

# Jacksonville Chapter #1 INC

## Disabled American Veterans

1439 Parental Home Road, Jacksonville, FL. 32216

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Web Site: <http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/fl/01/default.aspx>

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### OFFICERS

<u>DAV</u>		<u>DAVA</u>	
Guy Diffenbaugh	233-4125	<b>Commander</b>	Jean Christian 646-1372
Ray Paine	714-6677	<b>Sr. Vice Cmdr</b>	Erlinda Loubier 221-6404
Al Braun	465-1791	<b>Adjutant</b>	Elaine Rickman 724-8490
Thurman Dubberly	751-4325	<b>Chaplain</b>	Annie Shortridge 641-2748

Chapter Service Officers: Al Braun, John Markiewicz, Guy Diffenbaugh

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 1:00pm, next meeting is 7/26/08.

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

Editor: Ray Paine [ligar@bellsouth.net](mailto:ligar@bellsouth.net) & Staff

### DAV COMMANDER'S REPORT

Greetings! Hope this newsletter finds you well and blessed.

The State convention went well. Our chapter was jokingly accused of trying to take over as John Markiewicz became your Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Jr Vice Commander, I was elected Department Chaplain, and senior statesman Robert Hunter remains Area 2 Commissioner and National Deputy Chief of Staff. The convention made a major change in replacing the Districts with Areas. The Area will be larger than the District and envisioned is more efficiency without loss of voice. This will take place in 2009.

Our Calendar slows down during the summer then moves into high gear in the fall. Summer events include our visit to the Lake City VA Hospital on 12 July and our District Meeting on 16 August, hosted by Chapter & Unit 7 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Baptist Church, 954 Kings Rd, Jacksonville, lunch served at 12:00. Call ahead for transportation from the chapter house. I encourage you to put these dates on your calendar and participate if any way possible.

In parting I would like to address recruiting. Recruiting is everyone's responsibility – not just that of Ray Paine and Al Braun/Service Office (though they do a superb job of it). We all meet prospects in our various activities that we should recruit. We must remain a strong voice in Washington.

Have a great summer. If you're in town we will continue to meet as usual and would enjoy your presence.

**Guy Diffenbaugh**

**Commander DAV**

## **CHAPLAIN'S REPORT**

My fellow members I am honored to be your Chaplain these many years. I want to be your servant and to help you with your need for prayer and consolations especially in time of need. I'll be as close as your phone. In time of distress please call me at 904-751-4325.

The following members have gone to meet the **Supreme Commander** this quarter: Shajuan L. Ellison; Edward E. Edenfield; Peter F. Leet; George Christian; Weldon McNeil; Robert N. Helas; James F. Crass; Fred A. Shirley; John D. Dewberry; Douglas M. Rowe; Joseph B. Blair; Paul A. Koehler; Lester L. Spradley; Robert C. Turvey; Hoover C. Porter; Ronald L. Jones; Robert F. Conroy; Lester Garren; Joseph C. Peacock; David M. Siskin; Paul C. Burns; Louis Nemeth; Theodore J. Stumm; Jerry L. Young; William E. MacDonald; Charles "Chuck" h. Meyers; Kurt D. Keller. **A minute of silence for our departed Comrades, may they rest in peace and never to be forgotten.**

**Thurman Dubberly**

**Chaplain DAV**

## **SERVICE OFFICE – REPORT**

Former prisoners of war (POW) may now be eligible for benefits because of recent rule changes. Former POW's who suffered from strokes or heart disease are affected and should call the VARO at 1-800-827-1000, or visit website <http://www.vba.va.gov/bin/21/benefits/pow/index.htm>.

I have been informed that the new VA cemetery in Jacksonville will open in late 2008, first internment, of ashes (urns) only, at gravesites sometime in 2009.

As a result of Public law 108-375, the Social Security offset for annuitants was eliminated affective April 1, 2008. More information available at <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/apr2008/socialsecuriyoffset.heml>.

Last year VA hired more than 9,000 veterans and is continuing to recruit new veterans, especially combat disabled veterans.

Veterans with life insurance policies managed by the VA will see reduction in their premiums, thanks to improved investment earnings, effective July 1, 2008. Vets covered by SGLI and VGLI are affected.

Payments under VA's Compensated Work Therapy program are no longer taxable. CO claim refunds file amended form return using IRS Form 1040X.

TRICARE beneficiaries whose weight poses a serious health risk now have a new surgical alternative available. For those medically qualified, TRICARE now covers Laprosopic adjustable gastric banding, also commonly called Lap-Band surgery.

I will be on vacation from August 6<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup>. Please call before coming to the office to assure that someone will be there.

**Al Braun**  
Senior Service Officer

## AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Unit Officers really worked long hours to get all reports for District, State and National finished and in the mail by May 1<sup>st</sup>, but as usual we finished on time, then took a few days off to relax. My sister and I took a 10-day trip to Tennessee to spend Memorial Day with our family.

The DAV State Convention was held in Altamonte Springs the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> on June. Our Chapter and Unit were well represented this year, with Linda Loubier, Elaine Rickman, Lola Dealy and myself attending from the Unit. Our Chapter was represented by several members. The highlight of the convention was to see two of our own Chapter members elected as DAV State Officers. John Markiewicz was elected as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jr. Vice and Guy Diffenbaugh was elected as Chaplain. Congratulations gentlemen, we are very proud of you and I know you both will be a great asset to the State. Also congratulations are in order for Unit #6 member Ilene Dennis who was elected to the DAVA State 3<sup>rd</sup> Jr. Vice. Ilene has volunteered for many years with the DAV Auxiliary and we are happy to see her elected to the State.

On Saturday, July 12 District 3 members will be going to Lake City VA Hospital for a Bingo party with the nursing home patients. Make the trip with us if you can. We can car pool together. Most patients need help to get from their rooms to the Hall and some need help in playing their cards. These disabled veterans ask for so little. Surely we can give them two or three hours of our time every 3<sup>rd</sup> month.

Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the City of Jacksonville will hold a Veterans Stand-down at the Fair Grounds. As we have done for the past two years our Unit will be taking 50 large ditty bags filled with toilet articles and personal hygiene items for the homeless veterans. Unit member Susan Fischer has been very busy making all the ditty bags and we are asking for your help in furnishing the articles to fill the bags. Stop by your local Dollar Tree Store and fill up a large paper bay with toilet articles. You can drop the articles off at the Chapter House Monday thru Thursday between 10:00-2:00pm.

The District 3 meeting and luncheon will be held on Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Baptist Church @ 954 Kings Rd, Jacksonville. Chapter & Unit 7 will be hosting the meeting.

In the closing of my last newsletter I told you of my husbands deteriorating condition and that he had been in critical care at Memorial Hospital for almost six weeks. Sadly, George passed away on Monday night April 7<sup>th</sup>. He had always encouraged and supported my volunteer work with the DAVA and in fact had volunteered along with me at each and every project, function or convention as long as he was able to get out and go. Having said that, I am seriously considering running for 3<sup>rd</sup> Jr. Vice for the DAVA State in June 2009. National headquarters is presently working on changes regarding the Districts and the State Departments, and my decision to run for the State Office will largely be determined by the changes made by National.

Have you noticed the storage space between the Chapter and Auxiliary quarters are no longer cluttered and scattered? Thanks to Buddy and Elaine Rickman for donating the storage shelves. Buddy, being the nice accommodating fellow that he is, neatly stacked all of our supplies and Christmas decorations on the shelves. Thank you Buddy and Elaine. You both are very generous and kind.

**Jean Christian**  
**Commander DAVA**

## MEMBERSHIP

*The following is from this Quarter, 04/01/2008-06/30/2008:*

### PAID –UP MEMBERSHIP

### NEW MEMBERS

### TRANSFERRED IN

#### April 2008

Andrew J. Carter  
Kevin J. Santos  
Donald L. Holland  
James K. Smith  
Jack W. Boiling  
Lawrence E. Jacobs

David L. Bennett  
Brent Ellinwood  
Frank M. Eslick  
Thomas M. Richardson  
Edward C. House  
James R. Lyles  
Robert T. English  
James M. Gattoni  
Vincent W. Huggins

Saveene O. Brown  
D. K. Johnson  
Richard L. Elderkin  
Francis J. Smith

#### May 2008

Allan L. Watters  
Melanie Y. Torres  
David W. Ellerbee  
Michael S. Acuff  
Barry G. Lawson  
Dorothy M. Mount

Arthur G. Mitchell  
William A. McCormick  
Brent A. Ellinwood  
Johnnie L. Grant  
James Hawk  
James r. Lyles  
Lee A. Allen  
Robert H Coursey  
Mel G. Clark  
Joseph R. Fidk  
William Green  
Robert T. Lee  
George W. Long  
David S. McCoy  
Kevin L. Parker  
Donald M. Thornley

Robert F. Landry  
Paul M. Whiteman  
Valerie Russell  
Joseph S. Sistek

#### June 2008

Andre V. Panchenko  
George S. Roe  
Donald E. Cone

Claude M. Carpenter  
Johnny W. Carter  
Jeffery M. Whaley  
John M. Williams  
Moza C. Jennings  
Richard L. Sluder  
Jehu V. McDonald  
Michael C. Ashmore  
Harold D. Johnson  
Dennis L. Marler  
Charles J. McLeod  
Reginald Long  
Kelly S. O'Neil

Charles B. Allen  
Onice B. Gilbert

Hats off to Al Braun, Guy Diffenbaugh, John Markiewicz and Sheila Sanders for their relentless devotion as Service Officers who have helped all veterans time and time again.

Received the following Thank you cards: From Barbara Pezzulo for Alexander V. Pezzulo; From Debra Leahy for Alexander V. Pezzulo; From Jean Christian for George Christian; From George Christian Jr. for George Christian; Dan Coleman for George Christian.

Congratulations to the new and transferee members for joining DAV Chapter 1. Double congrats to all paid-up-for-life members. If I left anyone out please forgive me. Notify me and I will make the changes.

Update your file, make sure your address, phone numbers, spouses name, paid up dues, email address and etc. are on the national rolls. If not call me @ 714-6677 or email me, [ligar@bellsouth.net](mailto:ligar@bellsouth.net), with the correct information and I will put it into your record. **You must have a correct address in order to receive the newsletter.**

Have a wonderful day and a better day tomorrow. Take care.

**R. D. Paine, Jr.**

**Sr. Vice Commander/Membership Chairmen**

## **THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS**

We want to thank all of our donors who have contributed this Quarter. Their generosity helps us to continue our services to our members and to all of our Veterans, donors listed below:

Jean Christian	Al & Lola Dealy	Guy L. Diffenbaugh
Arthur Elliot	Ellen Freedman	Golden Corral Restaurants
Janet Gulig	Wayne Herah	Ismael Lamar
Raymond Lawendowski	John E. Markiewicz	Helen Montgomery
Gene Ohara	Ray & Marjorie Paine	Don & Connie Rait
Edison Reyes	Rene Santillo	M. Sessions
Charles Skinner	Spruance & Associates	Swisher International
United Way Jacksonville	Robert & Lucile Veech	Robert Wahl
Roberta Walker	Marge Whittaker	Donald Bolena
Sally Cason	George Christian, Jr.	Julius Clemments
Tony & Cathy Graffeo	Al & Nancy Leahy	Debra Leahy
P. Leet	Barbara Pezzulo	Louis Vickers
Navy Wives Club of America #86 (Flo Trantham)		

### **Upcoming events**

July 12	Bingo Lake City VA Hospital
July 26	NOTR @ 1100 Executive Meeting @ 1200 Light snack @ 1200 DAV/DAVA Meeting @ 1:00pm
August 2	Veterans Stand down @Fair grounds in Jacksonville
August 16	District 3 Meeting @ 954 King's Rd, Jacksonville
August 23	NOTR @ 1100 Executive Meeting @1200 Light snack @1200 DAV/DAVA Meeting @ 1:00pm
September 27	NOTR @ 1100 Executive Meeting @ 1200 Light snack @ 1200 DAV/DAVA Meeting @ 1:00pm