



1015 Lee Ave, Lufkin, TX 75901
P (936) 637-3281 F (936) 637-3283
adjutant@davtexas.org

Calendar

September

9th – Labor Day

18th National POW/MIA Recognition Day

30th – Financial Reports Due

October

12th – Columbus Day

31st - Halloween

Just a few reminders from the Adjutant-

Everyone should have received a copy of the 2015-2016 Department Directory and C&BL'S by now. If you need additional copies, please contact headquarters. The cost is:

\$2.50

Directories

\$1.50

C&BL'S

Well it is almost that time again. Our 2016 Mid-Year Seminar is approaching. This year's event will be held from January 22 through January 24 at the Double Tree Hilton in Austin. Please be on the lookout for more information and details.

ALL CHAPTERS AND UNITS ARE TO TURN IN THEIR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE THEM, YOUR CHAPTER/UNIT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HOLD ANY FUNDRAISERS.

Teresa Johniken
Adjutant, DAV

NEWS BULLETIN

Volume 25 Issue 3

Sept/Oct 2015

Chartered by act of Congress 1932

★ *Jay Johnson, Commander*

jayc1034@sbcglobal.net

Greetings Comrades,

The DAV National Convention is behind us, it was a very good convention, I say this because the Department of Texas was well represented at the National Convention.

It was my happy privilege as Commander of the Department of Texas to accept for the seventh consecutive year the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial Award for Numerical Gain for Total Membership in the nation.

Membership is our strength!! The greater the number of members the stronger we are. We can greatly improve those by getting involved, going to chapter meetings, making suggestions about how to improve on what we have, how the chapter can be involved in the community. New ideas can help the DAV grow

Those members at the National Convention who attended the DAV Service and Legislative Seminar, were informed and brought up to date on matters pertaining to veterans. Speakers were Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald and Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Jeff Miller, who presented their visions for the future of the VA health care and benefits systems. DAV Moderators, Jim Marszalek, National Service Director, and Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director, lead the question and answer portion of the Seminar. The candor and dialogue between the two agencies, Cabinet and Congress, was sincere, genuine and informative.

The DAV was founded on the principle that this nation's first duty was to care for its wartime disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors. With that in mind, we the members at Department and Chapter levels must always remember we need to make sure our elected officials are aware of our needs.

Congratulations to Department Judge Advocate Dennis Nixon for his election at the National Convention in Denver Colorado to the DAV National Line as the Second Junior Vice Commander. We wish Dennis God Speed as he proceeds through the chairs to become the DAV National Commander.

Jay E. Johnson
Commander, DAV

★ *Darlene Spence, Commander DAVA*

psdspence@aol.com

Hello Members,

The National Convention in Denver was great and Texas was well represented. I was so proud to represent Texas and the members made it even better, cheering me on as I walked down the aisle to my seat. Thank you Texas!

Congratulations to our new DAVA National Commander, Linda Stake.

Two units from Texas won four awards. V1 Hoffman VAVS and the National Hospital was awarded to Raul F. Lopez Unit #95. Unit Membership and National Community Service was awarded to Randolph Area Unit #17. History Book was awarded to Texas, another great job by Joyce Hume's. Congratulations to the units for their outstanding accomplishments. As your Commander it was an honor to accept the awards on your behalf.

A Texas size CONGRATULATIONS to Craig Johniken for being elected National 1st Jr. Vice Commander. Texas is very proud of you!

National Fall Conference will be held in Louisville, KY. Make your arrangements now if you plan to attend. I promise, you will have so much fun and have a fantastic learning experience. Hope to see you all in Louisville where the atmosphere is happy and everyone treats you like family.

NATIONAL FALL CONFERENCE

October 1 - 3, 2015 Galt House Hotel

140 N. 4th Street Louisville, KY 40502 Telephone:
1.502.589.5200 \$125 Single/Double \$135 Triple \$145
Quad Executive Suites are available for an additional \$20
per night

Let's not forget to continue to recruit new members. Make sure you keep an application (s) with you at all times.

"COMMITTED ALL THE WAY" Serving our Veterans and their Families

*Darlene Spence
Commander, DAVA*

★ *Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Membership*

cwedwards07@hotmail.com

"Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone"...Reinhold Niebuhr

For 77 years, the Disabled American Veterans – Department of Texas has been fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. To that end, it has always been members like all of you who are responsible for the success that we have achieved in the continued development and improvement of the great department of Texas-DAV.

On behalf of all our DAV members, Department of Texas, I would like to offer my congratulations to our Department Commander Jay Johnson, for receiving the 2014-2015 General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award. The Department of Texas had the highest number of new part life and full life paid members over goal for the membership year ending June 30, 2015. This was the seventh year that Texas has won this award. As a result of this achievement, the Wainwright Award was awarded at the 2015 National Convention in Denver, Colorado. It is our goal to receive this award at our next National Convention which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. We must remember that it always seems impossible until it's done, however, we have done it so let us do it again.

We are planning to honor our department districts who establish a new chapter within their district at our Department Convention, 2016. The chapter with the highest membership growth will be awarded a special prize at our Department Convention, 2016. Likewise, Department sent to each chapter a copy of the New Officer Guide for the chapters use. Please be sure and share the guide

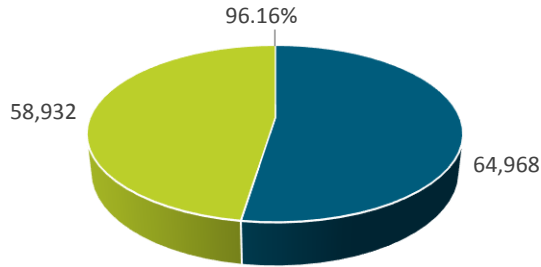
Remember that you are not only a valued part of the DAV-Department of Texas past, but also a vital part of its future. Thank you again for all you have done and continue to do, for the Disabled American Veterans, our organization, yes, the DAV is marching on to reach 1,300,000 members.

My congratulations to our Department Adjutant Teresa Johniken, elected as the Vice President for the State Commander's and Adjutant's Association, totally outstanding Mrs. Johniken. Strong people stand up for themselves but the strongest people stand up for others, our Adjutant is standing up for the veterans of Texas.

Our membership goal for this year will be achieved by all of us working together fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. It is real and we need each other, may God bless each of you.

*Dr. Charles Edwards
Membership Chairman DAV*

Membership



MEMBERSHIP GOAL -	58,932
TOTAL MEMBERS -	64,968
PERCENTAGE -	96.16%

★ *Ruth Gates, DAVA Adjutant*

Ruth.gates@aig.com

Come One Come All to the Annual Auxiliary School of Instruction:

The dates are January 24, 25 and 26. It will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin, TX. The State Aux Commander, officers and the State School Instructor are working diligently to set up an informative, funny and thorough training session. Please make plans to attend. Letters and additional information will be sent to each unit Adjutant within a few weeks.

Congratulations to Craig Johniken who is now the Natl 1st Jr Vice. NEC Mary Bergeron and Alt NEC Chris Easley presided over a great District 20 caucus. We had approximately 30 members from across the State of Texas attend from the Panhandle to North Texas to Houston area down to San Antonio. I would say Texas was very proudly represented. .

Very Important House Cleaning items: Unit Adjutants-please make sure that after your installation of your new officers each year that you send a copy of the Officer's Report to the office of DAV State Adjutant Teresa Johniken so your contact information remains updated in the online State Directory. Unit Treasurer's-Please makes sure that you send a copy of your yearly financial report to the office of the DAV State Adjutant

Teresa Johniken. It is clearly marked on sheet copy of our forms which office gets the copy, please be compliant and send the copy to Aux Nat'l, Aux State Dept and DAV State Dept.

There were some Constitution and By-law changes at National Convention this year. The one that will have the most impact on the Units is going to be on page U-15, Article XV- Unit Finances and Dues- New Section 5:

Units may not accumulate funds, whether for service purposes or otherwise, in excess of three (3) the expenses of their last fiscal year. Units whose accumulated funds exceed this amount must comply with this Section by expending such excess within a reasonable time.

If the new Constitution and By-laws are not ready for sale by National by our State School of Instruction, I will have copies of the changes handed out at National for all in attendance. If you would like to have a copy before then, please call me and I put one in the mail to you.

We will discuss this in detail at the State School in January. Also there will be some definitions/explanations in the Auxiliary National Bulletin in upcoming months as well. If you have any questions/concerns regarding your Unit, please give me a call and we will go over your records. You can reach me at 972-285-1269.

Quote: Be impeccable with your word as it is the gift that comes directly from God and the most powerful tool you have.

*Ruth Gates,
Adjutant, DAVA*

★ *Tom Archer, District II DEC*

etexarcher@gmail.com

I hope summer will be over soon. Hot weather has a bad effect on outdoor events.

Veterans continue to contact our Chapter Service Officers and their needs continue hot or cold. It's hot so one thing that continues to be a need is fans. Many disabled veterans do not have air conditioning so fans are a must.

It continues to be difficult to get veterans into temporary or permanent housing, as the facilities are full and many have waiting lists. That makes it difficult sometimes to even get emergency housing. But our greatest challenge is to assist veterans with their claims. But that takes time and so many times the veteran has issues that require help today that cannot wait. Those are the ones that we must assist. The burden gets heavier each day, with returning disabled veterans from current wars, multiplied by prior wars, Vietnam, Korea, World War II. Agent Orange related disables have recently

been manifest in in our aging veterans. Assistance must come and must come quickly.

We have a great national team that is aware of our needs and continues to fight for our entitlements.

Tom Archer
District II DEC

★ **Marlin Howze, District V DEC**

fehorse@gmail.com

Hello District 5. One thing that hasn't changed from my last email is that the weather is still hot. Watch your outdoor activities and stay hydrated. In the world of Service to our veterans there are always lots of changes.

The VA has made some changes to letting Service Dogs into the VA. Under the revised regulation, only dogs that are individually trained to perform work or tasks on behalf of an individual with a disability will be considered service animals. Other animals will not be permitted in VA facilities, unless expressly allowed as an exception under the regulation for activities such as animal-assisted therapy or for other reasons such as law enforcement purposes. The regulation further confirms that service animals may access VA property subject to the same terms that govern the admission of the public to VA property, and may be restricted from certain areas on VA properties to ensure that patient care, patient safety, and infection control standards are not compromised. I know we have a number of members that depend on our 4-legged best friends to help us out. Get the facts so you don't have a problem at your local VA facility on your next visit.

Upcoming are a number of Veteran Special interest days (POW/MIA Day, Veterans Day, etc). These are excellent ways to get out and have a dialog with your surrounding communities. Submit some articles to newspapers, radio stations and whoever else might get the word out for you. Hold a Patriotic Function to observe and educate about these special days. These improve your "visibility" in the community which in turn brings people interested in what you do, and that is a recruiting opportunity. Especially if you combine that with an effective Service Officer program.

Summer is on its way out, hopefully with a little cooler fall chasing it off. In the meantime, be safe and be true to your brothers and sisters.

Marlin Howze
District V DEC

★ **Fannie Lowe, DAVA Chaplain**

fannielowe@aol.com

Greetings Members,

Recently I read several articles in which one distinct phrase, "righteous anger", captured my interest. An example of this "righteous (good) anger" was explained in an inspiring story of an individual who shared parts of his private and professional life's journey with his listeners. He indicated that one of his greatest challenges is dealing with feelings of anger resulting from, what he is told or what he observes related to the pain and suffering of disabled and/or indigent children, adults or families. He further explained that his anger was not directed toward the individuals he was helping. However, from time to time he felt a "righteous anger" fueled by love and compassion urging him to work harder to make a difference in the lives of those he served.

As DAV Auxiliary members we may not call what spurs us to action a righteous anger. However, we should be driven by a level of compassion and dedication that prompts us to become more involved. We must remain or become committed to fulfilling our Mission and using our gifts and talents for exploring new and improved methods to make a difference in the lives of our disabled veterans and their families.

Do you have someone in mind that you think would like to be remembered in a special way? A prayer, receiving a "Thinking of You", "Get Well", "Encouragement", or other type greeting card may brighten their day and let them know that they are not forgotten. Please allow me to be of service and support by requesting any of the above or other service that, as your State of Texas DAV Auxiliary Chaplain, I can provide. Send all requests, suggestions or any other correspondence to:

Fannie Lowe
20605 Raptor Roost Rd.
Pflugerville, TX 78660
E-Mail: fannielowe@aol.com
Cell: (512) 461-2924

I am "Committed" to serving our disabled veterans, their families, and the
DAV Auxiliary

Fannie Lowe
Chaplain, DAVA

★ **Howard T. Ray, Legislation & Veteran Rights**
htray1931@gmail.com

I was elected by my Chapter, Roy B. Hodges DAV Chapter 128 of San Antonio to attend the National Convention in Denver as a Chapter Delegate.

At the Convention Committee Meeting on Saturday, I was elected to serve as the Alternate Chairman for the 20th District Legislation & Veterans Rights Committee. During the meeting, Fifty Seven Resolutions were voted on and passed by the Committee as follows;

1. Compensation Related: 38
2. Housing Related: 2
3. Benefits Related: 3
4. Claims & Appeals Related: 4
5. Insurance Related: 5
6. Burial Related: 1
7. Miscellaneous Related 4

I would like to Commend Chairman Robert Squyres who was elected Chairman for the 20th District Legislation and Veterans Rights Committee for his support in getting these resolutions passed.

On Monday, I attended the Service and Legislative Seminar Question and Answer Session, Chaired by VA Secretary Robert McDonald and Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee Jeff Miller. Secretary McDonald stated "The VA will find funds to complete the Denver VA Hospital Complex" (Short over \$600M). He also reported that Lobbyist are trying to convince DOD to dissolve the VA. He requested that all Veterans write their elected officials and state their opinion on keeping the VA open and not transfer our Health Care to Contract Medical Care.

Chairman Miller, when asked about Congress being held accountable, stated, "we are held accountable every two years" when we campaign for reelection.

Howard T. Ray
Chairman of Legislation and Veterans Rights

★ **Ralph Marchesano, Chaplain**
rjmarche@windstream.net

What is a DAV/DAVA Chaplain?

The lesson that I learned the first year I was honored to be your chaplain was that I was surrounded by type-A personalities, goal-oriented and motivated individuals. Imagine being a pastor of a church full of men like King David or the apostle Peter. Just imagine the benefit for the Kingdom of God with a group of all-or-

nothing men and women on fire for the Lord! That was one of the reasons I was excited to be your chaplain for another year. Dealing with and ministering to type-A personalities is a challenge to say the least. Imagine a room full of leaders, all with their own opinions, beliefs and strong personalities? That is what makes me grateful to The Lord that I have been chosen to be the servant of such men and women for another year. Regardless of our differences The Lord has put a burden in my heart to love and serve all my comrades in the DAV. I truly wish I could spend more time with each and every one of you, to get to know you better, to get to know your story, to fellowship with you and just spend time with you.

Last year was a world wind for me; representing the DAV at military reunions, accepting donations from corporations, ministering to veterans in nursing homes, attending family/dependents day of Army Reserve Units, speaking at Memorial day services, doing outreach in local churches, assisting in filing claims, attending and officiating at weddings, speaking at many funerals and so much more... When I commit to something I do it to the best of my ability. [Jeremiah 12:5](#) says, "If you have run with footmen and they have wearied you, how can you contend with horses?" My heart was pounding and I questioned my sanity when I decided to run as chaplain for another year. Was I ready to commit to another world wind year? Many Chapter Chaplains ask me and want to know about chaplain duties. What is a chaplain? What do they do? The duties and rituals of a chaplain can be found on the DAV website; however rituals and duties don't begin to explain what a chaplain is. YES duties and rituals are important, how to officiate at chapter meetings, memorial services, etc. is important; however that's not the only thing a chaplain is.

A chaplain is a comrade, a servant, a counselor, a friend, an advisor and so much more. A chaplain is committed to his/her duties and puts those duties and the welfare of his/her members as a top priority. A chaplain asks and prays to The Lord to instill in him/her a conviction to love those he/she is serving, regardless of their personalities or differences. A chaplain wakes up every morning and spends time in prayer and reflection with The Lord and asks for guidance, direction as to his/her duties. Being a DAV/DAVA chaplain is a ministry.

What does a DAV/DAVA chaplain do? A DAV/DAVA chaplain does anything and everything for the good of the order and its members (obviously within reason). What are your priorities? God, Family, Country, Job (if you have one,) DAV, friends, etc. no one can tell you what your priorities should be; however as a DAV/DAVA Chaplain the DAV/DAVA should be at the top of the list somewhere and a level of commitment, devotion and time should be given. How good do you know the members of your chapter? Do you spend time with any of them? Have you gotten to know them, their stories? All these type 'A' personalities have stories to tell, are you there to listen? Do you know how to deal with these personalities? You get to know them, that's how, you befriend them, spend time with them.

When I was a chapter chaplain for seven years I officiated at weddings of members and their families, I attended family picnics, reunions, spent one on one time with many of them at their homes, nursing homes, my home, gone fishing with them and sometimes just hung out and fellowshiped. I visited them in the hospital, prayed with them and cried with them (and their families) on their death beds and was honored to be asked to officiate at the funerals. Yes it is difficult to bury a friend, it rips your heart out, but I was vested in them and their families, I loved and cared for them as God loves us. There is no other satisfaction than to watch the faces of family members and friends as you tell the story of that veteran at the memorial service (most have no clue). Where they served, what they did, how old they were, their accomplishments and their activities in the DAV.

There is no other satisfaction than to know that you will be reunited with them again in Glory. But this is not about me; it's about you, the chapter chaplain. What is a DAV or a DAVA chaplain? A man or a woman who cares about the members, who commits to the duties, who prays daily for them, who is there to serve, not be served. In closing let me make one final statement: Do you want to know what you need to do as chaplains? I learned a long time ago that the secret to living God's will, is giving; the secret to living, is loving other people, the secret to living is being a servant to your flock. Don't take my advice just get on your knees or sit down in a quiet place, pray and ask The Lord to show you, reveal it to you. Ask The Lord to instill in you the desire to love and serve your comrades and to read His Word daily.

"May The Lord give strength unto his people; The Lord will bless His people with peace". Psalms 20:11

"The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore" Psalms 121:7-8

Almighty Father, be with us, to strengthen us; about us, to keep us; above us, to protect us; beneath us, to uphold us; before us, to direct us; behind us, to keep us

from straying; and 'round about us, to defend us. Blessed are You, Almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.

Rev. Ralph Marchesano
DAV Chaplain

Submissions and Pictures

MID-YEAR SEMINAR

January 22, 2016 through January 24, 2016

**Double Tree North
6505 IH 35N
Austin, Texas 78752
1-512-454-3737**

78th Annual DAV Convention

June 9, 2016 through June 13, 2016

**Double Tree North
6505 IH 35N
Austin, Texas 78752
1-512-454-3737**



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise



September 18, 2015

www.dpaa.mil



Department of Texas Headquarters
1015 Lee Ave
Lufkin, TX 75901
Phone (936) 637-3281
Fax (936) 6373283
www.davtexas.org

