FULFILLING OUR PROMISES

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

April, 2016 Newsletter

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FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER PHILLIP ALEXANDER



Spring is here and I thank all my comrades again for your support as we overcome and stand tall over every obstacle concerning Veterans rights. Yes we have and will continue to see situations involving Veterans rights but as DAV dedicated members we will reduce these numbers daily. We are resilient and we refuse to give in to any failures.

This was prevalently demonstrated at the IX Center in Cleveland in the past weeks. Chapters and Auxiliary members came together from every corner of our great state to help in a worthy cause with donations of time and money to support a project that will support Veterans and families in constructing a temporary residence. I cannot thank all the participants for their generosity. As a surprise we were pinned by a highly decorated Vietnam War Veteran in the 50

year Vietnam War Commemoration. This was an opportunity for all Americans to recognize, honor and thank our Vietnam Veterans and their families for the service and sacrifices during the Vietnam War from November 1, 1955 – thru – May 15, 1975. Out of all the organizations represented, the DAV was asked to lead the march in the Vietnam Welcome Home celebration ceremony (our numbers were great). As we marched people were yelling and cheering and some were tearing up saving welcome home we are sorry for not acknowledging your efforts long ago. Every VET stood proud and we all felt great.

Congratulations to all our new and returning Chapter Officers. As our District Commanders plan their last district meeting of the year. I am asking each one to pass on the vital and important information going on within your perspective districts. Hopefully all is good but if there is a problem, please feel free to add this in your reports. This pertains to your individual Chapter Visits. Remind every Chapter that it is a requirement to fill out their officer reports within 10 days of swearing in. The line officers should give a brief presentation on the information provided in Washington DC Mid-Winter Conference.

We always encourage each member to open the line of communication reporting honestly and passing on information, remembering to call and visit Veterans. This I believe has been accomplished. Remember all our sick and shut-in. Keep up the good work.

BE OF SERVICE!

Phillip Alexander State Commander

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

National Headquarters, DAV NSO Office, Cleveland NSO Office, Cincinnati	(877) 426-2838 (216) 522-3507 (513) 684-2676
Washington Office, DAV	(202) 554-3501
Cincinnati DSO, Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
Tuesday, Thursday	
Lisa Wilson	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	
Dayton DSO, Leland Sink	(937) 268-6511
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Ext. 2962
Wade Park DSO, Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Ext. 3395
Chillicothe DSO, Darlene Maravilla	(740) 773-1141
Monday- Friday	Ext. 7916
Columbus Clinic DSO,	
Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	,
Parma Clinic DSO, Richard Healy Monday-Thursday	(216) 739-7000 Ext. 2405



DATES TO REMEMBER	
Mar. 28-Apr. 3, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Capital City Ch. #3, Golden Corral- E. Main St, Whitehall and W. Dublin-Granville Rd. Columbus.
April 2, 2016	District 3 Meeting, Ch. #54, 111 N. Shannon St., Van Wert, OH Lunch at 12 p.m. and Meeting to follow.
April 3-8, 2016	National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, Snowmass, CO.
April 9, 2016	Commander Phillip Alexander & Auxiliary Commander Judy Davis Testimonial Dinner, Dublin, OH
April 16, 2016	District 5 Meeting, American Legion, 1544 US Hwy W 20, Norwalk, OH at 1 p.m.
April 16, 2016	District 9 Meeting, Ch. #10, Shrine Club, Route 52, Portsmouth, OH Lunch at 12 p.m. & meeting at 1 p.m.
April 16, 2016	District 10 Meeting, Ch. #3, 280 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH at 11 a.m.
April 17, 2016	District 6 Meeting, VSC, 1060 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron, Ohio at 1:00 p.m.
April 23, 2016	District 8 Meeting, Ch. #52, 835 DAV Rd., Whipple, OH
April 29, 2016	Lunch at 11 a.m. and Meeting to follow. Trench Rats Cincinnati Dugout 634 Meeting, Golden
April 29-30, 2016	Corral, Cincinnati, OH at 1:00 p.m. Forget-Me-Not, Union County Ch. #55, Walmart, Tractor
May 1, 2016	Supply, Ace Hardware, Marysville, OH 9 a.m5p.m. District 4 Meeting, Ch. #77, 218 W. Main, Ottawa, OH
May 1, 2016	Lunch at 1 p.m. and Meeting at 2 p.m. District 7 Meeting, Ch. #50, 9540 McCallum Ave., Alliance,
May 7, 2016	OH at 2:00 p.m. District 1 Meeting, Ch. #1, 9000 Redding Rd., Cincinnati,
May 7, 2016	OH at 12:00 p.m. District 2 Meeting, Ch. #104, 1477 St. Rt. 503 SW, W.
May 28, 2016	Alexandria, OH at 11:00 a.m. Forget-Me-Not, Clermont County Ch. #63, Kroger Market Place Store, 7580 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati, OH 11
May 28, 2016	a.m 4p.m. Forget-Me-Not, Clermont County Ch. #63, Kroger Store, 4530 Eastgate Blvd., Cincinnati, OH 11 a.m 4p.m.
May 28, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Clermont County Ch. #63, Kroger Market Place Store, 210 Sterling Run Blvd., Mt. Orab, OH 11
May 28, 2016	a.m 4p.m. Forget-Me-Not, Clermont County Ch. #63, Kroger Market Place Store, 262 West Main St., Amelia, OH 11 a.m4p.m.
June 4-5, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Van Wert Ch. #54, Walmart Center, 301 Town Center Blvd., Van Wert, OH.
June 6, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Clermont County Ch. #63, Kroger, 1093 S.R. 28, Milford, OH 11 a.m4 p.m.
June 23-26, 2016	95 th Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
July 30-Aug. 2, 2016	National Convention, Atlanta, GA.
Aug. 12-13, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Darke County Ch. #57, Marathon Gas, Eikenberrys South, Ace Hardware, Greentown LLC, Kroger, Walmart, 8 a.m5p.m.
November 4-6, 2016	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2017 June 22-25, 2017	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA. 96 th Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott
Julie 22-25, 2017	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 June 21-24, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA. 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



BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF WOMEN VIETNAM VETERANS **BORN WITH CERTAIN BIRTH DEFECTS**

Section 401 of P.L. 106-419, which became law on November 2000 directed the Secretary of the VA to identify birth defects of children of female Vietnam Veterans that: (1) are associated with service during the Vietnam era; and (2) result in the permanent physical or mental disability of such children. The law excludes from such defects familial or birth-related defects or injuries. The law further directs the Secretary to provide to such children necessary health care to address the defect and any

associated disability. It authorized the Secretary to provide vocational training to such a child if the achievement of a vocational goal is reasonably feasible.

The law also directs the Secretary to pay a monthly allowance to such a child, the amount to be determined through a schedule rating the various defects and disabilities and their degrees. The receipt of such allowance shall not infringe upon the right to receive any other benefit to which the individual is entitled. Such allowance shall not be considered income for purpose of other veterans' benefits for which income limitations exist. In the case of an eligible child whose only covered birth defect is spina bifida, a monetary allowance shall be paid under these provisions only. An eligible individual shall be provided only one program of vocational training.

The monthly allowance is set at four levels, depending upon the degree of disability suffered by the child.

(P.L. 106-419) (Rates Effective 12-01-2012)

 Disability Level
 Monthly Allowance

 Level I
 \$139.00

 Level II
 \$303.00

 Level III
 \$1,038.00

 Level IV
 \$1,769.00

Each branch of the United States Military performed a unique role in the Vietnam War. Each month our newsletter will list the main contributions during the war.

THE U.S. NAVY IN THE VIETNAM WAR

The U.S. Navy performed a wide array of missions in the Vietnam War. In the air, it was a key partner with the U.S. Air Force during the Rolling Thunder and Linebacker air campaigns against North Vietnam, and in other air operations in Laos and Cambodia. On the coast, it developed a highly effective blockade to prevent the resupply of enemy forces by sea, engaged in naval gunfire support missions against enemy targets in the littoral areas of Vietnam, and provided amphibious transport for Marines operating in I Corps. On the rivers, it stood up several task forces designed to protect commercial traffic, assist allied ground forces in pacifying these areas, and interdict enemy troops and supplies moving on these inland waterways. The U.S. Navy also supported the war effort with the massive sea and riverine logistics operation, built and managed shore facilities throughout South Vietnam, and provided extensive medical support for the allied military operation.

U.S. Navy advisors first arrived in South Vietnam in the fall of 1950, and by 1969 numbered 564. These advisors assisted the Republic of Vietnam in developing the Vietnam Navy (VNN) that grew from 5,000 sailors and 122 to over 42,000 men and 1,500 vessels in 1972, making it the fifth largest navy in the world. Naval advisors worked throughout the war to train this indigenous navy, and experienced many hardships and much danger serving on VNN ships and crafts.

The U.S. response to the North Vietnamese attack on USS Maddox (DD 731) in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964 marked the beginning of the Navy's air and surface bombardment against North Vietnam. During the course of the war, Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers supported allied air campaigns by bombing fuel and supply facilities, power plants, bridges, and railroads in Laos and North Vietnam, and after 1970, in Cambodia. Navy surface vessels steamed up and down the coasts of both North and South Vietnam, raining down shells on a variety of targets. Rolling Thunder air and naval gunfire attacks, however, did not prove decisive. The 1965-1968 interdiction campaign neither resulted in a peace treaty nor altered significantly the ground ituation in the South. Linebacker attacks in 1972, by comparison, were more effective, especially in blunting the Communist Easter Offensive. During Linebacker I, the Navy flew an average of 4,000 sorties a month, which represented 60 percent of the air effort; Navy surface ships fired over 111,000 rounds at targets on the North Vietnamese coast. Navy aircraft also closed North Vietnam's major ports in highly successful mining operation, code-named Pocket-Money. In December 1072, peace negotiations with North Vietnam stalled, compelling President Nixon to resume the air offensive. Linebacker II was a maximum effort air campaign, focusing heavily on strategic military targets in Hanoi and Haiphong. Air Force B-52s performed the brunt of the bombing missions during the operations, but Navy aircraft played a vital role in air defense suppression missions and also reseeded North Vietnam's major ports with mines.

The discovery of a 100-ton enemy trawler in Vung Ro Bay in February 1965 led to the establishment of a U.S. Navy and Coast Guard patrol force to complement the existing VNN anti-infiltration program along the 1,200 mile coast of South Vietnam. The purpose of this deployment, which became Operation Market Time (Task Force 115), was to halt the seaborne infiltration of supplies to Communist Troops. Market Time represented the Navy's most successful interdiction program during the war, all but eliminating infiltration by North Vietnamese steel-hulled freighters and significantly reducing North Vietnamese resupply by sea.

In December 1965, the U.S. Navy initiated Operation Game Warden to patrol the major rivers and canals in the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone. Consisting of a fleet of 31-foot patrol boats augmented by attack helicopters and SEAL units, this naval inshore force (Task Force 116) imposed a curfew in the region, interdicted enemy troop and supply movements, curbed Communist taxation of peasants, and hindered large-scale Viet Cong operations. Minesweeping forces and harbor defense units kept the vital waterways to Saigon and Hue and South Vietnam's major ports open for allied use. In performing these varied functions, Game Warden helped secure the major rivers in the area for commerce and extended government control to the "breadbasket" of South Vietnam, home to over six million people.

The Mobile Riverine Force was a joint Army-Navy river assault force designed to search out and destroy Viet Cong units operating in the Mekong Delta. In 1967, elements of the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division operating from a flotilla of armored Navy riverine craft (Task Force 117) launched a series of daring amphibious assaults in the region, achieving a 15 to 1 kill ratio against the Viet Cong. During the Tet Offensive, the Mobile Riverine Force, assisted by Task Force 116, saved the Mekong Delta by helping South Vietnamese troops defeat Viet Cong attacks on provincial capitals and other major towns in the Delta. Other riverine units based in I Corps (Task Force Clearwater) proved instrumental in keeping the Perfume and Cua Viet rivers open for supply traffic during the Tet Offensive.

Southeast Asia Lake, Ocean, River, and Delta Strategy (SEALORDS) combined elements of Task Forces 115, 116, and 117 with the VNN to halt the infiltration of enemy troops and supplies into South Vietnam from Cambodia. Beginning in late 1968, riverine forces established new patrol barriers near the border of Cambodia and established a military and South Vietnamese government presence deep in the heart of the Mekong Delta. This campaign reduced overall Viet Cong activity in the Mekong Delta and deterred the enemy from launching a major offensive in the area during the 1972 Easter Offensive.

The merchant ships of the Military Sea Transportation Service delivered 95 percent of the military equipment and supplies consumed by allied forces in Vietnam. Navy Seabee construction units built enormous support bases at Danang and Saigon to supply all Navy and Marine Corps forces in the field as well as some Air Force and Army units. Naval Support Activity Sailors administered these logistical hubs and operated a fleet of supply craft and barges that plied the waters of the Mekong Delta and beyond. The Navy also operated two hospitals at Danang and Saigon and two hospital ships, *Sanctuary* (AH 17) and *Repose* (AH 16), staffed by Navy doctors, corpsmen, and 425 female members of the Nurse Corps.

Amphibious readiness was a unique capability shared by the Navy and Marine Corps team in Vietnam. The Marine Corps took advantage of the fleet's amphibious assault ships to launch large and small assaults along the coast of South Vietnam. In Operation Starlight of August 1965, U.S. and South Vietnamese units wiped out the 1st Viet Cong Regiment. Subsequently, Viet Cong units generally shied away from combat with amphibious forces, ceding control of much of the coast line to allied forces. The naval commander also utilized the amphibious as a floating reserve that could rapidly transport reinforcements to any hot spot on the coast. This was especially valuable during several set-piece battles near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) of the 1967-1968 period.

A total of 1.842 million Sailors served in Southeast Asia. The Navy provided the allied effort with many unique capabilities, the most significant being the projection of U.S. combat power ashore and loss of 1,631 men killed and 4,178 wounded during the course of the war.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 10-16 APRIL 2016

We sometimes confuse "recognition" with "appreciation." These are not the same things and do not always go together. There common denominator is "acknowledgment." In my opinion, the sincerest form of recognition is to see one's ideas put to use. For volunteers, recognition means feeling that their efforts make a real contribution. You can say thank you a million times, but it people sense that their efforts are wasted, they will never feel good about their volunteer work.

The best volunteer recognition occurs on a daily basis, in small ways and with practically no expense. Common courtesy (greetings, smiles) is one way to acknowledge volunteers as valued partners.

Expressions of appreciation, whether informal or at an annual event, should complement the ongoing feeling of making a difference and being part of a team. If we treat volunteers like outsiders (or intruders) most of the time, why should we expect our National Volunteer Week observance to mean much?

BECAUSE!!!

This week will also be a chance to inspire others to get involved. This year we also want to encourage you our volunteers to showcase the range of volunteering opportunities available. There's a huge choice out there but sometimes people aren't aware of them or they have a particular perception of what volunteering is about. Why not challenge these perceptions?

You can also use your events to create opportunities for people to give volunteering a try. Event volunteering can be a really great, short-term, flexible way to give people a taste of the volunteering experience. Most people just need to know that someone will acknowledge their efforts.

People are increasingly looking for flexible volunteering that they can fit around work or other commitments and your Volunteers' Week Celebration may just be the thing to attract them. Opportunities at Veterans Medical Centers, Clinics and Homes. Your event can also be a focal point to get people in your community using their skills, time and talents to help others. More and more volunteers are the citizens of our communities who never served in the military, they just need encouragement.

Kenneth Marcum State Adjutant

THE OHIO VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

We veterans in Ohio are luckier than veterans in most other states. In Ohio, since the end of the Civil War, our state has valued the service of our veterans. In 1886 the Ohio Legislature passed into law the Soldiers Relief Act. This Act amongst other things established the Veterans Service Commission. Today, all 88 counties in Ohio have a County Veterans Service Office and many have a DAV Veterans Service Commissioner as a member.

In counties where there is one or more DAV Chapters, there is a DAV County Veterans Service Commissioner. These commissioners decide how financial aid to veterans and their families is distributed and set guidance for the full-time County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO). Therefore, it is important that the DAV Chapters nominate quality applicants as our Commissioner. In counties where there are multiple Chapters, they should try and recommend a consensus candidate. These commissioners are obligated to give periodic reports to the DAV Chapters in their counties. These reports can be given orally at Chapter meetings or by letter. While these commissioners are not DAV employees, they should be DAV members in good standing and conscientious representatives of our organization.

The County Veterans Service Offices are funded through a .5 mils, which comes from the 10 mils the County Commissioners have at their disposal to run their county governments. Each County Veterans Service Commission draws its yearly budget from the .5 mils and may or may not use it all, as some counties have more populism than others. This system in Ohio is far superior in supporting veterans than in most other states.

Additionally, many of Ohio's CVSO are now DAV accredited. If a DAV member needs VA claims assistance and cannot get to the Chapter Service Officer (CSO) or to one of our National Service Officers (NSO) then seeing a DAV accredited CVSO is a good way to get the assistance required. Your DAV accredited CVSO will make sure that your claim gets to the DAV NSO office with the proper paperwork and power of attorney (POA). Your CVSO can also help you track your claim.

Ohio veterans are lucky, as our state was one of the first to establish and fund a statewide commission to assist its veterans. Today, the DAV works with these County Veterans Service Commissions by providing quality nominations to serve as DAV Veterans Service Commissioners and also by accrediting County Veterans Service Officers. The DAV and the Veterans Service Commissions partnership provides quality service to Ohio veterans. Today, there is no reason for a veteran, especially a DAV member, not to get quality service in all 88 Ohio Counties.

David Bilinovich Senior Vice Commander

CHAPLAINS CORNER

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12:12-19

FOR AS THE BODY IS ONE, AND HATH MANY MEMBERS, AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THAT ONE BODY, BEING MANY, ONE BODY: SO ALSO IS CHRIST.

The Disabled American Veterans is also one body of many members, hopefully one spirit and that is to help veterans and families of all wars. Follow the word of god.

Robert Habern
Department Chaplain

HONOR FLIGHT COLUMBUS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR WWII & KOREAN WAR VETS FOR WASHINGTON D.C. TRIPS.

Honor Flight Columbus has more than 200 seats available in 2016 for World War II (service dates 1941 - 1946) and Korean War (service dates 6/25/50 - 1/31/55) veterans to fly to Washington, D.C. and enjoy a day of honor, celebration and sharing.

"We know there are still many Senior Veterans who haven't sent in applications so that we can get them on this one-day, escorted trip," said Jim Downing, president of the organization. "The trip is free to veterans of these two wars. They are cared for by experienced guardians, and we can overcome many physical disabilities." Honor Flight Columbus has at least six trips planned for 2016, beginning in April. They travel on chartered Southwest Airlines 737 aircraft and in modern motor coaches when in Washington.

The non-profit organization has taken more than 4,100 men and women senior veterans from Central Ohio to visit the memorials and monuments built to recognize their part in defending liberty. "Thanks to the generosity and support of individual donors, companies and civic organizations who sponsored flights to Washington, we can again fly about 500 senior veterans this year," said Downing. "The sooner we get an application, the sooner the veteran can enjoy the travel to see the monuments."

Full information can be found at the website: HonorFlightColumbus.Org. Flights are scheduled for 2016 beginning in April and ending in October and are planned to avoid the hot summer weeks.

In the nation's capital, the veterans visit the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Korean War Memorial and other monuments commemorating those who have served in the Armed Forces.

They leave Port Columbus early in the morning and return about 9:15 that evening. All flights for this year are on Saturdays. Applications and more information can be obtained by calling the Honor Flight Columbus office at 614-284-4987 or visit www.honorflightcolumbus.org and mail your applications to: Honor Flight Columbus, ATTN: Veteran Application, PO Box 12036, Columbus, Ohio 43212.

ATTENTION VETERAN ARTISTS

This Veterans Day 2016 we would like to put together an Art Display of art done by Veterans. What we would like to do is find some veteran artists who would like to participate in the display. We could also look into artwork of deceased Veterans if we could locate families who would be proud to show the work of their loved ones.

We are looking at paintings, sculptures, ceramics or photography. Really any form of artistic expression. Service memorabilia displays would also be very nice. The art does not have to be service related but we would like to see some in that area.

If you or someone you know are interested in participating please contact the Director Mary Novin of Arts Place-Auglaize/Mercer Center, 407 East Spring Street, St. Marys, Ohio at 419-394-0707 or mhone@artsland.org.



VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS)

VAVS Representative Henry Snodgrass and VAVS Deputy Ken Marcum present Columbus VA Clinic Voluntary Services Director Traci Washington a check from Chapter 89 out of Fayette County so a disabled veteran can attend the Winter Sports Clinic being held April 3-8, 2016 in Denver, Colorado. Also, The DAV Department of Ohio furnished 25 polo shirts for veteran volunteers at the Columbus Clinic.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Sunday, May 29, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

Main Flag Pole
The Public is invited
*The 122nd Army Band
Ohio Army National Guard will perform a selection of
patriotic music at 11:30 a.m.
*Seating limited, lawn chairs encouraged

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery 10175 Rawiga Rd. Seville, Ohio 44273

For More Information: (330) 335-3069



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OHIO VETERANS HOMES-SANDUSKY

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

The Volunteer Services Department organizes and directs a quality volunteer program. By obtaining and retaining an adequate number of high quality volunteers, we are able to assist the Ohio Veterans Home staff in the delivery of comprehensive health care. Volunteers are dedicated to "serving those who served."

VOLUNTEER PURPOSE & ROLE

The purpose and role of a volunteer at the Ohio Veterans Home is to enrich and enhance the quality of life for our veterans.

Volunteers perform a wide variety of roles and expand the service of the staff. The relationship between employees and volunteers promotes and optima, meaningful life experience for our residents.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

-Clerical Volunteer -Mass Escort -Gift Shop Attendant -Driver -Mender -Pet Therapist -Friendly Visitor -Newsletter Folder -Shopping Volunteer -Librarian

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact the Volunteer Services Department: Kimberly Lewallen, Julie Farrar, or Dwayne Henson at 419-625-2454.

TRENCH RATS

National Order of Trench Rats Cincinnati Dugout 634 will be meeting Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Golden Corral, 4394 Glen-Este Withamsville Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45245 at 1:00 p.m.

Aaron Cunningham Golden Rodent