



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio
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E-mail: ohiodavadjutant@ameritech.net
Website: www.ohiodav.org December, 2014

FROM THE DESK OF WILLIAM CAINE

In November the Chief of Hospital Services Ray Hutchinson put together an itinerary of Southern Ohio facilities for my official visits. Cincinnati Veterans Hospital was a vibrant facility having just completed a major remodeling. A Community Living Center is about to open and it will eventually house 64 elderly or handicapped residents on the grounds of the hospital. The facility is home like and up to date; however many of the older residents who are presently housed miles away at the Ft. Thomas annex were troubled by the move. Later a full briefing at their Fisher House made the visit complete. Sr. vice Commander Phillip Alexander who doubles as VAVS assisted, making the visit all the better.

Ft. Thomas for the present will remain open for both out and in patient care. For those of you who remember last Junes Convention that is where the revolutionary medicine, free PTSD treatment is being given with excellent results. Veterans from outside the area can dorm there during the treatments. We will no doubt hear more from that medical team in the future.

My first ever visit to the Georgetown Ohio Veterans Home was memorable. Just after our team arrived we met Larry Long, our former Sergeant at Arms and an earlier resident at Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home. Larry relocated to be closer to family members. He said Georgetown compares favorably to the Sandusky Home and is glad he made the change. He sends greetings to the Ohio membership. The home is smaller, 138 residents at present, and with its setting in a rural area there are no commercial businesses in sight, quite a contrast to Sandusky. Our State VAVS Donald Sheppard reported on a full range of social activities and trips available to the residents. He will soon be retiring his position and a replacement is being sought. A staff member the related the home has a "Code Red, White and Blue," conceived of by a resident, that when a Veteran passes the staff and abled bodied residents form a line and give a final salute as the deceased passes through the doors for the final time. We observed a caring, mission oriented staff throughout the home.

Ohio DAV is hosting a first ever Town Hall Meeting on December 10, 2014 in Youngstown, Ohio. That type of event is currently being encouraged by both the VA and the DAV. The VA Hospitals are conducting town halls at their CBOCs to invite feedback on clinical care, please look for flyers in the CBOC that serves your area. Ohio DAV will with the help of Youngstown Chapter 2 will use the town hall format to announce the opening of our first ever Service Office in Youngstown and the hiring of Navy Veteran Paul Webber as a Department Service Officer. Comments on VA health care and benefits administration will also be sought as the staff begins its preparation for the Mid-Winter Conference and trip the Capitol Hill this coming February.

December finds all of us in the midst of holiday preparation of one sort or other. Try to make it a point to visit a VAH or Ohio Home during December to assure our brother and sister veterans that DAV has them in our thoughts. It was recently my pleasure to sign a group of checks on your behalf under the Chapter Grant Program to spread the cheer, or at least fund service projects and groceries. Please accept the best wishes of your Department Officers and Columbus Headquarters Staff for a Great Christmas Season and a prosperous and challenging New Year 2015.

William Caine
Department 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 HSC, Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
Lisa Wilson	
Dayton HSC, Bill Millett	(937) 268-6511
Heather Hall	Ext. 2962
Wade Park DSO,	(216) 791-3800
Walter Dryja	Ext. 3395
Chillicothe HSC,	(740) 773-1141
Darlene Maravilla	Ext. 7916
Columbus Clinic,	(614) 257-5487
Henry Snodgrass	
Parma Clinic DSO,	(216) 739-7000
Richard Healy	Ext. 2405
Youngstown Clinic DSO,	(330) 740-9200
Paul Webber	

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 7, 2014	Department Cookie Party at Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home, 12 Noon
December 13, 2014	National Wreaths Across America Day
February 22-24, 2015	Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA
March 28, 2015	Commander William Caine and Auxiliary Commander Jeanette Scott Testimonial Dinner, Additional information to follow.
June 25-28, 2015	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
August 8-11, 2015	National Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Denver, CO
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

"Winter is the time for comfort-it is the time for home." Edith Sitwell

As we prepare for this joyous Christmas season celebrating with family and friends, let us not forget the men and women that are not able to be with their loved ones. As DAV members, we need to show our service personnel and their families our respect and appreciation for keeping this 'the land of free because of the brave'.

Veterans Health Library

Veterans may go online to obtain information about any medical concerns they might have. In 2013 the VA launched a comprehensive tool designed to empower veterans, family members and caregivers 24/7 access to a comprehensive, veteran focused health information site. For more information visit: www.veteranshealthlibrary.org

Veteran-Directed Home and Community-Based Services Program

Some veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam-era are finding themselves requiring more assistance. The Veteran-Directed Home and Community-Based Service (VD-HCBS) Program offers options to our veterans. The VD-HCBS is located at 48 VA medical centers in 29 states. For more information regarding this matter check out the article in the November-December 2014 issue of the *DAV Magazine*.

Veterans' Choice Card

According to the *DAV Magazine* the VA is developing guidelines regarding the Veterans' Choice Card. All care must be pre-authorized by the VA and outside care providers must meet certain requirements. DAV is monitoring the situation and will provide updates. For more information call 1-800-827-1000 or your DAV National Service Officer.

PTSD and Suicide Prevention

Vietnam-era and other veterans who received less than honorable discharges from the military because of PTSD will have a chance to have these discharges upgraded due to an announcement made by the Pentagon on September 3. PTSD was not officially recognized until 1980. Veterans will be required to present certain documentations such as evidence of a PTSD diagnosis while they were in the military; cause of the PTSD was related to military service; and symptoms were a factor in the misconduct that led to the less-than-honorable discharge.

The VA is conducting a study involving 1800 veterans. It will focus on trying to prevent future suicidal behavior on veterans that have previous attempted suicide by more training on the clinicians and staff members that interact with the veterans.

Farming for Veterans

The Farmer Veterans Coalition (FVC) was founded in 2008, it is now nationwide. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 44% of those who served in the military came from the country. With a farmer's average age behind 58, the family farm is fast disappearing. A grant program gives priority to veterans wishing to farm. The label "Homegrown by Heroes" help to promote agricultural products produced by veterans.

Homeless Veteran Initiatives

Marc Burgess, National Adjutant sent out a memo regarding homeless veterans. There are nearly 50,000 veterans without a place to call home. Through the Charitable Service Trust, DAV supports organizations that serve homeless veterans by providing food, shelter, and programs that promote self-sufficiency. He has asked if our Department or Chapter is involved in an effort designed to address veteran homelessness, please visit cedgar@dav.org and share your endeavors. Your program may be published in the *DAV Magazine*.

Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Time Gorrell appointed Michael R. "Mick" Oppy of Chillicothe as the new Superintendent of Ohio Veterans Homes. Mr. Oppy is an Army veteran who served in Iraq. Mr. Oppy is retired from the Ohio Army National Guard and has completed a total of 24 years of military service.

Chapter Adjutant

The Adjutant is responsible for keeping the Chapter's records and managing the Chapter's official correspondence. He/she is responsible for ensuring Chapter members are aware of the times and locations of the meetings. The Adjutant is responsible for filing the Chapter Officer Report form immediately following the annual election and installation of officers. Please read the Chapter Officer Guide for more guidelines on the responsibilities of the Chapter Adjutant.

Membership- How many have you signed up this month? Do not let one month go by without signing up a member for your Chapter. There is power in numbers.

Hospital and Voluntary Service Awards

This is the 38th anniversary of the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy. It is awarded annually by DAV in recognition of extraordinary volunteer dedication to the needs of ill and injured veterans through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program. If you know of a deserving volunteer, please visit the DAV website for more information. All applications must be received no later than February 6, 2015.

Outstanding Disabled Veteran Award

The National Commander's Awards Program is to honor an Outstanding Disabled Veteran. All nominations must be submitted with the completed information and necessary photos no later than February 27, 2015. Please visit the DAV website or call the Department for more information.

DAV 2015 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship

This program is designed to encourage youth volunteers to become active in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS) and/or DAV's Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP). This scholarship is awarded to youth volunteers who are committed to serving veterans. Send completed forms to the DAV National

Headquarters no later than February 6, 2015. Visit <http://www.dav.org/help-dav/volunteer/jesse-brown-scholarship> for more information.

Department of Veterans Affairs Employee

This program is to honor an outstanding individual within the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and National Cemetery Administration (NCA) for 2015. All nominations must be submitted with the complete information and necessary photos by February 27, 2015. For more information you may call the Department or visit the DAV website.

Throughout the year, let us remember to patronize the businesses in our community that show their appreciation for our veterans.

***Wishing you all the peace and beauty the Christmas season brings.
Merry Christmas from Will and Judy.***

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

Will Davis
State Adjutant

2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER DAVID BILINOVICH

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2014 was inducted in Columbus on November 6, 2014 at the Lincoln Theatre. This year's class filled all twenty allocations and included four selectees from the DAV. These four inductees were; James F. Albright (Chapter 3), James P. Bowes (Chapter 40), David R. Cooper (Chapter 144) and Howard W. Osterkamp (Chapter 1). Congratulations to them all.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 1992 to recognize veterans whom after service return to their communities and continue to serve and inspire their fellow citizens. It is not a military hall of fame, therefore; rank, branch of service and personal decorations are for biographical purposes only. Instead, veterans are judged and selected based upon their works towards community public good. These works can be as varied as the communities they serve are. Nominations can be made from any interested person except the veteran.

The Department of Ohio has a standing member on the Hall's selection committee. Currently our representative is PDC Joseph Lenhart. While PDC Lenhart cannot discuss the inner workings of the nominating process, he can provide criteria, application information and suggestions. As the Class of 2015 nominations are now being solicited, interested members would be well advised to seek PDC Lenhart's counsel before applying.

David Bilinovich
2nd Jr. Vice Commander

GOLDEN CORRAL APPRECIATION MONDAY

Mr. John Bedell, Manager:

Once again, your Golden Corral restaurant welcomed veterans with all the respect they deserve. The patriotic decorations by you and your staff did not go without notice, and was a source of pride and positive comments by veterans and their spouses.

It's been a pleasure working with you the past few years, and I sense the importance of Military Appreciation Night to you, and the staff that follows your lead. Of all the activities, I am involved in with Disabled American Veterans; the Golden Corral event is one I value highly. The camaraderie developed during Military Appreciation Night is similar to a military reunion, and seeing familiar faces from year to year adds to how special this event has become. As veterans

entered the restaurant, our chapter members greeted each one of them with a handshake and a “thanks for your service,” the responses many time were, “glad to know someone cares.”

Veterans that served the nation understand that our tranquility, our security, our freedom, and our way-of-life is not transferable from one generation to the next; and must be earned repeatedly, as many have so skillfully demonstrated. Golden Corral understands the strong commitment of veterans to our nation, and has become an important partner in generating and maintain a positive image with “appreciation night.”

John, DAV, and Cincinnati Chapter #1 wishes to express to you, your staff, and the Golden Corral Corporation a special “THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE.”

In comradeship,

Herman W. Morton, PDC
DAV, Cincinnati Chapter #1
NEC 11th District

MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE

The Mobile Service Office (MSO) is currently scheduled to be in Ohio from March 23, 2015 until April 3, 2015 in the northern half of Ohio and from April 13, 2015 until April 24, 2015 in the southern half of Ohio and we are currently looking for chapters to host the MSO. A request for the MSO must be an open request and the chapter must be able to accommodate the MSO on any date during the March 23rd until April 3rd timeframe in northern Ohio and/or April 13th until April 24th. The MSO route will be split between a northern Ohio route and a southern Ohio route. Scheduling will be on a first come, first served basis. All MSO stops will be scheduled from 10 am to 5 pm.

The chapter requesting the MSO will be responsible for arranging an adequate location for the Mobile Service Office to set up and service veterans and their families. The MSO usually requires a minimum of four (4) parking spots to operate at its full potential. Upon requesting the MSO, the chapter agrees to accommodate the MSO with volunteers from their chapter to help veterans sign in and to assist the National Service Officers. It is encouraged that the chapters be there to solicit memberships to non-members.

National Headquarters will send out mailings to veterans in the vicinity of 25 miles of the stop as they usually do. Additional advertising (newspaper, television, radio, flyers, etc.) for the Mobile Service Office will be the **responsibility of the requesting chapter.**

All requests must be received no later than January 15, 2015 due to scheduling. Upon finalization of the MSO schedule, chapters scheduled for the MSO will be notified by the National Service Office confirming that you are on the schedule and for what date.

Steven Strodbeck
NSO Assistant Supervisor

If you are interested in requesting the Mobile Service Office (MSO)
Contact Department Headquarters to receive a request form.

1st JR. VICE COMMANDER KENNETH MARCUM

Veterans and Social Security Administration

Monthly retirement, disability, and survivor benefits under Social Security are payable to Veterans and dependents if the Veteran has earned enough work credits under the program. Upon the Veteran’s death, a one-time payment of \$255 may be made to the Veteran’s spouse or child. In addition, a Veteran may qualify at age 65 for Medicare’s hospital insurance and medical insurance. Medicare protection is available to people who have received Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, and to insured people and their dependents who need dialysis or kidney transplants, or who have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (more known as Lou Gehrig’s disease).

Since 1957, military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training) have counted toward Social Security, and those earnings are already on Social Security records. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Reserve Component (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security. Service members and Veterans are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which they received active duty basic pay after 1956 and before 1978.

Veterans who served in the military from 1978 through 2001 are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings for each \$300 in active duty basic pay, up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. No additional Social Security taxes are withheld from pay for these extra credits. Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, and did not complete at least 24 months of active duty or their full tour of duty, may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details. Additional earnings will no longer be credited for military service periods after 2001.

Also, non-contributory Social Security earnings of \$160 a month may be credited to Veterans who served after September 15, 1940, and before 1957, including attendance at service academies. For information, call 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov/. (NOTE: Social Security cannot add these extra earnings to the record until an application is filed for Social Security benefits).

Dependents/Survivors and the Health Care Law

The Affordable Care Act, also known as the health care law, was created to expand access to affordable health care coverage to all Americans, lower costs, and improve quality and care coordination. Under the health care law, people will:

- Have health coverage that meets a minimum standard (called “minimum essential coverage”) by January 1, 2014;
- Qualify for an exemption; or
- Pay a fee when filing their taxes if they have affordable options but remain uninsured.

Key Information for Family Members about the Health Care Law

- VA wants all Veterans and their families to receive health care that improves their health and well-being.
- Family members are a key part of Veterans’ good health and support network.
- Dependents/survivor enrolled in the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA or Spina Bifida benefits, access to care, or out-of-pocket costs).

Veterans’ family members who do not have coverage that meets the health care law’s standard should consider their options through the Health Insurance Marketplace, which is a new way to shop for and purchase private health insurance. Family members may also get lower costs on monthly premiums or out-of-pocket costs or be eligible for free or low-cost coverage through Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). For more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace, visit www.healthcare.gov or call **1-800-318-2596**. For additional information about the VA and the health care law, visit www.va.gov/aca or call **1-877-222-VETS (8387)**

