



**DEPARTMENT OF  
COLORADO  
DECEMBER 2018**

# **YOUR VOICE FROM HEADQUARTERS**

**COMMANDER'S REPORT** BY BONNIE



Holiday 2018 Greetings from Commander Bonnie Rohn at the DAV Department Headquarters.

Time has flown by so fast, Halloween, Thanksgiving, now Chanukah is December 9th for the first candle lighting for 8 days, then on to Christmas. Then it's New Years!! Yeah, 2019! We're going to have a busy upcoming year, so keep those calendars handy. (Mine is my Bible).

Deep prayers are expressed to the family of Cruz Perez. Cruz passed away November 27th and will be missed by so many who he has come in contact with. Remember to wear your "Cruz" Bolo if you happened to purchase one from him in his memory.

In October we had our D.E.C. Meeting at the Department. Electronic doors will be installed at the department for those who are in wheelchairs, or unable to push/pull the doors. Keep watching for that. The 27th, the VA Hospital hosted a hiring fair. I was not able to attend, but I heard it was a big success for the hospital.

In November, I attended the Golden Corral Military Appreciation Dinner with my Chapter, and our local restaurant, the Country Steak Out Restaurant gave veteran's 1 free meal of their choice all day long. This was the 4th year that Alvina Schrum and her crew have done this. Thanks, Alvina!

Department Adjutant Grieb, VAVS State Chairperson Cynthia Francis and I went to the Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC on November 15th to sign up DAV hospital volunteers who want to volunteer their time to the DAV. We gave out free Subway sandwiches too!

Many thanks again to Senior Vice Commander, Darla Sanders; and Junior Vice Commander, John Carmona, for helping out with chapter visits, picnics and so much more. We are all spread out, and the distance between us fills the state so we can try to cover what the chapters are doing. We are all here to help all of you and just a phone call away too. Remember, we were all soldiers once. Think back to that time and smile, shake a hand, and giving a kind word never hurt anyone's feelings. If you have an upcoming event that you would like me to attend, as Department Commander, let Department Headquarters know and we'll do our best.

One more very important note: Don't be afraid of Adjutant Grieb. You might have to "look up" to him, but he's not scary. He has an open-door policy all week long, except for Wednesday, paper work day and travel. I myself, use that open door often. Also, when calling the office, extension 301 is Rob Baker and 302 is Joni Cousland. They both are there to answer your questions. Thank you, Joni and Rob.

Blessings to all.  
Have a Safe and Happy Holiday.

# Department Adjutant—Andrew C. Grieb



As we approach the Mid-Winter Conference, I have been checking our membership statistics and have found that we are down a lot of members. Since the National Convention, we have lost over 6,000 members of our Department due to death, deletion of trial members and lack of payment on partial-paid memberships. We are now down to just over 20,000 members in our state. This will greatly affect us in the future, if we don't do something about it now! Our focus must be on recruitment, but not only signing up new members, but ensuring that they are active members in our organization if we are to survive.

I turned 57 years-old this year and I tend to feel like the "kid" around our organization. I shouldn't. There should be plenty of younger vets available to us and they should be ready, willing and able to fill the leadership roles around us. We need them to ensure the future of our organization. Schedule time with your new members to discuss what the DAV is all about and get them on the right track. Keep them involved early on. It is imperative that we hold their interest in our organization and teach our new members how they can and should be a major

part of it.

National Headquarters has provided us with great tools. We just need to pick them up and use them. The DAV New Member Orientation Guide, The Mentoring Guide and our Chapter & Department Constitutions and Bylaws are only a few of the documents that should be used to keep the interest of our new members. If you can't or haven't downloaded these from our National Headquarters website, contact the office. We will help you.

## *Adjutant's Thoughts*



## Rev. Garry Turks— DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Greetings my fellow Department Colorado DAV members. My hope and prayer is that your Veterans Day and Thanksgiving were enjoyable. As the Department Chaplain these are the events I attended since the last "Your Voice From Headquarters":

I visited the Rifle Community Living Center and did the invocation for the Colorado Springs Stand Down. I was also invited to do the invocation at the Albuquerque VA Medical Center for their Stand down.

At Colorado Governor and Mayors Veterans symposium we gathered to support veterans discuss the issues. I then attended the Aurora Veterans Salute at the Wings over the Rockies Museum and did the invocation at that event.

I attended the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center Town Hall Meeting, the first one of many to come and did the invocation there as well.

I attended five (5) United Veterans Committee Meetings where we discussed legislative and veteran issues.

I made visits to Fort Morgan Chapter #41, S.L. Brown Chapter #11, and Clyde Seiler Chapter #21 as Department Chaplain. They appreciated getting a visit and I learned a lot about their Chapter membership.

I attended Aurora's Veterans Town Hall put together by the Aurora Veterans Committee and made some Department Chaplain visits to the Fitzsimmons Community Living Center.

The Feeding of the Veterans event at the Denver Convention Center was huge and I was impressed by the approximately 750 Veterans and their families who came to enjoy the dinner.

I did the invocation for the Veterans Day Ceremony at Fort Logan National Cemetery and the invocation for the Denver Veterans Day Parade.

I also attended the Fort Collin Stand Down at the Armory.

On Tuesday's, Thursday's and Sunday's I make Chaplain visits to the veterans at the Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center.

I would like to wish all our members a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



*The season is here and family and loved ones draw near. So, in this December let us always remember. When we come to a place in our hearts to believe, it is always better to give than receive. 705*

## **DAV STATE AUXILIARY ADJUTANT; SUSAN MILLER**

Seasons Greetings to Everyone.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Summer and the warm weather, because the cold weather is here. Our State Commander has been busy traveling throughout the state presenting our donations.

I will be mailing out or emailing the year end reports to the Unit Adjutants. Some reports have changed so please look at each one carefully. There is no longer a Non-VA Hospital

Report. The information for this report is now included in the Community Service Report.

All units are required, by National Headquarters, to complete the Mae Holmes report.

I don't have any other new information at this point.

If anyone would like to adopt a deployed veteran, a female soldier that my son trained in New York is currently deployed to Afghanistan.

Her information is: Michelle Macon

D Co. 1 – 130<sup>th</sup> ARB

Task Force Panther

APO AE 09355



I want to wish each and everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

## **DAV STATE COMMANDER: LESLIE SANDOVAL**

Hello everyone!

Once again, the year is coming to a close and we're all looking forward to another wonderful year.

This year was such an adventure, starting out with some wonderful Americanism programs. To see how hard everyone works to put on such great programs, from the Juniors to our own Dick Hogue, who has gotten quite famous with his books. Keep up the good work everyone. You're all so amazing.

Our trips to Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico were such an exciting learning experience and a lot of fun. I was blessed to be able to participate in the activities, and it is always great to see so many new people.

After Fall Conference and Thanksgiving, I have been out again delivering our State Auxiliary donation checks to facilities in Colorado. Just in time for the holiday season and the weather was just beautiful!

Here is to all of you. I hope you have a blessed, and safe Christmas, and a wonderful New year.

Love you all.



# LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LVAP)

In the spirit of giving and the holiday season , Department would like to share the amazing efforts of our LVAP Volunteers at the Chapter level.

Jessie Martinez Chapter #50 proudly partnered with 20 Active Duty personnel from Schriever AFB to help veterans who need projects done around their homes. The Active Duty personnel cleaned up around the veteran's home, the yard and garage—enough to fill a 20-yard dumpster. They painted the fence on the veterans 1/2-acre property. They dismantled and threw away several rotten wooden garden boxes and removed all the tall weeds. They mowed the backyard and trimmed around the trees, house and fence. They also cleaned the garage and painted the trim around the garage and front door. They worked all day. Their NCOIC came in the early morning and looked to see the magnitude of work in front of the volunteers. "They were such a joy and worked as a team to help Larry" said Jim Beckham who was the point of contact for the day. He further stated "The group had a positive attitude and it was nice to see the smiles on their faces. I commend them for their service and the volunteer work they do to help disabled veterans. A special thanks goes out to SSgt Alex Miller (Schriever Point of Contact) and Kelly Cahalan (Adjutant of Jessie Martinez Chapter #50) who do the heavy lifting coordinating for each of these events. See picture below.



# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual DAV/Golden Corral Military Appreciation Dinner/Fundraiser

This year was the 18<sup>th</sup> year that the DAV and Golden Corral worked together to show our appreciation to veterans, and to raise funds to benefit DAV Department's throughout the United States. The event was a success and a great opportunity for the DAV to reach out to our communities. As in previous years, Department of Colorado permitted the Chapter's to keep the donations they raised at this event. **This year Department of Colorado passed on Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Ninety dollars (\$14,190.00) in donations to its Colorado DAV Chapters.**

Department of Colorado would like to acknowledge and thank the following DAV members for volunteering on our behalf at their assigned Golden Corral Restaurants;

David Jiron of San Isabel Chapter #2 at the Golden Corral in Pueblo  
Benito Gonzales of Murphy-Borelli-Klumker Chapter #7 at the Golden Corral in Sheridan  
Rick Farrier of Joseph S. Gordy, Jr. Chapter #8 at the Golden Corral in Greeley  
Jimmy Pea of S. L. Brown Chapter #11 at the Golden Corral in Centennial  
John Joffrion of Clyde Seiler Chapter #21 at the Golden Corral in Aurora  
Dave Dunnagan of Leon Daily Chapter #25 at the Golden Corral in Grand Junction  
Bernie Sewald of Fort Morgan Chapter #44 at the Golden Corral in Loveland  
Jeremy Johnson of Jessie Martinez Chapter #50 at the Golden Corral in Colorado Springs  
Carmen McGinnis of Murphy-Borelli-Klumker Chapter #7 at the Golden Corral in Thornton

If you would like to be a Department Representative in your area at next year's DAV/Golden Corral Military Appreciation Dinner, please contact Office Coordinator Joni Cousland at Department Headquarters by **September 30<sup>th</sup> of 2019** to sign up.

## DAV/GOLDEN CORRAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONDAY FACTS

Golden Corral has been a wonderful supporter of the military community – providing millions of free meals to veterans and servicemembers, and contributing millions of dollars to support veteran organizations. Here are a few amazing facts about Golden Corral's support:

In 2013, Golden Corral provided over 433,500 free meals for veterans and active duty service members. Guests and restaurants combined to contribute over \$1,409,000 for the Disabled American Veterans organization. These funds are used to assist disabled veterans.

To date, Golden Corral has given veterans and active duty servicemembers over 5.4 million free dinners to veterans and contributed over \$14 million to the Disabled American Veterans organization.



## HEADS UP!!!!

### Testimonial Dinner at the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Convention

We are very excited to be getting back to the old tradition of celebrating the hard work the Department and Auxiliary State Commanders' have done throughout their term with a Testimonial Dinner. Department Commander Bonnie Rohn and Auxiliary State Commander Leslie Sandoval made the decision to get back to the old tradition after discussing declining attendance and a need for more comradery at the Department Convention.

The Testimonial Dinner will be held on Thursday evening (May 16<sup>th</sup>) of the Annual Convention but will be hosted at the Chapter home of Clyde Seiler #21. It will be catered, and seating is limited. Chapter #21 now owns the entire parking lot behind their building, so there should be plenty of parking. We hope to have a DAV Transportation Van with a volunteer driver as well. Tickets will be sold in advance of the event and there will be a guest list for admittance into the Testimonial Dinner. Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for more information.

### Hospitality Room

**We need your assistance this year. Give them a helping hand.**

For many years Clyde Seiler Chapter #21, alone, has taken on the immeasurable responsibility of providing free food for the members and guests at the Annual Department Convention in the Hospitality Room. Russ Berget and the members of Clyde Seiler Chapter #21 are getting a bit "on" and need your help. It can get hectic when everyone is in there and the gang from 21 is getting tired. We need volunteers to bring refreshments/snacks, to help serve food and to assist in maintaining the cleanliness of the Hospitality Room. Volunteers are needed from Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for all aspects of the set-up, service, cleanup and teardown. If you can volunteer, we ask that you contact Russ Berget at Chapter #21 to submit your name and availability or to get more information about how you can help. Chapter #21's office number is (720) 379 - 3405.





# DATES TO REMEMBER

## **2019 Mid-Winter Conference**

February 24 – February 27, 2019 (Tentative, pending confirmation on Capitol Hill))

Crystal Gateway Marriott

1700 Jefferson Davis Highway

Arlington, VA 22202

(800) 266-9432 or (703) 920-3230

Group Name "Disabled American Veterans"

\$199 Single/Double

## **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winter Sports Clinic**

March 31 – April 5, 2019

Snowmass Village, CO

(Limited lodging available )

## **99<sup>th</sup> Annual Department of Colorado Convention**

Wednesday, May 15 – Friday, May 17, 2019

DoubleTree by Hilton Denver

3203 Quebec Street

Denver, CO 80207

Reservations: (303)321-3333

(Remember to mention DAV Convention)

Room Rate: \$109.00 + tax

## **2019 Annual Department of Utah Convention**

Thursday May 30—Saturday June 1, 2019

Comfort Suites Ogden

2250 South 1200 West

Ogden, Utah 84401

Phone: 801-621-2545

(Mention DAV to get the special Room Rate)

\$89 Single/ Double

## **Department Officers**

for 2018-2019

*Commander*

Bonnie Rohn

*Senior Vice Commander*

Darla Sanders

*Junior Vice Commander*

John Carmona

*Immediate Past Commander*

Stephen Miller

*Judge Advocate*

Benito Gonzales

*Adjutant*

Andrew Grieb

*Chaplain*

The Rev. Garry Turks

## ***Department Headquarters***

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## ***Office Coordinator***

Joni Cousland

## ***Department Secretary***

Rob Baker

## ***Business Hours:***

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

*Except Federal Holidays*