



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio
35 E. Chestnut St., PO Box 15099, Columbus, OH 43215-0099 Phone (614) 221-3582 FAX (614) 221-4822
E-mail: ohiodavadjutant@ameritech.net
Website: www.ohiodav.org June, 2014

FROM THE DESK OF DENNY HANNEMAN

May was a very busy month!

Darlene and I traveled to Warren, Ohio for installation of Chapter #11 officers. Thank you to Chapter #11 for their hospitality and great lunch. We next visited Cleveland V.A. Medical Center on May 15. As with all the V.A. Medical Centers I visited in Ohio, the personal touch, the dedication to the Veterans, the volunteers, the staff, all were top notch. While at the Cleveland V.A. Medical Center, Your DAV Department of Ohio, local Chapters and other donors, presented a check of \$24,918.00 to the Greater Cleveland Fisher House. We also toured the V.A. Regional Office. N.S.O. Jack Burlingame gave us a good fast paced tour.

Armed Forces Day luncheon in Columbus was well attended. It was a fine program for all people that were there. Having the opportunity of throwing "a Pitch" in Cleveland Stadium was awesome.

I hope all Chapters took part in Memorial Day services. It is a duty for all of us living Veterans, to honor and remember our deceased Veterans. We must always remember to honor those who have died while in service. Our goal at this Department Convention is to have each Chapter be represented with at least one member. Local Chapters, you need to make this happen.

What an amazing year this has been. It has been a privilege, and an honor, to serve the Department of Ohio Disabled American Veterans, as your State Commander. My personal thank you goes out to each and every Veteran and their families, Chapters, Districts, Line Officers, Executive Committee and especially the Office staff. I am not going anywhere. I will be around to help anyone at any time to keep our DAV of Ohio active and strong. I will see you at the Summer Convention June 26 -29 at the Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.

D.A.V. Team Ohio

Dennis Hanneman
Department Commander of Ohio, DAV

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
Dayton HSC, Leland Sink & Bill Millett	(937) 268-6511 Ext. 2962
Wade Park HSC, Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800 Ext. 3395
Chillicothe HSC	(740) 773-1141 Ext. 7916

Columbus Clinic, Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
Parma Clinic, Richard Healy	(216) 739-7000 Ext. 2405

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 7-8, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Wal-Mart, Van Wert, Ohio.
June 20, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Ross County Chapter #18, Wal-Mart & Sav-A-Lot, Chillicothe, Ohio.
June 28, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Wayne County Chapter #44, Rural King of Ohio, Wooster, Ohio.
June 26-29, 2014	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
July 7, 2014	Mobile Service Office, Dovel Myers Chapter #141, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 108 Liberty Ave., Gallipolis, Ohio.
July 8, 2014	Mobile Service Office, Conrath-Bean Chapter #37, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 355 E. State St., Athens, Ohio.
July 9, 2014	Mobile Service Office, Adams County Chapter #71, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 3389 Cross Rd., Winchester, Ohio.
July 10, 2014	Mobile Service Office, Lloyd C. Ludwick Chapter #123, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 575 Harry Sauner Rd., Hillsboro, Ohio.
July 11, 2014	Mobile Service Office, Northern Hills Chapter #115, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 8750 Colerain Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
July 14, 2014	Mobile Service Office, Bob Swanson Chapter #39, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1230 Lake Ave., Ashtabula, Ohio.
July 15, 2014	Mobile Service Office, John W. Covert Chapter #47, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 718 Broadway, E. Liverpool, Ohio.
July 16, 2014	Mobile Service Office, Massillon Chapter #38, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 821 Erie St., South, Massillon, Ohio.
July 17, 2014	Mobile Service Office, Montfaucon Chapter #27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 2802 Airport Highway, Toledo, Ohio.
July 18, 2014	Mobile Service Office, Louis Paul Proy Chapter #20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 205 W. 20 th Street, Lorain, Ohio.
August 5-6, 2014	Forget-Me-Not Drive, Champaign County Chapter #31, Champaign County Fair, Urbana, Ohio.
August 9-14, 2014	National Convention, Ballys, Las Vegas, NV
August 23, 2014	Forget-Me-Not Drive, Auglaize County Chapter #73, Wapakoneta Wal-Mart, Wapakoneta Community Market, Wapakoneta, Ohio.
September 21, 2014	6 th District Meeting, Lake County Chapter #42, Lunch at 1:00 p.m., meeting at 2 p.m., 8720 Twinbrook Rd., Mentor, Ohio.
October 10-12, 2014	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
February 22-24, 2015	Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA
June 18-21, 2015	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
August 8-11, 2015	National Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Denver, CO
October 16-18, 2015	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
June 23-26, 2016	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
October 14-16, 2016	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.

NOTES FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT WILL DAVIS

flag - N 1. Piece of cloth usually oblong or square used as a country's emblem - **Oxford American Dictionary**
 flag - N 1. It is a powerful symbol of hope for the veterans and their families. It represents everything from freedom to pride. It represents our nation and the many people who gave their lives for our country and our flag. - spoken by a veteran

Flag Day is June 14th. On this day Americans celebrate and show respect for our flag. It represents our unity as a nation...one nation under God and our independence. It also represents honor, justice and righteousness. Alvin Owsley a World War I veteran once stated, "That piece of red, white and blue bunting means five thousand years of struggle upwards. It is the full grown flower of ages of fighting for liberty. It is the century plant of human hope in bloom." I challenge each of you to pause for a moment on June 14 and think what the American flag means to you.

VA Allegations

By now we have all heard of the allegations of the potential wrongdoings by some Department of Veterans Affairs employees or management. "No one takes these allegations more seriously than DAV," states Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. The DAV is concerned about the health and safety of the veterans that come to the VA for their health care needs. The DAV believes that the VA provides high-quality health care for the veterans and they have the right to receive care in a timely manner. National Commander Joe Johnston states in a memo, "VA and its leadership at all levels must be held fully accountable for any failures or wrongdoing that may have occurred or be occurring. Both VA and Congress have a sacred obligation to ensure that the VA health care system and all VA programs are operating properly with sufficient resources necessary to fulfill our promises to the men and women who serve.

America's heroes deserve nothing less." Visit <http://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2014/statement-garry-j-augustine/> for more comments on this subject.

DAV is committed to empowering our veterans. With budget cuts and DoD downsizing, more service members will be leaving active military and searching for job opportunities in civilian life. The DAV is establishing a new Employment Department. Through work with private and public sector entities, DAV will host career fairs and develop initiatives that connect veterans with jobs. This new initiative will serve the interests of our nation's heroes and connect them with the opportunities they need to enhance their quality of life.

Legislative Issues

H.R. 813, Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013 – Congress must repeal the current sequester law and approve H.R. 813 which would place all VA budget accounts under advance appropriation.

S.294, Ruth Moore Act – which relaxes the evidentiary burden-confirmed by a qualified mental health specialist-on a veteran who claims he or she experienced military sexual trauma.

S851 Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act 2013 – This bill would extend VA's Caregiver Program to all seriously injured veterans whose injuries were incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, regardless of era of service.

HR32 S734 Military Surviving Spouses Equity – To repeal certain provisions that require the offset of amounts paid in dependency and indemnity compensation from survivor benefit plan annuities for the surviving spouse of former military personnel who are entitled to military retired pay or who would be entitled to retired pay except for being under 60 years of age.

Iraq War Veterans

Ohio has paid veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars \$64.9 million since 2009. Bonuses have been awarded to 80,511 veterans and surviving family members. The deadline for Iraq War veterans is December 31. More information is available www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov

Any DAV member providing claims-related service to veterans, their families and survivors you should be aware of the following:

DO

Maintain sufficient knowledge to represent claimants effectively.
Act with diligence and promptness in representing veterans.

Protect the privacy of information provided by VA and/or the claimant.
Refuse any compensation that a claimant offers you, even if it is well-intentioned and presented in gratitude for a job well done.

Pursue any claim for which there is a "good-faith basis".

DON'T

Be untruthful with claimants or VA.

Delay in responding to VA requests or intentionally delay or sabotage a claimant's efforts to obtain benefits.

Disclose confidential data without the express permission of the claimant.
Charge unlawful fees to claimant (for DAV, that means that no fee is ever to be charged to a claimant).

Pursue any claim that is obviously fraudulent or frivolous.

Toxic Wounds

A toxic wound can be caused by a chemical/biological weapon attack or exposure to toxic chemicals in the environment that cause negative physiological effects in the human body. Examples include Agent Orange, smoke from oil field fires, depleted uranium or chemical and biological elements. Symptoms can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders and memory problems. The Department of Veterans Affairs refers to this disorder as "chronic multi-symptom illness" and "undiagnosed illnesses."

American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial

The dedication is scheduled for October 5, 2014 at 11 a.m. at the memorial site, 150 Washington Ave. S. W., Washington, D.C. "A dream is soon to be realized, presenting a place of honor to those sacrificing long after hanging up their uniforms." stated National Adjutant Marc Burgess. For more information call the office, 614-221-3582 or for hotel reservation and dedication tickets www.avdlm.org/dedication

Honor Flight

Mission-*Honor* our nation's senior veterans with a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit their war memorials at no cost to them; *Share* their stories for the benefit of future generations; *Celebrate* their homecoming, affirming their allegiance and service to our country. Their primary focus is to solicit applications from WWII veterans (service 1941-1946) but they are also accepting applications from Korean War veterans (service 6/27/50-1/31/55). Terminally ill veterans of any era, TLCs (Their Last Chance) goes to the top of the list. For more information visit: www.honorflightcolumbus.org or e-mail: HonorFlightColumbus1@gmail.com

Conventions

Hope to see everyone at Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio on June 26-29, 2014. The National Convention is scheduled for August 9, 2014 at Ballys in Las Vegas, NV. It is advised to make your travel plans and room reservations early. To make hotel reservations, call 800-634-3434. Make sure you to tell them you are attending the DAV National Convention.

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

NATIONAL ORDER OF TRENCH RATS

The National Order of Trench Rats Dugout 634 meets the last Friday of each month at 1:00 p.m., at the Golden Corral, 4394 Glen Este Withamsville Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45245 Phone number 513-943-3700. Submitted by Aaron Cunningham

DAV Statement Regarding Proposals To Address VA Health Care Access

June 3, 2014

By Joseph W. Johnston

Whenever a VA facility is unable to provide timely medical care to veterans, it must be VA's responsibility to find, arrange and coordinate care through non-VA providers; however that takes more than just giving a veteran a voucher or a card. To ensure the best health outcomes for veterans, VA must continue to be responsible for coordinating their care amongst various VA and non-VA providers and for maintaining a single, unified electronic health record. No purchased care program can fix VA's access problems without sufficient and dedicated funding, separate from the funding required to operate VA's hospitals and clinics.

VA already has the authority to purchase non-VA care for veterans from community providers and is currently calling all veterans on waiting lists to arrange for them to be seen immediately either within the VA system or by a private provider. Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Sloan Gibson said yesterday that "VA's first priority is to get all veterans off waiting lists and into clinics while we address the underlying issues that have been impeding veterans' access to healthcare." We support this initiative and urge VA to request, and Congress to immediately appropriate, any additional funding needed this year.

Ultimately, this crisis of access cannot be addressed without ensuring that VA has all the resources it needs to properly fulfill its mission. DAV and our Independent Budget partners have repeatedly told successive Administrations and Congresses that the VA health care system has been underfunded by at least \$15 billion over the past decade. With those missing resources, VA could have expanded its clinics and hospitals and hired more doctors and nurses to meet the growing demand for VA health care by veterans. While VA certainly must strengthen its management, hold people accountable and increase transparency, it is the growing resource gap that is most responsible for the access problems today.

The quality of VA health care is not in question; in terms of patient safety, prevention, and patient satisfaction, VA hospitals rank equal to or better than private hospitals. The VA health system offers unparalleled medical and scientific knowledge of the injuries and illnesses afflicting veterans—from spinal cord injury to PTSD to rare cancers linked to Agent Orange exposure. Unless we maintain a robust and fully-funded VA, even more veterans will find themselves unable to access quality care and treatment they need and have earned, especially those who require specialized services not unavailable in the private sector.

THE FREEDOM CENTER AT DAYTON VAMC

Ken Marcum, 2nd Jr. Vice Commander

The Freedom Center is honorable to welcome veterans and service members who have recently returned from serving in combat from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND).

The Freedom Center is committed to helping make service member's transition from active duty military status to civilian life as smooth and seamless as possible.

They would like everyone to be aware of the many services and benefits that are available now that combat veterans are returning. The VA provides combat veterans with free health care for conditions potentially related to their combat service for up to five years following separation from active duty. It is VHA policy that OEF, OIF and OND combat veterans, along with Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) veterans, transition smoothly from military treatment facilities to VHA facilities. OEF/OIF/OND veterans have the option to receive case management services.

The Freedom Center Post-Deployment Clinic staff will assist veterans in accessing available services at the Dayton VAMC. Services include: primary care, dental, medical specialties, mental health, and rehabilitative services; along with transition and readjustment counseling. Assistance is also available with filing claims, vocational rehabilitation and educational referrals.

Post-deployment services members often return home thinking, feeling and acting differently than when they deployed. Loved ones, family members, and friends often recognized these different behaviors, too. There are reasons you may feel, think and act the way you do now. The Freedom Center will address your concerns. Often they are about Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) chronic pain, family and marriage problems and substance use issues. Web site for more information www.dayton.va.gov or phone 937-268-6511.

BLUE STAR BANNERS

Ken Marcum, 2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Blue Star Banners are displayed by families who have a loved one serving in the armed forces, including the National Guard and Reserves of all military departments. The Blue Star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A banner can have up to five stars.

The Blue Star Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front lines.

For more information, contact the American Legion at 317-630-1253 or go to www.legion.org