



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

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio  
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Website: [www.ohiodav.org](http://www.ohiodav.org) March, 2014

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**FROM THE DESK OF DENNY HANNEMAN**

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 is our day that the DAV is to be heard in Washington D.C. National Commander Joe Johnston will address the Joint Session of the Veterans Affairs Committee on the "Hill." I know many of you have contacted or will contact your Representatives. You can do this by way of E-mail or a letter. Please keep our issues and concerns known to your Representatives.

March-Nominations for officers in your Local Chapters should be done and again in April prior to the election. Instillation may occur immediately in April but must be within thirty (30) days after the election. Forward the Chapter Officers Report with the Department of Ohio and National Headquarters within 10 days of Instillation. Encourage someone new to step up and take an office.

Greater Cleveland Fisher House  
What is it? Why is it important?

"One thing is missing at that huge and truly significant VA Medical Center in Cleveland. It has no Fisher House, placing a genuine hardship on the Veterans DAV serves in Northern Ohio, as well as the self-sacrificing families who stand at their sides as they receive treatment."

The southern half of the state already enjoys a Fisher House at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, one that was built with significant support from DAV members and chapters throughout the state. There is another Fisher House at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton. When a veteran is in the hospital, especially for a long stay, having family members near at hand can be crucial. So the DAV Department of Ohio wants every Ohio family to have the chance to stay in a Fisher House while their veteran receives care.

The facility will include 17 private rooms for family members with a common kitchen and living room area, all provided at no cost to veterans and families. We in Ohio must raise half the money needed for the new Fisher House - \$3.5 million – before the Fisher Foundation kicks in the remaining \$3.5 million needed for the complete job. We still have \$2.7 million to go, so we must act now.

To spur the kind of giving that built the Cincinnati Fisher House, the Department will match every dollar a DAV Member, Chapter or Auxiliary Unit gives, until it has matched \$10,000. Your Check should be made out to the DAV Department of Ohio and designated for "Fisher House," preferably on the memo line on the bottom left of your check.

The Testimonial Dinner for State Commander and State DAVA Commander is March 29, 2014 is fast approaching. It is to be held in Findlay, Ohio at the Findlay Inn. Please call Sherry Williamson at Department Headquarters for more information. Darlene and I hope to see you there.

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	(937) 268-6511 Ext. 2962
Dayton HSC,	(937) 268-6511
Patricia Alteslane	Ext. 2962
Wade Park HSC,	(216) 791-3800
Walter Dryja	Ext. 3395
Chillicothe HSC	(740) 773-1141
Larry Queen	Ext. 7916
Columbus Clinic,	(614) 257-5487
Henry Snodgrass	
Parma Clinic,	(216) 739-7000
Richard Healy	Ext. 2405

## DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1, 2014	DAV-USA Warriors Sled Ice Hockey Clinic, 9:45 a.m., OhioHealth Ice Haus (at Nationwide Arena), 200 W. Nationwide Blvd., Columbus, Ohio.
March 9, 2014	4 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, VFW 3360, at 2 p.m., 201 N. Clinton, Defiance, Ohio.
March 23, 2014	3 <sup>rd</sup> District Meeting, VFW Post 5713, at 2 p.m., 1118 West Logan Street, Celina, Ohio
March 29, 2014	DAV and DAVA Commander's Dennis Hanneman and Mary Lou Miller Testimonial Dinner, The Findlay Inn, Findlay, Ohio.
April 5, 2014	5 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, at 1 p.m., Norwalk, Ohio.
April 5, 2014	1 <sup>st</sup> District Meeting, Meeting to begin at noon, picnic to follow, Chapter #15, Veterans Park, 20 New London Road, Hamilton, Ohio.
April 5, 2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Meeting, Dayton VA Hospital Building 305, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dayton, Ohio.
April 5, 2014	8 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, 12 noon lunch, meeting at 1 p.m., Barnesville Chapter #121, Barnesville, Ohio.
April 6, 2014	6 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, Summit County Chapter #35, Akron, Ohio.
April 12, 2014	National Commander Joseph Johnston's Testimonial Dinner, Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio.
May 17, 2014	7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Run for the River, Lake County Chapter #42, Stage begins at 9:00 a.m. at Western Reserve Harley Davidson/Honda, 8567 Tyler Blvd., Mentor, Ohio.
May 18, 2014	7 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, Alliance Chapter #50, Meeting at 2 p.m., lunch to follow, Alliance, Ohio.
June 26-29, 2014	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
October 10-12, 2014	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
June 18-21, 2015	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
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

Thank you DAV/DAVA members for your cards and prayers during the passing of my mother. The red, white, and blue floral arrangement sent from the DAV was beautiful and the quilt from the DAVA was greatly appreciated. Thanks again from Judy and myself for your thoughtfulness and kindness during this time of our loss.

### **Mid-Winter Conference**

DAV National Commander Joe Johnston spoke to the Joint Session of Veterans Affairs Committee and highlighted the following topics, Advance Appropriations for all VA Programs, Service and Benefits; Comprehensive Support For

Caregivers of Veterans of all Eras; and Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. The DAV urges Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation that would extend advance appropriations to all remaining VA programs and services, Putting Veterans Funding First Act (S.932.H.R. 813).

### **Fisher House**

The Goal of the Greater Cleveland Fisher House Organization is to raise \$3,500,000 for the construction of a Fisher House that will be located on the grounds of the Louis Stokes VA Hospital in Cleveland. The Fisher House Foundation will provide \$3.5 million while the community through fund-raising events will provide the addition \$3.5 million. The Cleveland VA has a large post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and sexual trauma units for both women and men. All of the open-heart surgeries for veterans in the state of Ohio are performed here. They have a regional referral site for blind rehabilitation and have the only gambling addiction program in the VA. The Fisher Home would be a home where families of veterans could stay during treatment and pay nothing. For more information and details <http://greaterclevelandfisherhouse.org>

### **Women Veterans Health Care**

WVHC has developed an outreach toolkit to raise awareness of women Veterans' health care needs and the high-quality care VA provides. To find brochures, fact sheets, health campaign materials and video access the *Women's Health Outreach Toolkit*. <http://www.va.gov/womenvet/>

### **Hiring Vets**

Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio is hosting an event "EmployAbility Career and Internship Expo", on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. This event runs from 11:00-1:00 pm. For more information go to <http://www.wright.edu/events/employability-career-internship-fair>.

The top 10 corporation hiring veterans are: Pepsi, General Electric, Valero Energy, AmerisourceBergen, Caterpillar, Boeing, Amazon.com, Walgreens, State Farms Ins. Co. and General Motors.

### **Cost-of-living adjustment**

Disabled veterans, their survivors and low-income veterans receiving pensions saw a 1.5% increase in their 2014 COLA. It became effective January 1 after the Senate approved S.893.

### **Claims Backlog**

Department of Veterans Affairs officials say they want to end their massive benefits backlog for disabled veterans by next year, but it has stalled. Between March and November 2013, the VA made progress of 34 percent.

### **Veteran Burials**

As *Military Times* reports, in approving the Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act, the Senate is laying the groundwork for a system whereby federal officials may reconsider interment decisions when there is "clear and convincing evidence that a veteran was convicted of a capital crime, or committed a capital crime but was not convicted because they were not tried as a result of death or flight from prosecution." The bill is named for the victim of a shooting rampage perpetrated by Michael L. Anderson, an Army veteran who served in Afghanistan and was buried in 2012 at the Fort Custer National Cemetery. Anderson allegedly murdered Koehl, shot three others and then killed himself at an Indianapolis area apartment complex. "VA officials knew nothing of his alleged involvement in the shooting, if they had, there are procedures in the law that could have prevented the burial." according to *Military Times*. The new disinterment process would apply only to burials that occur after the bill becomes law, with one exception the bill would order Anderson's remains to be removed. It now awaits action in the House.

### **Elections of Chapter Officers**

The annual election of chapter officers shall be conducted as follows: Nominations shall be made from the floor during the March meeting and again immediately prior to the actual election during the April meeting. Chapter officers may be installed immediately after being elected or appointed at the April meeting. But, in any event, all elected or appointed chapter officers must be installed within thirty (30) days of their election or appointment. And, the officer's names shall be certified by filing the Chapter Officer Report to the Department and National Headquarters within ten (10) days following installation as required by Article 9, section 9.2, Paragraph 3 of the National By-Laws.

### **Testimonial**

National Commander Joseph Johnston's Testimonial Dinner is Saturday, April 12, 2014, held at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. For more information contact Sherry at 614-221-3582.

A reminder to all District Commanders, please send in the date and location of your District Meeting.

Don't let another month go by without signing up a new member.

Remember David Uetterling in your thoughts and prayers, wishing him a speedy recovery.

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



## Thomas K. Keller

Past Commander, DAV Department of Ohio  
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513-739-9464 [KellerCopy@aol.com](mailto:KellerCopy@aol.com)

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For More information please contact me at the address above and I will put you in touch with DAV's members of DAV's National Legislative Staff. Thank You, Tom Keller



### **DAV Officers Ask Speaker Boehner for Floor Vote**

The need for rapid movement of a bipartisan bill veterans' bill to the floor of the House for a vote was the subject of a visit by four Ohio DAV officers with House Speaker John Boehner's Legislative Assistant Ashley M. Palmer, center.

Enjoying widespread support in the House and Senate, the Putting Veterans Funding First Act (H.R. 813) would fund all programs of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) a year in advance, providing efficiency in veterans services without increasing cost.

DAV officers from left are Ohio DAV Past Department Commander Thomas Keller, Ohio 1st Junior Vice Commander Phillip Alexander, Ohio 2nd Junior Vice Commander Kenneth Marcum, and Cleveland DAV National Service Officer Steve Strodbeck.

## **SEN. BROWN MEETS WITH DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS STATE COMMANDER OF OHIO; CALLS FOR END TO DISABILITY CLAIMS BACKLOG**



WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) met with the state commander and leadership of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Ohio to discuss continued efforts to address the more than 389,000 disability claims pending with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The DAV is a national veteran’s service organization led by National Commander Joseph W. Johnston, a Clermont County resident.

“The Disabled American Veterans serve as a strong voice for our nation’s veterans,” Brown said. “Whether it’s through job training programs or helping fellow veterans with VA claims, the DAV serves as an essential service organization dedicated to helping veterans transition back to civilian life. As we continue to drawdown from a decade at war, I look forward to working with the DAV to serve those who have served us.”

At today’s meeting, Brown was also joined by Will Davis, State Adjutant of the DAV Department of Ohio, Mike Stith, Past Commander, David Bilinovich, Executive Committee, Bob Gross, Sergeant at Arms, Steven Strodbeck, Assistant Supervisor, and Leo Connelly. The DAV has more than 28,000 members in Ohio and more than 1.2 million members nationally.

In November 2013, Brown announced that key provisions of his *Veterans Services Outreach (VSO) Act* passed the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. The Act would require the VA to notify veterans filing claims electronically that they can receive help and important time-saving information that could significantly reduce

their wait time. In August, Brown announced that he would also work to pass the *Claims Processing Improvement Act of 2013*, legislation that would hold the VA accountable by requiring it to publically report information on both its projected monthly goals and actual production so that Congress and the public knows if the VA is working toward eliminating its backlog. The bill would also establish a task force to hire and train claims processors, and develop tactics to attack and eliminate the backlog.

In December 2013, Brown announced his support for a bipartisan plan that provides additional resources to veterans in need of transitional housing programs, improves homeless prevention programs and expands existing programs to help get veterans off the street and into safe, stable housing.

The *Homeless Veterans Prevention Act* would improve prevention programs and increase the availability of transitional housing for female veterans. Specifically, the legislation would:

- **Improve homelessness prevention programs** by allowing the VA to develop public-private partnerships focused on increasing the availability of legal services available to homeless veterans to help obtain proper identification, representation before the court system, and assistance with legal issues associated with housing and family law. A recent VA survey found that lack of legal services was one of the top four unmet needs among homeless veterans.
- **Increase transitional housing programs** by establishing strict standards for grantees to meet the needs of female veterans by providing gender-specific housing. The Act would also help keep families together by allowing dependents in to transitional programs.
- **Expand existing programs** by increasing the current eligibility for the Homeless Veterans Dental Program to include HUD-VASH participants and reauthorizes several current VA programs that fund drop-in centers, rapid re-housing and transitional programs, and employment assistance.

Brown, a senior member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, is the only Ohio Senator to serve a full term on the Committee and is Co-Chair of the Senate Air Force Caucus. He is also an original cosponsor of the VOW to Hire Heroes Law, which offers job retraining assistance to veterans between 35 and 60 years of age. Veterans in search of foreclosure assistance, help receiving medals, tax assistance, or other casework concerns may contact Sen. Brown's office at 1-888-896-6446.

#### **DAV SHIRTS**

The Department of Ohio, Disabled American Veterans can take orders for polo shirts with DAV embroidered on the shirt. Please contact Department Headquarters for details at (614) 221-3582 and speak to Sherry or Stephanie.