



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

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio  
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May, 2015

**FROM THE DESK OF WILLIAM CAINE**

April is the time for District Meetings and I had decided to attend one that personally invited me. I traveled to London, Ohio where I was hosted by Chapter 93 and attended District Two's meeting. District Commander Robert Foster planned a full program that included a representative from State Treasurer Josh Mandel's office and a State Senator. Treasurer Mandel has put together a Veterans resource guide that veteran advocates report has become their desk book. I next attended my home Chapter 116 hosting the District Six meeting lead by Commander Andy Gerhart. I used this gathering to administer the oaths of office to David Bilinovich to 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander and James Bailey to 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander. Both promotions were much deserved; they are the future of the DAV. Bilinovich completed the second highly successful Fisher House fundraiser coordinating the efforts of many volunteers and chapters. He also had the additional duty of serving as the Commander's sounding board as I drew on his years of experience as a senior NSO. Bailey who has toiled for many years as a member of the Executive Committee has been instrumental in bringing a new chapter on line and in opening our Youngstown and Warren Offices.

May is the time to complete chapter elections, mail in officers' reports so as to make the directory deadlines and register for the June Convention. Chapters with lower assets can call the State Adjutant to obtain hotel rooms at no cost so that all chapters can attend and partake in the governance of the Ohio DAV. It is a learning experience, as well, as members will have a class on DIC, planning for spousal support once you are gone.

In the near future Ohio DAV will host a luncheon to honor one of the rocks of the Ohio DAV---PDC Samuel Lanza. Trumbull County has decided to honor his DAV lifework by naming the new county VSC building the Samuel E. Lanza Veterans Resource Center. The Department will host his home Chapter 11 and all those who attend the building's dedication. Sam has had to pull back from his weekly duties as a Veterans Commissioner and five decades as Chapter Adjutant. His heart is ever with the members, his county veterans and the DAV, whom he still proudly serves under the Red, White and Blue. No fading to the shades of gray and green for this Veteran. We salute you Sam and a life well lived.

VAVS Raymond Hutchinson, Hospital Chairman, reports that allocations from the Hospital Fund were made to all four VA Hospitals in Ohio and to the two State nursing homes. At the start of each year they are budgeted \$2,000 for recreation, dinners and outings. During the year after consulting with local volunteers the Chairman does a second allocation to each off of their wish list, purchasing items the working staff recommends to make the lives of their patients more enjoyable. Chapters can draw of the budgeted sums to hold events and can from their own service funds choose items off the wish list to donate.

Make every effort to attend at least one day of the June Department Convention. I promise you will reap rewards both for yourself and the veterans you will be called upon to serve in the coming years.

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 &	(330) 392-0311	Ext. 1443 <i>Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday</i>
Austintown Senior Center DSO,	(330) 953-1416	<i>Thursday</i>
Paul Webber		

### DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1-2, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, H.B. "Doc" Riley Chapter #51, Ironton, Ohio.
May 1-2, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Union County Chapter #55, Marysville, Ohio.
May 1-2, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Ashland County Chapter #81, Various Locations in Ashland County, 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 8-10, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Northern Hills Chapter #115, Various Locations in Cincinnati, Ohio.
May 10, 2015	10 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting, lunch as 12 noon, meeting to follow, American Legion, 279 Canal Street, Lancaster, 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.
May 16, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Wayne County Chapter #44, Buehler Food Market, Orrville, Ohio.
May 16, 2015	Women Veterans Resource Fair, 1060 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron, OH
May 22-23, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Ashland County Chapter #81, Various Locations in Ashland County, 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.
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.
June 25, 2015	Trench Rats of Dugout 634 Meeting and Election, 6:00 p.m., 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

Here at the Department of Ohio Disabled American Veterans we continually face new challenges and changes – how we view and deal with them is what defines us. Do we choose to see them as challenges as opportunities or as obstacles.

If we choose to see them as obstacles, then the challenges we face will be viewed as problems – problems that need to be overcome along with all the negative connotations associated with them are time consuming, wasteful use of energy and create negative mind sets like "I can't", "I won't", "I don't want to" and "I shouldn't have too."

We at the DAV however need to, choose to see challenges as opportunities that we have encountered along the way for us to "embrace" so that we can achieve more, excel further and ultimately actualize more of our potential for growth and leadership!

So, what do we do? All the dedicated personnel at the DAV need to be committed to defining our "Mission Statement", "WE ARE DEDICATED TO ONE SINGLE PURPOSE: EMPOWERING VETERANS TO LEAD HIGH-QUALITY LIVES WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY. WE ACCOMPLISH THIS BY MAKING SURE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES CAN ACCESS THE FULL RANGE OF BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THEM; FIGHTING FOR THE INTEREST OF AMERICA'S INJURED HEROS ON CAPITAL HILL; AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE GREAT SACRIFICES AND NEEDS OF VETERANS

TRANSITIONING BACK TO CIVILIAN LIFE..." We need to draw on tried-and-tested experience and hold onto what works, we need to introduce new thinking and approaches where feasible and we need to stop what isn't working and causing turmoil.

Remember, we are all about the veterans "**ability, not their/our disability!!!!**

### **WHEELCHAIR DONATION**

Here is a photo of half of the 30 wheel chairs that PDC Frank Williams, Chapter #3 Commander James Kaster and myself collected by attending a "Wheelchair Donation Event" put on as a "Teambuilding Event" by Progressive Insurance Co. and Best Corporate Events in Mayfield Village, OH. The participants had to earn tools and parts to assemble and then run chairs through a wheelchair redo. Each chair runs about \$800.00 each for a total donation of approximately \$24,000.00. We have three VA facilities willing to take them off our hands, Cincinnati VAMC, Chillicothe VAMC and Columbus VA Clinic.



### **SCOOTERS FOR VETERANS**

Capital City Chapter #3, has electric scooters that they are willing to lend out on agreement they are returned when the veteran no longer has a need for it, (they do require a written agreement to this fact). Chapter #3 will deliver the scooter to the veteran's home. Supply is limited. You can contact Commander James Kaster at 330-301-3690 or email [kasterjames@yahoo.com](mailto:kasterjames@yahoo.com). Chapter #3 meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 280 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio for anyone who may want to visit.

*Veteran/Military Legislation*

### **131st General Assembly** **State of Ohio**

Updated as of April 27, 2015

Full text of these bills and updated statuses can be found at the 131st GA's Legislative Information site: <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us>

Inclusion of legislation in this report is for informational purposes only. Inclusion does not imply endorsement of, support of, or opposition to any particular piece of legislation by the Ohio Department of Veteran Services.

#### **HB18**

FLAG-BANNER DISPLAY (GONZALES A, GINTER T) To prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag.

Current Status: 4/14/2015 - BILL AMENDED, House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety, (Second Hearing)

#### **HB21**

HIGHWAY DESIGNATION (SCHURING K, SLESNICK S) To designate a portion of United State Route 62 within Canton as the "USMC LCRP Stacy (Annie) Dryden Memorial Highway."

Current Status: 2/17/2015 - House Transportation and Infrastructure, (First Hearing)

#### **HB24**

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (DOVILLA M, RETHERFORD W) To revise the laws governing the provision of adult protective services.

Current Status: 3/25/2015 - Referred to Committee Senate Health and Human Services

#### **HB66**

VETERAN-DISABLED TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (BARNES, JR. J) To create the Veteran and Disabled Ohioan Technology Council.

Current Status: 3/26/2015 - House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety, (First Hearing)

#### **HB102**

VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES (CRAIG H, ANTANI N) To provide a bid preference for state contracts to a veteran-owned business and to authorize a personal income and commercial activity tax credit for a business that hires and employs a veteran for at least one year.

Current Status: 4/28/2015 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

#### **HB105**

UNEMPLOYMENT-MILITARY SPOUSES (CRAIG H, PERALES R) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

Current Status: 3/26/2015 - House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety, (First Hearing)

**HB121**

SERVICE DOG AWARENESS WEEK (STINZIANO M, RUHL M) To designate the last week of July as "Service Dog Awareness Week."

Current Status: 4/29/2015 - House State Government, (Second Hearing)

**HB125**

VETERANS FEE WAIVER (BRENNER A, RETHERFORD W) To establish the Veterans Fee Waiver Program.

Current Status: 4/14/2015 - House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety, (First Hearing)

**SB10**

MILITARY HEALTH CARE BENEFITS (BURKE D, LAROSE F) To establish a process for identifying individuals who are medical assistance recipients that may be eligible to receive federal military-related health care benefits.

Current Status: 4/15/2015 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 33-0

**SB18**

TAX CREDIT-NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOYMENT (GENTILE L) To authorize a refundable income tax credit for employers that hire one or more qualified veterans or members of the National Guard or reserves.

Current Status: 2/4/2015 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means

**SB29**

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION-U.S. ARMED FORCES (PATTON T) To require the Director of Veterans Services, upon application by a person who is a veteran or active duty member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States, to issue to the person a military transportation card that entitles the person to travel on any type of public transportation without charge.

Current Status: 2/11/2015 - Referred to Committee Senate State and Local Government

**SB61**

DEATH CERTIFICATE RELEASE (HUGHES J) To restrict to whom a certified copy of a death certificate containing the descendant's social security number may be issued.

Current Status: 4/22/2015 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, Senate Health and Human Services, (Fourth Hearing)

**SB63**

ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION (LAROSE F) To create an online voter registration system.

Current Status: 3/4/2015 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

**SB81**

LICENSE PLATE DESIGNATION (WILLIAMS S) To create the "Women Veterans" license plate.

Current Status: 3/4/2015 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Labor

**SB84**

FLAG-BANNER DISPLAY (COLEY W) To prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of Ohio flags and blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag.

Current Status: 3/17/2015 - Senate State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

**SB131**

HIGHWAY NAME DESIGNATION (JONES S) To designate a portion of State Route 123 within Warren County as the "Neil Armstrong Memorial Way."

Current Status: 3/17/2015 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Labor

Kenneth Marcum  
State Adjutant

**RESPECT FOR VETERANS**

Thanks to DAV Commander Ray Talbott of Chapter #47 of East Liverpool, Ohio for organizing the Veterans Day Program held November 11, 2014 at the East Liverpool American Legion Post home. The joint program consisted of participating members from the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. Many other family members, friends, and veteran supporters also attended.

I was asked by Commander Talbott if I could be a speaker at the event. It was extremely pleasing to see the parking lot was full upon my arrival. A larger crowd greeted me inside. It was then that I was informed that I was not only listed in the program as the "keynote" speaker but was the only speaker stated.

I knew then that I not only had to do my best but I had to speak a little longer than the few remarks that I had initially intended to share. It was at that time I expounded on the topic of "Respect for Veterans" and urging all too always respect all veterans regardless of branch, rank, where they served, or what they did. All veterans answered the call to serve this great country.

When I finished, I could not believe the standing ovation I received. As I was leaving I received more applause, handshakes, and hugs. I knew I had done well. I would once again like to thank Commander Ray Talbott for the opportunity to speak before such a great crowd and for the warm reception I received. It was my honor to participate and speak on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans.

James Bailey  
Executive Committeeman

### MEMORIAL DAY 2015

There is concern about Memorial Day's treatment as just another long weekend, a day off from work, or a special shopping day. Less than 1% of Americans participated in the active security/protection of this country directly through military service. So, as we celebrate Memorial Day, remember not only those that gave their lives, but also the 92,000 POW/MIA's unaccounted for, and the total of more than one million men and women that died serving the U.S. military during periods of war and hostility --- 655,000 of that number in battle.

During the Civil War, the military considered the death of a soldier on the battlefield fell within the confines of the family when possible. Grave registration and burial units did not exist at that time, and mass-graves of 300-500 hundred veterans were buried, without individual recognition, respect, or honor. We now hold in high esteem those veterans that went before us, and as one National Cemetery director said, "Every day is Memorial Day at a VA National Cemetery."

**On Memorial Day, keep in mind the cemeteries "over there" on foreign soil around the world --- where American veterans fought, died and were buried, never to return home to their loved ones, or the way of life they helped preserve.** When observing Memorial Day, include the children and grandchildren because they are the future gatekeepers that will protect the significance of this day. They should be taught the duty, the privilege, and the honor to keep alive the dedication and sacrifices made on behalf of this nation. They should know how American families sacrificed, in the not too distance past, the rationing of gasoline, sugar, foodstuffs, rubber, pots and pans, etc., all to support America and veterans during war.

Generational support is vital to help maintain the **historical relevance of Memorial Day**, as writer James Baldwin said, "**Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.**"

Herman W. Morton  
NEC, 11<sup>th</sup> District

### AUXILIARY COMMANDER JEANETTE SCOTT

I would like to say how much fun I have had this year as the Auxiliary State Commander. I want to say that each year the Auxiliary and the Department of Ohio continues to work well with each other. At one of the recent district meetings a chapter member asked me to put an article in the DAV bulletin about auxiliary membership they did not realize who was all eligible.

Who is eligible for membership in the DAV Auxiliary? The good news is the DAV Auxiliary can now welcome those who were not eligible under the previous structure. Eligibility has been expanded to include:

- Family and extended family members of any person who is or was eligible for membership in the DAV.
- Family and extended family members of any person injured and may still be in active service in the armed forces of the United States of America and eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans.
- Family and extended family members of any person who has served in the armed forces of the United States of America and has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service.
- Family and extended family members of any person who served with the armed forces of any nation associated with the United States of America as an ally, who was honorably discharged, and became an American citizen.
- Family and extended family of Auxiliary members who are not otherwise eligible for membership are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

This also helps our legislative vote also they count numbers not names. The auxiliary are hard fighting advocates for veterans rights please help us continue to fight.

Thank you,  
Jeanette Scott  
Veterans are our shining stars.

**\*\*\*\* LOOKING FOR ALL WOMEN VETERANS! \*\*\*\***

**WOMEN VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR**

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Summit County Veterans Service Commission, 1060 E Waterloo Road, Akron, OH 44306  
*Metro Bus Route @ E Waterloo & Arlington #2*

Any woman veteran who has served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves is welcome. Refreshments and Services provided. Bring your DD214 if available; it is not necessary. Children are Welcome!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION Call 211 or 330.376.6660**

**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS INFORMATION:**

**CINCINNATI VAMC**

Thomas Kirstein, 3200 Vine St., Rm. C149A, Cincinnati, OH 45220-2288 513.475.6443  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday 513.487.6682 FAX  
Lisa Wilson, 3200 Vine St., Rm. B147A, Cincinnati, OH 45220-2288 513.475.6443  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 513.487.6682 FAX

**CLEVELAND VAMC**

Walter Dryja, 10701 East Blvd., Room 1B-416 216.791.3800  
Cleveland, OH 44106-1790 Ext. 3395  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 216.231.3296 FAX

**DAYTON VAMC**

Bill Millett, 4100 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., 1D-145F 937.268.6511  
Dayton, OH 45428-9000 Ext. 2962  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday 937.267.7605 FAX

**CHILLICOTHE VAMC**

Darlene Maravilla, 17273 St. Rt. 104, Bldg 30, Rm. 1A 740.773.1141  
Chillicothe, OH 45601-9718 Ext. 7916  
11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday 740.772.7075 FAX

**COLUMBUS CLINIC**

Henry Snodgrass, 420 N. James Rd., Columbus, OH 43219-1834 614.257.5487  
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday 614.257.5510 FAX

**PARMA CLINIC**

Richard Healy, 8787 Brookpark Rd., Room 2108 Parma, OH 44129-9999 216.739.7000  
6:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Ext. 2405

**WARREN CLINIC**

Paul Webber, 1460 Tod Ave. NW, Room 132, Warren, OH 44485-2407 330.392.0311  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday Ext. 1443  
Senior Center in Austintown, 112 Westchester Dr., Youngstown, OH 44515 330.953.1416  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thursday

**OBITUARY**

**James Steven Britton**

(November 16, 1941 - April 1, 2015)



PDC James Steven Britton, 73, of Stewart, passed away Wednesday morning, April 1, 2015 at Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster after a long and hard fought battle. Jim was born November 16, 1941 in the village of New England, Athens County; he was the son of the late Albert Britton and Kathryn Lewis Britton. After graduating from Rome-Canaan High School in 1960, he enlisted in the US Navy and spent 16 years 4 months serving his country, coming back to New England in 1979 and living the rest of his life on the land where he was born. He retired in 2003 after working the last 15 years at TS Trim in Athens. Jim loved the Navy and wished he could have spent many more years there, but had to retire with disability. He had served in the Cuban Blockade, Dominican Republic and Vietnam and in November 1963, served on the Honor Guard for President Kennedy's casket while lying in State in the Rotunda. He was a decorated veteran, serving in UDT and later SEAL and held the rank of Master Chief at his discharge. He was a life member of DAV, VFW. And AMVETS, but his heart was with DAV and he spent many years serving in all Chapter offices, as District Commander, State Executive Committee offices, then becoming State Department Commander year 2000-2001. After this, he served on other Department committees and then served on the Department Finance Committee until he had to resign because of his health in 2013. Fighting for the rights of disabled veterans and all disabled was one of the most important things in his life.

**ATTENTION CHAPTER COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS!**

If you have members of your Chapter that would like to receive our DAV monthly Newsletter please inform Department Headquarters. You can call the office at (614) 221-3582 or send an email to [Stephanie.johnson@ohiodav.org](mailto:Stephanie.johnson@ohiodav.org). We want **ALL** of our members to be included with what is going on throughout the state and the Newsletter is a great way to stay informed.