legislative Chairman

### **DEPARTMENT'S MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SELECTED AND MOVING FORWARD**

State Commander James Bailey and the Department Executive Committee have approved the selection of the Department's Membership Committee for FY 2017-18. Senior Vice Commander John Plahovinsak (63) will be Chairman of the Committee and its members will be: Richard Blue (115), Tom Cunningham (3), Carl Johnson (73), Thomas Moss (2), Thomas Price (62) and Jymmie Wetherbee (49).

“The overall objective of the Membership Committee will be to achieve the membership goal established by the National DAV,” said Chairman Plahovinsak. “This year the goal for the Department of Ohio is to recruit 931 new Life Members.”

In order to achieve this goal the Membership Committee will be developing and employing new recruitment strategies. “We anticipate that we will be integrating several programs to improve the DAV visibility in both communities and the State of Ohio,” explained Plahovinsak. “All the members of the Committee are hard workers and know that we must succeed in order to make the DAV a growing and dynamic organization.”

Last year the Department of Ohio ended the FY 2016-17 year with a strength total of 99.85%, missing the membership goal by only 43 members. Forty-five (45) Chapters made their assigned goal.

The Strength Report on August 4, 2017 indicated that the Department of Ohio was currently at 97.04% and Chapter 48 (Sidney) has already attained its membership goal.

David Weeks  
2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander

### CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chapter Financial Reports are due **no later than September 30, 2017.** Any chapter that has not filed an annual financial report by September 30 will be considered in a **delinquent status** which may subject the chapter to suspension or revocation of its charter.

Please Note:

(1) Chapters having gross incomes below \$10,000, excluding membership per capita, are no longer required to submit a report to National Headquarters but must submit a report to Department Headquarters at P.O. Box 15099, Columbus, OH 43215-0099.

(2) The Department will file the 2016 Chapter 990-N form if your Chapter submits a completed Financial Report and your gross income is less than \$50,000.

