



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

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio  
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April, 2015

**FROM THE DESK OF WILLIAM CAINE**

My winter tours of VA Hospitals went very well. In Dayton I was met by our VAVS Vince Dec who was proudly standing watch in the large hospital lobby directing veterans where they need to go or escorting them to our claims office where Bill Millett was busily working claims with a full waiting room. Dayton VAH is a large VAH with historic roots going back to when the hospital was a near self-contained city in itself with a light rail system and hosted visitors in the 10,000's each year. In Chillicothe I was honored to be hosted by VAVS Harlan Plummer, also a PDC, who at 95 years of age drives a 100 mile round trip to carry out his duties. He will soon be setting a record for longevity marked with dedication to the Veterans of Ohio. We salute each and every one of our volunteers and employees in the field. Thanks to PDC Raymond Hutchinson, who leads our corps of hospital volunteers.

DAV has a newly appointed Adjutant in the person of Kenneth Marcum, who was our First Jr. Vice Commander and an office management trainee. Ken will be resigning his White Hat to step from the line to act as our administrator. He succeeds Will Davis who has retired and reverts to his role as a supportive PDC. The appointment has been affirmed by votes of both the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee. Best wishes to Ken for a successful tenure keeping the Ohio DAV afloat.

Cleveland's automotive show and its booth supporting the construction of the Fisher House was a great success. A total of \$83,400 went into the account, including an additional \$9,500 from DAV. Our next announcement should be a ground breaking date. Special thanks go to Junior Vice Commander David Bilinovich, PDC Dennis Hanneman, Senior Vice Commander Phillip Alexander, Executive Committeemen John Parker, Ken Marcum and James Bailey. Chapter 3, 11, 35, 72 and 116 gave major support to the successful weekend. All of your donations are a testimony to the care we show to the families of hospitalized veterans.

One of our other White Hats has announced he will be leaving the Executive Committee. In June there will be three vacancies up for election. Commanders and District Commanders are urged to seek out those members with the skills and dedication to fill these key leadership positions. The deadline for running for vacancies, offices and committees alike, is May 15, 2015, prior to the June Convention. The DAV organization is what we all make of it. Decide today what you will do to make it stronger and more effective.

The Youngstown CBOC can no longer give office space to our DSO, but our commitment to Warren, Youngstown and Columbiana County remains strong. The DSO will now work out of the Warren CBOC, however one day a week he will work out of Youngstown Chapter 2 offices. Other DSO hires are in the pipeline.

William Caine  
State Commander

## **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Nat'l. Hdqrs., DAV	(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
DSO Lisa Wilson	
Dayton DSO, Bill Millett	(937) 268-6511 Ext. 2962
Heather Hall	(937) 268-6511 Ext. 2965
Wade Park DSO,	(216) 791-3800
Walter Dryja	Ext. 3395
Chillicothe DSO,	(740) 773-1141
Darlene Maravilla	Ext. 7916
Columbus Clinic, DSO	(614) 257-5487
Henry Snodgrass	
Parma Clinic DSO,	(216) 739-7000
Richard Healy	Ext. 2405
Warren VA Clinic DSO,	(330) 392-0311 Ext. 1443
Paul Webber	

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

March 29-April 3, 2015	National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, Snowmass Village, Colorado
April 11-12, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Capital City Chapter #3, 3710 W. Dublin Granville Rd., Columbus, Ohio.
April 18, 2015	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Meeting, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Chapter 93, 51 E. First St., London, Ohio
April 18, 2015	5 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, 1 p.m., American Legion, 1544 US Highway 20, West Norwalk Ohio.
April 19, 2015	6 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, Brooklyn-Parma Chapter #116, 1 p.m. lunch and meeting to begin at 2 p.m., 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio.
April 25, 2015	8 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, 12 noon, Pioneer City Chapter #52, 835 DAV Road, Whipple, Ohio
April 26, 2015	4 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, 1 p.m. lunch and meeting at 2 p.m., AMVETS Post 1991, 1795 Spruce Street, Defiance, Ohio.
May 1-2, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, H.B. "Doc" Riley Chapter #51, Ironton, Ohio.
May 1-2, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Union County Chapter #55, Marysville, Ohio.
May 3, 2015	7 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, lunch at 1 p.m., meeting to begin at 2 p.m., Alliance Chapter #50, 9540 McCallum Ave., NE, Alliance, Ohio.
May 10, 2015	Tenth District Meeting, lunch as 12 noon, meeting to follow, American Legion, 279 Canal Street, Lancaster, Ohio.
May 16, 2015	9 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, Lunch 12 noon, meeting 1 p.m., Meigs County Chapter #53, State Route 7, Cheshire, Ohio.
June 13-14, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Van Wert Chapter #54, Wal-Mart, Van Wert, Ohio.
June 25-28, 2015	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
August 7-8, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Darke County Chapter #57, Eikenberrys South, Ace Hardware, Greentown LLC, Greentown LLC, Kroger, Marathon, Greenville, Ohio.
August 8-11, 2015	National Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Denver, CO
August 22, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Auglaize County Chapter #73, Wapakoneta Community Market and Walmart, Wapakoneta, Ohio.
Oct. 29 – Nov. 1, 2015	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
June 23-26, 2016	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
November 4-7, 2016	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.

## **NOTES FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT WILL DAVIS**

Do you have the talent or skill that could help your Chapter grow? Now is the time for you to step up and take the challenge. It is nomination and election time for the Chapters. Throughout the last several DAV newsletters, I have been giving descriptions of the officers' duties. Which one do you think you could fill to move your Chapter forward? By the time you receive this newsletter, your Chapter should have had the first nomination for Chapter Officers. The second nomination and election of Chapter Officers must take place at your April meeting. Installation of your new officers must be completed no later than thirty (30) days after the April meeting. Please complete the Officer's Report and send to the State and National within 10 days of

installation. Would you like to be considered by the State Nominating Committee for an elected officer in the Department? Check with your Chapter for an application or call the office for more information.

### **Officer of the Day**

The *Officer of the Day* is responsible for maintaining a list of visitors at Chapter meetings and introducing visitors when called upon by the Commander. The *Officer of the Day* is also responsible for escorting visitors and others to the podium, when directed by the Commander.

### **Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame**

Many veterans continue to serve in their communities and the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame seeks to honor and recognize these veterans for their outstanding contributions. For more information and guidelines on submitting a deserving veteran in your community, visit [http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS\\_HALL\\_OF\\_FAME](http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS_HALL_OF_FAME)

### **Legislation**

**H.R. 216** passed the House of Representatives on March 24, 2015. The bill would require the VA to annually provide a five-year budget plan (Future-Years Veterans Program) informed by a quadrennial review, which incorporates a comprehensive examination of the needs of veterans. H.R. 216 will ensure that VA is better able to match estimates with demands and better able to meet the needs of veterans today and tomorrow. H.R. 216 requires the VA Secretary to provide annual policy guidance to ensure VA's near-term budgets are aligned with VA's longer-term strategic.

### **131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly State of Ohio Veteran/Military Legislation**

**HB18 Flag-Banner Display**, to prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations and landlords from restricting the display of blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag.

Current Status: 3/3/15 House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety (First Hearing)

**HB21 Highway Designation**, to designate a portion of United State Route 62 within Canton as the "USMC L. Cpl Stacy (Annie) Dryden Memorial Highway"

Current Status: 2/17/15 House Transportation and Infrastructure (First Hearing)

**HB68 Veteran-Disabled Technology Council**, to create the Veteran and Disabled Ohioan Technology Council

Current Status: 3/26/15 House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety (First Hearing)

**HB102 Veteran-Owned Businesses**, to provide a bid preference for state contracts to a veteran-owned business and to authorize a personal income and commercial activity tax credit for a business that hires and employs a veteran for at least one year.

Current Status: 3/16/15 Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

**HB105 Unemployment-Military Spouses**, to permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

Current Status: 3/26/15 House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety (First Hearing)

**SB29 Free Public Transportation-U.S. Armed Forces**, to require the Director of Veterans Services, upon application by a person who is a veteran or active duty member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States, to issue to the person a military transportation card that entitles the person to travel on any type of public transportation without charge.

Current Status: 2/11/15 Referred to Committee Senate State and Local Government

**SB18 Tax Credit-National Guard Employment**, to authorize a refundable income tax credit for employers that hire one or more qualified veterans or members of the National Guard or reserves.

Current Status: 2/4/15 Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means

**SB84 Flag-Banner Display**, to prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of Ohio flags and blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators, and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag.

Current Status: 3/17/15 Senate State and Local Government (First Hearing)

Please keep the following DAV's Legislative priorities for 2015 in mind whenever you are addressing an elected official:

- VA Budget/Protect and Enhance the VA Health Care System
- Women Veterans
- Caregivers

Thanks to our Hospital Chairman Ray Hutchinson for setting up another successful visit to the Chillicothe VA Medical Center. During the past fiscal year the approximate number of veterans residing in this service area is 68,011. The number of patients treated during this time period is 22,344 with the total number of outpatient visits 335,257.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone that entrusted in me the responsibility of being the State Adjutant for the DAV Department of Ohio. It has been a privilege and my honor to service for two and half years. As of April 15, 2015 I am officially retired. Thanks again for your support and confidence.

May God Bless America, May God Bless Our Troops, and May God Bless the DAV.

Will Davis  
State Adjutant

### **FROM THE DESK OF ASSISTANT ADJUTANT KENNETH MARCUM**

As many of you are aware a lot of transitioning has and will continue to occur in the next few months. Nominating of new chapter officers, new regulations for Standardized Claim and Appeal Forms, and Department Officer changes. Some of these changes like elections in chapters we need the Officer Reports submitted as soon as possible. The new regulations and policies for the Standardization of Claims and Appeal Forms will be taught during the Service Officer Training that is scheduled for Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> (the day before the start of the 94<sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Annual Convention). It is suggested that all Chapter Service Officers attend to go over these new guidelines and forms to best serve our veteran population. More information will be coming out in the coming months. To download forms visit [www.va.gov/vaforms/](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/) or call 800-827-1000 to have the correct form sent to your home.

Adjutant Will Davis will be retiring April 15<sup>th</sup>. Our office will be honoring him with a lunch-in at the Department Headquarters on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 35 E. Chestnut St., Columbus, Ohio in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room "STRIPES" at 12 p.m. I have been appointed to assume the responsibilities of this position on April 16<sup>th</sup>. With myself, a resignation and shortage of Executive Committee Members, may need as many as 4 new white hats to come on line. If you have an interest in a position you first have to insure no other member of your chapter is on line; submit a biography of what your military, civilian, education, and Disabled American Veteran career has detailed. Send copies to current PDC's and the Department Headquarters (make sure to have plenty of copies for the Nomination Committee). You must select a sponsor who can accompany you, vouch for character and has witnessed your growth in the DAV. Nominations will be held Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. at the Department Convention.

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### **WOMEN VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Since 1994, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services' Advisory Committee on Women Veterans has served to "locate, educate and advocate for all women veterans who served in the United States military." The committee is dedicated to outreach through various initiatives including the creation of an informational Web site, the organization of a statewide women veteran's conference and the promotion of benefits and superior health care for women veterans. The committee serves as a focal point of information for all women veterans. The committee acts as a liaison and advocate on behalf of women veterans with state legislators, Veterans Affairs administrators and county veteran's service offices. Members of the committee ensure the programs and policies of the Department of Veteran Affairs remain open to women and are mindful of those elements of the veteran experience unique to women.

#### *Together We Can Do Great Things*

The committee is made up of women veterans representing all eras and branches of service. Each member is responsible for a specific region in the state and recruits volunteers to assist her in regional outreach. (A list of local county representatives is accessible from a link on the left.) Committee members encourage women to identify themselves with pride and encourage them to stand up and be counted for their role in defense of this nation.

Informational sessions and local town meetings allow women veterans to come together to identify and address their concerns with committee members. Community service outreach programs allow the committee to inform school children, business leaders, educators and legislators about the important role women play in our Armed Forces. VA Hospital visits allow women on the committee to interact and network with VA women program managers and get a first-hand look at the healthcare process. If you are interested in participating in any of these events or volunteering to help with an outreach program in your region, please call our main office at **(614) 752-8941**.

### **WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT**

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Program provides Ohio employers with a tax credit against their federal tax liability when they hire individuals from nine targeted groups of disadvantaged job seekers, including certain populations of veterans. Qualified veterans include:

- Veterans whose families receive or recently received Food Assistance for at least a three month period during the past 15 months;
- Disabled veterans who are entitled to compensation for service-connected disabilities and who, within the last year, were discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces; or
- Disabled veterans who are entitled to compensation for service-connected disabilities and who, within the last year, were unemployed for a period of at least six months or periods totaling at least six months.

Tax credits range from \$1,200 to \$2,400 for each eligible hire. Employers must apply for and receive certification from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to claim the tax credits on their federal tax returns. Only two forms are required to apply for these tax credits. They can be accessed at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/wotc>.

There are no limits to the number of new hires who can qualify an employer for the tax credit. However, new hires must begin work on or after Jan. 1, 2006 and before Dec. 31, 2011.

For additional information about the WOTC program, call (614) 644-0966, or visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/wotc>.

Kenneth Marcum  
Assistant State Adjutant

### **I-X PISTON POWERED AUTO-RAMA**



The Summit Racing Equipment I-X Piston Powered Auto-Rama, presented by RADAIR, was held at the I-X Center in Cleveland on March 20-22, 2015. Again, as they have done for the past several years, they had a military tribute section. This year they saluted Ohio's own 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, of the Marine Corps Reserve. Also, as they did last year, space was dedicated for veteran's service organizations to help raise money for the building of the Greater Cleveland Fisher House. Our Department of Ohio again supported this worthwhile fund raising effort.

Northeast Ohio Chapters and Auxiliary Units; 35, 72 and 116, provided volunteers to man our table and the Cleveland NSO office provided the DAV magazines and brochures along with three volunteers. Chapter 3 in Columbus provided their DAV van as our display vehicle. Sr. Vice Commander Phillip Alexander and 1st Jr. Vice Commander Kenneth Marcum presented a substantial donation check from our Department. Altogether, the various veterans service organizations raised over \$33,000 at this three-day event.

Thanks to the past two years of fund raising, the Greater Cleveland Fisher House will break ground this Summer. The Fisher House is funded totally by private donations and will be a 16,000 square foot home located near the VAMC Cleveland. The Fisher House is similar to a Ronald McDonald House except that it is for military and veteran families so that they can be close to their service member or veteran while hospitalized. The Greater Cleveland Fisher House will provide free lodging for these families, serving the needs of those hospitalized at the VAMC Cleveland, the Cleveland Clinic or University Hospital.

Thanks to our members generous donations and the Department's willingness to match any funds donated through them, DAV Ohio raised nearly \$60,000 over the past two years to help make the Greater Cleveland Fisher House a reality. Thank you to all of the Chapters, Units and members that contributed money or manpower to make this fund raiser a success. There is still time to contribute, so please contact our Department Adjutant for details.

David L. Bilinovich  
2nd Jr. Vice Commander

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN JAMES BAILEY



What an honor to help run the DAV booth with 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Dave Bilinovich at the I-X Piston Powered Auto-Rama held March 20-22, 2015. The event was sponsored by Summit Racing Equipment and held at the I-X Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

It was a wonderful experience to march in the opening parade, carrying the DAV flag, while representing the DAV Department of Ohio and marching with Senior Vice Commander Phillip Alexander, 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander Kenneth Marcum and 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander David Bilinovich. The larger crowd lining the parade route showed overwhelming respect by placing their hands over their hearts or saluting as we passed by. It was even greater when the National Anthem played. It was very moving and gave me a great sense of pride.

The highlight of the event occurred when we were honored to present a check from the DAV for the Greater Cleveland Fisher House. Presenting the check for over \$57,000 was Senior Vice Commander Phillip Alexander, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice

Commander Kenneth Marcum, and myself.

What made the event a great success and kept it running so smoothly were the tireless efforts of our DAV members. I would like to thank Executive Committeeman John Parker, his sister Carol Parker-Park, PDC Dennis Hanneman, his wife Darlene and PDC Michael Stith for the long hours and hard work they put in for the event. I'd also like to thank photographers Terrance W. Sayers and Greg Weding for all the photos.

The DAV does many good things in the support of our Active Duty and our Veterans. The Fisher House is an excellent example to assist Veterans and their families and we at the DAV are proud and honored to have helped.

James Bailey  
Executive Committeeman

## AUXILIARY COMMANDER JEANETTE SCOTT

We would like to thank all of you for bringing personal printer cartridges to the conventions and conferences through the years. The auxiliary turns these in so we do not have to buy many of our office supplies throughout the year. This helps us so much. We will again be collecting these at the state convention. We will have an area to put them in our room that we have the craft table and the auxiliary registration. This helps us so much and we want to thank you in advance for taking time to collect these and bring them to the convention.

We know many of you have brought items to send to our VA hospitals and state homes throughout the years. We are collecting items again this year at the convention. We have only been able to send to one VA the last two times because we have not received as many donations. We are collecting all personal items, T-shirts, socks and cards. There were many years that I had trouble fitting everything in my mom's vehicle coming back with items for the Dayton VA. I am hoping we can get back to that level of receiving donations. We have so many veterans that need these items at all of our VA hospitals.

Jeanette Scott  
Auxiliary Commander

## DAV LOGO LICENSE PLATES ON SALE NOW

We need to sell 500 plates per year for the next 2 years to keep the plate on the market. Our Chapters collected signatures by members, friends, neighbors, family and civilians to get the Ohio Legislation to pass a bill that gave us the right to purchase a DAV License Plate. These plates are considered "Specialty Plates" which means ANYONE can purchase them to show their support for our organization. They are NOT a "Disability Plate" that would allow "handicap parking privileges."

The DAV Department of Ohio receives \$25.00 back on each plate that is purchased to help with several DAV Programs in Ohio. Please encourage membership at your District and Chapter Meetings to keep our drive alive.

*To receive a DAV Plate or if you have questions on pricing please contact your local BMV.*



If you have any further questions please contact DAV Department Headquarters at (614) 221-3582.

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**It is with great sorrow and sadness to inform you of the passing of our Past Department Commander James Britton.**