



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

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

February, 2016 Newsletter

35 E. Chestnut Street, P.O. Box 15099, Columbus, Ohio 43215-0099 Phone: (614) 221-3582  
FAX: (614) 221-4822 E-mail: [Kenneth.Marcum@ohiodav.org](mailto:Kenneth.Marcum@ohiodav.org) Website: [www.ohiodav.org](http://www.ohiodav.org)

**FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER PHILLIP ALEXANDER**



Thank you for the services you perform day to day; some of us don't hear this enough. You do remarkable work with our city, communities and state, always looking for new innovated ways to improve Veterans and their family's lives. We never look for praise, a pat on the back or recognition in our quest of providing comprehensive help to Veterans. We as DAV members do this as part our being; we live, breath and sweat this with every fiber of our hearts and thank you and this organization for giving me this honor yet humbling position to serve our great organization.

Veterans look out for each other. This in turn leads to our perpetual way of life.

Thanks to the anonymous hero and also thank you anonymous great fundraiser. I will not expose you out of respect but people like you renew my faith in this brotherhood, DAV Ohio. Don't be surprised if you look up and I am face to face to shake your hands.

All Chapters remember nominations and Chapter elections are coming up soon. Chapter Officers should work with your City officials and CVSO's. As DAV officers we should lead by example. The DAV is a proud organization and we let our actions speak for us. All officers' reports are required to be submitted within 10 days. The Chapter Service Officer Accreditation Class will be held during our spring convention. All Chapter Service Officers are required to preregister and attend this class. Only one CSO per Chapter will receive actual certification per National regulations.

As usual, pray for all our sick and shut-in comrades, call them, send them cards and let them know we care. As your Department Commander it breaks my heart that I am unable to visit all my sick comrades in person. And as always let the Department know of any additions to our list. Get well soon Samuel Felton. I am looking forward to seeing you at our Mid-Winter C&A Conference, February 21-24, 2016. If you have questions feel free to contact the Department Headquarters.

**BE OF SERVICE!**

*Phillip Alexander*  
State Commander



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 21-24, 2016	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
February 27-28, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Wayne County Ch. #44, Buckeye Event Ctr, 624 Henry St., Dalton, OH.
March 18-20, 2016	I-X Piston Powered Auto-Rama, Cleveland, Ohio.
April 3-8, 2016	National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, Snowmass, CO.
June 4-5, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Van Wert Ch. #54, Walmart Center, 301 Town Center Blvd., Van Wert, OH.
June 23-26, 2016	95 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
July 30-Aug. 2, 2016	National Convention, Atlanta, GA.
November 4-6, 2016	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2017	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
June 22-25, 2017	96 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
July 29-Aug. 1, 2017	National Convention, New Orleans, LA.
Nov. 3-5, 2017	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
February 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
June 21-24, 2018	97 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
Nov. 2-4, 2018	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.

## NOTES FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT KENNETH MARCUM

### FOR OUR WOMEN VETERAN POPULATION

*"Many of us are listening"*



The last few months have been a very interesting time for women veterans. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, for the first time, an all-women's Honor Flight landed in the nation's capital bringing 140 women veterans from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana to visit a number of sites. Included in the tour were stops at the Iwo Jima Memorial, a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns, the U.S. Air Force Memorial and the memorials for the WWII, Korea and the Vietnam Wars. In addition, the women Veterans were hosted at the Women in Military Service to America Memorial at Arlington, where VA Secretary McDonald and the Director of the Joining Forces initiative addressed them.

Speaking of the Women in Military Service to America Memorial, it is the only major national memorial honoring all service women- past, present and future: some 2.5 million women who have served or are serving in or with the US Armed Forces starting with the American Revolution. It was dedicated on October 18, 1997, and officially opened to the public on October 20, 1997. Their internet link is: <http://www.womensmemorial.org/>

Currently, women account for 20 percent of new recruits, 14.5 percent of the active duty force (1.4 million), and 18 percent of the 850,000 reserve force.

### AGENT ORANGE



Vietnam Veterans with Agent Orange diseases continue to march into the Vietnam Wall to join their fallen brothers. These men and women will not be remembered as fatalities of the Vietnam War. Their names will not be engraved into the Vietnam Wall... yet they are still victims of the Vietnam War. These Veterans have died slow deaths because of their country and won't be remembered *for* dying for their country. This Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park located in Rochester, New York is dedicated to the families who lost a loved one due to Agent Orange.

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE REALLY DIED FROM THE VIETNAM WAR?

### THE U.S. MARINE CORPS IN THE VIETNAM WAR

The U.S. Marine Corps provided ground, air, supply, and logistic support in the Vietnam War for over two decades as part of III Marine Amphibious Force. Initially in Vietnam as advisors, the Marines forces grew with the need to protect the key airbase at Da Nang. After the Gulf of Tonkin incident, more troops arrived and the Marines began to

engage in the counterinsurgency effort with small-scale pacification units. Combined Action Platoons- comprised of U.S. Marines and Vietnamese soldiers- were a novel concept that the Marines brought.

**By 1966, there were nearly 70,000 Marines in Vietnam** carrying out large scale ground operations against the Viet Cong. In addition to ground combat, the Marine Corps provided air support from helicopter squadrons and fixed wing aircrafts striking targets in South and North Vietnam. In 1967, the Army leadership in Saigon advocated that the Marines concentrate their efforts on large unit search and destroy operations. The Marines' mission was split, with fighting against the North Vietnamese Army along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) toward the North, and a counterinsurgency operation waged against the Viet Cong in the villages in the South.

**In the north, the Marines engaged in heavy fighting between Khe Sanh in the West and Leatherneck Square in the Eastern DMZ.** The also began to create the McNamara line, a series of strong points, sensors and obstacles meant to detect communist forces crossing the DMZ. The North Vietnamese focused much of their firepower on destroying the McNamara line in its early stages, resulting in many conflicts, most notably Con Thien. The McNamara line ultimately failed to materialize, but the Marines were largely successful in stemming the flow of communist forces across the DMZ, although that the large price. 3, 461 Marines were killed in action in 1967 and another 25,525 were wounded. Despite the fewer numbers, it was clear that more troops would not guarantee more success.

**The year 1968 proved to be a watershed for the Marines in Vietnam.** January 31<sup>st</sup> Tet Offensive- the massive offensive the North Vietnamese launched against South Vietnam in 105 cities on the Tet Lunar Year –was largely repulsed by U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese forces. This was not the case at Hue, a city where Marines fought for 26 days before expelling the North Vietnamese. The Marines also defended Khe Sanh in a 77 day siege, under fire by as many as 1000 shells per day, until the U.S. Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry broke the siege.

**After footage of these bloody battles was aired on television** and with no clear end in sight by 1969, much of the American public support for the war eroded. President Nixon began to bring troops home. Few Marine units were involved in the U.S. military actions in Cambodia or Laos, and while 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division fought in major engagements around Da Nang, 3d Marine Division was heading back to base at Okinawa. By 1971, the 1<sup>st</sup> Division and 3d Marine Aircraft Wing departed for the United States and Japan.

**Marine Advisors, fire support personnel, and air units fought during the 1972 Easter Offensive** supporting the Vietnamese Marine Corps. A peace treaty was signed in Paris in January 1973. The U.S. agreed to withdraw all of its forces from Vietnam and in turn the North Vietnamese returned its U.S. prisoners of war, 26 of whom were Marines. In 1975, Marines led Operation Eagle Pull and Frequent Wind to evacuate the American embassies in Phnom Penh and Saigon. Immediately after saving hundreds of American lives in the embassy evacuations, President Ford ordered the Marines to rescue the crew of the USS Mayaguez, which had been taken by the Khmer Rouge. A joint task force completed the mission and recaptured the ship, but not without Marine and U.S. Air Force casualties.

**The Vietnam War was costly to the U.S. Marine Corps.** From 1965 to 1975, nearly 500,000 Marines served in Southeast Asia. Of these, more than 13,000 were killed and 88,000 wounded, nearly a third of all American casualties sustained during the war.

*Kenneth Marcum*  
State Adjutant

### **VETERAN RECOGNIZED FOR SAVING A LIFE**

***National Headquarters  
NEWS RELEASE***

COLD SPRING, Ky.- A Cleveland-based veteran will receive the Distinguished Citizen Medal from the city of Golden, Colorado, on Wednesday for heroic actions demonstrated last August at the nearby Clear Creek Canyon.

In August, Disabled American Veterans employee Jacob Drost was panning for gold in the canyon when a young woman in obvious distress ran into the water, slipped and hit her head on a rock. She lost consciousness as the fast-moving current began to propel her downstream. A former Marine combat water survival instructor, Drost reacted immediately and entered the current to pull the victim to safety.

Drost will be honored at the Golden Chamber Annual Awards Dinner in Golden, Colorado, scheduled for Wednesday, January 27 at 7 p.m.

He was in Colorado to attend DAV's National Convention in Denver, and had extended his stay on vacation when the incident took place. He is a veteran's advocate for the charity organization and helps his fellow veterans receive the benefits they've earned from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"I'm glad I had the skills to help in the situation," said Drost. "But to be honest, I didn't do anything someone else wouldn't have done who might have been standing in that spot at the time."

After Drost pulled the woman to safety, the local police and fire department took over.

"I really didn't think it was that big of a deal," Drost said. "I just did what I was trained to do. Then a few weeks ago

I got a letter from Colorado saying they wanted to give me some kind of award. I'm grateful but don't think I did anything especially heroic."

"I'm not surprised Jacob is humble about what he did that day," said DAV National Adjutant and CEO Marc Burgess. "Veterans don't live their lives looking for rewards. They often continue their legacy of serving others. Jacob prevented a tragedy. I'm glad he was there and I'm sure the victim's loved ones are as well."

### **NOW IS THE TIME...**

To paraphrase an old typing tutor rhyme, now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their DAV. Soon Chapters will solicit nominations for Officers, as will your Department ask for nominations to various Committees and for elected and appointed positions. So it is incumbent that all members in good standing consider applying for one of these leadership positions.

Our organization is membership driven. While every member has an equal vote, just like the military or business worlds, certain leadership positions are required to handle the day to day duties and ceremonial functions, as it would be impossible to vote on every matter every day. Therefore, it is important that DAV Ohio have strong and competent Chapter and Department Officers and Committee members.

If you are a member in good standing and have the time and desire to help make our organization better, please consider placing your name in nomination for either a Chapter or Department position. Your experience and new perspective will help keep DAV amongst the premiere veterans service organizations in Ohio. Additionally, the Department has established a training program for its Chapter Officers, District Commanders and Department staff to ensure that you have the tools and counsel to succeed.

Your DAV is a dynamic and productive veteran's service organization, but to remain so it continues to need new ideas and dedicated leadership. Your willingness to do more to help at any level is always needed. The structure and training are already in place. All that is needed now is for those that are willing to come to the aid of their DAV.

*David L. Bilinovich*  
Senior Vice Commander

### **CHAPLAINS CORNER**

A Soldiers Prayer can be one of two things. It can be a devotional; a prayer to keep the soldier safe, out of harms way, and brave. Also, though it can be the prayer a soldier says to keep himself close to God while away from home. -

Lord, I ask for courage. Courage to face and conquer my own fears.... Courage to take me where others will not go. I ask for strength... Strength of body to protect others.. Strength of spirit to lead others. I ask for dedication... Dedication to my job, to do it well... Dedication to my country, to keep it safe. Give me Lord, concern... For those who trust me and compassion for those who need me. And please Lord..... Through it all be at my side.

God Bless Each of You, God Bless America, and God Bless the DAV.

*Robert Habern*  
Department Chaplain

### **GIVING BACK TO FELLOW SERVICEMEN**



The members of Wayne County Chapter #44 visited 37 veterans residing in 2 Nursing Homes on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. We not only were able to give gifts of fleece blankets and ponchos, but we spent time with each veteran. Listening to their adventures and we were able to share with them our adventures. We brought smiles to all and they in return made us feel good.

*Charles Dudley*  
Chapter #44 Adjutant

## **HEROES TRIBUTE HUNT**

Honoring Those Who Protect Our Freedoms

**Saturday April 9, 2016**

A day filled with Family Oriented Outdoor Events and a Guided Hunt for Disabled Veterans

**Locations:** -McKean Farms Upland Hunting Preserve 195 Fairfield Church Road, Gallipolis, OH 45631, [www.mckeanfarms.com](http://www.mckeanfarms.com),  
-Gallipolis Elks Farm, 6010 Ohio 588, Gallipolis, OH 45631, [www.gallipoliselkslodge107.com](http://www.gallipoliselkslodge107.com)  
**Time:** 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Activities Will Include:

- Upland Game Bird Hunt for 24 Disabled Veterans
- Veterans can join their family members after the hunt to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities as listed below
  - Demonstration of proper care practices for harvested game
  - Demonstration of safe gun handling techniques and use of firearms
    - Modified sporting clays course
  - Passport to Fishing activities including casting, knot-tying and more
    - NASP style archery shooting
  - Demonstration about training and care of versatile hunting dogs

Also Provided:

- Breakfast pastries, fruit, beverages, etc.
- Lunch sandwiches, chips, light salads, beverages, etc.
- Dinner will consist of a sit-down meal including salad, entrée, dessert, beverages, etc.
  - All-Terrain Vehicles to transport individuals as required
    - Indoor dining and activities area
  - Personnel available to assist participants throughout the day

*\*All activities and services are provided to all participants at no cost.\**

Registration opens on January 12, 2016 and will close on February 7, 2016. Participants will be selected through a digital lottery system.

To register online go to Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AppalachianValleyNavhda/>

To register, to volunteer or for more information, contact John Costanzo at 740-698-3318 or [johnc55@frontier.com](mailto:johnc55@frontier.com)

## **COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

"It's about time, after all its' been nearly fifty years," said Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter #63 (Clermont County) Adjutant Raymond Hutchinson. The DAV Chapter Adjutant was referring to the last time the United States Postal Service (USPS) issued a commemorative postage stamp honoring the DAV.

In 1970, USPS issued a commemorative stamp recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the DAV. Commemorative postage stamps are issued by the USPS to honor individuals, events and organizations. Approximately 25 to 30 different commemorative stamps are issued every year.

The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee is the designated agency that reviews applications for submitted subjects for commemorative stamps. The Committee has established a three to four year lead time for submission of subject applications to their agency for consideration.

"Since the DAV will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary in 2020," explained Adjutant Hutchinson, "Chapter #63 decided to take appropriate action now to start the submission process."

During the September 2015 Chapter #63 meeting, the Chapter passed a resolution requesting that the application submission process now. The passed resolution was forwarded for consideration to the DAV District One meeting, which was held in October of 2015.

After Adjutant Hutchinson read the resolution at the DAV District One meeting, the resolution was passed unanimously. The passed resolution was then forwarded to the DAV Department of Ohio for consideration at their next Annual DAV Convention. If approved at the Annual Convention, the DAV Department of Ohio will forward the resolution to the National DAV at their August Convention.



The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee has established eleven specific criteria and guidelines for subjects of commemorative postage stamps. "I believe the DAV met these rules in 1970 and we are positive that the DAV will be in compliance with all the criteria and guidelines in 2020," said Hutchinson.

After the Stamp Advisory Committee approves the subject of the commemorative stamp, there are many other vital steps which must be completed before the postage stamp is finally issued by the USPS.

"These steps include commissioning a design artist to prepare sketches of the subject; having the final sketch approved; formalizing the design," explained Hutchinson, "are just a few of the steps and they all take time.

In addition to having a commemorative postage stamp issued by the USPS, a First Day Cover (FDC) is usually prepared (by various cachet designers in the private sector) to celebrate the occasion. A FDC is an envelope or card bearing a stamp which is cancelled on the day the stamp is initially placed on sale by the postal authorities. "The FDC is also called a cachet and compliments or provides graphic information about the stamp", explained Adjutant Hutchinson.

"However, if the DAV would wait until 2017 to start the process, we may be too late to have a commemorative stamp issued in 2020," denoted Hutchinson.

If the DAV would miss the 2020 issue date because it did not adhere to the timeline of the process, the next year that the DAV would be eligible for consideration for a commemorative stamp by the USPS would be the year 2045.

"That 2045 year date is much too long for us to wait for issuance of a DAV Commemorative postage stamp," concluded Hutchinson, "and that's why our Chapter 63 (Clermont County) took immediate action now to initiate the application process."

For additional information, please contact John Plahovinsak, Commander of DAV Chapter 63 (Clermont County, Ohio) at (513) 474-38 63 or [plahovinsak@msn.com](mailto:plahovinsak@msn.com)

*John Plahovinsak*  
Executive Committee

### **HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM ERA**

In Honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Era, the Department Headquarters staff will be putting together a PowerPoint and Collage of photos of the veterans who served during the Vietnam War for the 95<sup>th</sup> June Convention.

Our idea is to have those veterans that served in the Vietnam Era, mail or email a photo of themselves in uniform during their service *and* include your years of service.

Participation is optional and all photos will be returned by mail promptly.

*ALL DAV MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!*

If you would like to participate, please mail your photo to P.O. Box 15099, Columbus, Ohio 43215-0099 to the attention of Stephanie Williamson, or email your photo to [Stephanie.johnson@ohiodav.org](mailto:Stephanie.johnson@ohiodav.org) **BY JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.**

### **"ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS WILL NEVER FORGET THE NEXT"**



"One Generation of Veterans Will Never Forget the Next," that's a quote that sticks out and speaks on many levels, on Capital City Chapter #3's new DAV Trailer. The trailer will not only supply storage but also is a great way to deliver hospital beds, wheelchairs and other items to Veterans who are in need.