



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

May, 2016 Newsletter

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FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER PHILLIP ALEXANDER



Hello comrades, we have completed a very busy month. The State Officers have stepped up and made visits to almost all of our 10 Districts. Congratulations to our new Chapter Commanders and Officers elected and appointed. A special thanks to our Chapter members (Chapter members being the most important piece of the puzzle), without the Chapter members we would not be able to fulfill our mission. I am asking every chapter to send one special member for honorable mention every month. Let's spread some love, honor and recognition to our chapter members who are out in the trenches volunteering everything from mopping floors to suicide prevention, visiting the sick, calling our fellow Veteran brothers and sisters with a smile and hope for a better day. We are die hard brothers and sisters with one another in this organization and we serve a country we love and care for and always will.

Thank you for supporting our mission. This was evident at the testimonial dinner for Auxiliary Department Commander Judy Davis and myself. The turnout was outstanding and we had a great time. We appreciated and enjoyed ourselves tremendously. Thanks to my Senior Vice Commander David Bilinovich and all the line officers for everything. Also our Adjutant Ken Marcum who was unable to attend but was there in spirit, get well soon!

To all new Chapter Commanders, we are still pushing our membership participation along with some fun filled yet informative Chapter meetings. Remember we want our new members to come back. Don't be afraid to spread the word with a warm felt welcome. Spring brings cookouts after our chapter meetings, let's grill some dogs and burgers, the smell of smoke will draw VETs from miles around. New ideas are welcome and I am more than willing to hear, help and promote them to increase and bring back some of our members.

Travel is part of my passion and I love it. I enjoyed visiting Districts 6 and 8 this past month, both were great, warm and had that family atmosphere. As I secure my visits this upcoming month don't be surprised if you look up and see me. Upcoming visits are scheduled all over the state, hospitals, clinics, MSO Van stops, and Veteran's homes. Thanks to all of my fellow DAV members for all you have done to make the Ohio Department strong. Sometimes you don't hear this enough so thank you again from my heart.

BE OF SERVICE!

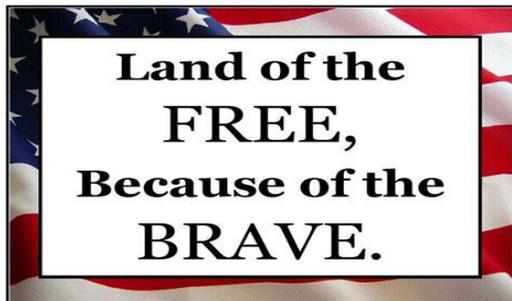
Phillip Alexander
State Commander



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

National Headquarters	(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, Leland Sink	(937) 268-6511
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	
Wade Park DSO, Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	
Chillicothe DSO, Darlene Maravilla	(740) 773-1141
<i>Monday-Friday</i>	
Columbus DSO, Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
<i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</i>	
Parma DSO, Richard Healy	(216) 739-7000
<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	
	Ext. 2405

MEMORIAL DAY



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1, 2016	District 4 Meeting, Ch. #77, 218 W. Main, Ottawa, OH Lunch at 1 p.m. and Meeting at 2 p.m.
May 1, 2016	District 7 Meeting, Ch. #50, 9540 McCallum Ave., Alliance, OH at 2:00 p.m.
May 7, 2016	District 1 Meeting, Ch. #1, 9000 Redding Rd., Cincinnati, OH at 12:00 p.m.
May 7, 2016	District 2 Meeting, Ch. #104, 1477 St. Rt. 503 SW, W. Alexandria, OH at 11:00 a.m.
May 20-21, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Ashland County Ch. #81, Perkins, Hawkins, Walmart, Buehlers, Goasis, Gerwigs White Barn.
May 27, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Ashland County Ch. #81, Perkins, Hawkins, Walmart, Buehlers, Goasis, Gerwigs White Barn.
May 28, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Clermont County Ch. #63, Kroger Market Place Store, 7580 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati, OH 11 a.m.- 4p.m.
May 28, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Clermont County Ch. #63, Kroger Store, 4530 Eastgate Blvd., Cincinnati, OH 11 a.m.- 4p.m.
May 28, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Clermont County Ch. #63, Kroger Market Place Store, 210 Sterling Run Blvd., Mt. Orab, OH 11 a.m.- 4p.m.
May 28, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Clermont County Ch. #63, Kroger Market Place Store, 262 West Main St., Amelia, OH 11 a.m.- 4p.m.
June 4-5, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Van Wert Ch. #54, Walmart Center, 301 Town Center Blvd., Van Wert, OH.
June 23-26, 2016	95 th Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
July 30-Aug. 2, 2016	National Convention, Atlanta, GA.
Aug. 12-13, 2016	Forget-Me-Not, Darke County Ch. #57, Marathon Gas, Eikenberrys South, Ace Hardware, Greentown LLC, Kroger, Walmart, 8 a.m.-5p.m.
September 24, 2016	District 5 Meeting, Ch. #20, 1319 W. Erie Ave., Lorain, OH@ 1 p.m.
November 4-6, 2016	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2017	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
June 22-25, 2017	96 th Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
July 29-Aug. 1, 2017	National Convention, New Orleans, LA.
Nov. 3-5, 2017	Fall Conference, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, OH.
February 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
June 21-24, 2018	97 th Department of Ohio Convention, Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, Ohio.
Nov. 2-4, 2018	Fall Conference. Columbus Marriott North, Dublin, OH.

NOTES FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT KENNETH MARCUM

THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY



Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, Memorial Day is a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union sailors and soldiers.

During that first national celebration, former Union General and sitting Ohio Congressman James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried there.

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

-James A. Garfield

May 30, 1968 Arlington National Cemetery

This event was inspired by local observances of the day that had taken place in several towns throughout America in the three years after the Civil War. In 1873, New York was the first state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday. By the late 1800's, many more cities and communities observed Memorial Day, and several states had declared it a legal holiday. After World War I, it became an occasion for honoring those who died in all of America's wars and was then more widely established as a national holiday throughout the United States.

When is Memorial Day?

In 1971, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and established that Memorial Day was to be celebrated on the last Monday of May. Several southern states, however, officially celebrate an additional, separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead, sometimes referred to as a Confederate Memorial Day: January 19 in Texas; third Monday in January in Arkansas; fourth Monday in April in Alabama and Mississippi; April 26 in Florida and Georgia; May 10 in North and South Carolina; last Monday in May in Virginia; and June 3 in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery each year with a ceremony in which a small American Flag is placed on each grave. Traditionally, the President or Vice President lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. About 5,000 people attend the ceremony annually.

**Each branch of the United States Military performed a unique role in the Vietnam War.
Each month our newsletter will list the main contributions during the war.**

THE U.S. AIR FORCE IN THE VIETNAM WAR

The United States Air Force provided tremendous and diverse contributions in Vietnam, beginning as advisors in the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group in the 1950's and ending with large bombing operations in the early 1970's.

Initially, the USAF helped train and equip the growing South Vietnamese Air Force, while also building up radar, reconnaissance, air control, and counterinsurgency capacities. After the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964, a major military buildup began and many new types of aircraft arrived in country. At this point in the war U.S. leadership emphasized restraint and gradual escalation, so the USAF mission was at first limited, even as forces grew.

During the second half of the 1960's, the USAF gained more flexibility and took on a more active role in the War. Operation Rolling Thunder, ordered by President Johnson in 1965, had two objectives: (1) to smash the North Vietnamese air defense system, industrial base, and supply network; and (2) to erode its support in the South. The campaign targeted rail lines, highways, bridges, and petroleum targets, as well as the supply lines running down the Ho Chi Minh trail to the South. China and the Soviet Union continued to help North Vietnam build up its supplies of anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles, eventually creating the strongest air-defense system then in existence. USAF losses in the campaign totaled 531 aircraft and 547 airmen. Increasing losses also meant increased numbers of prisoners of war falling into enemy hands. In total, some 800 men- most of the Air Force and Navy aviators- were taken captive by the North Vietnamese and their allies.

The USAF served in close air support operations with modern fighter-bombers like the F-4s and F-100s as well as older A-7 Sky raiders and the AC-47 Spooky, and B-52 bombers from Guam. This close air support proved crucial to the defense of the Marine base at Khe Sanh, which lay under siege for two and a half months during the Tet Offensive that began in January 1968. The effort also included a supply mission, an important but overlooked element of the war, since, along with aeromedical flights, Para-rescue, and air sea rescue, they proved essential to supporting and maintaining U.S. personnel and activities throughout the entire region. Between 1965 and 1973, the Military Airlift Command evacuated over 400,000 medical patients. To improve the military infrastructure that allowed all these operations, the Air Force also created new construction and engineering teams to construct, improve, and repair airfields, buildings, roads, and wells.

As Rolling Thunder ended and Vietnamization began in late 1968, the USAF continued its bombing campaign, including in southern Laos and Cambodia. As ground troops continued to pull out, air power began a greater offensive. During Operation Linebacker I, from May to October 1972, the USAF dropped over 150,000 tons of bombs over North Vietnam, concentrating mostly on transportation targets, airfields, power plants, and radio stations. The USAF also continued to develop a wider range of weapons suited to the conflict, including specialized bombs to penetrate or defoliate the jungle canopy, nonlethal gas bombs that could provide cover for air rescue missions, and a new arsenal of radar- and laser-guided bombs. These bombs felled several important bridges over the Red River, including the Paul Doumer Bridge, which was one of the longest bridges in Asia and the only bridge to link Hanoi and Haiphong- it was a logistically and symbolically important target that had withstood previous attacks.

In this late period, USAF was withdrawing personnel as the United States, South Vietnam, and North Vietnam were negotiating their way through peace talks. As talks dragged on, President Nixon ordered a second Linebacker operation and in late December 1972, B-52s struck Hanoi and Haiphong at night and A-7s and F-4s struck during the day. One hundred Airmen were shot down during this campaign and 35 lost their lives. The North Vietnamese, now defenseless, returned to negotiations and quickly concluded a settlement. American airpower therefore played a decisive role in ending the long conflict.

After the war, Air Force transports evacuated hundreds of prisoners of war and thousands of civilians from the region. During Operation Homecoming, in February and March 1973, 591 former POWs were transported to Clark Air

Base in the Philippines, where they received medical exams and treatment before resuming their trip back home. In 1975's Operation Babylift, one of the final actions of the U.S. military during the long conflict, Air Force transports and a fleet of chartered civilian aircraft evacuated civilians, many of them infants and children from orphanages in Saigon. Despite tragedies and difficulties during these last weeks, more than 50,000 civilians escaped by land or sea before the enemy reached Saigon.

Kenneth Marcum
State Adjutant

CHAPLAINS CORNER

1 CORINTHIANS 6:11-19

Changed Life- What a wonderful change in my life has been since Jesus came into my heart. As a loving and wise mother tenderly watches over her child, so the Holy Spirit cares for the children of God.

God Bless America, God Bless the DAV.

Robert Habern
Department Chaplain

WOMEN VETERANS PANEL DISCUSSION

On March 16, 2016, I attended the Women Veterans Panel Discussion at the Ohio History Connection as a Department of Ohio Executive Committeeman.

I coordinated my visit with Ms. Karen Kish, of the Ohio Department of Veterans Service (ODVS), who also served as the moderator of the panel discussion.

-Prior to the panel discussion, I discussed what the DAV felt were key women veteran issues with Regional Representative Matthew Keyes of Senator Sherrod Brown's staff.

I had copied the DAV issue paper utilized at the 2016 Mid-Winter Conference and presented the issue paper to Mr. Keyes. He indicated that after he reviewed the issue paper, he would submit it to "Anna" at the Washington DC Office.

The ninety (90) minute panel discussion focused around narratives from the following female veterans:

- Dottie Windau (Sandusky, Ohio) WWII vet (1944-1948) USN
- Mary Midos (Sandusky, Ohio) WWII vet (1943-1945) USN
- LTC Claudia Foss (Hebron, Ohio) Iraq/Afghanistan vet (1988-2009) USAF
- MAJ Angela Bailey (Zanesville, Ohio) Afghanistan vet (1990-present) ANG
- MAJ Nicole Ashcroft (Dublin, Ohio) Afghanistan vet (1997-present) AFNG
- SFC Kellie Feciuch (Canton, Ohio) Iraq/Afghanistan vet (1996-present) Army/ANG
- Mary Miller (Columbus, Ohio) Desert Storm vet (1985-1992)

-Following the panel discussion, a reception was held in their honor.

Following the panel discussion, I talked to the Director of ODVS Chip Tansill and presented him with the material concerning the 2014 DAV Report: **Women Veterans; The Long Journey Home**. He indicated that he would read the DAV Report.

Both Director Tansill and I had four (4) common areas of military service. (i.e. active duty enlisted tour of service, overseas tours, IG tours and AGR service) and we also discussed the Southern Ohio Veterans Home (in Georgetown), which I represented for the Department.

-Following the panel discussion, I also talked to several of the panel participants and also VFW Post Commander William Mirick who was selected as the 2015 Franklin County Volunteer of the Year for organizing VFW volunteers to visit Riverside Hospital every day to talk to veterans concerning their benefits. Commander Mirick served in the USN as a frogman during the Korean War for three (3) years.

John Plahovinsak
Executive Committee

CLEVELAND I-X CENTER

Once again, I was extremely honored to not only be invited but to participate in the events held at the I-X Center in Cleveland, Ohio. I participated with fellow veterans representing the D.A.V., V.F.W., American Legion, Viet Nam Veterans of America, and many others. This event was very special because it marked the 50th Anniversary of the Viet

Nam War.

While there, I spoke with many veterans to help them understand the mission of the D.A.V. I also answered questions and offered assistance in speaking to the right people or organizations to assist them with claims or other situations to help them.

It's hard to believe that it has been 50 years since the Viet Nam War. We were all so young then but, here we are 50 years later and veterans are still experiencing severe health and physiological problems resulting from chemicals such as Agent Orange, increased suicide rates, and battlefield injuries. Many veterans also suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (P.T.S.D.) and traumatic brain injuries. We have thousands of Viet Nam Veterans that are amputees, paralyzed, or badly burned. We still ask for your help and prayers for these patriotic heroes. WE CAN NEVER FORGET THEM. May God bless all of them for their faithful service to our country. And, thanks to all veterans of all eras for their commitment and dedication to our country.

Thanks also for our current active duty military, guard, and reserves as they continue efforts to keep this country free. But, as we know from the past, it wasn't free it was paid for by the lives and blood of military veterans who had served before.

At the I-X Center I marched with the D.A.V. Color Guard with an American Flag and D.A.V. Flag to the main stage. Along the way the large crowd displayed great patriotic enthusiasm with applause, salutes, and hands placed over hearts. It was awesome.

The D.A.V. was well represented and did an outstanding job at the I-X Center. Everyone worked together to help veterans, their families, and the public. We left no doubt that the D.A.V. was there to help.

While at the I-X Center event I was asked to represent the State Commander at Brooklyn-Parma Chapter #116 as he was unable to attend. It was indeed an honor to represent the State Commander and to speak at the Chapter on his behalf.

At the conclusion, I participated in the retrieving of the colors with the D.A.V. Color Guard. I was truly honored to be the one to retrieve the American Flag from the stage. I was overwhelmed to have been chosen for such an honor at such a huge and great event.

James Bailey
1st Jr. Vice Commander

DAV LOUIS PAUL PROY CHAPTER 20 MEMBERS MET WITH CLEVELAND VAMC DIRECTOR SUE FUEHRER

Director Fuehrer updated Chapter 20 members on the great things going on at the medical center for our veterans and the status of the Lorain VA Clinic.

Director Fuehrer gave DAV members a personal tour of Cleveland VA. A few highlights of the tour were visiting the Physical Therapy Rehab Pool, and in the CARES Tower, Spinal Cord Nursing Home Unit and the beautiful Physical Therapy Clinic, and the Blind Rehab Center. While visiting, the Cleveland VA Blind Rehab Center, Chapter 20 members made two donations supporting the BRC's veterans activities program (GPF #1214).

Thank you DAV Louis Paul Proy Chapter 20, for your donations and making a difference. Also, we visited the Orthotics Prosthetic Lab. Staff can fabricate both prosthesis and orthosis for upper and lower extremities, with design, customized fitting, the latest technology, and advanced components, to help our disabled veterans. All of this is possible with the skills of a dedicated staff.

The Goal: Keeping our men and women veterans functioning at their highest level possible.

PDC David May
Cleveland VAVS Representative



(L-R) VAMC External Affairs, Chief Kristen Parker; PDC David May, VAVS REP, Fred James (CH 20), VAMC Director Sue Fuehrer, Chapter 20 Adjutant & Treasurer Ray Kershaw, Commander Sam Felton, and Jim Emerson (CH 6).

SEARCH FOR WOMEN VETERANS

Honor Flight Columbus is looking for a few good women veterans - about 80 of them - for the first all-women veterans' flight from Columbus. The one-day trip to Washington, D.C. is free to the veterans as a thank you for their service and is an opportunity to "Honor, Share, and Celebrate" their contributions. The flight is on Saturday, September

10, 2016 from Port Columbus.

The All Women Veterans' Flight will honor our nation's senior veterans - WWII, Korea and Vietnam - and is made possible by the generous efforts of the Westerville for Honor Flight Committee. Applications are available at www.HonorFlightColumbus.org - click on "Veteran Application" or call the HFCols office at 614-284-4987.

Application deadline for this special flight is Monday, July 11, 2016 and the applications will be processed in the order received. Selected veterans will be notified by July 30. Applications by non-WWII and Korean veterans are not guaranteed to be selected on this or future flights.

Contact: Bill and Bobbi Richards
Honor Flight Columbus
614-284-4987 or 614-595-7718
HonorFlightColumbus1@gmail.com
www.HonorFlightColumbus.org

LOUIS STOKES CLEVELAND VAMC IN NEED OF CRAFT WORKSHOP SUPPLIES

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center is in need of the following supplies for the craft workshop:

- Leather work items.
- Paint by number sets.
- Any woodworking sets with small hammers.
- Single wood items for painting.
- Variety of building sets.
- Models of all types, does not necessarily have to be transportation vehicles.
- Glitter picture kits.
- Fabric paints along with inexpensive plain t-shirts to design on.

If you have any questions please contact Diana Browning, Recreation Specialist, External Affairs, Cleveland VAMC, 10701 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106, PHONE: 216-791-3800 ext. 5116 or FAX: 216-229-2417.

EIGHTH DISTRICT MEETING

District 8 held their meeting Saturday, April 23, 2016 and was held by District 8 Commander and Chapter #52 Commander Andrew Matheny at Pioneer City Chapter #52. It was a great turn out, with approximately 40 members in attendance including the Auxiliary. Guest speakers included Commander Phillip Alexander, 1st Jr. Vice Commander James Bailey and Executive Committeeman Barry Hopkins who discussed many different topics including the C & A Mid-Winter Conference held in Washington D.C., the



Pictured: State Commander Phillip Alexander and 1st Jr. Vice Commander James Bailey.



Pictured: District 8 Commander Andrew Matheny, 1st Jr. Vice Commander James Bailey, Ch. #52 Senior Vice Commander John Wells standing in front of the Chapter Home.

DAV Stamp and the 50th Year Celebration of the Vietnam War.

NOTE TO CHAPTER COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS:

Please make sure to send in your Chapter Officer Report within *ten days* after the installation of newly elected or appointed Chapter Officers! The white copy is to be sent to National Headquarters, PO Box 145550, Cincinnati, OH 45250-5550. The yellow copy is to be sent to Department Headquarters, PO Box 15099, Columbus, OH 43215-0099. The pink copy is to be sent to the NSO Cleveland, VA Regional Office, 1240 E. Ninth St., Room 1017-B, Cleveland, OH 44199-2002. The green copy is the Chapters copy to keep. If you need an Officer Report form please contact National Headquarters at 877-426-2838.

