



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio
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FROM THE DESK OF WILLIAM CAINE

Welcome to 2015. Here is hoping your holidays were refreshing.

The past December was a month of firsts for the Department of Ohio and establishes Ohio as a leader of the DAV. We were among the first states to hold a Ford dealership promotion for those who wished to test drive a Ford with a \$20 donation by the manufacturer to the host chapter for each test drive. Executive Committeemen James Johnston and Sam Kimmerly lead the Cincinnati area event with appearances by Senior Vice Commander Phillip Alexander and Executive Committeeman John Parker. Chapters wishing to participate should contact the Adjutant so we do not over book willing dealerships.

Having been contacted by the DAV Communications Department the Department of Ohio held a first ever Town Hall meeting in Youngstown celebrating our presence in the Tri County area, Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana. Chapter 2 and Commander Leo Connelly Jr., acted as the base of operations for a daylong event that began with both talk radio and television interviews and a press conference type Town Hall and closed with a session for benefits questions from the citizenry. DSO Paul Webber, newly trained, staffs the newest DAV office. The panel members were Executive Committeemen John Parker and James Bailey, NSO Jake Drost, NSO Matt Persons and Chapter 2 Commander Connelly. Rebroadcasts of radio talk shows reached six stations as far away as Toledo and national affiliate television stations lead off with the DAV Town Hall as their evening story. Many thanks to Chapter 2 and Commander Connelly. It must be mentioned Chapter 2 and its grocery program for veterans and service personnel in Youngstown have put DAV on the map in a big way in the region, with over \$13,000 in public donations and food bank backup to sustain it. Some 380 boxes of groceries were distributed this December.

The Department of Ohio was the first DAV Department invited by the California based Hoosie Martin Foundation to apply for a development grant. This Foundation assists charities in achieving financial stability through grant writing, Ohio was just notified that our grant application was approved and \$3,500 will be awarded.

2nd Jr. Vice Commander David Bilinovich and Executive Committeeman John Parker have been appointed to lead our 2015 one last push for building the Cleveland Fisher House. Since our Fall Conference donations surged some \$500,000 putting the total just over \$2,300,000. This milestone exceeds the amount required to break ground. Recent gifts of \$100,000 came in from both Key Bank and the Eaton Corporation. Please put March 20-21 on your calendar for another fun weekend at the Cleveland IX Center and its Power Piston Show (formerly the Custom Car Show). Be sure to visit the expanded DAV Ohio booth honoring the USMC. Members, chapters and auxiliaries can still take advantage of the \$7,000 in remaining matching funds by donating through the Adjutant.

Commanders and Department Officers who are joining the DAV Ohio delegation to the Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. this February should make contact by fax with their own congress person for appointment in February to advance the legislative proposals of the DAV. Our Adjutant will coordinate meetings with our Senators and Ohio's House Speaker. The time for these communications is this week.

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 Lisa Wilson	(513) 475-6443
Dayton HSC, Bill Millett Heather Hall	(937) 268-6511 Ext. 2962
Wade Park DSO, Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800 Ext. 3395
Chillicothe HSC, Darlene Maravilla	(740) 773-1141 Ext. 7916
Columbus Clinic, Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
Parma Clinic DSO, Richard Healy	(216) 739-7000 Ext. 2405
Youngstown Clinic DSO, Paul Webber	(330) 646-9214

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 22-24, 2015	Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA
March 20-21, 2015	Power Piston Show (Custom Car Show) at Cleveland IX Center, Cleveland, Ohio
March 28, 2015	Commander William Caine and Auxiliary Commander Jeanette Scott Testimonial Dinner, Dublin, Ohio
April 18, 2015	2 nd District Meeting, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Chapter 93, 51 E. First St., London, Ohio
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

As we start a new year, it is a time of reflection and giving thanks. Looking back at the 2014 DAV department's newsletters, the DAV has accomplished much toward the goal of fulfilling the promises to the men and women who served. With this being stated, there is still much to do. Keep those phone calls, e-mails, and letters flowing to your elected officials. For those of you who are able to attend the C & A Mid-winter Conference in D.C., this is a great time for a face to face meeting with your Senator or other representative. Be a spokesperson for those not able to attend.

Several weeks ago an important breakthrough to protect veterans' benefits against any future government shutdowns or budget stalemate took place. The Senate and House appropriations leaders agreed to include advance appropriations for veterans benefit payments as part of the omnibus appropriations agreement. For more information read DAV National Commander Ron Hope's statement at dav.org.

ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATE

Since the appointment of VA Secretary Robert McDonald in July, the VA reports that 77 percent of its facilities have new leaders or leadership teams. More than 500 VA employees have been terminated along with three senior executives being removed from their positions and two other retired. There has been over 4,000 sites inspected and more than 8,300 VA staff members have completed new training programs on access and scheduling. VA Secretary McDonald is keeping accountability a top priority.

PENDING LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

HR 4741 - Surviving Spouses Improvement Act 2014. This bill would increase the DDIC monthly payments.

HR 1725 - Veterans Mental Health Accessibility. To provide for unlimited eligibility for health care for mental illnesses in veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war.

HR 1131 - This bill would not cost the government any funds. It would allow commissary and exchange benefits without limit or time period limitation for any service member involuntarily separated from the military with service-connected disability.

HR 164 - Permanent Disability Travel. This bill would permit veterans who have a service-connected permanent disability rated as *total* to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

HR 543 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam. To clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veteran who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam.

HR 569 - Veterans' Compensation. To increase, effective as of 1 December 2013, the rate of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of DIC for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

There are several crisis programs in place to help mitigate the risk of suicide in our veterans. The Veterans Crisis Line allows veterans to speak with qualified, care responders through a confidential toll free hotline, online chat and text messaging. Veterans, service members, families and friends can call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, send a text to 838265 or chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. Help defeat military suicides by passing this information along.

Do you know what benefits your state offers? When a veteran thinks of VA benefits, they mainly think of compensation for service-connected conditions. Several states provide special benefits and programs to veterans and dependents. To inquire what special benefits your state has, visit www.military.com/benefits. It is easy for veterans and their families to learn more about and apply for benefits through this improved and user friendly website www.Explore.VA.gov

MEMBERSHIP

Good leaders mentor the next generation. Have you sat down with a veteran and talked about the DAV and what it stands for and what benefits the veteran may receive. Let's start the year with a new member.

GOLDEN CORRAL

The current donations from the Golden Corral event are \$28,029.29. There are still several Chapters that we have not heard from at the time of printing this newsletter. To all of the Chapters and Auxiliaries, that participated in this event, thank you for a job well done.

Please remember to use the P.O. Box number if you are corresponding with the department through the U.S. mail. A chapter was almost suspended for not filing a Financial Report, only to find out the communication was in the mailroom of the building. The P.O. Box number must be on the address for the mail to be received in the department. Please use the following: DAV, P.O. Box 15099, Columbus Ohio 43215.

CHAPTER TREASURER

In most Chapters the Treasurer holds the funds deposited with him/her and pays them out when approved by the Chapter. All financial disbursements of the Chapter must be made by check. All checks must include the signature of at least two officers. There should be no debit or credit cards utilized by a Chapter. Check with your *Chapter Officer Guide* for a more detailed report of the duties that are required by the treasurer. You may find these duties on pages 7 through 11.

PAWS4VETS

Some veterans suffering from PTSD have specially-trained Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers. Paws4Vets is a non-profit organization that provides these dogs to veterans suffering from PTSD. The dogs are trained to push elevator buttons, turn on and off lights, and some can fetch beverages from the refrigerator. The dogs are also trained to recognize the onset of a panic attack and how to get the attention of someone so the veteran may be helped. For more information visit Paws4Vets webpage.

Welcome Henry Robertson the new DAV Deputy at the Chillicothe VA Medical Center.

Over the holiday, I received notification that a couple of our members were under the weather. Let us remember PDC James Britton and Past Department Chaplain James Keller in our thoughts and prayers.

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

Will Davis
State Adjutant

1st JR. VICE COMMANDER KENNETH MARCUM

COMMON MISTAKES MADE ON RESUMES

From a Vice President at Google, below are the top 5 mistakes that will automatically disqualify someone who applies at Google (now the #1 place to work). Notice how we can help our customers with every single one of them:

Mistake 1: Typos. This one seems obvious, but it happens again and again. A 2013 CareerBuilder survey found that 58% of resumes have typos.

In fact, people who tweak their resumes the most carefully can be especially vulnerable to this kind of error, because they often result from going back again and again to fine tune their resumes just one last time. And in doing so, a subject and verb suddenly don't match up, or a period is left in the wrong place, or a set of dates gets knocked out of alignment. I see this in MBA resumes all the time. Typos are deadly because employers interpret them as a lack of detail-orientation, as a failure to care about quality. The fix?

Read your resume from bottom to top: reversing the normal order helps you focus on each line in isolation. Or have someone else proofread closely for you.

Mistake 2: Length. A good rule of thumb is one page of resume for every ten years of work experience. Hard to fit it all in, right? But a three or four or ten page resume simply won't get read closely. As Blaise Pascal wrote, "I would have written you a shorter letter, but I did not have the time." A crisp, focused resume demonstrates an ability to synthesize, prioritize, and convey the most important information about you. Think about it this way: the *sole* purpose of a resume is to get you an interview. That's it. It's not to convince a hiring manager to say "yes" to you (that's what the interview is for) or to tell your life story (that's what a patient spouse is for). Your resume is a tool that gets you to the first interview. Once you're in the room, the resume doesn't matter much. So cut back your resume. It's too long.

Mistake 3: Formatting. Unless you're applying for a job such as a designer or artist, your focus should be on making your resume clean and legible. At least ten point font. At least half-inch margins. White paper, black ink. Consistent spacing between lines, columns aligned, your name and contact information on every page. If you can, look at it in both Google Docs and Microsoft Word, and then attach it to an email and open it as a preview. Formatting can get garbled when moving across platforms. Saving it as a PDF is a good way to go.

Mistake 4: Confidential Information. I once received a resume from an applicant working at a top-three consulting firm. This firm had a strict confidentiality policy: client names were never to be shared. On the resume, the candidate wrote, "Consulted to a major software company in Redmond, Washington." Rejected! There's an inherent conflict between your employer's needs (keep business secrets confidential) and your needs (show how awesome I am so I can get a better job). So candidates often find ways to honor the letter of their confidentiality agreements but not the spirit. It's a mistake. While this candidate didn't mention Microsoft specifically, any reviewer knew that's what he meant. In a very rough audit, we found that at least 5-10% of resumes reveal confidential information. Which tells me, as an employer, that I should never hire those candidates... unless I want my own trade secrets emailed to my competitors.

The *New York Times* test is helpful here: if you wouldn't want to see it on the home page of the NYT with your name attached (or if your boss wouldn't!), don't put it on your resume.

Mistake 5: Lies. This breaks my heart. Putting a lie on your resume is never, ever, ever, worth it. Everyone, up to and including CEOs, get fired for this. (Google "CEO fired for lying on resume" and see.) People lie about their degrees (three credits shy of a college degree is not a degree), GPAs (I've seen hundreds of people "accidentally" round their GPAs up, but never have I seen one accidentally rounded down--never), and where they went to school (sorry, but employers don't view a degree granted online for "life experience" as the same as UCLA or Seton Hall). People lie about how long they were at companies, how big their teams were, and their sales results, always goofing in their favor.

There are three big problems with lying: (1) You can easily get busted. The Internet, reference checks, and people who worked at your company in the past can all reveal your fraud. (2) Lies follow you forever. Fib on your resume and 15 years later get a big promotion and are discovered? Fired. And try explaining that in your next interview. (3) Our Moms taught us better. Seriously.

VETERANS NEEDING FIDUCIARY SERVICES

The fiduciary program provides oversight of VA's most vulnerable beneficiaries who are unable to manage their VA benefits because of injury, disease, the infirmities of advanced age, or being under 18 years of age. VA appoints fiduciaries who manage VA benefits for these beneficiaries and conducts oversight of VA-appointed fiduciaries to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the beneficiaries they serve.

VA closely monitors fiduciaries for compliance with program responsibilities to ensure that VA benefits are being used for the purpose of meeting the needs, security, and comfort of beneficiaries and their dependents. In deciding who should act as fiduciary for a beneficiary, VA will always select the most effective and least restrictive fiduciary arrangement. This means that VA will first consider whether the beneficiary can manage his/her VA benefits with limited supervision. VA will consider the choice of the beneficiary as well as any family, friends and caregivers who are qualified and willing to provide fiduciary services for the beneficiary without a fee.

As a last resort, VA will consider appointment of a paid fiduciary. For more information about VA's fiduciary program, please visit our website at benefits.va.gov/fiduciary/index.asp.

OHIOCARES

For Emergencies call the VA Tele-nurse Available 24 hours (888) 838-6446

For Information on other available services call (800) 761-0868.

OHIOCARES is a collaboration of state and local agencies supporting the behavioral health of returning OIF/OEF veterans and their families. Although the VA is the primary source of services for veterans, this partnership identifies community based resources also available to veterans and their families.

OHIOCARES purpose is to enhance the "safety net" community of behavioral health services available for military personnel and their families and to complement the services available through the Department of Veterans Affairs and Vet Centers by linkages with county alcohol, drug and mental health boards and behavioral health care providers.

OHIOCARES collaborative agencies include:

- Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
- The Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers
- Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
- City of Columbus Veterans Affairs
- Mental Health and Recovery Board of Union County
- Ohio Department of Mental Health
- Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Veterans Affairs

Kenneth Marcum
1st Jr. Vice Commander

2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER DAVID BILINOVICH

CLEVELAND FISHER HOUSE PUSH

The Greater Cleveland Fisher House is making a final fund raising drive push to reach its goal of 3.5 million dollars. The estimated cost of this Fisher House, to be located near the Cleveland V.A. Medical Center (VAMC), is just over 7 million dollars. The National Fisher House Foundation will pick up the remaining costs incurred after the local area reaches its goal. It is hoped that with this final push financial drive the Greater Cleveland Fisher House will reach its mandated goal and that groundbreaking can begin in late 2015.

The Fisher House program has provided a home away from home for the families of military members and veterans for over 25 years. There are currently 60 homes throughout the country including two in Ohio; one in Cincinnati and one at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. The Cleveland V.A. Medical Center is currently the third largest VAMC in the country and soon may be the second largest. It has also been designated as a follow on treatment center for the Walter Reed Army Hospital and for wounded troops returning from Afghanistan. As such, a Fisher House is needed in Cleveland.

The Department of Ohio is again supporting this effort. DAV Chapters and their Auxiliaries are encouraged to make donations through our Department, which will be matched, as part of a statewide Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) fund raising efforts. This effort will be culminated with a VSO display at the Summit Racing Equipment Show at the Cleveland IX Center to be held March 20-22. The DAV will have a display table and vehicle display along with many other veterans groups. Chapter 72 in Medina has agreed to lend its 1953 Dodge military ¾ ton truck for the show. There is also space available for a DAV van to be displayed, if one is available.

Please help support this worthwhile service effort. Working together, we can make a Greater Cleveland Fisher House a reality. For more information, contact Adjutant Will Davis.

V.A. CHOICE CARDS

V.A. "Choice Cards" have begun to arrive in our mailboxes. These cards are advertised as allowing veterans to get private health care at V.A. expense. These first issues of cards were mailed to veterans that live 40 miles from the nearest VA medical facility.

The Veterans Choice program passed Congress this past July as part of the V.A. mandated reforms. The goal of the program is to provide timely access to veterans experiencing long delays in appointments or those with long travel times to V.A. medical facilities. It was designed to correct problems first reported at the Phoenix V.A. Medical Center and then at other V.A. facilities.

Eligibility letters are included with the perforated tear out card. Veterans should read the letter carefully. It should be noted that this card is not a replacement for any current V.A. medical card or private insurance. Veterans could incur out of pocket costs for numerous reasons including; treatment not considered medically necessary by their doctor, private treatment costs exceeding the V.A. allowed cost for such treatment and other reasons.

The new "Choice Cards" are not for personal preferences or simply for local convenience. These cards were a Congressional solution to the long appointment delays and or long commute times to V.A. medical facilities. Ohio veterans are lucky in that this state has no noted extraordinary appointment delays. The V.A. medical system here has also embraced the CBOC or Community Based Outpatient Centers which are within an hour's drive for most Ohio veterans.

The issue of the V.A. "Choice Cards" is an attempt by Congress as a single solution for many problems across the country with V.A. medical treatment delays. Ohio veterans are better off than veterans in other parts of the country. Additionally, veterans may incur costs or delays in payment to private medical facilities when using this new card. As the card name implies, it is your choice, but it is also your responsibility.

David Bilinovich
2nd Jr. Vice Commander

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN RAYMOND HUTCHINSON

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the Chapters and members that donated money and their time on Sunday, December 7th at the Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home to make the holidays special for the residents of the home. The residents had a great time playing bingo and enjoying the refreshments that were served.

Ray Hutchinson
Hospital Chairman

DAV CAPITAL CITY CH. # 3 COMMANDER JAMES KASTER

For the last three years, the Chapter 3 Capital City DAV has partnered with the Dublin, Ohio Golden Corral and its manager, Scott Castro. And every year has seen record-breaking donations due to his, the Golden Corral employees, and DAV members devotion, generosity and hard work for the betterment of Military members and their families.

This year was no different and the Chapter 3 Capital City DAV Veterans Military Appreciation Day at the Golden Corral hit record numbers in their collected donations. Over \$3,500 in donations was amassed during this weeklong event. Honestly, most Golden Corral customers are not veterans, but support veterans 100%.

The Chapter 3 members take great pride in the time donated to raise money for fellow veterans and to welcome them to the Golden Corral for their complementary meal. The relationships built among veterans, employees and customers make each event even better than the last.

Each year Chapter 3 members come up with new ways to show their appreciation and help gather contributions for veterans. This year, Frank Williams brought boxes of VA calendars to hand out and this helped to secure greater funding. All Chapter 3 veterans are committed to helping out by volunteering their time all week. They talk with other military members in the community, not just to collect donations, but to get to know them and their families, often welcoming them into the Chapter as new members.

This event is one we are proud of and we are grateful for the hard work of all involved and cannot wait until next year!

James D. Kaster
DAV Chapter 3 Capital City Commander

DAV AND DAVA COMMANDER'S TESTIMONIAL DINNER

The dinner will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at the Columbus Marriott Northwest, 5605 Blazer Parkway, Dublin, Ohio 43017. A cash bar will be available beginning at 6:00 p.m. with dinner set at 7:00 p.m.

Rooms have been blocked for the dinner at the room rate of \$106.00 per room per night plus tax. If making reservations, please specify that you will be attending the **Disabled American Veterans Testimonial Dinner** to receive this room rate. You may contact the Columbus Marriott Northwest directly 1-888-801-7133. You may also make your room reservations at the dedicated website.

https://resweb.passkey.com/resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=12835954

The cost of the dinner is \$45.00 per person and the meal choices are Chicken Dijon or Sirloin Steak.

Reservations for Dinner must be received no later than March 20, 2015. No money will be taken at the door.

If you wish to attend, please contact Department Headquarters at 614-221-3582 to receive a R.S.V.P. form.