



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

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June, 2015

FROM THE DESK OF WILLIAM CAINE

There is a time for every purpose. A time to begin and a time to end. My time as your State Leader draws to a close with the June Convention. The past year is but a Chapter in the Ohio DAV story which will continue. We can reflect on the milestones but almost immediately our focus shifts to what remains to be done and the unseen challenges that are just around the bend. There remain uncovered areas in Ohio where we have yet to expand our claims assistance. There remain for this department to fashion a comprehensive program for veterans, who are women. There remain for our chapters to be bolstered up; chapters who have through attrition, neglect or weariness of leadership teeter at the breaking point.

As I look over the leadership field of the elected Executive Committee I see a cadre of selfless, competent, dedicated individuals who are willing to take the offices you will call them to in an open and fair election. They serve preparing to take on the sacred trust of DAV Leadership. Beginning in April 2014 the officers hand in hand with the PDC's began to lay the groundwork for the next decade of excellence as we sought a candidate for the critical job of Department Adjutant. The appointed position is the Commanders right hand in administration and his senior advisor day in and day out to keeping the Ohio DAV on the right track. The culmination of these efforts resulted in me having the honor to appoint, with the concurrence of the Executive and Finance committees, Ken Marcum, who will be pivotal to the successes of the future teams of officers you elect.

Many persons pulled together to make for the successes of the past year. The Columbus Office Staff, singling out Sherry Williamson whom I never had to once ask to stay after hours to finish a task, she dug decades ago for the duration. The National Service Officers, who were with us as we upgraded our Department Service Officers, opened our Warren and Youngstown locations and who bettered the lives of veterans we encountered who would otherwise remain beaten down by the system. The Chapter Commanders and members who always responded to our calls for support at outreach events, the IX weekend in support of Fisher House Cleveland and all who pooled resources for hospital vans.

The DAV Ohio story goes on and I am blessed to remain a part of it.

William Caine
State 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 DSO, Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443	<i>Tuesday, Thursday</i>
Lisa Wilson		<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>
Dayton DSO, Bill Millett	(937) 268-6511	<i>Monday-Friday</i>
	Ext. 2962	
Wade Park DSO,	(216) 791-3800	<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>
Walter Dryja	Ext. 3395	
Chillicothe DSO,	(740) 773-1141	<i>Monday- Friday</i>
Darlene Maravilla	Ext. 7916	
Columbus Clinic DSO,	(614) 257-5487	<i>Monday- Friday</i>
Henry Snodgrass		
Parma Clinic DSO,	(216) 739-7000	<i>Monday-Thursday</i>
Richard Healy	Ext. 2405	
Warren VA Clinic DSO,	(330) 392-0311	<i>Wednesday, Thursday, Friday</i>
Paul Webber	Ext. 1443	

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 4-6, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Brooklyn-Parma Chapter #116, Giant Eagle, Brooklyn, Ohio.
June 13-14, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Van Wert Chapter #54, Wal-Mart, Van Wert, Ohio.
June 25-28, 2015	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
June 25, 2015	Trench Rats of Dugout 634 Meeting and Election, 6:00 p.m., Room 183, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
August 7-8, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Darke County Chapter #57, Eikenberrys South, Ace Hardware, Greentown LLC, Greentown LLC, Kroger, Marathon, Greenville, Ohio.
August 8-11, 2015	National Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Denver, CO
August 22, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Auglaize County Chapter #73, Wapakoneta Community Market and Walmart, Wapakoneta, Ohio.
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.
November 10, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Wayne County Chapter #44, Buehler Food Market, Orrville, Ohio.

NOTES FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT KENNETH MARCUM

We would like to congratulate our National Service Officers Jacob Drost and Paul Shook on their recent promotions. Jacob is the new Assistant Supervisor in the DAV Cleveland NSO Office and Paul will be a National Appeals Officer at the Board of Veterans Appeals' in Washington D.C. These two (2) gentlemen are dedicated to the purpose of the DAV.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day has just passed us. Many families participated in some sort of activity focusing on picnics, fried chicken, ballgames, joy and laughter. Many of us turned a more sober side and not forgot that a variety of public and private rituals and ceremonies that need to take place designed to keep our military heroes memories alive. This is how we prevent past experience, people, and moments in history from being forgotten. Every day it should be a call to remember and honor those who have given their lives in order that we who live on this earth can enjoy all of the aforementioned activities. So yes, let's have honor guards, marching bands, speakers, the flags in the air and on their graves, all reminding us of the cost of freedom each and every day, not just on holidays. Don't forget that somewhere today and every day, a mother will kneel by a graveside with tears running down her cheeks. For she still is mourning the loss of her child she lost on some foreign soil in a land thousands of miles away in a war on terror; the terror of taking away your freedom, your children's freedom...the list goes on and on. So go on remembering and embracing that freedom that you hold dear to your heart but keep in mind that somewhere someone has paid with their life for you to enjoy this and every day.

CAMP CORRAL

Most of us are aware of Golden Corral generosity to our chapters for fund raising but remember they have a free summer camp for military children with a priority given to wounded, disabled or fallen service members military families. The vision behind Camp Corral is one where kids, ages 8 to 15, are free to be kids, far away from the day-to-day challenges they face as children of military service members. The reality of a parent being deployed away from home for over a year is the norm for all children from military families. And for 75 percent of Camp Corral's campers, a parent coming back injured, disabled or never coming back is their reality.

Providing positive, recreational experiences in the outdoors helps foster resilience, and Camp Corral has proven to be a 'week of a lifetime,' providing kids non-stop fun with activities like canoeing, swimming, fishing, arts and crafts, ropes course challenge, archery, horseback riding, and other camp and outdoors activities. The week also encourages the campers to create friendships and bond with other kids who share similar family situations. Not only is Camp Corral important for military children, but it has also proven to be a gift for the camper parents, including veterans, active duty and reserve service members who have sacrificed so much to keep our nation safe and protect our personal freedoms that we hold so dear.

Camp Corral, headquartered in Raleigh, NC, works closely with some of the best camps around the United States to host each session. Each host camp has been carefully selected to provide your child with a caring, nurturing and safe environment – one in which each camper is valued. A Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC) is available on site at each camp. The host camps provide activities that are fun, new and challenging, and under the watchful eye of their highly trained staff. Camp Corral host camps are accredited by the American Camp Association, or operate under their standards.

Camp Corral is committed to increasing the number of children served by expanding our reach in communities around the country through meaningful camp experiences, always free of charge. For more information see www.campcorral.org.

Ford Partnership benefits Disabled American Veterans Chapters

DAV and longtime partner Ford Motor Co. worked together to raise funds for DAV in the weeks leading up to Veterans Day. Through Ford's fundraising test drive event program, Drive 4 UR Community, Ford made a donation to DAV for each person who test-drove a Ford vehicle. Since the program's inception, nearly \$3 million has been donated to community organizations nationwide. Additionally, DAV Chapters connected veterans with free services at these events. The event has been expanded; Chapters can call their local Ford Motor Co. dealership to see if they would sponsor an event.

TRENCH RATS

A meeting will be held of "Trench Rats" (NOTR) at the Convention June 25th, at 6:00 pm in Room 183.

Rotary River Day for Vets

Presented by the Rotary Club of Hilliard & Park National Bank

Events: **Wakeboarding, Wake surfing, Amputee Waterskiing, & Boat Rides (Life vests required to be worn)**

When: **Saturday, June 27 from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Where: **Scioto Boat Club on Griggs Reservoir, 3232 Indian Village Rd. Columbus, OH**

RSVP: **Kathy.prosser@edwardjones.com (Please let us know regarding mobility issues)**

More Info: **MFischer@parknationalbank.com, johnny.dawson@edwardjones.com**

Cost: **Free, plus lunch will be provided**

Parking: **The boat ramp lot on the east side of Griggs Reservoir. Participants will be shuttled to the Scioto Boat Club (SBC). Disabled/Amputee vets can park at the SBC**

KEEPING INFORMED VIA SOCIAL NETWORKING AND E-NEWS

SOCIAL NETWORKING

If you are able to use social networking platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter, consider joining groups pertaining to Veterans and Veterans' employment. For example, there are currently more than 250 Veteran-related groups on LinkedIn. All will not be appropriate for your company to join, of course, but some will be- if not for posting job descriptions, but for receiving and sharing information.

A few recommended social networking groups to join or follow include the following:

- America's Heroes at Work [LinkedIn](#) group
- The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and TBI [Twitter](#) feed
- National Resource Directory [Facebook](#) page

Additionally, nonprofits (such as Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and the Wounded Warrior Project) have their own social networking sites to support the employment of today's transitioning veterans.

E-NEWS

Staying connected to issues supporting the employment of Veterans transitioning Service Members is easy. The following are some suggestions for employers of all sizes and types:

- **Brainline**
<http://www.brainline.org>
Information on preventing, treating and living with traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- **The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCOE)**
<http://www.dcoe.mil>
Receive email updates regarding the promotion of resilience, recovery and reintegration of warriors and their families.
- **Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)**
<http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/>
This electronic newsletter aims to serve active duty military, their beneficiaries, and veterans with traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) through state-of-the-art clinical care, innovative clinical research initiatives and educational programs.
- **Deployment Health News**
<http://www.pdhealth.mil>
This electronic newsletter, offered as a public service, covers health issues related to military service, deployments, homeland security, and the current conflicts overseas.
- **Disability Business Technical Assistance Centers**
<http://www.adata.org>
Receive e-mail updates and newsletters pertaining to a specific region or area of the country. Simply choose your regional ADA center from the list presented.
- **National Center for PTSD**
<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/about/subscribe.asp>
Stay informed about the latest news and information on trauma and PTSD by signing up for a mailing list and the Research Quarterly newsletter.
- **U.S. Department of Labor elaws Advisor updates**
<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/subscribe.html>
DOL's elaws Advisors are interactive e-tools that guide you to specific information on DOL employment laws and regulations. You can stay up to date on these important compliance assistance tools by subscribing to receive elaws email Updates.
- **U.S. Department of Labor e-mails alerts**
<http://www.dol.gov/dol/email.htm>
The Labor Department offers a free electronic subscription service that allows citizens to receive notifications by e-mail alerting them to newly available information. Subscribers get updates on their items of interest automatically without

having to return to the website to check for changes.

RESOURCES ON RECRUITING, HIRING AND RETAINING VETERANS

PREPARING AND EDUCATING THE WORKPLACE

- A lesson in military cultural competence
<http://www.essentiallearning.net/student/content/sections/Lectora/MilitaryCultureCompetence/index.html>
- Top ten reasons to hire veterans and wounded warriors
<http://www.dol.gov/vets/ahaw/TopTen.htm>

Recruiting Veterans and Wounded Warriors

- **Army Career Alumni Program**
<http://www.acap.army.mil/>
- **Helmets to Hardhats**
<http://www.helmetstohardhats.org>
- Mentorships
 - American Corporate Partners
<http://www.acp-usa.org/>
 - The Mission Continues
<http://www.missioncontinues.org>
- **One-Stop Career Centers/ Local Veterans Employment Representatives**
<http://www.servicelocator.org>
- **Translating military experience into credentials**
 - Army
<https://www.cool.army.mil/>
 - Navy
<https://www.cool.navy.mil/>
- **Official Wounded Warrior Program (email / phone)**
 - Army: AW2careerprogram@conus.army.mil / 800.237.1336
 - Air Force: afwounded.warrior@randolph.af.mil / 800.581.9437
 - Coastguard & Navy: safeharbor@navy.mil / 877.746.8563
 - Marines: wrtransition@usmc.mil / 877.487.6299

Retaining Veterans

- **Accommodations and workplace productivity enhancements**
<http://askjan.org>
- **Apprenticeship - creating a flexible apprenticeship program for your business**
<http://www.doleta.gov/oa/>
- **Flexible Work Arrangements**
<http://www.dol.gov/odep/categories/workforce/fwas.htm>
- **Employer Success Stories (hiring wounded warriors)**
<http://www.dol.gov/vets/ahaw/success/>

Employment laws pertaining to Veterans and Veterans Hiring

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
<http://www.ada.gov>
- **Compliance Assistance on Hiring Veterans**
<http://www.dol.gov/compliance/topics/hiring-vets.htm>
- **Employment Law Guide: Laws, Regulations, and Technical Assistance Services**
<http://www.dol.gov/compliance/guide/index.htm>
- **Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) Advisor**
<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/userra/mainmenu.asp>

Other Important Resources to have at your fingertips

- **Childcare Assistance and Support**
<http://www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms>
- **Veterans Service Organizations (Directory)**
<http://www1.va.gov/vso/>

Specifically for the Federal Workforce

- **Computer/Electronic Technology Accommodations Program (CAP) for Federal Employers**
<http://cap.tricare.mil>
- **HR University - Veterans Appointing Authorities - Free, Online Workshop**
http://www.hru.gov/course_catalog.aspx
- **U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Government-wide Veterans Employment Website**
<http://www.fedshirevets.gov/>
- **Veterans Preference in Appointments**
<http://www.opm.gov/staffingPortal/Vetguide.asp#intro>

Retired Pay Restoration Act

On January 13, 2015, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL) introduced H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act. This bill would end the unfair policy of forcing many military longevity retirees to forfeit some of their retired pay in order to receive equal amounts of disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The effect of this policy means military retirees are paying for their own disability with their military retiree pay. This unfair policy has adversely impacted disabled veterans and their families for more than a century, but was partially repealed by congress in 2004.

Under current law disabled veterans with 20 plus years of active military service who are also in receipt of a VA disability determination of 50 percent or higher may retain both military retirement pay and their VA compensation.

In line with DAV resolution 014, H.R. 303 would end the longstanding and unfair practice of the government's withholding of military longevity retired pay in exchange for VA disability compensation, regardless of disability rating.

The DAV believes what is unfair for veterans rated 50 percent disabled or higher by the VA is equally unfair for a disabled veteran rated 40 percent disabled or lower. Disabled military longevity retirees should not be penalized by the government for any reason.

Currently H.R. 303 has bipartisan support. This legislation was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans Affairs for a period to be determined by the Speaker of the House.

Please use the prepared email, or draft your own message, to request that your Representative support this important bill and ask that it be brought to the floor for a vote and passed as soon as possible.

Thank you for all that you do for veterans and their families. All of us in the DAV family need your grassroots action to gain Congressional enactment on this important legislation.

Go to the link shown below to log in and send your message: <https://www.votervoice.net/link/target/dav/JQ3GqR7W8.asp>

Local Veterans Charity Launches Fundraising Effort for PTSD Awareness Month

CINCINNATI (May 22, 2015) – A local charity benefiting Veterans is launching a fundraising campaign as part of National PTSD Awareness Month. Throughout the month of June, the Cincinnati chapter of Guitars for Vets, together with Sam Ash Music Stores, will collect donations as part of its mission to provide free guitars and lessons to Veterans struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"It's restorative; it's healing," said Richard Hutchinson, coordinator for the Cincinnati chapter of Guitars for Vets. "There's a sense of harmony that comes from playing guitar. But it's more than just spending time learning an instrument; it's taking time to share life experiences."

Today, there may be as many as 400,000 service members living with "the invisible wounds of war," such as PTSD. But many are finding hope in an unlikely place: behind the wood and strings of an acoustic guitar. Weekly guitar lessons provided by volunteers at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center are designed to help students learn at their own pace. After completing 10 weeks of lessons, graduates are presented with their very own acoustic guitar. From there, weekly group sessions provide Veterans a communal atmosphere to talk and continue to play music with peers who have shared similar experiences.

Between June 1 and 30, the public is encouraged to donate to Guitars for Vets online or at Sam Ash Music Stores, 11805 Commons Drive in Springdale, Ohio. For \$1, names can be added to a donation wall of symbolic guitar picks at Sam Ash. The store will also collect used guitars and musical equipment. For larger monetary donations, the public is encouraged to gift securely online at www.guitarsforvets.org.

"We can always use more donors and volunteers to reach more Veterans," said Hutchinson.

For more information, contact the Guitars for Vets Cincinnati chapter coordinator, Richard Hutchinson at g4vcincinnati@hotmail.com or (513) 835-3496.

About Guitars for Vets

Guitars for Vets (G4V) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2007. G4V currently operates more than 40 chapters in 20 states with the assistance of over 150 volunteers nationwide. Over the past seven years, G4V has refined a guitar instruction program aimed at providing Veterans struggling with physical injuries, PTSD and other emotional distress a unique, supportive program. G4V pursues its mission to share the healing power of music by providing free guitar instruction, a new acoustic guitar and a guitar accessory kit in a structured program run by volunteers, primarily through the Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and community-based medical centers. For more information, visit www.guitarsforvets.org.

Deadline to Nominate Veterans for the OH Veterans Hall of Fame is June 30th

Honoring Veterans for their service to community following their military service



Columbus – Don't miss the chance to honor veterans who have served their communities following military service – the deadline for nominations for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2015 is June 30.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 1992 to recognize the achievements of veterans in community service after their military service ended. Charter members of the Hall's Class of 1993 included the six Ohio military veterans who were elected President of the United States and all Medal of Honor recipients from Ohio. Honorees include astronauts, government officials, police officers, community leaders, and veterans' advocates.

The Hall of Fame Executive Committee, made up of veterans, selects not more than 20 inductees annually. Men and women chosen for induction into the Hall come from all eras, all branches of service and all walks of life.

Please help us honor veterans who have served their communities following military service – the deadline for nominations for the Class of 2015 is June 30.

