



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio
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October, 2014

FROM THE DESK OF WILLIAM CAINE

September found me throughout Ohio visiting Chapters and Fall District Meetings. I made a visit to Warren Chapter 11 Trumbull County and found a full house on a Friday evening with Commander Ralph McMillin and PDC Nick Border acting as Adjutant. To everyone's surprise, PDC and longtime Adjutant Sam Lanza walked into the room. He was met by a standing ovation and a round of applause. Sam had been off his feet for months and told he might never walk again. He was in good spirits and joined the head table just in time for a report from a county official on the Samuel Lanza Veterans Resource Center being constructed in his name by the county. It is a long overdue honor for Sam's decades of service to veterans both in his home town and the State of Ohio as well.

District 1 and the rolling hills around Hillsboro above the Ohio River then beckoned. Newly appointed Chapter 115 and District 1 Commander Richard Blue summoned Cincinnati area members to a days meeting. The agenda was substantive and marked by Blue's calling the chapters to join together to tackle large service projects at VAH and community veterans shelters. He offered his own Chapter 115 personnel to aid smaller chapters. 1st Jr. Vice Commander Ken Marcum was the speaker and focused on both membership recruiting as well as Ohio's aid for employment for veterans. Executive Committee Members James Johnston and Sam Kimmerly were in the audience. PDC Joe Johnston, Harlan Plummer and Ray Hutchinson were in attendance; all three of whom continue to work in offices serving the DAV Department of Ohio, Notably the District has called a special meeting in January to kickoff activities in the coming year.

District 6 Commander Andy Gerhart called the largest district to gather in Mentor, Ohio the following day. All chapters were present for a 100% showing. Under the leadership of Commander John Murzynsky and NSO Steve Strodbeck Chapter 42, newly revitalized, hosted the day. Senior Vice Commander Phil Alexander, in the middle of his Northerly trek was the day's speaker. PDC Michael Stith touched on many subjects in view of his years of experience and work in Summit County and the VSCs. Chief NSO Jack Burlingame gave a fine state of the office update. Present were 2nd Jr. Vice Commander David Bilinovich and Executive Committeeman John Parker.

You, one and all, are invited and urged to come if only for a day to the Fall Conference in Dublin, Ohio, October 10 to 12. The focus this fall is on chapter officer training, membership and recruiting with a relaxed atmosphere without the pressure of elections, resolutions and pressing committee business that marks our June Convention. On the agenda is a commanders call in which I and Senior Vice Commander Phil Alexander will meet face to face with chapter commanders to hear from them, good, bad or indifferent. It's the only session closed to the membership so that commanders can be heard. Saturday evenings meal is casual followed by a fun filled live auction and bingo. Chapters with lower assets can still have their hotel rooms provided by the Department and all are welcome to come by for coffee or light meal in the DAV Canteen on the first floor of the hotel. Thanks to Executive Committeeman Sam Kimmerly who sets up and operates the canteen. Take the time to get your chapter back in touch with the Department of Ohio.

In the coming days you will no doubt begin to focus on holiday plans for your family, your DAV Chapter or Auxiliary and for the Veterans in a VA Hospital and State Homes. Plan to attend a party at a VA Hospital or State Home. Contact our assigned VAVS, phone numbers in the newsletter, to get the dates and their wish lists for veteran patients. Those places which veterans call home can be lonely places in December. The Ohio Cookie Party at the Sandusky OV Home is scheduled for Sunday, December 7 at 12 Noon. The DAV Department Party is scheduled on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cincinnati VA Hospital.

Now that I have taken up two of your weekends, do take the time to enjoy the fall feel, the vibrant colors, the NFL (Bengals, Browns, Steelers, etc.), the Ohio Buckeyes and whatever joy you find in the season.

William Caine,
Department Commander

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 4, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Chapter #100, Galion, Ohio.
October 10, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Thorold Heinlen Chapter #100, Crestline, Ohio.
October 10-12, 2014	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
October 18, 2014	9 th District Meeting, Victory Chapter #134, Lunch at 12 noon, meeting to follow, Wheelersburg, Ohio.
October 19, 2014	7 th District Meeting, Alliance Chapter #50, 2 p.m. 2540 McCallum Ave., Alliance, Ohio.
October 19, 2014	10 th District Meeting, American Legion, Demorest Rd., Lunch 12 noon, meeting to follow, Columbus, Ohio.
October 25, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Putnam County Chapter #77, 9 a.m., to 4 p.m., Wal-Mart, Ottawa, Ohio.
October 26, 2014	8 th District Meeting, Bellaire Chapter #117, Lunch 12 noon meeting at 1 p.m., 3134 Guernsey St., Bellaire, Ohio.
October 26, 2014	3 rd District Meeting
November 3, 2014	DAV Logo License Plate Release.
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 13, 2014	Forget-Me-Not, Adams County Chapter #71, Old Timers Day, Peebles, Ohio.
November 17, 2014	Golden Corral Military Appreciation Monday.
February 22-24, 2015	Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA
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

Star Spangled Banner 200th Anniversary

Born in battle, "The Star Spangled Banner," is distinct for having been written behind enemy lines. Francis Scott Key was held on a British ship in 1814 watching Fort McHenry being bombarded. The next morning the sight of the tattered flag still flying inspired him to write the words, in a form of a poem, which is now our national anthem. In 1916

President Woodrow Wilson issued an executive order declaring that our national anthem. It was not until 1931 President Herbert Hoover signed the bill and *The Star Spangled Banner* was officially the national anthem.

Government Shutdown

The following is a message from Ron Hope, DAV National Commander

October 1, 2014 marked a year since the budget battles created a stalemate that halted the federal government. The threat of another government shutdown is still a possibility. The failure of Congress and Presidents to assure sufficient, timely and predictable funding has and will continue to hamper the VA and threaten our promises to the men and women who served unless we act now. Over the past four years, veterans' appropriations have been delayed on an average of 116 days. In 2009, Congress passed and the President signed the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act. This act funds the VA medical care budget one year in advance. While advance funding kept veterans hospitals and clinics open during the shutdown, other parts of the VA did not have such protection. As a result, work stopped on more than 250,000 disability claims awaiting appeals, research projects were threatened, and even burials at national cemeteries were scaled back. Had the shutdown continued, disability compensation and pensions payments to veterans and their survivors, would have stopped. The Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013 (H.R. 813, S. 932) is bipartisan legislation that would extend advance appropriations to all VA discretionary programs. The bill has been passed out of both chambers' Veterans' Affairs Committees, and we urge both the House and Senate leadership to schedule a vote this year either as a stand-alone bill, or as part of a larger package of veterans' benefits.

<https://www.vetervoice.net/link/target/dav/MFrJbg9F6.aspx>

HR 4031 Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability. To provide for the removal of senior executive service employees of the VA for performance.

HR 2485 Helping Homeless Vets. To extend programs assisting homeless veterans and other veterans with special needs.

HR 958 Women Veterans and Others Healthcare Improvements Act. To improve the reproductive care assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill or injured veterans and their spouses.

HR 4741 Surviving Spouses' Benefits Improvement Act 2014. To provide for an increase in the amount of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses.

HR 1131 Extend Military Commissary and Exchange Store Privileges. Extend Privileges, without time period limitation, to members of the Armed Forces who are involuntarily separated with service-connected disability and also to extend such privileges to their dependents.

S 1982 Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act 2014. To improve the provision of medical service and benefits to veterans.

Election Day is just around the corner. We can make a difference. Let your elected officials know where you stand on these issues.

COPD

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a growing health concern among veterans. Veterans are three times more likely to develop COPD than the general population. Cigarette smoking is the main cause of COPD, but many veterans have faced environmental risk factors. In Iraq and Afghanistan soldiers endured a barrage of respiratory exposure, including dust, smoke, aerosolized metals, chemicals, and aeroallergens. Visit www.COPDFoundation.org/screener for more information.

Responsibilities of Chapter Senior Vice Commander: The Senior Vice Commander shall perform the duties of his/her station as set forth in the Official DAV Ritual. He/she shall encourage friendship among the members of their organization, discourage discord and promote harmony. Subject to the direction of the Chapter, he/she shall act as Chairperson of membership solicitation activities to the end that every eligible veteran may become a member. With the approval of the Chapter, the Senior Vice Commander may appoint one or more members to assist him/her in such membership activities. The Senior Vice Commander may not serve as Adjutant or Treasurer.

Daniel Clare, National Director of Communications has sent the following information as a reminder regarding being a spokesperson for the DAV.

Soon you will be making plans on how your Chapter will observe Veterans' Day. Remember when you serve as a DAV spokesperson, stick closely to the DAV's purpose and mission. Confine your remarks to issues that impact benefits and services for disabled veterans. Foreign policies and politics are outside the DAV's sphere of action. As DAV leaders, it is our duty to keep the memory of wartime sacrifice alive in the hearts of the American people.

It is that time of year for Chapters to get in touch with their local Golden Corral. Military Appreciation Monday is November 17, 2014. Golden Corral and its guest contributed over \$1.4 million to the DAV at the 2013 event. Over 433,500 veterans and active duty military members received a free dinner buffet.

DAV 5K

Run, walk, roll, or ride your motorcycle in the DAV 5K to honor your fellow veterans. This event takes place on Saturday, November 8, 2014 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Register online at www.DAV5K.org

Did you know that America's tallest flagpole is located in Sheboygan, Wisconsin? It is 100 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty, with a flag that's four stories high. The measurement of each star is 3.5 in feet and the width of each stripe is 4 feet. You can go online to watch a video about the flagpole:

www.aculty.com/flag

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

Will Davis
Department Adjutant

YOUR SPACE IS RIGHT HERE State Commander William Caine

This space is reserved for chapter and district commanders, NSO and officers to speak to the Ohio membership on issues big and small. It can be positive and negative. We will be using your name and hopefully it will be broad based of interest to all.

There are many worthy groups out there assisting veterans. We want to know what's happening in your part of Ohio. We see groups offering dogs, guitars, and groceries. We usually do best when we stay close to our core missions, claims work, hospital service, and local veteran assistance of all kinds.

If there is enough membership interest we can begin a "good of the order" column with space for bits and pieces when a large article is not warranted.

Hilton HHonors Military Program Launches in Ohio 1st Jr. Vice Commander Kenneth Marcum

In September 2013, the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) and Hilton Worldwide entered into an agreement to support veterans seeking employment assistance from State Workforce Agencies. As part of the NASWA/Hilton agreement, Hilton HHonors™ Military has been created to provide an avenue for Hilton Worldwide to partner with individual State Workforce Agencies to support overnight stays related to job search activities. Ohio's Hilton HHonors Military Program will kick off in 7 counties (Lucas, Cuyahoga, Mahoning, Athens, Montgomery, Hamilton, Franklin) and is expected to go statewide by May 2015.

Effective immediately, all OhioMeansJobs Center co-located partner staff working directly with jobseekers in the selected counties will be able to make referrals for HHonors points. An online self-guided tutorial was created for your convenience. The Hilton HHonors Military Program FAQ, referral form, as well as other helpful documents can be found on the attachments tab of the tutorial. The link is: <https://www.brainshark.com/naswa/vu?pi=zHmznJ6PdzGrTjz0>.

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

1st Jr. Vice Commander Kenneth Marcum

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was created by Governor George Voinovich in 1992 to recognize the contributions of Veterans to their communities after they leave the service.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Committee (consisting of all Veterans) selects no more than 20 inductees annually from nominations submitted throughout the year.

This is NOT a Military Hall of Fame. Those inducted have served honorably in the military and have continued to serve and contribute in their communities, state, and nation in an exemplary manner.

Eligibility:

- Served honorably in the military
- Contributed to their community in a commendable way.
- Born in Ohio or lived in Ohio for at least five years.
- Must have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces and must provide a copy of discharge papers with the nomination.
- Be of good moral character, on felony convictions.
- Posthumous nominations are accepted.
- *NOTE:* Restrictions apply to those that are employed by ODVS, state elected officials, members of the executive committee, and foundation for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame and County Veterans Service Commissioners.

Location in Ohio Law: Ohio Revised Code 5904

Nomination packets can be printed off of the web site at:

https://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame.aspx

OR you may contact Karen Kish, the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Coordinator, directly at 614-752-8941 or Karen.Kish@dvs.ohio.gov

Mail packets to: Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Attn: Karen Kish, 77 S. High St., 7th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215

Competence and Flexibility

1st Jr. Vice Commander Kenneth Marcum

Competence and flexibility are vital skills that employers seek. Today more than ever, businesses need people with the ability to adapt to different situation and circumstances. And perhaps more than any other group, veterans with disabilities possess precisely these attributes. On a daily basis, veterans with disabilities must think creatively about how to solve problems and accomplish tasks. In the workplace, this translates into innovative thinking, fresh ideas and varied approaches to confronting challenges and achieving success. Our veterans before their disability were mission and goal orientated with the training they received in basic and service schools.

While research shows that people with disabilities make excellent employees, veterans double on these statistics. The problem lies with not all employers know how to effectively recruit, retain, and advance such individuals. The tools developed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has sections devoted just to the veteran population. To learn more about DOL's efforts to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities, visit ODEP's website at www.dol.gov and www.dol.gov/odep and Veterans Rehabilitation and Employment Program (VR&E) www.vba.va.gov/bin/vre . For additional disability employment resources, visit Disability.gov's employer page at disability.gov/employment/employer resources.

Coping with Depression in a Family Member

1st Jr. Vice Commander Kenneth Marcum

Depression can be a serious illness that afflicts anyone regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity or social status. Depression in an individual affects everyone in the family. Initially the depressed person may have symptoms (intense sadness, sleeping and concentration problems, guilt, increased or decreased appetite, loss of energy) that are confusing

to the rest of the family. Sometimes a depressed person denies having the symptoms which makes it harder for others to be helpful and understanding. If someone in your family suffers from depression it is important for your to understand how it can affect you and others in the family.

Helpful Strategies

Unfortunately, there is still a stigma attached to being depressed. Depression is a condition that is caused by many factors. Stress, suffering a major loss such as a job or a loved one, can trigger a depressive episode. There is also a genetic component to depression as there is with many medical illnesses. Educate yourself about depression. In some cases it may be appropriate to talk to your family member's doctor about depression. Accept that you may have mixed feelings. When someone is depressed it affects the entire family.

There may be a change in the household routines. You may be asked to take on more responsibility and be involved in the treatment process. This can be frustrating. This frustration can sometimes turn into anger if you are having a hard time communicating with the person who is depressed. These feelings are a normal part of the adjustment process. It is important that you be able to both accept and express your own feelings when someone else is depressed. This may be particularly hard for children who will have a hard time bringing up issues that may be hard to face. If your family member is balking at treatment and considering quitting, encourage them not to do so. Suggest that they talk to their therapist about their concerns immediately. Most physicians and therapists who treat depression encourage family involvement in the treatment of depression. It may be helpful to attend a session in order to understand the treatment process and learn what you can do to be helpful and still manage your own feelings.

DAV DEPARTMENT OF OHIO DONATION TO LOUIS STOKES CLEVELAND VAMC BLIND REHAB



On behalf of DAV Department of Ohio, David May, Department Assistant Hospital Chairman, presented a donation to Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center's Blind Rehab Center (BRC) Chief Ellen Papadimoulis. The donation will support the BRC's outreach programs. Vision loss is a disability that can affect every daily task in a veteran's life. Many times veterans and families are not aware of benefits and services that are provided for blind veterans. Treatment may range from a prescription for a magnifier to comprehensive blind rehabilitation training. VA VIST and BRC services help veterans cope with sight loss.

WHAT IS VA VIST? The Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinator is a specialized case manager who has the responsibility for the coordination of services for visually impaired veterans. The VIST Coordinator identifies visually impaired individuals, provides counseling, arranges a review of benefits and services, and leads support groups for vision loss. Most VA Medical Centers will have a VIST Coordinator. Anyone can refer a visually impaired veteran to VA VIST. People outside of the VA such as family members, eye doctors, social workers, service officers, and other veterans.

For more information Please contact your local VA VIST Coordinator.

Cincinnati VA VIST 513.475.6397

Cleveland VA VIST 216.791.3800, Ext. 2108 or 1.877.838.8262 Ext. 2108

Columbus VA VIST 614.257.5470

Dayton VA VIST 937.268.6511, Ext. 2631

Toledo VA VIST 1.800.361.8387, Ext. 53064

Youngstown VA VIST 330.740.9200, Ext. 1580

SPECIAL DAV LOGO LICENSE PLATES RELEASE

The special plates unit has set the sale date for the DAV logo license plate for Monday, November 3, 2014.