



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio
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E-mail: ohiodavadjutant@ameritech.net
Website: www.ohiodav.org November, 2014

FROM THE DESK OF WILLIAM CAINE

Fall Conference was well attended and members were heard to remark they always learn something when they make the trek to Columbus. National JVC Dennis Krulder of New York was our guest speaker and he affirmed that our leadership is in good hands. Dennis is a roll up your sleeves member who manages more than a quarter million hospital rides annually in Greater NYC. Chief NSO Jack Burlingame reported the backlog at VA is lessening, except for appeals. Our Auxiliary put on a fun auction and social evening to cap a rewarding weekend.

Chapters will be conducting Military Appreciation Day on Monday, November 17 at Golden Corral Restaurants through the nation. In Ohio chapters will share in a 15% portion of the proceeds with the balance being held for van purchases for VA Hospitals, clinics, lower income counties and Ohio Veterans Homes. I along with Executive Committeeman John Parker and DAVA District Commander Carol Parker-Park had the honor to deliver the most recent Ford van donation to the Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home where it was warmly received. In true DAV spirit literally everyone helped get the SOVH van in service: veteran resident donations, funds from many chapters from GC days and National Funds from the Columbia Trust.

Chapter Service Officer Training has just been scheduled for a day long NSO Training session on December 10 in Washington Court House. All Service Officers must be retrained, tested and certified annually to perform such work and to be covered under insurance policies against malpractice. Training is mandatory. Contact the Adjutant for a seat at the session. A makeup session will be held after the first of the year in Northern Ohio.

Just what does the monthly chapter meeting mean for a veteran member? NPR did a study of veterans who actively belonged to a veteran organization. The respondents related that second only to their contacts with immediate family the regular gatherings of their veterans group held the most meaning for their lives. And in passing, Former National Commander Joe Johnston recommends that there be a simple meal, sandwich or such served at each monthly meeting. Commanders and leaders may have just had their dinner prior but no one can know who has not had dinner that evening for whatever reason.

A strong caution to our Veterans who will be receiving the new VA Id card to be used when you are distant from a VA Medical Facility, it is neither a charge card nor a free medical care card. It merely lets the private local medical provider know you are under VA health care. Each and every visit must be preapproved by the VA. Unapproved visits will be paid for by the Veteran. Call the VA or get out your checkbook.

On behalf of your Elected Officers and Department Staff have both a reflective Veterans Day and a Happy Thanksgiving 2014.

William Caine,
Department Commander

REMINDER
Department Cookie Party
Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home
Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 12 Noon
Please bring cookies, candy and Christmas Cards

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Nat'l. Hdqrs., DAV	(877) 426-2838
NSO Office, Cleveland	(216) 522-3507
NSO Office, Cincinnati	(513) 684-2676
Washington Office, DAV	(202) 554-3501
Cincinnati HSC, Tom Kirstein	(513) 475-6443
Dayton HSC, Bill Millett	(937) 268-6511 Ext. 2962
Wade Park DSO, Walter Dryja	(216) 791-3800 Ext. 3395
Chillicothe HSC, Darlene Maravilla	(740) 773-1141 Ext. 7916
Columbus Clinic, Henry Snodgrass	(614) 257-5487
Parma Clinic DSO, Richard Healy	(216) 739-7000 Ext. 2405

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 3, 2014	DAV Logo License Plate Release.
November 5-6-7, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Vandalia Chapter #140, Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.
November 7-8, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Massillon Chapter #38, Massillon K-Mart, 2600 Lincoln Way E., Massillon, Ohio.
November 8, 2014	2 nd District Meeting, Champaign County Chapter #31, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 200 N. Main St., Urbana, Ohio.
November 8, 2014	DAV 5K, Run to Honor Veterans, in Cincinnati, Ohio.
November 8, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Wayne County Chapter #44, Rural King of Ohio, Old Lincoln Highway, Wooster, Ohio.
November 13, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Adams County Chapter #71, Old Timers Day, Peebles, Ohio.
November 17, 2014	Golden Corral Military Appreciation Monday.
December 7, 2014	Department Cookie Party at Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home, 12 Noon
February 22-24, 2015	Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA
March 28, 2015	Commander William Caine and Auxiliary Commander Jeanette Scott Testimonial Dinner, Additional information to follow.
June 25-28, 2015	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, 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

Thanks to everyone for making our DAV/DAVA Fall Conference a success. Throughout the conference, several members approached me stating it had been an informative conference and enjoyed the new addition of the box lunch. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions.

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that the national telehealth program has served more than 690,000 veterans during 2014. With more veterans seeking health care, it seems to be the way to go for those who don't have a VA health facility close by. VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald stated that telehealth is an area where we have identified a need for growth. For more information about telehealth visit; www.telehealth.va.gov/

The Department of Veterans Affairs has joined forces with Walgreens. Through this partnership Walgreens will offer flu and other recommended vaccinations to veterans. "VA is proud to partner with Walgreens to provide needed vaccines to our nation's Veterans," Stated VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. For more information visit: <http://www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp>

On October 14, 2014, the Associated Press released the information that a Federal Appeals Court rejected Camp Lejeune's water lawsuit. It ruled that the state law passed this year cannot retroactively validate health claims against the U.S. government. The decision filed by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals returns a lawsuit to a lower court.

Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home reports the service gaps in health care, transition services, disability compensation, employment and housing that women veterans face. "The number of women veterans is growing, and our country is simply not doing enough to meet their health, social and economic needs," said Joy J. Ilem, DAV's Deputy National Legislative Director. The report points out 27 specific recommendations that are needed in by the federal government and local communities. To view the report: (</wp-content/uploads/women-veterans-study.pdf>)

If you are a veteran that was discharged or released under other than dishonorable condition or a veteran laid off from work or employed with no health insurance, you should consider looking into VA benefits or health care. 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 should also look to the VA for assistance. A Gulf Era War veterans 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, should also look into VA benefits or health care. Veterans who have unique clothing needs as a result of a service-related disability or injury may receive a supplement to their disability compensation. You may receive a clothing allowance as a veteran who uses either of the following: prosthetic or orthopedic appliance, such as a wheelchair or crutches or medication prescribed by a physician for a service-connected skin condition that causes permanent stains or damages outer garments. Check with your service officer for more information.

Jr. Vice Commander

The Jr. Vice Commander shall perform the duties of his/her station as set forth in the Official DAV Ritual. He/she shall see that every member is given a reasonable opportunity to state his/her views on any subject under discussion in a meeting of the Chapter, not inconsistent with the Chapter's Constitution and Bylaws or *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. He/she shall, at all times, encourage loyalty to the United States of America, to DAV and to the members of the Chapter. Subject to the direction of the Chapter, he/she shall act as Chairperson of the Americanism activities of the Chapter and with the approval of the Chapter, may appoint one or more members to assist him/her as such Chairperson. The Jr. Vice Commander may not serve as Adjutant or Treasurer.

WREATHS across AMERICA

WAA's mission is to REMEMBER the fallen, HONOR those that serve and TEACH our children the value of freedom. What is a Veterans' Wreath? The wreath is a symbol of HONOR, RESPECT, and VICTORY. It is made up from the forest scented (PURITY and SIMPLICITY) evergreens which represent LONGEVITY and ENDURANCE, and formed in a circular shape meaning ETERNITY. A red bow is placed on the wreath to signify GREAT SACRIFICE. WAA is December 13, 2014. For more information visit: www.wreathscrossamerica.org **Don't Say I should have... Say I DID!**

November is full of interesting and/or weird days such as: Cliché Day, Sandwich Day, Vinegar Day, Election Day, and Thanksgiving Day. Let us not forget one of the most important days in November, Veterans Day, November 11. Public Law 90-363, the "Monday Holiday Law" provided that beginning 1971 Veterans' Day would be observed the 4th Monday in October. This moveable day, which separated Veterans' Day from November 11 and anniversary of WWI Armistice, proved unpopular. State after state moved its observance back to November 11 and finally Public Law 94-97 of September 18, 1975 effective January 1, 1978 the observance of Veterans' Day revert to November 11.

Glad to hear PDC Sam Lanza is up and about. He does wonderful work for the veterans and the DAV. Executive Committee Member Sam Kimmerly is also up and on the go doing great work for the DAV and veterans.

Forever on Thanksgiving Day

The heart will find the pathway home. Wilbur D. Nesbit

A boy was sitting in his grandmother's kitchen, watching her prepare the Thanksgiving Meal. "What are doing?" he asked. "Oh, I'm just stuffing the turkey," his grandmother replied. "Cool! Are you going to hang it next to the deer?" Here is wishing all DAV/DAVA members a wonderful day with family and friends and a scrumptious meal! Remember our veterans that are not able to make it home.

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

Will Davis
State Adjutant

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN PDC FRANK WILLIAMS

I plan to provide Info on matters affecting our fellow Veterans in this and future Newsletters, and will try to make it as up to date and interesting as I can. As you may know our Senators and Congressmen took an extended fall recess, after passing HR3230, The VA Access, Choice & Accountability Act of 2014. Some of the Highlights of this historic Bill are listed below:

- Require VA to offer authorization to receive “Non VA” care to any Veteran enrolled in the VA health care system as of August 1, 2014, or who is a newly discharged Combat Veteran, if such Veteran is unable to secure an appointment at a VA medical facility with 30 days, or resides more than 40 miles from the nearest VA medical facility, with certain exceptions.
- Require the VA to provide a Veterans Choice Card to eligible Veterans to facilitate care provided by non-VA providers.
- Provide \$10 billion for the newly-established “Veterans Choice Fund” to cover costs of this increased access to non-VA care. Choice program authority would end when funds are exhausted or three years after enactment, whichever comes first.
- Require an independent assessment of VA medical care and establish a Congressional Commission
- To evaluate access to care throughout the VA health care system.
- Extend the ARCH (Access Received Closer to Home) pilot program two years
- Extend for three years a pilot program to provide rehabilitation, quality of life, and community integration services to Veterans with complex-mild to severe traumatic brain injury.

Improve the delivery of care to Veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma as well as care for Native Hawaiian and Native American Veterans.

- To expand VA’s internal capacity to provide timely care to Veterans, the Bill will provide \$5 billion to VA to increase access care by hiring of physicians and other medical staff, and by improving VA’s physical infrastructure. Authorize 27 major medical facility leases in 18 States & Puerto Rico.
- To provide real accountability for incompetent or corrupt senior managers, the Bill will authorize the VA to fire or demote Senior Executive Services (SES) employees and Title 38 SES equivalent employees for poor performance or misconduct. And, provide expedited and limited appeal process for employees disciplined under this authority. Appeals would to a Merit Systems Protection Board administrative Judge, who would have 21 days to decide on the appeal. If a decision is not reached within that 21-day period, then VA’s decision to remove or demote the executive becomes final.
- Prohibit SES employees from receiving pay, bonuses and benefits during the appeal process.
- Reduce funding for bonuses available to VA employees by \$40 billion each year through FY 2024.

We all hope this VA Reform Legislation will eliminate many of the “problems” Veterans have faced in the VA Health Care System, however Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs Jeff Miller stated October 7, 2014: *“Following VA announcements that it has proposed removal of 4 senior executives- one of whom has already retired and no longer works for the VA. Quite simply, any VA administrator who purposely manipulated appointment data, covered up problems, retaliated against whistleblowers or who was involved in malfeasance that harmed Veterans must be fired. Unfortunately, I’m concerned that VA’s implementation of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 may be interfering with this concept. By creating an added appeals process in which VA employees are given advance notice of the VA’s plans to fire them, VA appears to be giving failing executives an opportunity to quit, retire or find new jobs without consequence- something we have already seen happen in recent weeks. Right now, it is incumbent upon all of VA’s watchdogs – Congress, the press and the American public- to maintain pressure on the VA Department until those who created VA’s problems receive the accountability they are due. This is the only way Veterans and families struck by the VA scandal can get closure they deserve. If any current laws or regulations are impeding the VA’s ability to swiftly hold employees accountable, VA’s leaders must work with Congress so those laws and regulations can be changes.”*

I will be closely following VA’s actions in fully implementing procedures dictated by HR 3230, as well as all legislation, both state and federal, and report to our members. I am sure that everyone voted, as I did, on the November 4th, 2014 election. Keep up the good work!

Frank Williams
Legislative Chairman

DISTRICT THREE COMMANDER ANDREW RICKARD

Increasing Membership and the At-Large List

Are you having difficulty increasing your membership and making goal? Are you looking for creative ways to increase your membership? Well some of the work has been done for you already. DAV National and Department of Ohio have lists of members that they have signed up. When they sign up new members that don't indicate which chapter they want to go to, they assign them to an At-Large Chapter. In Ohio it is called the Buckeye 8 Chapter. You can request these lists from the respective level. For National call 1-888-236-8313 and ask for Alice at extension 3222, for Department contact Sherry Williamson with the list of Zip Codes for your area.

Andrew Rickard
District #3 Commander

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

Iraq War Veterans Can Claim Ohio Veterans Bonus

COLUMBUS- Veterans who served in Iraq have taken advantage of the Ohio Veterans Bonus in increasing numbers this year, but time is rapidly running out to claim this benefit - the deadline for those who served in Iraq is Dec. 31, 2014.

Through Sept. 30, the Ohio Veterans Bonus program has paid 83,399 total claims, amounting to more than \$67.4 million. While some claims are for multiple periods of eligibility, claims for Iraq service represent 23,876 of this total, the most of any period. The Bonus team is approving an average of more than 160 applications each week.

The eligible period of the Ohio Veterans Bonus for service in the country of Iraq is from March 19, 2003 through Dec. 31, 2011. The deadline of Dec. 31, 2014, is for applications mad for this service.

No deadline has been announced for the Ohio Veterans Bonus for those who served in Afghanistan, or anywhere else in the world, since Oct. 7, 2001.

"We're grateful that so many Iraq veterans have taken advantage of the opportunity to get the Ohio Veterans Bonus, but we don't want to leave anyone behind on this," said Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell. "Other veterans, county veteran service offices, and the veterans' organizations have been great about getting the word out. But everybody in Ohio is close in some way to veterans - someone in their family is serving, or a neighbor or friend has someone in the military. So I'm asking everybody to reach out - to the veterans they know, and to the active military from Ohio they know who are serving outside the state or overseas - and make sure they know about the Bonus."

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is open to veterans who served anywhere in the world during the time of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amount of the Bonus is higher for those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is also open to the next of kin of those who were killed in action or died of disease as a result of in-county service. The Bonus is not subject to federal or state taxes, and can be used for any purpose.

The specific criteria for award of the Ohio Veterans Bonus is service in the Armed Forces, anywhere in the world, of more than 90 days active duty, not for training, during the periods of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. For Iraq, the eligible period is from March 19, 2003 through Dec. 31, 2011; for Afghanistan, it is from Oct. 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President. Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents at the time they apply.

The bonus pays \$100 a month to veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan, up to a maximum of \$1,000. For veterans who served elsewhere, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum. Veterans medically discharged due to injuries sustained in-country can receive \$1,000, plus up to \$500 for months of service elsewhere.

Family members of those killed in action or who died from disease as a result of their in-country service can receive a bonus of \$5,000 plus whatever the service member was eligible for, up to a total of \$6,500.

Veterans needing more information or to request an application can call toll-free to 1-877-OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838) option 2, visit www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov, or visit any county veterans service office (see www.dvs.ohio.gov for an interactive map of the county offices). The Department has advertised the program extensively statewide through public service announcements on television and radio, newspaper and online ads, social media, at veterans' events, and through partnerships with veterans service organizations and other agencies. Post cards reminding Iraq veterans of the end of the Bonus were sent in June and July to veterans whose birth dates matched the likely age range of Iraq veterans.

Ohio voters approved the Ohio Veterans Bonus by an overwhelming margin in November 2009. The law implementing the Bonus set a deadline for Persian Gulf War era veterans of Dec. 31, 2013. This same law set the deadline for Iraq War veterans as the third year following a date determined by the President as the end of the conflict. This date was set as the termination date of the Iraq Campaign Medal, which was Dec. 31, 2011, making the deadline for Bonus applications for service in Iraq Dec. 31, 2014. The clock will not start on a deadline for Afghanistan veterans until the President determines a date for the war's end.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus continues a tradition of bonuses to reward Ohio veterans that dates back to the Civil War; however, these other war bonuses are now closed.

Media needing more information, contact- Mike McKinney at 614-728-0235 or Michael.mckinney@dvs.ohio.gov

DAVA AUCTION

Thank you to all that donated items and worked as auctioneers and spotters at the recent DAVA Auction at the Fall Conference, we made \$1,810.00. The Auxiliary thanks all of you for helping us to continue to work for our Disabled Veterans and their Families.

Jeanette Scott, DAVA Commander
Joyce Hutchinson, DAVA Adjutant

*If you'd like to send Sam Lanza Well Wishes or give him a call,
his phone number and address is as follows:*

Samuel Lanza
614 Meadowbrook, SE
Warren, Ohio 44484-4552
(330) 369-5544



Happy Thanksgiving !!