



**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](mailto:ohiodavadjutant@ameritech.net)  
Website: [www.ohiodav.org](http://www.ohiodav.org)

March, 2015

**FROM THE DESK OF WILLIAM CAINE**

Braving a stormy February weekend, Team DAV Ohio made it to Washington, DC to support our commander and brief members of congress on our legislative goals for the coming year. Once again the theme was “Keep the Promise” as we lobbied a series of bills on Women’s health care issues and enhancing the benefits and the scope of home caregiver support. While we are grateful that caregivers for veterans who served after September 11, 2001 are covered it now seems mean spirited to exclude caregivers of Vets from Vietnam, Korea and WW II. To include them in results in significant cost savings so that nursing homes can be avoided.

VA Secretary Robert McDonald spoke to the assembled members and auxiliary representatives. His watchwords for the VA are integrity, excellence and respect for veterans. He touted DVA as a true partner in our mutual mission of support for veterans. He was able to report that the claims backlog is shrinking, from 2013 to the present, 611,000 down to 255,000, but conceded they have much to do on the backlog of claims being appealed.

National Commander Ron Hope addressed a joint House and Senate panel on the work we do on behalf of veterans. We were encouraged to learn the increase for VA programs will be a whopping 7.6% for the year to come. It remains for the VA to use the funds efficiently. Our visit last year 2014 produced many gains for veterans as the VA will no longer be affected by any government shutdown. It can be said the checks are in the mail for pension, disability, education and vocational rehabilitation.

PDCs Herman Morton, Joseph Johnston and Joseph Lenhart were engaged in conducting the business of the DAV that weekend. PDCs Stith, Hanneman, Uetterling and Hutchinson were present for duty covering seminars and appointments for your Officers and NSOs all of whom made multiple visits to Capitol Hill.

On a personal note I am grateful for your rapid response in the last few days for our Cleveland Fisher House appeal. Now that we have applied Department matching funds, your check for \$9,200 will join the parade of checks at the Cleveland IX Center car show. The total from DAV Ohio exceeds \$61,000. Try to visit the show March 20-22 and stop by the DAV booth. Officers Dave Bilinovich and James Bailey will run the event. The booth has been greatly expanded, with a theme honoring the USMC complete with a recruiting station, equipment and vehicles. Again my thanks and the hope that members from downstate will never have to use this facility but you can rest assured we have performed a sacred obligation in sheltering families of hospitalized veterans in Cleveland.

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 DSO, Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
DSO Lisa Wilson	
Dayton DSO, Bill Millett	(937) 268-6511 Ext. 2962
Heather Hall	(937) 268-6511 Ext. 2965
Wade Park DSO,	(216) 791-3800
Walter Dryja	Ext. 3395
Chillicothe DSO,	(740) 773-1141
Darlene Maravilla	Ext. 7916
Columbus Clinic, DSO	(614) 257-5487
Henry Snodgrass	
Parma Clinic DSO,	(216) 739-7000
Richard Healy	Ext. 2405
Youngstown Clinic DSO,	(330) 646-9214
Paul Webber	

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

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
March 29-April 3, 2015	National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, Snowmass Village, Colorado
April 18, 2015	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Meeting, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Chapter 93, 51 E. First St., London, Ohio
April 18, 2015	5 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, 1 p.m., American Legion, 1544 US Highway 20, West Norwalk Ohio.
April 19, 2015	6 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, Brooklyn-Parma Chapter #116, 1 p.m. lunch and meeting to begin at 2 p.m., 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio.
April 25, 2015	8 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, 12 noon, Pioneer City Chapter #52, 835 DAV Road, Whipple, Ohio
April 26, 2015	4 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, 1 p.m. lunch and meeting at 2 p.m., AMVETS Post 1991, 1795 Spruce Street, Defiance, Ohio.
May 1-2, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, H.B. "Doc" Riley Chapter #51, Ironton, Ohio.
May 3, 2015	7 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, lunch at 1 p.m., meeting to begin at 2 p.m., Alliance Chapter #50, 9540 McCallum Ave., NE, Alliance, Ohio.
May 16, 2015	9 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, Lunch 12 noon, meeting 1 p.m., Meigs County Chapter #53, State Route 7, Cheshire, Ohio.
June 25-28, 2015	Department of Ohio Convention, 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
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**

"Salute" to all that made the trip to the Mid-Winter Conference despite the winter weather. Unfortunately, Judy and I were not able to attend due to a family medical issue. So thankful that all made it there and back home safe. I am looking forward to hearing all the reports from the conference.

#### **Chillicothe Medical Center**

The Chillicothe facility has reduced the number of patients on controlled substances and is below the VA's national average. The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) looked at the records of 88 patients for whom opioid prescriptions were written by Chief of Staff, Dr. Meesig and one other unidentified VA doctor. The OIG submitted a report and concluded that physicians did not improperly prescribe opioid medication to any veteran that they had not seen or

examined. OIG did find that physicians renewed opioid prescriptions for patients with whom they had no direct interaction. “This practice is not a violation of law or policy” the OIG stated. The Ohio law allows for exceptional circumstances that include providing cross-coverage of another doctor’s patients when the other doctor is not available. As a result of this inspection, the Chillicothe VA has instituted changes to ensure that patients who receive large quantities of opioid medications are regularly evaluated and assessed.

Who should consider looking into VA benefits or health care

- Veterans discharged or released under other than dishonorable condition
- A veteran laid off from work or employed with no health insurance
- A Vietnam Veteran who served in country and now has type 2 Diabetes, heart conditions, certain cancers, respiratory conditions or a number of other related presumptive conditions
- A Gulf Era War Veteran suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome or other undiagnosed condition
- The spouse of a veteran who has passed away, but was receiving disability compensation from the VA
- A veteran or spouse living on a low income or is homeless

### **Women Veterans**

The number of female veterans enrolled in the VA system has more than doubled in the past decade. Women make up 16% of active National Guard and Reserve forces. There are 2.2 million female veterans in the country, 10% of the veteran population. VA Secretary Robert McDonald said “VA’s gender-specific health care is too limited in some areas, and too many of our facilities were designed without women veterans needs in mind. Too many women veterans are not aware of and don’t apply for the benefits and services they’ve earned.” For more information on women veterans benefits visit [www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp)

### **Honor and Remembrance**

Plans to build the National Desert Storm War Memorial are moving forward after President Obama signed legislation in December authorizing federal land to be set aside for construction in Washington. Visit [www.nationaldesertstormwrmemorial.org](http://www.nationaldesertstormwrmemorial.org) for more information.

### **Claims Progress**

The VA is processing disability claims shows a progress with a 28% drop from January 2014 to January 5, 2015. Although, dependency claims within the same time period increased by more than 12% and appeals increased by 8%.

### **Preventing Veteran Suicides**

It is reported that 22 veterans on an average commit suicide each day. *The Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act* of 2014-S.2300 was approved as part of the 2015 Defense Authorization Act (P.L.113-291). A related bill *The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act*, failed. It was reintroduced in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress on January 7. This bill would require the VA to create a website that provides vets a source for all of VA’s mental health service and conduct a student loan repayment program to recruit and retain VA physicians. It would also evaluate all its mental health and suicide prevention programs to find out what is and isn’t working and recommend improvements. It would also require the VA to establish a pilot program to assist transitioning troops with accessing VA mental health services.

### **Sergeant-At-Arms**

The Sergeant-at-Arms assists the Commander in preserving order during Chapter meetings. He/she is responsible for verifying the membership of those in attendance when required to do so by the nature of business (i.e., election of officers or delegates, private matters requiring the protection of personal rights). The Sergeant-at-Arms may be responsible for handling the physical arrangements of the meeting hall.

## **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.

*Please remember to call or e-mail the office with your District Meeting date.*

Bradley Cooper stated, "I had an appreciation for veterans before this. But what I definitely did not know is the toll that (military service) takes on the family."

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

## **1<sup>st</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER KENNETH MARCUM**

### **SENATE TO TAKE UP BILL AIMED AT REDUCING VETERANS' SUICIDE**

Washington - A bill aiming at reducing a suicide epidemic among military veterans appears headed for the president's desk.

It passed the House unanimously, and overwhelming approval is expected in the Senate.

The Senate is expected to take up a bill on 02/09/2015 named for Clay Hunt, a 26 year old veteran who killed himself in 2011. The bill is in response to suicides that on average claim the lives of 22 military veterans every day.

The measure, which passed the House last month, would require the Pentagon and Veterans Affairs Department to submit to independent reviews of their suicide prevention programs and make information on suicide prevention more easily available to veterans. It also would offer financial incentives to psychiatrists and other mental health professionals who agree to work for the VA and help military members as they transition from active duty to veteran status.

Senator Johnny Isakson, R-Georgia., chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said he expects overwhelming approval of the bill, which passed the House unanimously and has the support of major veterans groups. "When you have 8,000 veterans a year committing suicide, then you have a serious problem," Isakson said, noting that more veterans have died by suicide in recent years than have died in battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan. John Madigan, vice president of public policy at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said passage of the bill would be a major victory not just for veterans but for the larger fight against suicide. Veterans account for 1 out of every 5 suicides in the United States. The group has set a goal of reducing the nation's suicide rate by 20 percent by 2025, "and it is legislation like the Clay Hunt Act that will make it happen," Madigan said. Supporters of the bill were frustrated late last year when the measure was blocked by then-Senator Tom Coburn, R-Oklahoma. Coburn, who retired in January, said the bill duplicated existing programs. He also objected to the \$22 million price tag. Isakson said the latest version of the bill orders the Veterans Affairs Department to find money for suicide-prevention programs within its \$154 billion budget.

### **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

We go through many phases with our service connected disabilities. At first we may not need to change our vocation but as time progresses so may our conditions. I have worked with veterans that went through vocational rehabilitation and 10 years later need to go through it again due to physical or mental health changes that would no longer allow the current training to maintain suitable employment. I myself worked as an electrical engineer but needed to change when the physical demand became more than what I was able to tolerate and used Chapter 31 to get my Associate Degree in Social Work.

Veterans having a serious service-connected disability are afforded such services as vocational and personal counseling, education and training, financial aid, job assistance, and if needed, medical and dental treatment. The goal of this program is to help eligible disabled veterans get and keep lasting and suitable employment. Eligibility is based on the following:

- You must be awarded a monthly VA disability compensation payment. (In some cases, this requirement is waived.)
- You must have served on or after September 15, 1940 *and*
- Your service-connected disabilities must be rated at least a 20 percent by the VA, *and*

- You require services to overcome an employment handicap, *and*
- It has been less than 12 years since the VA notified you of your eligibility. The VA will pay for any training cost and special services you may require. While in training, the VA will also pay you a subsistence allowance. To apply for this benefit, complete VA Form 28-1900, Disabled Veterans' Application for Vocational Rehabilitation. You can also apply online at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>.

### **DAV JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP**

Earn up to \$20,000.00 to be used toward any accredited institution of higher learning, including universities, colleges, community colleges and vocational school.

The DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship, named after the late Secretary of Veterans Affairs and former DAV leader, provides scholarships to volunteers age 21 or younger who have volunteered a minimum of 100 hours through the DAV Voluntary Service Program or DAV's Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP). Eligible hours must have occurred in the previous calendar year and be credited to DAV. Nominations for this award may be submitted by the Voluntary Service Program Manager at a VA Medical Center, DAV Departments and Chapters, or students may complete a self-nomination form.

This is a great way to gain professional experience, complete high school or education requirements, possibly earn financial assistance toward higher education and make a positive change in the lives of our nation's heroes. If you have an interest in volunteering as a part of the DAV team, please contact the DAV Voluntary Services Department by emailing [vavs@dav.org](mailto:vavs@dav.org) or by calling toll-free at 877-426-2838.

### **WOMEN VETERAN PROGRAMS MANAGER**

*What is a Women Veterans Program Manager?* A Women Veterans Program Manager is a health care professional who serves as an advisor and advocate for women veterans. She is available to help women veterans access the VA services they need at every VA Medical Center across the nation. The Women Veterans Program Manager works with local VA Staff to plan and coordinate VA health care services for women veterans at VA Medical Centers and outpatient clinics.

*How can a Women Veterans Program Manager help me?* She will help you understand the VA system and coordinate all the services you may need.

*How can I reach a Women Veterans Program Manager?* Contact your local VA Medical Center and ask to speak with the Women Veterans Program Manager. -Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and click on "**Locations**" to find your nearest VA health care facility. -Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER DAVID BILINOVICH**

### **GREATER CLEVELAND FISHER HOUSE**

Summit Racing equipment is once again sponsoring the I-X Piston Powered Auto-Rama show at the Cleveland I-X Center. This year's theme will again have a military flavor to it as it will host a tribute to the Marine Corps to include its 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment Reserve unit. Last year the theme was the Army National Guard. Again, a lot of floor space is being provided to Veterans Service Organizations including the DAV. Our Department and several of our Chapters will help man a booth, all weekend, to both help raise money for the Greater Cleveland Fisher House project, as well as to explain our many DAV related community activities state-wide, including our hospital transportation program, to the public. Capital City Chapter #3 has agreed to provide a DAV van to display at our booth. This I-X Auto-Rama show is expected to draw nearly 50,000 attendees, many commercial vendors and all of the local news organizations.

As we did last year, DAV Department of Ohio has agreed to match any donations to the Greater Cleveland Fisher House that are received in Columbus prior to March 15<sup>th</sup>. Last year this match raised \$25,000 from our members, Chapters and Auxiliary Units. It is not too late to send your donation, designated for the Greater Fisher House, to us to add to the total national Fisher House Foundation plans to break ground later this year and begin construction.

This new Fisher House will assist the families of active duty or veterans with free living space and support during a medical crisis requiring prolonged treatment at the VAMC Cleveland, the Cleveland Clinic or the University Hospital. The Greater Cleveland Fisher House will be a 16,500 square foot home with 18 suites and both a common kitchen and living room. After construction the Home will be turned over to the VA to operate and maintain. This new Fisher House will join the two existing Fisher Houses in Cincinnati and Dayton to give Ohio military and veteran families much needed support.

Please be generous and help DAV Ohio to make the Greater Cleveland Fisher House a reality.

**CLEVELAND NSO OFFICE CHANGES**

Congratulations to Steven Strodbeck on being named the new Supervisor of the Cleveland NSO Office. Steven leads an office of nine National Service Officers, he also has responsibility for our Cincinnati contact office and for our Transition Service Officer at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Steven also serves as the Director of Service for the Department of Ohio. Steven is a member of Chapter 42 in Lake County. Congratulations, Steven.

David L. Bilinovich  
2nd Jr. Vice Commander

**DAV FAYETTE COUNTY CHAPTER 89  
FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED!**

By PDC David May

On behalf of Fayette County Chapter 89, it was an honor to present their generous Donation to Calvin Curry, Sr., Chief of Voluntary Services at Cleveland VA Medical Center for an outstanding Chapter/Unit Service Project, supporting VA VISN 10 (Ohio) disabled veterans attending DAV/VA National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (WSC) being held later this winter at Snowmass, CO.



The WSC is, one-of-a-kind-recreational therapy program, for our men and women who served. It enables our young active Military service members and our older disabled veterans using VA Health care to experience "Miracles on the Mountainside."

On the Mountainside, the real therapy is **TEAM WORK!** Many volunteers come back every year to help, and the participating veterans helping each other in accomplishing his/her WSC Goals.

Fayette County Chapter 89 members, please accept my sincere appreciation for supporting DAV Mission: "Fulfilling Our Promises To The Men and Women Who Served" and, your generosity to support the Cleveland VAMC (Ohio) WSC team by donating \$1,300.00.

This year we have 27 veterans on the WSC Team. Four vets from Dayton VA, four from Cincinnati VA and 19 from the Cleveland VA. Again, many thanks to DAV Fayette County Chapter 89 for their kindness in supporting Ohio disabled veterans.

# # #

If your chapter or unit is looking for a service project and would like to make a donation please make your checks payable to the Cleveland VAMC and in your check's memo area please mark "Winter Sports Clinic GPF #1132". Should you have any questions please contact State Adjutant Davis or Department's Assistant Hospital Chairman David May (330-806-9910).

