



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

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

July, 2017 Newsletter

35 East Chestnut Street, P.O. Box 15099, Columbus, Ohio 43215-0099  
FAX: (614) 221-4822 E-mail: [Frank.Williams@ohiodav.org](mailto:Frank.Williams@ohiodav.org)

Phone: (614) 221-3582  
Website: <http://oh.dav.org>

**FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER JAMES BAILEY**



What an honor it is to be chosen as your State Commander and to represent America's finest. I would like to thank all of you that believed in me, supported me, and helped me. When I was discouraged and down, you did not leave me. You encouraged and support me and kept me going. I will thank each and every one of you for all you have done not only for me but also for each other, our Veterans, the DAV and America. Being State Commander is not about me it is about you our Veterans. To think of all the freedom we have in America because of our active military and our Veterans, freedom is not free, it was paid for in the lives and blood of our Military.

This Memorial Day people attended services all around the country. We attended Memorial Day services in Adena, Ohio and Mt. Pleasant, Ohio. Each year they get bigger and better and more respect and appreciation is shown to our Veterans. Vietnam Veterans never got a welcome home. For many of us it took 40 years to get a thank you. But we get a lot of thanks now. Things are changing.

We would like to strengthen our chapters and districts, get more members actively involved, and to get more Veterans to join. If all our members would get just one new member to join we would double in size. We could do twice as much for our Veterans. We would have more influence on our politicians that control the purse strings. Whenever your chapter or district has an event, if you can have the media come, it really helps. Whether it's tv, radio, or newspaper, it will let the public know what we are, what we stand for, and what we do for Veterans and their families. We have chapters that do this and it works. Our chapters do such excellent work for our Veterans and their families. We need to keep getting the word out. All Chapters should send members to district and state meetings to learn what other chapters are doing and what works, so they can try it in their chapters and districts.

I look forward to representing our veterans in Washington D.C. and on Capitol Hill, not only in Washington, but within the state and locally as well. Our Veterans deserve the best. We will do our best to make sure they get the best. We will ask for Gods help and leadership and we will always pray for our country, family, Military and Veterans. As your State Commander I am asking for your help and prayers and by working together we can work miracles for Veterans and their families.

*James Bailey*  
State Commander



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<b>National Headquarters</b>	(877) 426-2838
<b>NSO Office, Cleveland</b>	(216) 522-3507
<b>Washington D.C. Office, DAV</b>	(202) 554-3501
<b>Cincinnati DSO</b> , Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
<i>Tuesday, Thursday</i>	
Lisa Wilson	(513) 475-6443
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	
<b>Chillicothe DSO</b> , Charles Knipp	(740) 773-1141
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	
Ext. 7916	
<b>Dayton DSO</b> , Nikki Cochran	(937) 268-6511
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	
Ext. 2962	
<b>Wade Park DSO</b> , Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	
Ext. 3395	
<b>Columbus DSO</b> , Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	
<b>Parma DSO</b> , Richard Healy	(216) 739-7000
<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	
Ext. 2405	

## 2017-2018 STATE OFFICERS

State Commander:	James Bailey
Sr. Vice Commander:	John Plahovinsak
1 <sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander:	John Parker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander:	David Weeks
Executive Committee:	Timothy Dibble Robert Habern
PDC (2016-2017):	David Bilinovich

## DATES TO REMEMBER

July 29-Aug. 1, 2017	National Convention, New Orleans, LA.
August 4-6, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Ch. #100, Walmart, Bucyrus, OH
August 11-12, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Ch. #100, Walmart, Bucyrus, OH
August 12, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Fayette County Ch. #89, Kroger & Home Depot, Washington Court House, OH 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
August 26, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Auglaize County Ch. #73, Walmart, Community Market, True Value, Wapakoneta, OH 9 a.m.-12 Noon.
September 8-9, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Ch. #100, Walmart, Galion, OH
September 8-9, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Willie Marcum Ch. #72, Buehler's Grocery Store, Medina, OH 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
September 16, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Ch. #100, Walmart, Crestline, OH
September 30, 2017	<i>Chapter Financial Reports are due!</i>
October 6-7, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Darke County Ch. #57, Eikenberries South Grocery Store, Ace Hardware, Marsh's Union City, John's IGA Versailles & Marathon Greenville, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
October 8, 2017	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> District Meeting</i> , American Legion, 1245 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Sidney, OH at 2 p.m.
October 14, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Putnam County Ch. #77, Walmart, Ottawa, OH
October 24, 2017	<i>5<sup>th</sup> District Meeting</i> , Huron County Ch. #62, 1544 US Hwy 20, Norwalk, OH.
November 3-5, 2017	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, OH.
November 10-12, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Dayton Ch. #9, Wright Patterson Air Force Base.
November 11, 2017	DAV 5k – Run/Walk to Honor Veterans, Cincinnati, OH
November 13, 2017	Golden Corral, Military Appreciation Monday.
February 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
June 7-10, 2018	97 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
November 2-4, 2018	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott Northwest, Dublin, OH.

## DEPARTMENT OF OHIO MEMBERSHIP

As of June 30, 2017, the Department Membership Report stands at 32,706 members. The Department is 99.85% of goal and 43 members below the yearly goal of 29,571. Total full life membership is 29,528.

## NEW OFFICERS 2017-2018

James Bailey of Brilliant, Ohio was unanimously elected State Commander of the more than 30-thousand members Ohio Disabled American Veterans at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention, June 23-24-25, 2017 in Dublin, Ohio.

Officers elected to serve with Commander James Bailey were Sr. Vice Commander John Plahovinsak of Cincinnati, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander John Parker of Barberton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander David Weeks of Vandalia, Executive Committeeman Timothy Dibble of Ashtabula, and Executive Committeeman Robert Habern of Defiance. David May of Canton was elected to the Finance Committee, 5-year term.

Appointments by Commander Bailey approved by the Executive Committee were Frank Williams of S. Vienna, Adjutant/Treasurer; David Pollock of Defiance, Chaplain; Raymond Hutchinson of Hillsboro, Hospital Chairman; David May of Canton, Assistant Hospital Chairman; Joseph Lenhart of Wapakoneta, Judge Advocate; Richard Healy of Lakewood, Department Inspector (North); Frank Williams of S. Vienna, Department Inspector (South); Steve Strodbeck of Eastlake, Director of Service; Kenneth Reed of London, Officer of the Day; Bobby Gross of Akron, Sergeant-At-Arms; Donald Gill of Moundsville, W.V., Chief of Staff; John Plahovinsak of Cincinnati, Legislative Chairman; Frank Williams of S. Vienna, Assistant Legislative Chairman; Terry Sayers of Youngstown, Photographer.

## REMINDER TO CHAPTERS

Chapter Officer Reports must be completed and returned within 10 days after installation in compliance with Art. 8, Sec. 8.3, Art. 9, Sec. 9.2 and Art. 10, Sec. 10.2, of the DAV National Bylaws.

A copy must go to: 1) DAV National Headquarters, PO Box 145550, Cincinnati, OH 45250-5550 2) DAV Department Headquarters, PO Box 15099, Columbus, OH 43215-0099 3) DAV National Service Office, VARO, 1240 E. Ninth St., Room 1017-B, Cleveland, OH 44199-2002

## ADJUTANT'S SELECTION PROCESS

Administrative Officer (Adjutant), a Full-Time position in Columbus, Ohio, administering a state division of a legacy veteran's organization. Works reporting to an elected state commander and staff. Responsible for office management and oversight of 8 part-time employees in the field and with day to day contact with 78 in state locations. Responsible for timely accurate reports to the national organization and governmental bodies and for communications with the membership and federal health care centers. Oversight of required training of both employees and volunteers across the state. Candidate must submit a full resume evidencing a record of progressive administrative abilities with a salary history. Candidate must possess a full range of office IT skills. Candidate must be a Veterans of the US Armed Services, qualified to join this organization, with an honorable discharge evidence by a certified DD 214, with three professional references attached. Salary \$45 to \$65 K with paid vacation. Regular overnight travel in state with two weeks out of state required. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. No phone calls until contacted by this organization.

Submit a completed packet NLT by **August 10, 2017** to Search Committee, PO Box 15099, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

## DEPARTMENT'S LIASION WITH THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

"Veterans' legislation that is passed in Washington, DC impacts veterans in Ohio the same as veterans in the Virgin Islands," explained Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett's Field Representative Cletis Clendinen. Ohio Department's 2nd Vice-Commander John Plahovinsak met recently with Representative Clendinen at his St. Thomas Virgin Islands Office to discuss the DAV's Critical Policy Goals for 2017.

Although the Ohio DAV Team had briefed the Congressional Offices of Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Marianas during the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C., it was not able to brief the Territory of the Virgin Islands concerning the DAV's Critical Policy Goals for 2017. This was corrected and now Congresswoman Plaskett's Office is now fully aware of the policy issues, as well as the mission of the DAV.

After discussing the Legislative Issues with Representative Clendinen, Plahovinsak provided updates of the tailoring of the new CHOICE Program, the DAV's Caregivers' Initiative, the Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblowers Protection Act (H.R. 1259) and the Modernization Appeal Act (H.R. 2288). He also provided a copy of the 2017 Independent Budget (Veterans Agenda for the 115th Congress) to Representative Clendinen for his review.

"The Virgin Islands has unique problems similar to American Samoa and Guam," said Representative Clendinen, "but all our veterans share similar problems with the CHOICE Program and the existing Caregivers Programs."

Representative Clendinen expressed that he would certainly welcome a DAV presence in the Virgin Islands in the future to assist veterans. He will work with the Department of Ohio in February for the 2018 DAV Mid-Winter Conference to ensure that the Ohio Team will meet with Congresswoman Plaskett's Office to discuss the DAV's Critical Policy Goals for 2018.



## MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE



National Service Officer (NSO) Michael Shaw (left) reviews sign-in sheet with Chapter #63 Senior Advisor Ray Hutchinson (seated) while Chapter Senior Vice Commander Gary Lytle and NSO Matt Hicks observe at the DAV Mobile Service Office visitation conducted June 13th at the Golden Corral in Clermont County. Sixteen (16) veterans filed their VA paperwork with the NSOs during the visitation and two (2) new life Members were signed up that day. Chapter Adjutant Doug Fife sent out over 75 postcards to veterans in the Clermont County area a week before the event.

## **VA VACANT BUILDING DISPOSAL PLAN TO AID DISABLED VETERANS**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched a plan on June 20, 2017, to dispose of all vacant VA buildings within the next 24 months. This disposal will be by either demolishing or re-using the vacant buildings.

“VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin noted that this was one of his top priorities at the DAV Mid-Winter Conference,” said DAV State Hospital Chairman (PDC) Raymond Hutchinson. “This will certainly have a positive effect for our taxpayers.”

PDC Hutchinson indicated that the VA currently has 430 vacant or mostly vacant buildings throughout the United States that are more than 60 years old and cost taxpayers more than \$7 million dollars a year.

“About 100 of the vacant buildings date back to the Revolutionary War or Civil War period,” explained Hutchinson. “The \$7 million in savings for not providing maintenance could be then directed to helping disabled veterans throughout the United States.”

Of the total of 430 vacant buildings, the VA has already begun disposal or re-use processes on 71 structures. The VA will initiate work on another 71 buildings in the next 6 months and initiate plans to dispose of the final 288 vacant buildings within 24 months.

VA Secretary Shulkin also indicated that the VA will review another 784 non-vacant, but underutilized buildings to determine if additional efficiencies can be identified to be re-invested in disabled veterans’ services.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), according to Dr. Shulkin, was freezing its footprint and will maximize space management by leasing or eliminating office space nationwide. They have been able to accomplish this by implementing an advanced telework program and the digitization of claim files. The VA estimates that these actions will save taxpayers an additional \$15.7 million annually beginning in 2017.

“I think that the VA owes it to the disabled veterans to apply as much of the VA’s funding to helping disabled veterans,” said PDC Hutchison, “and the \$7 million disposal of Vacant Buildings Program, coupled with the saving of \$15.7 million by the VBA, adds up to \$23 million in combined annual savings from these two initiatives.”

“Secretary Shulkin set high goals for his first year at our 2017 DAV Mid-Winter Conference,” concluded DAV State Hospital Chairman Ray Hutchinson, “and he is certainly accomplishing his key objectives. The ones that will certainly benefit are our disabled veterans, especially when these \$23 million savings are then funneled into veterans’ services.”

*John Plahovinsak*  
Senior Vice Commander

## **CAREGIVERS DESERVE BENEFIT EQUALITY**



DAV Members can lead the charge for caregivers of disabled veterans

DAV National Commander, Dave Riley, a quadruple amputee and Coast Guard veteran stands with his wife and caregiver of 20 years, Yvonne Riley. Imagine you have devoted your entire life to the care of a disabled veteran. You do it because you love and care about your veteran and you know their quality of life would suffer without you.

Now imagine another person who has also devoted their life to the care of a disabled veteran, but this caregiver is provided with a comprehensive array of supports and benefits to help ease the physical and emotional strains of caregiving.

What if the only difference between you and this other caregiver is the period of service in which the disabled veteran served? Is that fair?

Unfortunately, this scenario is reality for the caregivers of those veterans severely injured prior to September 11, 2001—an inequity of benefits based solely on an arbitrary date.

Our membership—America’s disabled veterans—are active and leading voices on veteran’s issues across the country and we need to stand up and be vocal about the inequities endured by our pre-9/11 caregivers.

Caregivers like Yvonne Riley, who has devoted 20 years of her life to our DAV National Commander, Dave Riley. Without Yvonne, Commander Riley will tell you he could literally not get out of bed in the morning, and his quality of life would be considerably lower. Yet for the past two decades, she has served and sacrificed without the kind of support or assistance available to current generations of veterans.

There are more than 5.5 million caregivers caring for seriously injured or ill veterans and service members, but more than 80 percent are ineligible for comprehensive caregiver benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs because the veteran was injured prior to 9/11.


What makes this injustice even more unpalatable is that it is more cost effective to support family caregivers—roughly \$40,000 per year—than to put the veteran into a nursing home to receive care—between \$45,000 in a state veterans home to over \$300,000 in a private facility.

Together, we can take a stand for the veterans and their caregivers left out because of an arbitrary date. Go to [DAV.org](http://DAV.org) and sign the petition today to help right this inequity and ensure caregivers like Yvonne Riley are given the recognition and support they have earned and deserve.

BY *James W. Killen*  
posted on JUNE 22, 2017

### **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AND THE ORIGIN OF FORGET-ME NOT DAY**

Forget-Me-Not Day harkens back to World War I and the wounded returning service members who continued to require care long after the war was over. Many of the 204,002 wounded veterans required post-war treatment and support from a government that was unprepared for the overwhelming number of needy veterans. Additionally, very few services and organizations existed to provide the attention and sustenance required. Cincinnati Superior Court Judge Robert Marx, a U.S. Army Captain and World War I veteran who had been injured in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, conceived the Disabled American Veterans of the World War (DAVWW) at a Christmas party in 1920 and it was officially created on September 25, 1921 at its first National Caucus held in Hamilton County Memorial Hall in Cincinnati OH. The DAV was issued a federal charter on June 17, 1932.



**DAV Forget-Me-Not Day**

They didn't forget their duty...  
**Please don't forget them.**

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

Forget-Me-Not Day contributions help local disabled veterans.

DAV Chapter #89  
AUGUST 12, 2017  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

In the Meuse-Argonne Forest the last big decisive “push” of the World War was fought and won by the allies on which was to be later named Argonne Day, September 26th. On that date, thereafter the DAVWW enlisted the aid of the general public in waging the battle for justice still being fought by thousands of unfortunate disabled veterans who were denied government treatment and compensation because of deficiencies of the law or of the evidence submitted by them. Forget-Me-Nots were initially sold in every large town and city throughout the nation, to a grateful people who had not forgotten their wartime promises that nothing would be too good for the returned service members. The wearing of a Forget-Me-Not on Argonne Day, therefore, meant much more than the expression of a sentiment; it carried with it as well, the fact that the wearer was performing an unselfish service in assisting unfortunate and needy disabled veterans.

The first Forget-Me-Not Day was February 24, 1926. At the DAVWW Detroit Convention, July 31, 1929, Argonne Day, September 26 and Armistice Day, November 1 were designated as Forget-Me-Not Days with the understanding that units may conduct a drive on dates other than the above because of weather conditions or other local circumstances. In accordance with the custom established at the White House at the time of the Disabled Veterans of the World War's first annual appeal to the public through the medium of the Forget-Me-Not sale, President Calvin Coolidge, while at the summer White House, issued a proclamation calling upon the people of the U.S. to support the organizations' call for assistance in which he commended the DAVWW as one of the agencies which has given the government needed assistance by assisting in every possible way in alleviating the sufferings of those veterans of the recent conflict for whom the war still endures. It is our Forget-Me-Not sale that says to everyone throughout the year “Remember Me.”

*Mark Sestina*  
Treasurer, Fayette County Ch. #89

## **PASSED RESOLUTION ON CAREGIVERS INTERVENTION**

“The resolution passed at the Department of Ohio’s Spring Convention about research and a uniform intervention program for military caregivers certainly corresponds to the DAV 2017 Critical Policy Issues,” said 2nd Junior Vice Commander David Weeks.

“The military caregivers issue surfaced at the 2017 DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. and I’m glad that the Department of Ohio took the lead and submitted a positive resolution for this research and intervention training,” noted 2nd Junior Vice Commander Weeks.

There are 5.5 million military caregivers who provide critical support to disabled veterans. Veterans are very vulnerable following VA hospital discharge especially when they are tasked with complicated self-care medical procedures.

The National Academies of Medical Report, which was sponsored by the VA, documented that military caregivers are often marginalized in the delivery of health care and subsequent long-term support services (LTSS). The failure to include military caregivers in the hospital discharge process places veterans at risk when their caregivers are unprepared to take on new caregiving tasks related to hospital discharge.

“Our research on this issue indicated that there are no interventions developed to support the roles of military caregivers in post-discharge care,” explained Weeks, “and there is a lack of understanding of what type of knowledge and skills training military caregivers need to serve as members of the post-discharge care team.”

While the National Academies of Medical Report recommended that the VA take an active role in the development of mechanisms to support the essential role of caregivers and to fund research and interventions that directly addresses the needs of military caregiving families, no action has been taken to implement this recommendation.

“This lack of implementation of the recommendation is why the Department of Ohio passed a resolution for consideration at the 2017 DAV Convention,” detailed Weeks. “This resolution was initially introduced by PDC Ray Hutchinson, from Chapter #63 (Clermont County), and then endorsed by District One at their Spring meeting. It was subsequently endorsed by Districts Two, Seven and Nine at their Spring meetings.

This resolution recommends that the VA support the essential role of caregivers and to fund research into the development of interventions that directly addresses the needs of the military caregiving families. It also recommends that the VA researches and develops a uniform discharge intervention program that provides veterans and their caregiving partners with the knowledge and vital skills needed to maximize their roles as active members of the health care team.

“The DAV Department of Ohio has always been working for the betterment of our disabled veterans,” concluded Weeks, “and this resolution directly corresponds to the DAV 2017 Critical Policy Issues and also addresses a dire need for our caregiver families.”

*John Plahovinsak*  
Senior Vice Commander

