



July/August  
2018

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**Volume 23 | Number 1**



## **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE** July 4, 1776

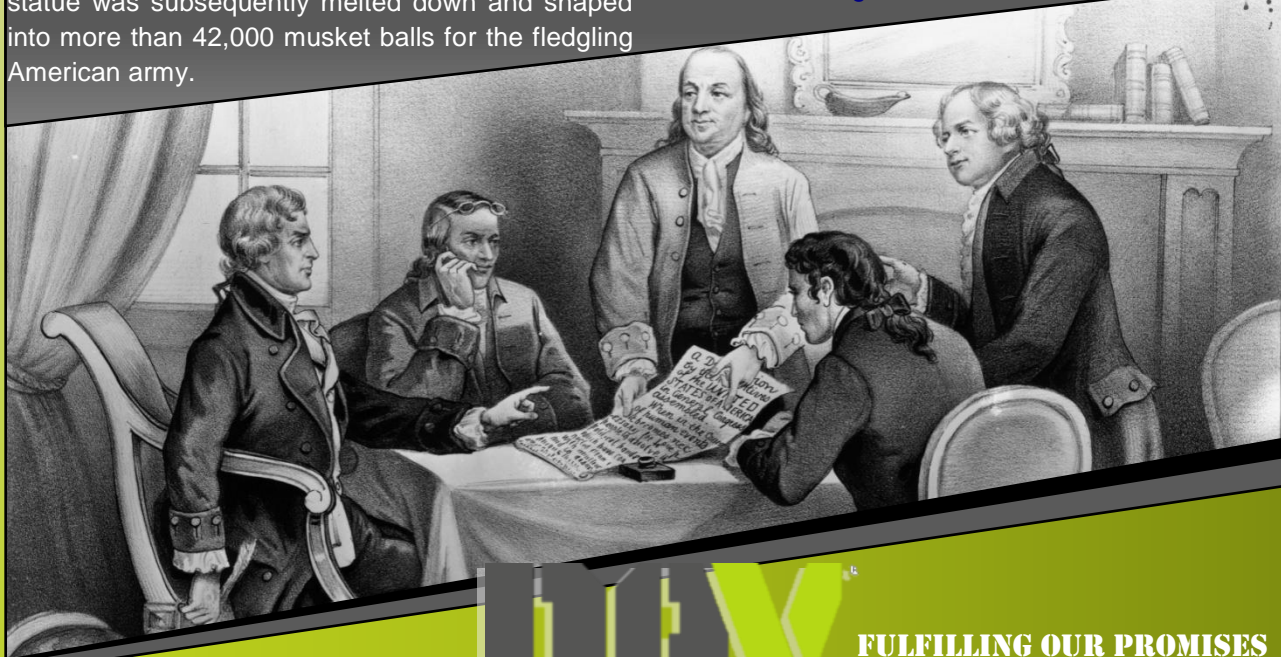
When news of the Declaration of Independence reached New York City, it started a riot.

By July 9, 1776, a copy of the Declaration of Independence had reached New York City. With hundreds of British naval ships occupying New York Harbor, revolutionary spirit and military tensions were running high. George Washington, commander of the Continental forces in New York, read the document aloud in front of City Hall. A raucous crowd cheered the inspiring words, and later that day tore down a nearby statue of George III. The statue was subsequently melted down and shaped into more than 42,000 musket balls for the fledgling American army.

## **SECOND BATTLE OF THE MARNE** July 15 – August 5, 1918

In what began as the last major German offensive of the First World War, the Second Battle of the Marne developed into a significant Allied victory. After it became clear that the Germans had not only failed in their aim to win the war in this offensive, but had in fact lost ground, a number of German commanders, including Crown Prince Wilhelm, believed the war was lost.

[Continue reading](#)



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



## Department Commander

Willie Tatum



Comrades,

First giving honor to God for allowing me to be in this position. Then I want to thank each of you for having the confidence and electing me as your next Department Commander. I promise that I will do my best to represent Alabama well.

I want to start out by reminding each of you that working together we can accomplish more than if we work against each other. I don't have to remind you of our mission of helping our fellow veterans and their families. To do this we must reach out to them and be accessible to them. I encourage you to be visible in your communities and be always looking for new members. Let's make this a successful recruiting year, and we can do this if each of us just recruit one new member. All members are welcome but, remember we are looking for full life members and we will be talking more about that later.

I want to take this time to again thank our individual top recruiters this year.

- 1st place Bill Baker
- 2nd place Frank Cannon
- 3rd Place Annie Byrd and Tom Ferguson  
Large Chapter Huntsville 26
- Medium Chapter Anniston-Oxford 98
- Small Chapter Blount County 28

I want to thank everyone who worked toward making our goal, but remember this is an ongoing effort so let's continue forward.

This will be the last year that we will have DECM'S as a point of contact between Chapters and the Department and I hope that we will have your cooperation as we try to make sure information flows smoothly from the Department to Chapters. Do not hesitate to contact your DECM with any concerns or problems and as always you can contact your Department.

I want to briefly talk about Chapters' financial support to the Department. Remember that any donation to the Department is service to veterans and we can always use your support. I am also asking for help with our luncheon at our Department C&A Training October 13, 2018, and our hospitality room at our Mid-Winter Conference in January 2019. Both of these are for our members and would be very much appreciated.

I remind Chapter Commanders to pay attention to reports due dates and get them submitted on time. We also encourage participation in our 8:00am Town Hall Conference every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday and our 8:00am Online Training every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and I hope that you are too. Remember we are in this together and we can make it a good year. Thank you for your support.

Semper fi,

*Willie Tatum*



## SECOND BATTLE OF THE MARNE

July 15 – August 5, 1918

The second Marne offensive was launched on the back of an earlier push towards Paris which recaptured the Chemin des Dames ridge en route, a formidable position held by the Germans in 1914 and lost, at great cost to the French, during the 1917 Nivelle Offensive.

[Read the entire story about the Battle of the Marne](#)

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## Disabled American Veterans Mission

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically;
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government;
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level Departments and local Chapters; and
- Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.



### Senior Vice Commander

Jerry D. Morgan

Comrades,

I want to thank everyone for giving me the honor of serving as your next Senior Vice Commander for the Department of Alabama DAV for the 2018 – 2019 year. I am available at any time to help anyone in any chapter anyway that I can.

I am looking forward to working with our new Commander as well as all the elected personnel for this year. I feel that with your help and working with us that we will have a great year. One item that we will have to do is continue to work on is improving communication.

I will be attending the Commander and Adjutant training at DAV Headquarters from June 23 through June 26 where I will be attending the classes on membership and ways that you and your chapter can use to recruit new members. I know that I still have much to learn about membership and recruitment and am looking forward to the training. I know that there is no one way to recruit new members that will work with each recruiting effort so we all need to be open to new ways as well as what has worked before. It will take all of us working together to reach the goals for the Department as each chapter works for their own goals. Just remember that our new recruiting year started on July 1st so let's all go to work and make this a great year.

Respectfully,

*Jerry Morgan*



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**1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander**  
Eugene Zeigler

Comrades,

I would like to thank you all for having confidence in electing me, 1st Junior Vice Commander. It is my honor and privilege to accept this position. I will focus three things Membership, Training and Article 16 resolution. Also, I will assume the duties of the Senior Vice Commander in his absence. Actively participate in membership recruiting and goals. Provide training expertise to chapters as required. Provide support for any Article 16 action working directly with the investigating committee.

VA commits \$17 Million to expand Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program. (IPV) Services address healing from physical, psychological and social effects of violence. The funds will strengthen IPV Assistance Programs in VA facilities nationwide.

VA recognizes that intimate partner violence is a health issue faced by many Veterans and their families," said Acting VA Secretary Peter O'Rourke. "We are giving careful attention to this program, ensuring it is integrated into clinical care and workplace safety. Both are important to the safety of Veterans and VA employees who report experiencing violence."

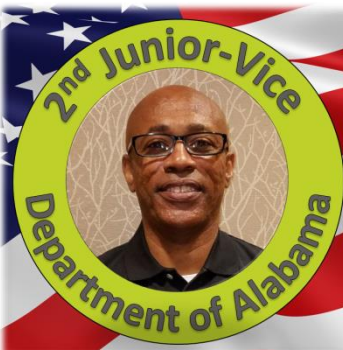
IPV affects millions of Americans. The term "intimate partner violence" describes physical, sexual or psychological harm by a current or former partner of spouse. This type of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples.

Awareness and identification of intimate partner violence among Veterans has increased. Research suggests Veterans may be at greater risk than their civilian counterparts, given the unique stressors posed by military life.

Stop IPV. Americans experience Intimate Partner Violence every minute every day. VA is committed to addressing Intimate Partner Violence. Please call 1-800-799-7233 for help.

Respectfully,

*Eugene Ziegler*



**2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander**  
Earl Lee Frazier

Comrades,

First and foremost I would like to thank the Department of Alabama, along with the line officers, nominating committee and all chapter members for electing me as your 2nd Junior Vice Commander for 2018-19. I am both humbled and honored for the responsibility you have bestowed unto me. I understand my responsibility to the Senior Vice Commander, assisting in fundraising, attending Executive Committee meetings and assisting the Department Adjutant. It's time to roll my sleeves up

and go to work. I look forward to continue assisting our nation's veterans, supporting the Department Commander, line officers, executive committee members and chapters. Once again thank you for your service and "Airborne."

Respectfully,

*Earl L. Frazier*

**News & Views Article Due Dates:**

*September Issue – Due Aug 2018*

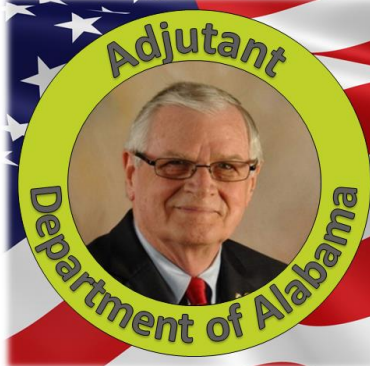
*November Issue – Due Oct 2018*

*January Issue – Due Dec 2018*

All Articles due the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publishing of the newsletter. (January due December 15<sup>th</sup>, due to the Holiday season)

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## Department Adjutant

Charles "Chad" D. Richmond



Comrades

Congratulations to all our elected and appointed officers for 2018-2019. I am looking forward to working with each of you during the coming year. We have just completed a very successful year in many ways. We had some hiccups along the way, but as PDC Charles Waugh would say, "It's all good". We also had a lot of good come out of the convention thanks to our National guests Mike and Sandy Dobmeier and our special guest speaker Coach Bruce Pearl.

I'd also like to congratulate John Mercer of Louisiana, Dan Ward of Mississippi and Kenny Bellew of Tennessee on their selection as Department Commander for 2018-2019. And I wish the best of success to Garret Hanas of Tennessee as he embarks on the new journey as their Adjutant.

Congratulations to my Chapter Commander Frank Cannon for being selected as the DAV Veteran of the Year for 2017-2018. That's awesome, and well deserved!

The time immediately following convention is always a busy time for me, trying to get the new C&BL to National HQ, process all the travel vouchers, order new caps and badges, coordinate the hotel bill with the Treasurer, etc. Those are but a few of the things that have to be done, so if I seem a little slow (or cranky), please bear with me.

All chapters should have received their annual finance report packet from National Headquarters. If you are a Treasurer and haven't received your packet yet, get with your chapter mail recipient and find out where it is. Remember, they are due NLT September 30 and your IRS Form 990 is due NLT November 15.

We have a new Expense Voucher that was effective on June 11, 2018. It reflects the new

mileage rate of 35 cents as approved by the Executive Committee. The new 2018-2019 Officer Roster is also posted on the Department website on the News page. The new Constitution and Bylaws is on its way to National Headquarters for final approval. The registration form for our 2019 Mid-Winter Conference is also on the web site. As usual, there have been some problems with reservations at the Marriott, but hopefully those have been taken care of.

All chapters should have received their annual finance report packet from National Headquarters. If you are a Treasurer and haven't received your packet yet, get with your chapter mail recipient and find out where it is. Remember, they are due NLT September 30 and your IRS Form 990 is due NLT November 15.

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On October 20 we will again converge on 1<sup>st</sup> JVC Zeigler's church in Montgomery for our annual Chapter Commander and Adjutant Orientation. It is not just for Commanders and Adjutants, but for anyone who aspires to become a chapter Commander or Adjutant someday. We haven't gotten the classes or the instructors finalized yet, but will have shortly. What we need from you, the Chapters, is an accurate count of how many people will be attending from your chapter. This helps us plan the food for lunch and how many seats to have available. If you would like to bring any of the food and drinks for the event, we would be extremely grateful, as well. Every little bit helps. Please coordinate food and drink donations with Jr. PDC Deborah Walker.

Due to Veterans Day being on Sunday this year, the parade and World Peace Luncheon will be on Monday, November 12 in Birmingham. I have the tickets for both the Awards Banquet on Sunday, November 11 and the World Peace Luncheon on Monday, November 12. Banquet tickets are \$45.00 and luncheon tickets are \$35.00. This year's Veteran of the Year is Army Captain Mike Rose, a CMOH recipient and member of Huntsville Chapter 26.

PDC Culver and I are always telling people to go to [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org) or to [www.davmembersportal.org/al](http://www.davmembersportal.org/al) whenever they ask for a blank form. After attending a class on the duties of chapter officers at the Department of Tennessee's convention, I realized just how important that was, because we were continually going to the

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“Members Only” section of the DAV website during that class. Any DAV member has access to that portion of the website using their membership number, and it has webinars, downloadable DAV logos, manuals and more importantly, a link called “Quick Links”. It opens up a world of stuff that every Chapter officer needs access to. The two key things available are fillable .pdf officer reports and finance reports. Yes, you can fill everything out on your computer, the computer does the math and then, all you have to do is print, sign, mail. This includes the monthly finance report. There is even a webinar that shows how to prepare each of those reports. And to think, it has been there all along! Thank you JVC Mike Harmon for pointing that out so well.

As a reminder to all chapters, please let me know about your fundraisers so I can get them on my calendar. That info is due to me NLT thirty days before the fundraiser.

Lastly, I hope we have a good turnout for the National Convention in Reno. If you are going, please try to be there in time for the 8<sup>th</sup> District meeting, Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. We will elect a new 8<sup>th</sup> NEC this year, and our nominee is SVC Jerry Bratton of Mississippi, with PDC Carroll Davis as his Alternate. Hope to see you there.

Respectfully,

*Chad Richmond*



## DAV Upcoming Events

- July 11, 2018: SBVA Meeting, RSA Union Building, Montgomery, AL
- July 14-17, 2018: National Convention, Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, NV
- September 15, 2018: 18<sup>th</sup>Annual Black and White POW/MIA Banquet, Talladega Regional Family Life Center, Talladega, AL
- October 5, 2018: SBVA Meeting, RSA Union Building, Montgomery, AL
- October 13, 2018: Chapter Commander and Adjutant Orientation, Bible Missionary Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL
- October 20, 2018: Auburn Run For Vets 2018, Auburn, AL
- November 11, 2018: Veterans Day
- November 11, 2018: National Veterans Day Awards Banquet, Sheraton Hotel, Birmingham, AL
- November 12, 2018: Veterans Day World Peace Luncheon and Parade, Birmingham, AL
- November 12, 2018: Veterans Appreciation Monday, Golden Corral, Statewide
- November 15-18, 2018: Department of Louisiana Mid-Winter Conference, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA
- January 3-6, 2019: Department of Alabama Mid-Winter Conference, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center At Grand National, Opelika, AL
- January 17-19, 2019: Department of Tennessee Mid-Winter Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN
- February 24-27, 2019: National Mid-Winter Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Alexandria, VA
- May 15-19, 2019: Department of Louisiana Convention, Hotel Bentley, Alexandria, LA
- May 30-June 2, 2019: Department of Alabama Convention, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National
- June 19-22, 2019: Department of Tennessee Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN
- August 3-7, 2019: National Convention, Orlando, FL
- July 31-August 4, 2020: National Convention, Dallas, TX
- July 24-27, 2021: National Convention, Reno, NV
- August 5-9, 2022: National Convention, Orlando, FL
- August 5-8, 2023: National Convention, Atlantic City, NJ





## Benefits Protection Team Leader

Laird Culver



Comrades,

Hello from the sunny side of my desk! No, I have not hidden from everyone yet, but things change just like they do in all things.

I would like to thank the commander for having the confidence in my being able to continue to do good things for the department. I look forward to this year, without so many balls to juggle in the department, and the prospect of helping others get some experience in selfless service to our members. It goes without saying, we as veterans know what it means to sacrifice time, family, personal goals, etc., for the good of others.

Now on with the show! Make certain you have signed up for the [DAV Commander's Action Network!](#) I know it seems like the same old song and dance, but my name isn't "Mr. Bojangles" and I am not sitting in some jail cell showing you a little soft shoe. If you are not signed up for the CAN, you are missing an opportunity to easily inform your representatives in D.C. of your feelings and desires concerning our eroding VA benefits and health care. The CAN is the easiest way to let them know how you feel in that the email is already set up for you and all you have to do is provide your name.

Come on folk! The only way this [DAV CAN](#) participation could be easier is if I were sitting at your computer and typing your name in the block. I could

[Contact your Senate Representative](#)



[Contact your House Representative](#)



be wrong, but we all know you would not want to see me sitting at your house every day.

Here are some recent bills of note making their way through the process:

[S 3089](#) is a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2018, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes. The last action on this bill, as of this writing, was 19 June 2018.

[HR 4635](#) is a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the number of peer-to-peer counselors providing counseling for women veterans, and for other purposes. Last action in Senate on 11 June 2018.

[HR 3562](#) is a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes. Last action in Senate on 1 June 2018.

Be a part of your chapter's [Benefits Protection Team!](#) The BPT is a way for you as a member to get involved just a little more at the grass roots level in protecting our benefits. If you have connections in the community where you live who could influence local leadership to lean towards helping keep our benefits, you would be valuable as a BPT member. If you have the ability to write an email, letter or pick up the phone and call chapter members to action, you would be valuable to your chapter's BPT. Get involved at any level you would like but [GET INVOLVED!!!](#)

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By the way, there is a new thing DAV National is promoting and it is the [DAV Social Member Social Hub](#). The site iterates and directs, **“As a DAV member, you know firsthand the power and value of our network — over 1 million veterans strong and growing. We use this powerful community to fight to improve the lives of all veterans. Please use the tools on this page to help us recruit more members.”** DAV National would like for all of us to start spreading the word across the Social Media landscape and give us links to do so on the splash page. Give it a look!!!

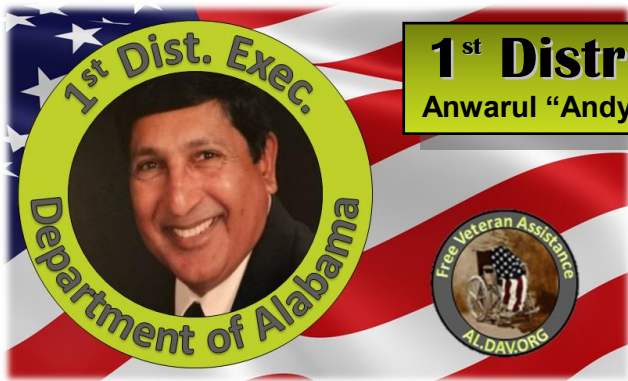


Have a great two months!

You may not know me, but I go by

*Laird Culver*

Department BPT Leader



## 1<sup>st</sup> District Executive Committeeman Anwarul “Andy” Haq

Comrades,

I would like to thank all the chapters who are providing me input for their activities.

As DECM -1st District, I will provide all information necessary to all chapters. It was very unfortunate that one chapter did not pay the Delegate Fee this year, to the state, as required. This is not optional and is our duty to pay the delegate fee.

The DAV Alabama State and District 1, Chapters exercised their civic and DAV membership rights and elected new officers. The new officers are eager to fulfill their DAV duties and serve the Veterans, so they may lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We would like to congratulate Comrade Willie Tatum on being elected as Commander of DAV State of Alabama, and all the Chapter Commanders and new officers. May God bless all the new officers as they take on this mission to serve the Veterans?



*During the conference, DAV and Auxiliary members met with Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby.*

Chapters are picking up steam and are busy with their upcoming activities. Hopefully we will remember to give our fundraising schedule to the Department Adjutant. The chapters are in full swing with Disability Claims, Helping Veterans in financial needs, assisting veterans and their families getting with Wheelchairs and giving them rides to the hospital as needed. All this is in the day's work of the District 1 Chapters

The Chapters are getting ready for the upcoming fun filled activities such as Veterans Day Parade (11 November), Military Retiree day activities 21-23 September. The Wall that Heals (Vietnam Traveling Wall). Additionally the DAV- Auxiliaries are teaming up with

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[Military leaders recognized volunteers April 17 during the 34th annual Installation Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. For Redstone Arsenal's senior commander, this was an opportunity to thank those working to improve the community.](#)

the DAV chapters to accomplish their mission by visiting Veterans on their birthdays at all Nursing Homes in North Alabama.

DECM Andy Haq received Redstone Arsenal Retiree Council & U.S. Army Warrant Officer Volunteer of the year award

Special Kudos goes to Chapter 26 Benefit Protection Team lead George Baker, DECM District 1

Andy Haq, and Marinita Haq Auxiliary Commander Unit 26 for visiting Senators Richard Shelby and Dough Jones and asking their support for all DAV's Legislative agenda. It was music to their ears when the House passed one of their agenda points "the Caregivers to Veterans of all Eras"

Respectfully,

*Andy Haq*



## BATTLE OF YORKTOWN

September 28 – October 9, 1781

The Battle of Yorktown was the final battle of the American Revolutionary War that resulted in the surrender of General Charles Cornwallis to General George Washington. Although it is often called the "Battle of Yorktown" it was not a battle but rather a siege that was brought on by a series of battles that left Cornwallis pinned down and surrounded by the French and American allies on land and sea. Once pinned down Cornwallis lasted just under six weeks and surrendered his sword. While the war continued on for two more years, Yorktown effectively ended it.

### Southern Campaign

The war in the South looked grim for the rebels after the debacle at Camden. The army was routed, morale was low, and Cornwallis began working towards landing the final blow. When Nathanael Greene arrived he was strapped with the difficult task of keeping the army intact. To do this he enlisted the help of another accomplished commander, Daniel Morgan, and split his army and began a retreat that would allow him to feed his army and stretch the supply lines of Cornwallis.

[Read about the Battle of Yorktown](#)

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> District Executive Committeeman

Gerald Mortz



Comrades,

Hello everyone. The convention went quite well, and yes I'm still your second DECM. I also have a NEW alternate his name is Commander Willie Hampton from Chapter 4. I think that between the two of us we may complete our mission which is having all the chapters working as one and not individually. You know and I know that if it wasn't for the help of other chapters and the veterans from those chapters we couldn't do the work that we do.

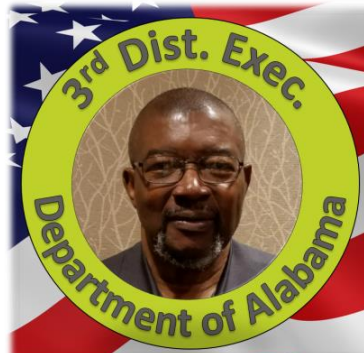
I want to talk about recruiting. I know it's been hammered into our heads for quite a spell, and it won't stop until we get every Veteran that's eligible into the DAV. Let's put on our thinking caps and figure

a way to get those men and women into our great organization. I will always be around if you or your chapter needs my help.

I am disappointed that all of District two chapters were not at the convention, or that they didn't even send someone to represent their chapters. If you don't want to come to the Convention at least send someone to represent your chapter. You don't know what's going on at the meetings if you have no one there from your chapter. I think it's time that the members of all the chapters that weren't at the convention to stop and take a good look around and then ask themselves is this why I really joined the DAV or was it because I want to help our fellow veterans. Then do something about it by recruiting new members and by making changes in your chapters and get your representative to these conferences. The conferences and conventions have valuable information that needs to be brought back and implemented at the Chapter.

Thank you,

*Gerald Mortz*



## 3<sup>rd</sup> District Executive Committeeman

Rueben Redd



Comrades,

Greetings from your 3<sup>rd</sup> District Executive Committee Member. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative for 2018-2019.

Congratulations to our Department Commander Willie Tatum and all of the newly elected and appointed department officers.

We have much work to do regarding

recruitment of members within the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Remember, recruitment is the responsibility of every chapter member.

Chapter Commanders if you need help please call or contact me via email 334-567-8036 or [reubenredd47@gmail.com](mailto:reubenredd47@gmail.com).

Comrades, we need to love one another, we need to love the DAV, and we need to love the Spouses, Widows and Orphans.

Submitted By:

*Reuben E. Redd*  
3<sup>rd</sup>. DECM



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## 4<sup>th</sup> District Executive Committeeman

Melvin P. "Mel" Apley



My first stop was to visit Chapter #7 where I was introduced as the new DEC by Commander Pate. While explaining to the members what the DEC was about, a light bulb came on! Before me sat Past National Commander David Riley, PDC- Junior-et Deb Walker was serving as Adjutant, and Dept. SVCO Jerry Morgan was sitting behind special guest, The Honorable Art Oakley Esq. Have you ever felt like you were caught preaching to the choir? With this line-up, about the only problem Chapter #7 will have is securing the funds for their new service van.

My next visit was to Chapter #35. Thank you to Commander Morris for such a pleasant experience. They are planning for their Golden Corral fund raising as well as the fall Swamp Festival which is something to see. Additionally, they are in the planning stages of their Inaugural Ball in October for which they will be calling for additional support from area chapters and organizations.

From the Trunk of the Rolling Office

As this is close to one of the last articles in The News and Views, by the time that you, the worthy reader of this publication peruse this installment, your expectations are for another short-dry report. But wait! Allow me to present a lighter note with the hope that our new Editor, Anita Perez, does not utilize the round file.

As with any new position, the first thoughts are of what to do now. No different on this front! However, a couple of phone conversations with Commander Tatum-whose words of encouragement are appreciated- and with the support of Dept. Adj. Richmond, a new chapter begins.

First off was to contact all Chapter Commanders and /or adjutants by phone (more personal this way and I don't text) in order to introduce myself and also to discuss any problems and develop a plan to converse with each at least once a month. As you might expect, this brain-storm did not work quite right. It seems that a couple of chapters do not have current Officer Reports on file with our Adjutant. Looks like I might have to roam the woods as one has also moved their location and meeting time.

Commander Thomas Ferguson, Chapter #9, reports all is going well, except that they are having a problem getting help with the Honor Guard and POW/MIA Missing Man Presentations. Perhaps another chapter would be willing to lend a hand with one or both of these Honorable services. Let him know if you would be willing to.

Commander Fay Miller, Chapter #94, also reports that everything is rolling along smoothly. It does not need to be said, but Fay is a wonderful mentor and friend. She has suffered a recent loss in her family and she is fighting cancer. So please keep her, Art and their family in your prayers.



Chapter #45 plans to continue to hold public awareness events at local job fairs and at the Baldwin County Fair. Our Forget-Me- Not will be on Veterans Day weekend at local Wal-marts

Respectfully Submitted

*Melvin P. "Mel" Apley*



## Women's Veterans of Alabama

Tawanna Jones



Greetings to my DAV Family,

First, I give Honor and Glory to my LORD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, for all that I am.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! To all newly elected officers for Disabled American Veterans, Alabama State Department.

Thank you for another year to serve as your Department Women Veterans Coordinator for June 2018 – May31, 2019. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve. I am proud to be a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans, an organization that “Stand Behind Women Veteran.”

This year I will spot light the Women Veterans Program Managers, at The Veteran Affairs Medical Center in the State of Alabama. The VA Center for Women Veterans Vision is *“To be recognized as a center of excellence for serving women Veterans and their families by providing patient-centered services designed to meet their unique needs that promote health and wellness to the Veterans as a whole person”*. The first VA Medical Center I would like to introduce you to is MyVA, “The Tuscaloosa Veteran Affairs Medical Center,” and YES THIS IS MyVA! I am proud to receive my health care needs from Tuscaloosa VAMC “Women’s Clinic.” The health care I receive here is AWESOME. No matter what the issue is, I know I am going to receive the highest quality of care. I know I can be a little over the top sometime, but believe me when I say that Tuscaloosa VAMC Women’s Health Care is there for every stage of life when it comes to Women’s Healthcare.

Now, if I can have your undivided attention I would like to introduce you to The Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center, Women Veterans Program Manager, Janice Shealey:



Hello, I am Janice Shealey, Women Veterans Program Manager, Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center.

Thank you for your selfless service, women Veterans. Often people will say “Thank You For Your Service,” you wonder if they really know what they are thanking you for. When I think of the service and commitment of my fellow peers, women Veterans, I think about my journey as a women Veteran. The countless times I left t my family/children for various trainings, deployments, change of stations. For a woman to leave her family, children especially, there is a hardship felt like no other. Duty calls, and off we go again, igniting the same emotions of hardship and regret, but duty called and we had to get not only ourselves prepared to go but also our children/family. Then one day, you decide to hang up your hat and boots, get out, retire, or you are being released due to medical, personal, or another reason. It was a tough journey, and as a Veteran you just want to be accepted and respected. During your discharge brief, you get the opportunity to learn about the VA Medical Center enrollment and benefits for Veterans. You can receive physical exams for those who had military injuries/disabilities with Compensation & Pension at your local VA Medical Center. One of the most important resources located at each VA Medical Center is your Women Veterans Program Manager.

Yes, I am that resource at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center, the Women Veterans Program Manager. Some of my primary responsibilities are to ensure women Veterans receive the care they deserve, to ensure excellent quality care is provided with privacy, dignity and respect. Anticipate and fulfill the needs of our female Veterans as an inpatient or outpatient at Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. As a dedicated advocate for women Veterans, I have reviewed my responsibilities to my fellow women Veterans to identify where to start. In my review I have identified the following goals:

- \* Increase Women Veterans Program awareness.
- \* Identify channels of communication that will assist women veterans in maximizing access information on benefits and services, events, concerns, and successes.
- \* Listen to our women Veterans and provide feedback to their concerns.
- \* Actively, address the needs of our women Veterans.
- \* Educate on topics of interest.

\* Perform in-reach and outreach to improve women Veterans' awareness of eligibility for services and benefits.

You can call me at 205-554-2000 ext. 1-4250.

Janice

Tag, It your TIME! Women Veterans it your time now to go out to your nearest Veteran Affairs Medical Center and get enrolled. Tuscaloosa VAMC is Ready!!! To Serve You!!! Just for You Women's Healthcare!!!!

Until next time, be blessed,

Jawanna



*"Every day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights"*

Remember, Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center is your VA Medical Center (MyVA)!

Thank you for choosing the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center for your care!

Thank you for choosing the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center for your care!

You can visit me in Building 38, 2nd Floor, Room 202

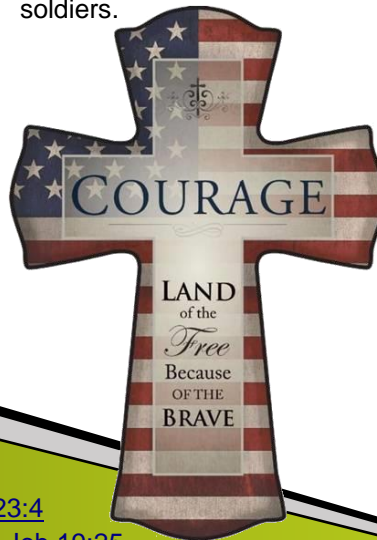


### Department Chaplain

Debra Varner

given to us, to never give up, keep pressing, looking upward and moving forward-our hearts and thoughts are with those who are still at war, it is the hope and faith of their safe return- let's continue to pray for our fellow comrades and their families.

Remember it is when times seems at it worse, that this living hope within sustains us during a storm in our life the sun will shine again-in a hard fight we win. This living hope gives us power to endure as good soldiers.



We are not only veterans helping other veterans, we are our brother's keepers-we can do this together, we are stronger together. Let's make DAV of Alabama the greatest that the desire of other's will be to follow as we lead by precept and example.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life -Proverbs 13:12

In His Service,

Chaplain Debra Varner

"A Living Hope"- 1 Peter 1:3 -Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to "a living hope" through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead—

It is a privilege to remind ourselves that we are a great nation that still has hope and faith that cannot be denied. It is a hope that has been

### MY FATHER ...

Loves me [John 3:16](#)

Cares for Me [Psalm 103](#)

Renews Me [Isaiah 40:31](#)

Protects Me [Psalm 23:4](#)

Redeems Me [Job 19:25](#)

Is Preparing a Place for Me [Psalm 139](#)

Understands & Accepts Me [Psalm 139](#)

Guides & Teaches Me [Psalm 25:9](#)



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# DAVA Commander

Marilyn Todd Edwards

Therefore, our theme for the coming year will be BUILD...BUILD....BUILD!!! So, let's get started.

P.S. ATTEN: CHAPTERS: I left the Chapters with a challenge at our convention banquet.... those who are not Auxiliary members need to get on board. Again, The DAV Auxiliary Unit is the Chapters biggest advocate. We support the Chapter in whatever way necessary to make "IT" successful. A DAVA Unit can only be successful with the SUPPORT of its counterpart, the Chapter! The Chapters represent veterans who served by helping veterans because, as veterans, your moto is "we don't leave a fellow service member behind. No one should have to go it alone." Chapter members don't forget, while you were serving our country, your family was serving also, alongside you by supporting you in what area necessary, so YOU could do your job! FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED TOO! We family members represent the UNITS! With this in mind, "not leaving anyone behind" or "going it alone", the Chapter is basically doing this --- you are leaving your biggest supporter or advocate BEHIND --- your Unit ---better yet, your family members!!!! Chapters, it's time to support your units....and if you don't have one.... get one!

Hello, Auxiliaries!

Firstly, let me say thank you for your vote of confidence in me to serve as your 2018-2019 State of Alabama DAV Auxiliary Commander. It gives me immense pleasure to know that I will be serving a wonderful group of Units. I look forward to serving each one of you as best I can to make us successful.

Well, we had an awesome State of Alabama DAV Auxiliary Convention! It was so great to see everyone as well as all the fresh faces attending. A glowing WELCOME to our newest Auxiliary Unit 45 Arnold Byers! Welcome aboard! It was also our pleasure to host our National guest, PNC Sandy Dobmeier. She was very insightful in giving us various ways of growing our membership through prospective members that may be in the National as well as State At Large lists; so, let's get started sorting those zip codes and adding new members to our perspective units! For those zip codes that do not have a Unit, perhaps this will open a door for a new Unit or to re-open/rebuild a Unit.

Auxiliary members, it is time to BUILD! Build our units, build our membership so that we can build our efforts in assisting veterans and their families.



Again, I want to thank all the Auxiliary members for their vote of confidence.

*Marilyn D. Edwards*  
Commander

## Department Meetings



Tired of feeling in the dark?

Want to know what is going on in the Department?

Would you like a little more help in conducting DAV business?



For an invite, email [culverla1@yahoo.com](mailto:culverla1@yahoo.com)

### TOWNHALL TELECONFERENCE

When: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday

How: Call (641) 715-3273  
Access Code: 991969#

### ONLINE/OVER THE PHONE TRAINING

When: Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday

How: Call (323) 920-0091  
Access Code: 3727660#

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## NSO Office Supervisor

Michael Michelotti

Comrades,

### How to successfully reopen a “Finally Adjudicated Claim”.

If the claimant is denied a benefit and the one year deadline for filing a Notice of Disagreement\* (NOD) has expired or the appeals process has been exhausted (i.e. denied by the Board of Veteran Appeals), it is considered a finally adjudicated claim. In order for a claimant to SUCCESSFULLY reopen a finally adjudicated claim, he or she must submit New and Material evidence.

- 1.) New, in order for the evidence to be considered “new” it must not be duplicative or cumulative of evidence previously considered.
- 2.) Material, in order for the evidence to be “material” it must relate to an unestablished fact necessary to substantiate the claim for eligibility

If the claim is for service connection, keep in mind, there are three elements to establishing entitlement to service connection for disabilities incurred in or caused by active military service.

- 1.) There must be evidence of a current clinical diagnosis of the disability you’re claiming.
- 2.) There must be evidence of an in-service diagnosis, injury, or event which has resulted in the disability you’re claiming, i.e. x-ray of a broken bone, noise exposure, Agent Orange exposure, etc.
- 3.) There must be evidence of how 1 and 2 above are related to each other, e.g. did your in-service tibia fracture result in knee arthritis... did your in-service noise exposure result in your current hearing loss. This is normally done in the form of a nexus medical opinion describing the relationship/link between 1 and 2.

Example: If the VA denies your claim for service connection as there is “no current diagnosis for the claimed condition”, the only thing you can submit that will be both new and material to the claim is documentation of a current diagnosis.

Example: If the VA denies your claim for service connection as “there was no documentation of an in-service injury or event in your service treatment record”, the only thing you can submit that will be both new and material to the claim is documentation of the in-service event or injury.

Example: If the VA denies your claim for service connection as “although there is evidence of a current diagnosis and evidence an in-service event, our examiner found connection between your current diagnosis and the in-service event”, the only thing you can submit that will be both new and material to the claim is a medical nexus opinion or medical treatises providing the link.

\* If you’re in disagreement with a recent VA decision do you self a favor and consider asking the VA to “Reconsider” the decision. Here’s why...an NOD takes approximately 24 months for the Regional Office to review and address; quite possibly continuing the denial if no new and material evidence is submitted to change the decision. Reconsiderations, on the other hand, if accompanied by new and material evidence can be reviewed and addressed in 3 to 6 months. Did you catch the part about the NOD “quite possibly continuing the denial if no new and material evidence is submitted to change the decision”? Discuss with your National Service Officer and see if reconsideration is best for your claim...probably is.

### **STRAIGHT FROM THE VA: M21-1 Adjudication Procedure Manual Reopened Claims: The Importance of New and Material Evidence III.ii.2.D.1.a. Definition: Reopened Claim**

A claim to reopen is a request to review a previously finally decided claim or other determination. A successfully **reopened claim** is a claim to reopen that is accompanied by new and material evidence.

### **III.ii.2.D.1.c. Difference Between a Claim to Reopen and a Claim for Reconsideration**

A claim for reconsideration differs from a claim to reopen in that the decision at issue in a claim to reopen has become final.

### **III.ii.2.D.1.d. Definition: New and Material Evidence New evidence**

- is evidence not previously of record, and
- is neither cumulative nor redundant.

### Material evidence

- is relevant evidence that, when considered by itself or considered with previous evidence of record, relates to an unestablished fact necessary to substantiate the claim,
- has a legitimate influence or bearing on the decision in the case, and
- is neither cumulative nor redundant.

III.ii.2.D.1.f. Requirement for New and Material Evidence for Reopening a Claim

New and material evidence is required before VA will reopen a finally denied claim or other eligibility determination.  
III.ii.2.D.2.b. Form Requirements for Claims to Reopen

The claim must be submitted on a prescribed form. VA encourages the use of VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation, which provides the claimant with the requirements to successfully reopen a claim.

Respectfully,

*Mike Michelotti*

### NSO Office Information

### eBenefits Information

Once a decision is rendered in either a claim or an appeal, we will have the opportunity to review the decision prior to your notification. If the decision is in accordance with the law, we will release the decision to the VA and provide you with an unofficial notification by mail. You can track the status of your claim through e-Benefits by signing up at:

[Click here for eBenefits.](#)



VA Regional Office  
[345 Perry Hill Road](#)  
[Montgomery, AL 36109](#)

Office: 334-213-3365  
Fax: 334-213-5661

NSO Office hours for NSO contact/Interview:

By Appointment: Call office phone

Office hours for telephone calls:  
Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Comrades,

I would like to present to you my very first attempt at publishing your bi-monthly News & Views. I have enjoyed reading it in the past and I hope that I can maintain the quality. The bar has been set high for me.

I am open to constructive criticism and I would love advice from the experts out there. Even if you are not an officer who is required to submit an article you can submit

## News & Views Editor

Anita Perez

suggestions for content that will benefit the members of our organization.

I would like to thank everyone who submitted an article for getting it to me on time. This is a team effort and you have set me up for success with my first publication. I only had a couple of pictures sent in to be shared. If you have pictures that you would like to share I will do my best to work them into your article.

I look forward to learning more about the members of the Department of Alabama as I read each letter from each officer. It sounds like we are doing great things in order to accomplish our mission of "Fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served."

Respectfully

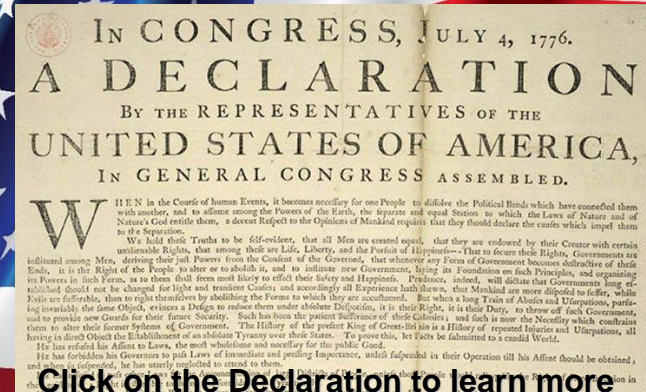
*Anita Perez*

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**9 Things You May Not Know About the Declaration of Independence**

**1. The Declaration of Independence wasn't signed on July 4, 1776.**  
 On July 1, 1776, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, and on the following day 12 of the 13 colonies voted in favor of Richard Henry Lee's motion for independence. The delegates then spent the next two days debating and revising the language of a statement drafted by Thomas Jefferson. On **July 4**, Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence, and as a result the date is celebrated as Independence Day. Nearly a month would go by, however, before the actual signing of the document took place. First, New York's delegates didn't officially give their support until July 9 because their home assembly hadn't yet authorized them to vote in favor of independence. Next, it took two weeks for the Declaration to be "engrossed"—written on parchment in a clear hand. Most of the delegates signed on August 2, but several—Elbridge Gerry, Oliver Wolcott, Lewis Morris, Thomas McKean and Matthew Thornton—signed on a later date. (Two others, John Dickinson and Robert R. Livingston, never signed at all.)



[Click here to learn more](#)

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*Auxiliary Commander*  
 Marilyn Edwards  
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[mari36305@hotmail.com](mailto:mari36305@hotmail.com)

Contact your local DAV Chapter to volunteer your assistance with transporting Veterans to their appointments.

[Find your Chapter Contact HERE](#)



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