



Disabled American Veterans Department of Connecticut

PDC Al Church, Executive Director/State Treasurer (860) 529-1759

PDC Woody Lechause, State Adjutant (860) 529-1759

E-mail: disabled.veterans@snet.net <http://www.davmembersportal.org/ct/default.aspx>

Charles Richardson

State Commander

(203) 789-8824

Samples of DAV CT Projects:

How We Help Our Troops and Our Veterans

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DAV volunteers at Stand Down 2006 for homeless and needy veterans

The Connecticut Disabled American Veterans

A nonprofit association of over 11,000 Connecticut veterans who suffered some degree of disability while serving in the Armed Forces during time of war or armed conflict.

The Mission of the DAV One single purpose: Building better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families. The Mission is carried forward by providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services (from the VA and other agencies of government) earned through military service.

DAV National Service Officer Program (NSO)

A staff of over 260 professionally trained National Service Officers stationed throughout the United States who offer FREE benefit counseling for any veteran or his/her family. Their mission is to help ANY veteran and his/her family to get the benefits earned through military service. Connecticut's NSO Office: DAV NSO Office, Newington DVAMC, 555 Willard Ave., Newington, CT 06131-0909 Phone (860) 594-6612 Fax (860) 667-1238.



Left to right: NSO Michelle Harrison and NSO Supervisor Allen Gumpenberger



DAV Transportation Program

The DAV Transportation program provides sick and disabled veterans with free transportation to and from VA hospitals and clinics across the nation. The Connecticut Transportation Program has transported 71,160 veterans while the CT volunteers have donated 201,638 hours and have driven 2,461,124 miles since the program started in 1987. The Connecticut DAV has donated 11 vans to the program. Volunteer drivers are needed.

Hospital Service Coordinators (HSC)

The DAV provides HSCs in every VA medical facility (179), to coordinate the thousands of volunteer drivers and the patients they transport. The HSCs also help veterans file claims for VA benefits and refer veterans to DAV National Service Officers. They also conducted telephone and personal interviews.



PDC Tim Kelly
West Haven

(203) 932-5712 ext. 3575



PDC Rick Newell
Newington

(860) 666-6951 ext. 6397



OVAP and ODO

The Older Veterans Assistance Program (OVAP) and Operation Dust-off (ODO) are veterans assistance programs. Their purpose is to provide a series of outings for veterans who are "shut-ins", patients in hospitals or nursing homes, and veterans who need to "get out". Examples of trips:

- Special Group Trips - Museums, Fishing Trips, Mystic Aquarium, Sporting Events, Bingo
- Family Functions - Birthdays, Weddings, Anniversaries, Graduations, etc.
- Holidays and other special days.

Volunteers are needed to organize & execute these trips. (860) 529-1759



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Photo: Paul R. Roley

the military store (\$60 - \$100 total in gift certificates), and flyers about programs the sponsoring service organization has developed that may be of interest to the patients.

Operation Gift Cards also delivers items that are on the Walter Reed Medical Family Assistance Centers "Wish List", which have been donated by veterans' units and other groups and individuals.

The "Wish List" can be viewed by clicking on the Operation Gift Cards link on the www.ctveterans.org web site. For more information contact Al Meadows (203) 929-3357 or e-mail al.meadows@snet.net or see web site www.ctveterans.org

Operation Gift Cards (For Our Wounded Troops)

Since October 2005, Connecticut's Operation Gift Cards program has distributed 2,925 "Thank You" kits, including \$58,500 in PX (military store) gift certificates, to wounded and injured troops at Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals in Washington, DC. during the 20 monthly visits. The Connecticut DAV presented 1,150 of the thank you kits which included \$23,000 in gift certificates, while the other 5 major Connecticut veterans organizations presented the rest. On each of the last 15 visits, each patient was presented with at least three "Thank You" kits (each from a different unit). Each kit contained a custom-designed thank you card with a group picture of the sponsoring chapter or post, a \$20 gift certificate for

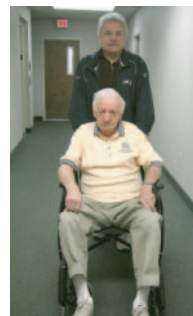


Stand Down

Stand Down is a grassroots, community-based intervention program that provides homeless and needy veterans a wide array of services. Participants get free medical and dental treatment, receive employment counseling and referrals, get access to social services information, the chance to deal with legal matters, the opportunity to begin drug and alcohol recovery, etc. DAV CT has provided financial support and volunteers.

Veterans Administration Volunteer Service

Most DAV chapters have members that have participated in several VAVS programs including sponsoring bingos (which include providing prizes and refreshments) and sponsoring holiday parties for the patients.



PDC Veterans Assistance Foundation

The Past Department Commanders Veterans Assistance Foundation is a minimal emergency assistance program for veterans and their families, especially those who do not meet the requirements of other veterans or state social service assistance programs. The program usually assist between 100 and 200 veterans and their families each year. Examples of assistance are grants for food, utilities, and clothing and donations of furniture.

For additional information refer to website: <http://www.davmembersportal.org/ct/default.aspx>

May 9, 2007