



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

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

March, 2017 Newsletter

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## **FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER DAVID BILINOVICH**

### **MARCH MADNESS**



March madness refers to more than just the NCAA basketball tournament. March is always a maddening month. While not Spring according to the almanac, it is the calendar quarter that begins Spring. Yet, we all know that weather this month can look and feel like the onset of Spring on one day and then on the very next day Winter weather can return with a fury. All of which complicates travel plans, visits and work schedules. March madness usually lives up to its moniker.

This March finds our delegation to the Commanders and Adjutants Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. finishing the lobbying of our Ohio elected representatives. There is a certain madness in dealing with the Capital City traffic, closed subway lines, unpredictable weather and the changing schedules of politicians. It would be even more maddening if it were not for the positive attitude and hard work of your Ohio delegation.

March is also maddening because it is when your Department has to start to finalize our June convention requirements with the hotel and guest speakers. Our Columbus office staff works hard to get the details right and to keep costs to a minimum. Yet despite their best efforts and creative ways to mitigate continually rising costs, each convention draws fewer members than the one before. This year's convention at the Marriott will cost in excess of \$30K, so please try to attend. Help stop this madness.

March can also be maddening for our Chapters, some of which come out of hibernation this month. Chapter nominations and endorsements become a priority. Also, letters will soon go out to every Chapter telling them how they were rated against the standard expected for a well-run Ohio Chapter. It was particularly maddening not to get responses back to our survey from many Chapters. So, many of those Chapters will probably be maddened by the appraisal letters that they will soon get. A sort of self-inflicted madness.

March madness, like the basketball tournament, can be both trying and fun. Participation and some luck are the keys to successfully dealing with it. You cannot always count on luck, but you can control your participation and effort. Together we can contain the madness and march forward to a successful month.

*David Bilinovich*  
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, Tom Kirstein</b>	(513) 475-6443
Tuesday, Thursday	
Lisa Wilson (513) 475-6443	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	
<b>Chillicothe DSO, Charles Knipp</b>	(740) 773-1141
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	
Ext. 7916	
<b>Dayton DSO, Nikki Cochran</b>	(937) 268-6511
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	
Ext. 2962	
<b>Wade Park DSO, Walter Dryja</b>	(216) 791-3800
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	
Ext. 3395	
<b>Columbus DSO, Henry Snodgrass</b>	(614) 257-5487
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	
<b>Parma DSO, Richard Healy</b>	(216) 739-7000
Monday-Thursday	
Ext. 2405	

## 2016-2017 STATE OFFICERS

State Commander:	David Bilinovich
Sr. Vice Commander:	James Bailey
1 <sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander:	John Parker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander:	John Plahovinsak
Executive Committee:	David Weeks
	Timothy Dibble
PDC (2015-2016):	Phillip Alexander

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2017	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
March 19, 2017	<i>District 3 Meeting</i> , VFW 8445, 712 N. Dixie Hwy, Wapakoneta, OH at 2 p.m.
March 26-31, 2017	National Disabled Veterans Winter Sport Clinic, Snowmass Village, CO. <a href="http://www.wintersportsclinic.org">www.wintersportsclinic.org</a>
April 1, 2017	<i>District 5 Meeting</i> , Huron County Ch. #62, 1544 US Highway 20 West, Norwalk, OH at 1 p.m.
April 2, 2017	<i>District 6 Meeting</i> , Brooklyn-Parma Ch. #116, Memorial Hall, Parma, OH Lunch at 1 p.m. & Meeting at 2 p.m.
April 8, 2017	<i>District 9 Meeting</i> , Dovel Myers Ch. #141, 108 Liberty St., Gallipolis, OH Lunch at 12 p.m. & Meeting at 1 p.m.
April 8, 2017	<i>District 10 Meeting</i> , Capital City Ch. #3, 280 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
April 15, 2017	<i>District 1 Meeting</i> , Northern Hills Ch. #115, 1500 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH. Meeting at 12 Noon and lunch to follow.
April 22, 2017	DAV & DAVA Commanders' Testimonial Dinner, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Wadsworth, Ohio at 6:00 p.m.
April 29, 2017	<i>District 2 Meeting</i> , Champaign County Ch. #31, 220 E. Court St., Urbana, OH 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
April 30, 2017	<i>District 4 Meeting</i> , American Legion, 500 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, OH. Meeting at 1 p.m., Lunch at 2 p.m.
April 30, 2017	<i>District 7 Meeting</i> , Alliance Ch. #50, 9540 McCallum Ave., Alliance, OH with Lunch at 12 noon & Meeting at 1 p.m.
April 30, 2017	<i>District 8 Meeting</i> , Bellaire Ch. #117, 3134 Guernsey St., Bellaire, OH with Lunch at 12 noon & Meeting at 1 p.m.
June 3-4, 2017	Forget-Me-Not, Van Wert Ch. #54, Walmart, 301 Town Center Blvd., Van Wert, OH.
June 22-25, 2017	96 <sup>th</sup> Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
July 29-Aug. 1, 2017	National Convention, New Orleans, LA.
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, Greentown LLC Marathon, Kroger, Marathon and Rural King 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
November 3-5, 2017	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, OH.
Feb. 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 North, Dublin, OH.

## DEPARTMENT OF OHIO MEMBERSHIP

As of *February 24, 2017* the Department Membership Report stands at 32,137 members. The Department is 98.62% of goal and 407 members below the yearly goal of 29,571. Total full life membership is 29,164.

## NOTES FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT KENNETH MARCUM

### WANT TO HELP VETERANS? GET TO KNOW THEM



The platoon mustered at zero-eight-hundred on a balmy Saturday, its members in shorts and standard-issue shirts, ready to be put to work. As they assembled next to the front gate, awaiting orders, a few rocked on the balls of their feet as if preparing for a morning march. Others puffed on menthol cigarettes or rubbed the sleep out of their eyes.

All of them were veterans of the Iraq or Afghanistan war — or both. They had gathered that morning, as they do once a month, not because they had been ordered. None were actively serving in the military. Instead of sleeping late or loafing around the house, they volunteered their labor, spending the next six hours sanding, stripping and painting the walls of a cash-strapped nonprofit organization in Orlando that trains developmentally disabled youth.

Sweaty mornings of community service are part of the veteran experience that civilian Americans rarely see. Stories of painting schools, building playgrounds or feeding the homeless don't attract the same attention as a mentally ill veteran who goes on a shooting rampage or one who has sustained life-altering injuries.

The press, politicians and even many veterans' advocacy groups tend to focus, with legitimate reason, on service members who have returned banged up or who are struggling in their new civilian lives. But this fails to convey the full measure of this generation of veterans. That wouldn't be a problem if Americans knew their military and understood these stories in context, with the knowledge of veterans who are thriving. But less than 1 percent of Americans have participated in our latest wars. Add their direct family members, and it is still only about 5 percent of the population.

With so few possessing a direct link to someone who has served, Americans often don't understand that most of our veterans are not damaged and that many have successfully navigated the transition to life after the military. Even those suffering from trauma or physical injuries can have an enormously positive impact in their communities. Our veterans can make — and are making — valuable contributions in business, government, education, health and community service. Our all-volunteer force has provided us with the best-trained military in the world. The reliance on volunteers, however, has led many other Americans to pay scant attention to the sacrifice and skill of our warriors. We let them protect us, while we go on with life as usual.

After World War II, even if your veteran neighbor wandered the street at night, agitated with shell shock, you knew that other veterans were going to be just fine. You knew this because you knew them — because your father, sons and brothers had served.

The post-9/11 years have brought us the longest period of sustained warfare in U.S. history. We have met this challenge with a small cadre of citizens who charged forth to serve so that the rest of us could go on with everyday life. We have asked so much of them and their families. The multiple, year-long deployments that many uncomplainingly fulfilled often amounted to more time on the battlefield than their parents faced in Vietnam or their grandparents confronted in World War II. And yet we have sacrificed so little in return.

It is unhealthy for a nation to become detached from those who secure it.

Our country will continue to send smaller numbers of men and women into harm's way for years to come, as extremists find haven in lawless parts of the Middle East and Africa, but the next phase of our wars is shifting home. More than 1.5 million post-9/11 veterans have already reentered civilian life. Another million will follow in the next few years, as enlistments end and budget cuts shrink our military.

This may seem like a large group, but it is modest compared with the World War II generation. As our elderly veterans pass away, our population will include far fewer Americans who have been to war. Upholding the commitments that the Obama and George W. Bush administrations have made to those who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan will require the support of many people who have never worn a uniform.

### **WOMEN BREAK THE LAST BARRIER ON THE BATTLEFIELD**

As far back as the Revolutionary War, women have served alongside the American Military working on the battlefield as nurses, cooks, water bearers, and laundresses. Some women on the battlefield went so far as to disguise themselves as men so they could serve as Soldiers in the Civil War. And as early as the Spanish-American War in 1898, female nurses served Army Hospitals in and outside the country as far away as The Philippines and Guam.

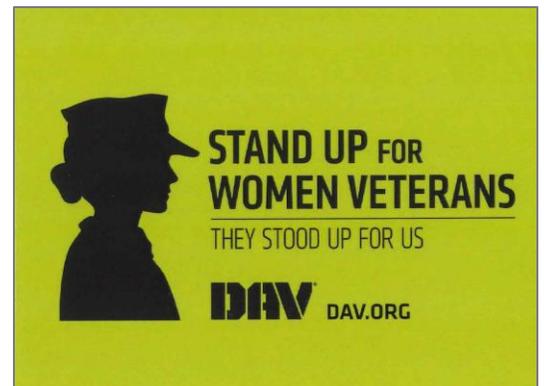
By the 1940's, as World War II raged, more than 400,000 American women were serving their country in nearly every non-combat job. Fifty years later, women were serving on combat ships and flying fighter jets, but continued to face barriers that kept them out of the running to serve in direct ground combat roles — that is, until this year.

Department of Defense Secretary Ash Carter recently announced that after experimenting with and studying the matter for the last three years, all jobs in every branch of the military would be open to women who meet the qualifications for these positions beginning this year.

The announcement is undoubtedly welcomed by women whom interviewed last year. Women are looking forward to pursuing military occupational specialties like 19D Cavalry Scout as one of the newest military occupational specialty (MOS) as soon as it opened to women. This MOS is referred to as the eyes and ears of the Army, responsible for reconnaissance work on the battlefield. Advising women who want to pursue combat positions to be fully aware of the physical and mental requirements of the job, she echoed some of the statements made by Secretary Carter, who said "...for a variety of reasons, equal opportunity likely will not mean equal participation by men and women in all specialties. There must be no quotas or perception thereof. The time has come for equal consideration when it comes to jobs, but not everyone is suited for a combat role.

"For the females who are physically strong and mentally capable, the Armed Services would encourage anybody anytime to go for it and keep pushing the boundaries," Carter stated, "It's only because women in the past have kept pushing and pushing for integration that now it is happening."

*Kenneth Marcum*  
State Adjutant



## DAV AND DAVA COMMANDER'S TESTIMONIAL DINNER

You are cordially invited to attend a Testimonial Dinner for DAV State Commander David Bilinovich and DAVA State Commander Carol Parker-Park.

The dinner will be held on **Saturday, April 22, 2017** at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites and The Galaxy Event Center, 231 Park Centre Drive, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281. A cash bar will be available beginning at 5:00 p.m. with dinner set at 6:00 p.m.

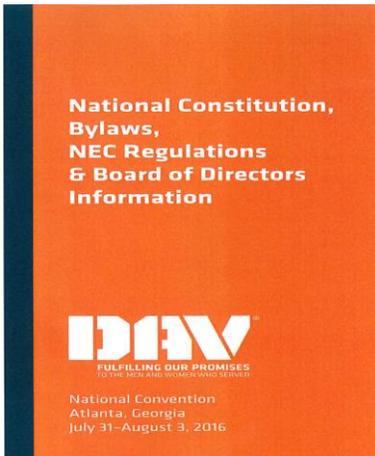
Rooms have been blocked for the dinner at the room rate of \$100.00 per room per night plus tax. If making reservations, please specify that you will be attending the Disabled American Veterans Testimonial Dinner to receive this room rate. You may contact the Holiday Inn Express & Suites at 330-334-7666.

The cost of the dinner is \$45.00 per person. Please send your check, made payable to **Sherry Bilinovich**, with the reservation form to:

Sherry Bilinovich  
Commander's Testimonial Dinner  
3523 Hastings Drive  
Medina, Ohio 44256-6208

Please contact Department Headquarters at 614-221-3582 if you need a dinner reservation form.

### FUNDRAISING TIPS



We get a lot of questions about just who can the Chapters donate to and the running of fundraisers. The District Commanders have been given the task to go over the Articles and Regulations that govern activities at their Spring District Meetings.

In order to have your own copy follow the below instructions:

Go to [www.DAV.org](http://www.DAV.org) and go to "Membership" and click on "Members Only" link. This will require you to login with your Membership Number. Once at this page, click "Quick Links" and then "Elected Officers Resources." The first option on this list will be "National Constitution and Bylaws." Or you can use the following link: <https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/2016ConstitutionBylaws.pdf>

The District Commanders have been asked to go over **Article 15- Sources of Income**, Sections 15.3 for Chapters, DAV Auxiliary and NOTR, Para. 1-13 (page 60-63) and **Regulation 5: Income from Fundraising**, a & b (pages 78-79). On the Department side, **Article V Finances** (page 117) of Department of Ohio Directory 2016-2017, which every chapter has been issued.

### DAYTON CHAPTER #9

DAV Dayton Chapter #9 and Rieck Services made a combined contribution of \$5,000 to the Dayton VA Medical Center Fisher House. *Pictured from left to right:* Major General (Retired) Mike Mushala; Glenn Costie, CEO/Director Dayton VA Medical Center; Tom Gunlock, Greener Pastures Foundation; Chris Stanley, Executive Director, Fisher/Nightingale Houses Inc.; David Weeks, Commander, DAV Chapter 9 Dayton; Robert Foster, DAV 2nd District Commander; Lee Sink, Senior Vice, Commander, DAV Chapter 9, Dayton; Betsy Striebel, Fisher House Mgr., Dayton VA Medical Center.

We will have the pleasure of having Ms. Striebel attend our DAV State Convention in June to inform us on how we can assist with the Dayton Fisher House.



*David Weeks*  
Executive Committeeman

## **CHAPTER #63 (CLERMONT COUNTY) PROVIDES BOOKS TO LIBRARIES**



In January of 2017, Chapter #63 (Clermont County) donated three (3) copies of the DAV book "The Lending of Courage, American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial" to the Clermont County Public Library system. This reference book details the creation of the Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C., which is dedicated to Disabled American Veterans.

Allison Lehman, Bethel Library Branch Manager, accepted the volumes from Comrades Reynolds Robertson and John Plahovinsak, both members of Chapter #63, during recent ceremonies conducted at the library.

"Comrade Robertson was instrumental in coordinating all facets of the book donation," explained Chapter Commander Plahovinsak, "and he was one of

the several members of Chapter #63 that attended the actual dedication of the Memorial in Washington, D.C."

"The donation of these books is just one of the many programs that our Chapter #63 utilizes to highlight the visible activities of the DAV in Clermont County," said Plahovinsak.

According to Ms. Lehman, the reference books will be cataloged and housed at the Bethel, Batavia and Union Township Libraries. "They certainly are a welcomed addition to our library system, and we certainly appreciate the efforts of Chapter #63 in making this donation a reality," said Branch Manager Lehman.

*John Plahovinsak*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander

## **BELLAIRE CHAPTER #117**

This picture was taken at Chapter 117 Bellaire with Officer Henry (Hank) S. Martin. Officer Martin is a member of Chapter 117 Bellaire, Ohio. Officer Martin is a kind, caring, respected and well liked. We go to bingo Saturday nights, Martin is at our Chapter and Officer Martin patrols around our building and stops in to check and make sure we are all okay. He makes the people at our bingo safe and secure. He also gives donations to our chapter. He not only does a great job for our DAV but does a great job for the community. He works in and has been a police officer in Mt. Pleasant, Scio Cadis and at the present Bellaire police department. Officer Martin owns and operates his own security company. He was a special investigator for the second Judicial Circuit, Public Defender Officer in October 1988-June 1989, provided security for presidential candidates Kerry and Edwards July 31, 2004. Martin received a medal of valor at the village of Scio. E-squad and citizens April 10, 2003, distinguished service award village of Scio April 10, 2003.



We have Veterans like Officer Martin in our DAV Chapters around the state and around the country. They volunteer to go the extra mile to help out the community or a fellow Veteran. They go above and beyond the call of duty. They put their lives in danger like they did in the combat servicing our country in the military.

If you need a person that has been tested and has serviced his or her country, and loves his or her country, a person you can count in time of need and hardship. You need a Veteran we have a lot of them in the DAV. The only reason we exist as a nation is because of our Veterans and those in the military that are still serving in our military and in harm's way.

When you go to a funeral and you see Veterans on the Honor Guard, Color Guard, and Firing Squad. You see Veterans on Flag raisings, parades and at the schools on Veterans Day, and helping at hospitals and at their chapter and posts across the country and our fellow Veterans. God Bless our Veterans, God Bless the DAV and God Bless America.

*James Bailey*  
Senior Vice Commander

**REAL HEROES: FOUR DIED SO OTHERS MIGHT LIVE**



The four chaplains – Four military chaplains were on board the World War II military transport ship S.S. Dorchester when it was sunk by a German torpedo on February 3, 1943. As the ship was going down, the men gave their life jackets to young soldiers who had none. So, when the life jackets ran out, the four chaplains removed their own, and handed them to soldiers who didn't have them.

More than 600 men died that night in the frigid seas, but some 230 were rescued. And some of the survivors, in official accounts given to the Army, and in interviews after the war, reported what they saw as the ship went down:

Those four chaplains, men of different faiths but believing in the same God, their arms linked, standing on the deck together in prayer.

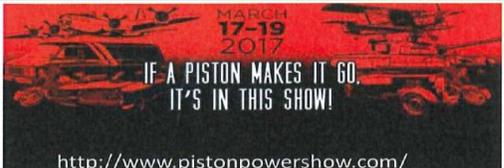
They had willingly given up their futures, their lives, to try to help the men who had been placed by the Army in their care.

They were Father John Washington, born in Newark, New Jersey, who was Catholic; the Rev. Clark Poling, born in Columbus, Ohio, who was ordained in the Reformed Church in America; Rabbi Alexander Goode, born in Brooklyn, New York, who was Jewish; and the Rev. George Fox, born in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, who was Methodist.

This year the National Ceremony for the Four Chaplains Memorial Service was held at the Dayton VA Protestant Chapel February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. Attending the ceremony Department Adjutant Ken Marcum, Exe Com/Ch#9 CDR David Weeks, 2<sup>nd</sup> District CDR Robert Foster, NOTR CDR Aaron Cunningham, VAVS Vince Dec, Ch#140 Jake Dailey and Ch#9 Lee Sink.

David Weeks  
Executive Committeeman





<http://www.pistonpowershow.com/>



**Join us and celebrate 100 years of women in the Military at the 2017 Summit Racing Equipment I-X Piston Powered Auto-Rama**

**Donations will benefit female Veterans at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and Outpatient Clinics!**  
For donations, a donor can make a check out to 'Cleveland VAMC'

**The Parade of Checks is scheduled for:**  
3:30PM Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>



**67,000 Women Veterans in Ohio!**

**Guest Speaker**  
**Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 10am**



**Rear Admiral June E. Ryan**  
Commander Ninth Coast Guard District U.S. Coast Guard. which includes 1,500 miles of international border. She leads 6,000 Coast Guard active duty

**\*Military discount with valid ID**  
Limit 6 tickets: At I-X Center Box Office ONLY!  
General Admission at the Show: \$15  
Kids 12 and Under: FREE  
\*Eligible member or spouse (but not both) may purchase up to 6 tickets, provided one is used by the purchasing member/spouse. Must show current, retired or dependent military ID to receive discount. Veterans must show DD214 or a VA Medical Card.

**Guest Speaker**  
**Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 3pm**



**Kristina Marie Jones, RN, BSN, MPH & TM; Women Health Program Manager, Introduce Women Health at the VA**



**Summit Racing Equipment I-X Piston Powered Auto-Rama**  
**Friday, March 17: 3PM – 10PM**  
**Saturday March 18: 10AM – 10PM**  
**Sunday, March 19: 10AM – 6PM**

The Summit Racing Equipment I-X Piston Powered Auto-Rama will be going "Forward to the Past" to celebrate and launch the next 50 years of the show in Cleveland.

