

Jacksonville Chapter #1 INC

Volume 7 Issue 3

July-September 2007

Disabled American Veterans, Southside Chapter #1, INC.

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ON THE WEB AT www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/fl/01/default.aspx

Officers:

<u>DAV</u>		<u>DAVA</u>	
Guy Diffenbaugh	233-4125	Commander	Jean Christian 646-1372
Ray Paine	714-6677	Sr. Vice Cmdr	Erlinda Louibere 221-6404
Al Braun	465-1791	Adjutant	Marjorie Paine 714-6677
Thurman Dubberly	751-4325	Chaplain	Annie Shortridge 641-2748

Chapter Service Officers: Al Braun, John Markiewicz, and Dick Aquino.

Service office is open Monday-Thursday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Fridays by appointment only.

Please call before coming to chapter house

Membership meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Executive Committee meets at 12:00 p.m., on the same Saturday.

Editor: Ray Paine <ligar@bellsouth.net>

DAV'S REPORT

As your new Commander I would first like to thank you for your vote of confidence. I will do all I possibly can to uphold that confidence. Being a leader is often a lonely job so I ask you, my comrades, to be proactive and assist me in maintaining and strengthening our chapter. As Robert Hunter, our senior statesman, explained last meeting, our chapter is one of several of the states most powerful. We, therefore, have a key role in the destiny of our organization to maintain a posture of not only service to disabled veterans but strength necessary to ensure our voice is heard in an increasingly non-veteran run government. We accomplish this by running a service office to ensure compensation representation to those who paid the price for our freedom, by being strong in numbers to ensure our voice is heard, and by show of strength at functions which unify our common bond and those which present strength and commitment to our community.

I encourage you to get involved in the life of the chapter and I will promise you that in so doing you will reap friendships and a bond in a common cause with your disabled brothers and sisters, who have chosen to stand strong for our hard earned rights.

The chapter has a new website, <http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/fl/01>, thanks to Webmaster and Past Commander, John Markiewicz. The service office, under Florida's most distinguished and outstanding service officer, Al Braun, is seeing increasingly large numbers of veterans. Also working with Mr. Braun is Enrique Aquino and newly certified Kermit Griffin and myself.

As I write our delegation is headed for the state convention. The membership will receive a short briefing at our next chapter meeting on 23 June. Also mark your calendars for the 4th of July Bingo at Lake City VA Medical Center, to be held on 30 June, and you will be rewarded by the joy you bring those in long-term hospital confinement.

Again I am grateful for your confidence and urge you to get involved and help us remain strong. Bring a prospect or member but more importantly bring yourself.

Guy Diffenbaugh
Commander DAV

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Freedom, some people don't know what it cost, some do not care. Some think freedom is for them to do as they please, others feel it has to be earned. It is not that way, if we will live by God's Law's & man's laws we will surely have a wholesome life. The cost was God's son, who dies on the cross for all. Freedom comes at a high prices, being protect now by the men and women who give up their lives on the battlefield protecting us so that we may enjoy the freedom that we hold so dear, may God bless.

Thurman Dubberly
Chaplin DAV

SERVICE OFFICE – REPORT

Service members who incur traumatic injuries, especially in combat; can now receive up to \$100,000 with a one-time payment from the recently created Traumatic Service member's Group Life Insurance. The benefit works like many accidental death policies in the civilian world; but marks the first time that such coverage was available to service members.

The VA vet center program, which provides readjustment counseling and outreach services to combat veterans, is expanding into 23 new communities across the nation. We have a busy one in Jacksonville.

Continuing to honor the nation's commitment to meet the needs of our veterans, a landmark budget of nearly \$87 billion for the VA has been proposed in Washington.

The VA, which already helps train nearly half of the physicians in the US, will add 2,000 positions for advanced residency training over the next five years.

VA Secretary Nicholson has stated that the VA has "one of the most comprehensive and sophisticated electronic systems" for patient records in the nation.

Some 30% of the nearly 700,000 US troops who served in the Gulf war zone have been granted service connection claims and most of them have been processed.

I will be gone on vacation from July 26 to August 26. The office will be closed from Aug 10 to 19th. Because of other possible commitments, the other service officers request that you call the office before, coming in to assure that the office will be manned. We will go back to our regular schedule on August 27th.

Al Braun
Senior Service Officer

AUXILIARY REPORT

In my last report I told you how busy we were during the month of April, getting all of the Annual Reports finished and mailed to State and National Headquarters by May 1st. Well, we finished on time thanks to some dedicated members who willingly lend their time and talent to help out and keep the unit strong and productive.

Elections were held in April and new officers were elected for District#3 and also for Unit #1. A list of these new officers will be listed at the end of this report.

I attended the Florida State DAV-DAVA Convention in Altamonte Springs, Florida, the second week of June. State Commander Cathy Haines finished her term on Saturday, June 9th, and turned the gavel over to Judy Clamp, who is our new State Commander. There was a total of 94 registered Auxiliary Members at the Convention with a voting strength of 520. When I started going to the State Convention a few years ago, there were more than 100 units in the state. Sadly, many of the units have closed due to low attendance, and some units have been revoked, it is alarming that less than 40 units are presently active in the state of Florida.

Our Unit will be joining unit #6 and #7 for the District Bingo party at Lake City VA Hospital on Saturday, June 30, I hope many of you will be there to keep the Veterans Celebrating Independence Day.

Ticket for the "Quilt Raffle" will be mailed out to the membership in July. I hope you will purchase your tickets and take a chance on winning this beautiful hand made quilt. During the hot summer months is when unit members start working on Christmas presents for the Veterans. We will be decorating gift bags, making Christmas cards and shopping for the many gifts that will be sorted and packed into the Christmas gift bags for the Veterans in the local nursing homes and the VA Hospital in Lake City.

We have quite a few ditty bags that have been made and donated, but we need more as well as the personal items to fill the bags. If you have items to donate for the ditty bags or non-perishable food items for the food baskets, you may drop them off at the Chapter House Monday-Thursday, 10:00am-2:00pm.

Have a good summer and don't forget our meetings, they are the 4th Saturday of each month at 1:00pm. Come early because we serve snacks from 12:00 noon until 1:00pm

The following are the elected officers for District#3 and Unit #1 for 2007-2008:

<u>District #3</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Unit#1</u>
Jean Christian	Commander	Jean Christian
Jane Ziers	Senior Vice	Erlinda Louibere
Ilene Dennis	Junior Vice	Mary Greenlee
Shirley Lee	Chaplain	Annie Shortridge
Lola Dealy	Treasure/Adjutant	Marjorie Paine

Jene Christian
Commander DAVA

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We want to thank all of our donors who have contributed this fiscal year. Their generosity helps us to continue our services to our members and to all of our Veterans. Those Contributing since July 1st 2006 are listed below:

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