



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

Disabled American Veterans, Department of Ohio

October, 2015 Newsletter

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### **FROM THE DESK OF STATE COMMANDER PHILLIP ALEXANDER**



Well it's that time! It is time to make last minute updates to unfinished house work we planned on finishing over the summer. Time to service our heating units, winterize our automobiles, add extra wax, put away our patio furniture, time to harvest our gardens, administer applications to the lawn, put away garden hoses, and bring out the rake and leaf blowers. I think this is why the season is called fall, we feel like falling out. We also have an upside, there are many fun holidays; football season has started, hunting and fishing, bonfires, cookouts and the Mother Nature is putting on a great assortment of beautiful colors for all of us to enjoy.

The DAV loves this season. This is the time of year we find new ways to help and assist our disabled brothers and sisters. With hospital visits, air shows, 5K, Golden Corral, traveling Veterans Wall and a variety of local and county Veterans events.

I am looking forward to our upcoming Fall Conference. More families and new Auxiliary members plan to attend. DAV members are coming for the first times as well as the faithful comrades who seldom miss. And we will truly miss members that are unable to attend. The new enthusiasm and love for our membership to learn more, warms my heart.

In the past two weeks I had members approach me, saying, "At one time, all I wanted were benefits or claims, now I am looking to help other Veterans. I want to know more about this organization and spread the word that the DAV is different." Some Veterans expressed after coming home they were turned away from other Veterans organizations or given the cold shoulder. They also expressed, "I came to the DAV, and was greeted with a smile. This is a common occurrence and I feel comfortable inviting others to attend."

This tells me that our Chapter Officers are out in the community spreading the word that the DAV cares. Feeding Vets, standing up for Veterans rights, attending town hall meetings, helping at VA facilities and throughout the community with a hand shake or a call when in need (We Care With a SMILE). This lets me know that our 10 District Commanders are out visiting the Chapters, holding meetings, spreading and sharing thoughts through the Web Site and social media. Every time I go to a District meeting I learn something new. This also shows me our Executive Members are out visiting the Districts. They provide comprehensive documentation which is well received. I would like to thank all of our Past Department Commander's and our National Service Officer's for their input and wisdom as we move forward.

### **BE OF SERVICE.**

*Phillip Alexander*  
State Commander



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<b>National Headquarters, DAV</b>	(877) 426-2838
<b>NSO Office, Cleveland</b>	(216) 522-3507
<b>NSO Office, Cincinnati</b>	(513) 684-2676
<b>Washington Office, DAV</b>	(202) 554-3501
<b>Cincinnati DSO, Tom Kirstein</b>	(513) 475-6443
<i>Tuesday, Thursday</i>	
Lisa Wilson	
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	
<b>Dayton DSO, Leland Sink</b>	(937) 268-6511
<i>Tuesday, Thursday</i>	
Ricky Sickles	
<b>Wade Park DSO, Walter Dryja</b>	(216) 791-3800
<i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</i>	
Ext. 3395	
<b>Chillicothe DSO, Darlene Maravilla</b>	(740) 773-1141
<i>Monday- Friday</i>	
Ext. 7916	
<b>Columbus Clinic DSO,</b>	
Henry Snodgrass (614) 257-5487	
<i>Monday- Friday</i>	
<b>Parma Clinic DSO, Richard Healy</b>	(216) 739-7000
<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	
Ext. 2405	



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 10, 2015	District Nine (9) Meeting, Ross County Chapter #18, AMVETS 317 E. Main St., Chillicothe, OH Lunch at 12p.m., Meeting at 1p.m.
Oct. 11, 2015	District Four (4) Meeting, The Buddy Chapter #43, 606 Fistlock Ave., Findlay, OH at 2p.m.
Oct. 11, 2015	Chapter #43 Renovation Project Dedication Ceremony at 12 p.m., 606 Fistlock Ave., Findlay.
Oct. 11, 2015	District Eight (8) Meeting, Bellaire Chapter #117, 3134 Guernsey St., Bellaire, OH with Lunch at 1p.m., Meeting at 2 p.m.
Oct. 17, 2015	District One (1) Meeting, Cincinnati Chapter #1, 9000 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH at 12p.m.
Oct. 18, 2015	District Six (6) Meeting, Trumbull County Chapter #11, 2044 Youngstown Rd., Warren, OH, Lunch at 1p.m., Meeting at 2p.m.
Oct. 18, 2015	District Seven (7) Meeting, Alliance Chapter #50, 9540 McCallum Ave., Alliance, OH at 2p.m.
Oct. 20, 2015	2015 Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down, Columbus, OH.
Oct. 30, 2015	Chapter Commanders, Adjutants & Treasurers Training at 10a.m., Crowne Plaza, Dublin, OH.
Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2015	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
Nov. 7, 2015	DAV 5K, Run to Honor Veterans, Cincinnati, OH, Register online at <a href="http://DAV5K.org">DAV5K.org</a>
Nov. 10, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Wayne County Chapter #44, Buehler Food Market, Orrville, OH.
Nov. 11, 2015	Golden Corral Military Appreciation Night
Nov. 11, 2015	Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, 2 Hour Train Ride, Independence, OH
Nov. 11-14, 2015	Forget-Me-Not, Dayton Chapter #9, Wright Patterson, Dayton, OH.
February 21-24, 2016	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
March 18-20, 2016	I-X Piston Powered Auto-Rama, Cleveland, Ohio.
June 23-26, 2016	Department of Ohio Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
November 4-6, 2016	Fall Conference, Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio.
Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2017	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.
July 29, Aug. 1, 2017	National Convention, New Orleans, LA.
February 25-28, 2018	Mid-Winter Conference, Arlington, VA.

## NOTES FROM THE STATE ADJUTANT KENNETH MARCUM



### **162 WWII Veterans living in the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky were honored today on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory over Japan Day**

*Sandusky—August 14, 2015* Colonel Timothy C. Gorrell, director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) presented 162 Ohio World War II veterans living in the Ohio Veterans Home-Sandusky with military challenge coins in honor of their service during WWII.

Seventy years ago on August 14, 1945 the Japanese publicly announced the acceptance of the terms of unconditional surrender, which signaled the end of WWII.

“On the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V-J Day, I am especially humbled to be in the presence of so many of our greatest heroes and their families,” said Col. Gorrell. “Each and every day it is an honor and a privilege to serve these brave men and women who sacrificed so much for our nation and the

world.”

During the celebration, Col. Gorrell (U.S. Army, retired) and uniformed representatives from the Ohio National Air Guard, the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard presented challenge coins to the veterans and thanked them for their service. Challenge coins have a long standing history in the military. Members of the U.S. Armed Services carry challenge coins that symbolize unit identity and brotherhood. Each piece usually bears unit symbols or mottos that identify the group they represent. The coins presented today said “*Served with American Pride.*”

The celebration continued with refreshments and entertainment from the Andrews Sisters band.

The Ohio Veterans Home in Georgetown will hold their WWII celebration in September, the month the official surrender document was signed.



The Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Home opened in 1888 to serve veterans from the Civil War. Today, the Ohio Veterans Homes continue the tradition of "Serving those who Served" by providing independent living and long term care services to Ohio's war-time veterans from all branches of the military. The Homes are located in Sandusky and Georgetown Ohio. To learn more visit [http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS\\_HOMES](http://dvs.ohio.gov/VETERANS_HOMES) or call 1-866-OhioVet.

#### **Ohio's World War II Statistics:**

More than 693,000 Ohioans answered the call to serve in World War II

More than 16,800 Ohioans made the ultimate sacrifice

More than 41,000 veterans of the WWII era live in Ohio today Ohio is home to more than 877,000 veterans, the sixth largest veteran population in the nation.

#### **MATTHEWS CAR SHOW AND CHILI COOK-OFF**

Our DAV attended the Matthews Car Show and Chili Cook-off in Bucyrus, Ohio on September 12, 2015. Chapter #3 provided their DAV van which won an award in the car show!

State Adjutant Ken Marcum, Chapter #3 members Vince Williams, Jim Kaster and Chapter #100 Donald Scheerer attended the event.



#### **ELEVEN (11) FACTS ABOUT VETERANS:**

1. Veterans are people who served in the military (US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coastguard) in times of war or peace. Marine Time Sailors were only considered veterans during WWII.
2. In the United States, Veteran's Day is celebrated on November 11<sup>th</sup> every year.
3. Veteran's Day, which pays tribute to all veterans, living or dead, differs from Memorial Day during which we pay tribute to those who lost their lives in combat.
4. There are currently 1.8 million female veterans in the United States.
5. Britain, France, Australia, Poland, Russia, Belgium, and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World War I and II on or near November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Philippines were added for WWII.
6. 5 States are home to more than 1 million veterans; California (2.1 million), Florida (1.7 million), Texas (1.7 million), New York (1 million), and Pennsylvania (1 million).
7. The unemployment rate of veterans is 3 percent higher than the rest of the population.
8. In 2011, there were 43,942 veterans who served during the three wars of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam era.
9. One third of the adult homeless population is veterans, and 70 percent of these suffer from substance abuse.
10. More than 9 million veterans are over the age of 65.
11. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is the leading cause of homelessness and unemployment in veterans.

#### **LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LVAP)**

Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) was established to facilitate and recognize volunteer initiatives that contribute to the lives of our nation's ill and injured heroes. The program empowers individuals to find and develop new and unique ways to use their skills and talents to support the services and sacrifice of our veterans and their families. By providing resources, assistance or help with everyday needs, volunteers allow these heroes and their families to enjoy the best quality of life as possible.

LVAP initiatives are managed by state-level DAV Departments. Individual volunteers and groups may report their time for a variety of activities. Referenced below are just a few examples of how volunteers, DAV Chapters, Auxiliary Units and corporations can share their skills, talents, professional abilities and time in ways that benefit veterans.

- Work to support DAV Departments and Chapters
- DAV-specific outreach efforts
- Fundraising efforts (Forget-Me-Not Drive and other approved fundraisers)
- Direct assistance to veterans, widows/widowers, or families, such as yard work, home repairs, grocery shopping, respite care for caregivers, etc.
- Offering pro bono professional services, or using a skill or trade to provide training or support to veterans, their families or DAV entities.

- Support activities for homeless veterans.
- Involvement in community activities that support and encourage veterans.

If you have an interest in serving heroes in your community, please feel free to contact the DAV Department Headquarters at (614) 221-3582 or the DAV Voluntary Service Department at (877) 426-2838 or send an email to [vavs@dav.org](mailto:vavs@dav.org).

*Kenneth Marcum*  
State Adjutant

### **COMPANY DONATES WHEELCHAIRS FOR VETERANS**



Accepting a donation of 30 free wheelchairs for veterans are, from left, Ohio Department Adjutant Kenneth Marcum, DAV VAVS Volunteer William Walls, and Ohio Department Commander Phillip Alexander. Though the VA cannot accept donations of equipment like this one from Best Corporate Events, Director of Voluntary Services at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center Tracey Butts was on hand for the event. The DAV in Ohio is one of several state DAV organizations that have received wheelchair donations from Best Corporate Events, distributing them to state veterans' homes, homeless programs for veterans, and individual veterans in need.

*Thomas Keller*  
Past Department Commander

### **IMPORTANCE OF DISTRICT MEETINGS**

In the Spring and the Fall our Chapters gather in their Districts to meet with each other with their District Commanders. These semi-annual meetings allow for the free exchange of ideas, to share common concerns and possible solutions plus they receive the latest updates from Department. Often there is a guest speaker or two; which usually includes an Officer from the Department's Executive Committee and sometimes a National Service Officer. So these meetings are invaluable to our Chapters.

I have been to a little over half of our Districts, as either an Executive Committee member or in my previous life as the Supervisory National Service Officer. I learned something new at every meeting and I particularly enjoyed the comradeship. Also, every meeting had food and drinks for all whom attended. These meetings are both enlightening and fulfilling (pun intended).

I have noticed over the past decade that the attendance at the meetings has been waning. This is a shame for all the reasons listed above. It is also a concern for our Department, because your District Commander is our eyes and ears in the field. I personally believe that your District Commander has one of the hardest jobs in our chain of command. Poor attendance at the scheduled District meetings makes their job that much harder. After all, how can they support their Chapters and keep Department informed on the health of their Districts, if attendance is marginalized or apathetic. Chapter representatives, whether it be the Commander or Adjutant or even a member, need to attend and give a report of their status, activities and concerns at these meetings. These reports should be prepared and not off the cuff, because everyone knows that prior preparation provides the best results.

In order to help our District Commanders do their job with knowledge and efficiency, we hold annual training for them. Now your Department is also going to make the opportunity for its Chapters' Officers to also get annual training. The first scheduled training will be conducted at the Fall Conference. After that, Department is looking at how to incorporate this beneficial training at our annual Conventions in Columbus. It is hope that additional training and discussion opportunities will allow for better Chapter operations and therefore better District meetings.

The importance of District meetings and well run Chapter operations cannot be overemphasized. Please support these activities. Only your participation can keep the DAV active and well run in Ohio.

*David L. Bilinovich*  
Senior Vice Commander



## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**



### **No Atheists in Foxholes:**

Many have heard the familiar phrase, "There is no such thing as an atheist in a fox hole."  
Where did this come from?

As the story goes, Father Cummings was a civilian missionary Catholic priest in the Philippines.  
The phrase was coined during the Japanese attack at Corregidor.

During the siege, Cummings had noticed non-Catholics were attending his services.

Some he knew were not Catholic, some were not religious and some were even known atheists.  
Life-and-death experiences prompt a reality check.

Even the strongest of beliefs can change, and, I may add, can go both ways – people can be drawn to or away from "faith."

"There is no such thing as an atheist in a fox hole."

The real question is, "Is it important to have faith in 'faith' itself or is it more important to ask, 'What is the object of my faith?'"

What is 'faith' to you?

God Bless America, and God Bless the DAV.

*Robert Habern*

Department Chaplain

## **CLERMONT COUNTY CHAPTER #63 AND "QUILT OF VALOR" PRESENTATION**

Clermont County Chapter #63 and the Anderson Senior Center Quilters have joined together in presenting a "Quilt of Valor" to a disabled Veteran. "Quilt of Valor" is a national organization which is composed of quilting clubs and individuals throughout the United States. The quilts are presented to disabled veterans as a comforting and healing gesture of appreciation from quilters.

The concept of presenting quilts to soldiers is rooted in the Civil War tradition of family members giving departing soldiers home-made quilts made from pieces of their families' own clothing to comfort the soldiers in their times of need and strife.

The Anderson Quilters were started 11 years ago and is composed of 22 members. The quilt is designed and each member sews a portion of the quilt. The quilt presented to Navy Veteran Michael Nienaeer was the fourth quilt completed and presented to disabled veterans.

During Chapter #63's presentations, the recipients are told the history of the quilt and the three-fold purpose of the quilt. These were: (1) to recognize the individual's service to the country; (2) to honor the sacrifice the individual has made in the service to the country; and (3) to provide comfort and healing to the individual.

DAV Chapter #63 Adjutant Ray Hutchinson and Commander of DAVA Chapter #63 Joyce Hutchinson made the formal presentation to the Navy Veterans Nienaeer. Following the presentation, all the quilters wrapped the hand-made quilt around the veterans in a symbolic gesture that the quilt will embrace him with love and affection from all the quilters.

In his concluding remarks, the Navy veteran stated that, "The quilt means a lot more than all the medals and citations that I received in the military. I feel this way because the quilt was made with love from all the quilters."

"Chapter #63 is honored to make the formal presentations of "Quilts of Valor" to our disabled Veterans," concluded Adjutant Ray Hutchinson, "because this is a key component of our Chapter's outreach service to our disabled Veterans.



*Pictured: Adjutant Ray Hutchinson & Commander John Plahovinsak of Ch. #63 present a "Quilt of Valor" to Michael Nienaeer (center)*

## **ATTENTION CHAPTER COMMANDERS, ADJUTANTS & TREASURERS**

There will be a Chapter Commander/Adjutant/Treasurer Training Class held *Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015* at 10:00 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Dublin, 600 Metro Place North, Dublin, OH 43017. Chapter Commanders, Adjutants and Treasurers are urged to attend this class; though it is not mandatory. The class will be approximately two (2) hours long. It will be informative and very helpful. It is our goal at Department Headquarters to help your Chapter succeed.

If you plan to attend please R.S.V.P. to Ken or Stephanie at Department Headquarters (614) 221-3582 no later than Monday, October 26, 2015.



**THE 2016 SUMMIT RACING EQUIPMENT I-X PISTON POWERED AUTO-RAMA PRESENTED BY RAD AIR COMPLETE CAR CARE AND TIRE CENTERS TEAM WITH MEDINA VFW 5137 LOCAL VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS AND THREE CHAPTERS OF ROLLING THUNDER TO COMMEMORATE THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR**

Cleveland, Oh (September 11, 2015) The 2016 Summit Racing Equipment I-X Piston Powered Auto-Rama Presented by Rad Air Complete Car Care and Tire Centers will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual show in Cleveland at the I-X Center on March 18-20, 2016 and will team with the Medina VFW 5137, local Veteran Organizations and three Chapters of Rolling Thunder to create a program that will comport with the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act to conduct a program to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

The volunteer efforts to become a Commemorative Partner with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration was accepted and recognized by a proclamation on September 1, 2015.

*The commemorative programs will include activities and ceremonies to achieve the following objectives:*

- To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW), or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
- To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
- To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
- To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War
- To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

**2015 CENTRAL OHIO HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN**

We provide the following services exclusively for our homeless Veteran men and women who served in US Military: *Meals, Clothing, Haircuts, Legal Services, Job Search Information, Health Screenings, Community Service*

**When:** October 20, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, Halls E & F, 400 North High St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Please visit our website at [www.centralohiostanddown.org](http://www.centralohiostanddown.org) or call Rick Isbell at (614) 645-6504 for more information.

**GOLDEN CORRAL MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY**

Golden Corral and the DAV are partnering for another great Military Appreciation night, Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 between 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. That's the day Golden Corral restaurants nationwide welcome our nation's veterans and active-duty military men and women to a free buffet dinner and drink and lots of camaraderie. Last year, DAV Departments and Chapters raised more than \$1.4 million in donations as a result of this decade-long annual tradition.

**CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC RAILROAD**

*FREE TO ALL VETERANS & FAMILY*

7900 Old Rockside Rd., Independence, OH

2 Hour Train Ride, Leaving for on Track #1, *No reservations needed, Boarding at 9AM*

View wild-life; enjoy the company, See Holiday Decorations, View wet-lands, Talk to Staff, Handicap Seating available, Souvenirs and Refreshments.

