

# Jacksonville Chapter #1 INC

## Disabled American Veterans

1439 Parental Home Road, Jacksonville, FL. 32216-3007

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

Volume 8 Issue 4

October-December 2008

<u>DAV</u>		<u>DAVA</u>	
Guy Diffenbaugh	233-4125	Commander	Jean Christian 646-1372
Ray Paine	714-6677	Sr. Vice Cmdr	Erlinda Loubier 221-6404
Al Braun	720-0244	Adjutant	Elaine Rickman 724-8490
Thurman Dubberly	751-4325	Chaplain	Annie Shortridge 641-2748

*Chapter Service Officers:* Al Braun, John Markiewicz, Guy Diffenbaugh, Sheila Sanders (VA Clinic) 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, Upcoming are 10/25/08, 11/22/08, **Exception: on 12/20/08 there will be a short meeting then the Annual Christmas Party.**

### DAV COMMANDER'S REPORT

Greetings and blessings to all members and their families. We are headed into that busy segment of our year and we need all the support and help you can give. October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> we assisted the Auxiliary with "Forget-Me-Not" which is their annual fundraiser. October 18<sup>th</sup> is the Lake City VAMC Fall Carnival for the nursing home. November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day and we ride in the Parade aboard one of our hospital service vans. On November 17<sup>th</sup> we go to the Golden Corral for our once-a-year fundraiser, which is a function critical to our financial health. In December we put together gift bags and deliver to veterans in the local nursing homes. Finally we can take a breather and fellowship in a Christmas Party at our Chapter House on December 20<sup>th</sup>. At that point we will be able to say "mission accomplished" having served veterans and community through our outreaches, service office, donation of a new hospital service van dedicated to taking vets to Lake City VAMC, and efforts in opening a new VA nursing home and National Cemetery in our local area. As the Navy would say, "we need all hands on deck" and we thank you in advance for the support I know you will render. God bless you all and may you have a wonderful holiday season and prosperous new year!

**Guy Diffenbaugh**  
Commander DAV

### CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Each day of our lives is a gift from God. Some of us have squandered it but please let's not go through the rest of our days feeling regretful. God forgives all our sins. Therefore let gratitude be our attitude and be thankful to have served in the greatest country in the world and to serve an Awesome God.

The following members have gone to meet the Supreme commander this quarter: HAL S. DAVIS; PHILIP S. MOHLER; JAMES M. COOPER; JOHNNY L. ALLEN; RAYMOND Q. ELLIS; FRANCES L. GRISWOLD; ROY T. PITTS; HYMAN F. STONE; RODNEY THORNTON; STANLEY W. FALLEN; TIMOTHY C. KEEBLER; WADE DAVIS; DEAN H. KINNE; STANLEY F. GRABARCZYK; JOHN

"JACK" D. MCCALLMAN; ALTON MARTIN; DONALD J. HAAS; STEPHEN J. YANKUM; FREDRICK W. FRAZER; MURRY HENDERSON, JR; NOLAN BRADDOCK; MICHAEL W. RAULS; LOUIS R. COBB; JAMES E. FULGHUM; R. D. HARTINGTON; JOHN H. SHEPPARD; DAYLON F. BRANSON; DONALD E. KINNEY. **May they rest in peace and never to be forgotten.**

**Thurman Dubberly**  
Chaplin DAV

### SERVICE OFFICER

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE will conduct the annual Retiree Appreciation Week beginning October 25 to November 1, 2008. Various activities at this time will assist retirees in getting their personal affairs in order.

Eligible beneficiaries can participate in National Cancer Institute-sponsored cancer prevention and treatment studies, a permanent Tricare healthcare benefit. When enrolled in these studies people receive care that is considered the latest medicine or therapy,

but is not yet approved as standard care. There are two types of programs, Action Studies and Agent Studies. To find out about available trials you can call 1-800-422-6339 or go online to <http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials>

Tricare beneficiaries whose weight poses a serious health risk now have a new surgical alternative available. For those who medically qualify, Tricare now covers laparoscopic, adjustable gastric banding also known as Kao-Band surgery. Details of the coverage are available in the Tricare Policy Manual, which you can view online at <http://www.tricare.mil>

A large number of retirees may still be eligible for Combat Related Compensation. If you feel that you might qualify and have not applied, call 1-800-616-3775.

Many older Americans may have difficulties making both ends meet especially with prescriptions and heating. If you need help, visit Benefits Checkup at <http://www.benefitscheckup.org>

The US government web site has created a section that caters specially to the needs of older Americans. It contains links to government-sponsored sites relating to health, prescription drug coverage, consumer protection, and retirement and provides a central point to access government agencies. Visit <http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors.shtml>.

**Al Braun**  
**Senior Service Officer**

### **AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S REPORT**

We have had a great summer filled with vacations. Some of you went on a cruise to faraway places; others went to the beach while others had backyard cookouts. But October is the roll-up-your sleeves and get back to work month. Some of our Auxiliary members will be cleaning our office files and putting old records in storage. Linda Loubier has already begun decorating Christmas gift bags to be filled with Christmas presents for the nursing home patients at Lake City VA Hospital and Veterans in some of the local nursing homes. Susan Fischer is looking for desirable material to make approximately 75 pillowcases for the pillows just purchased. The hospital and nursing home patients always seem to enjoy having a good comfortable pillow which is their very own.

It is "Fall Festival" time again for the Veterans at Lake City VA Hospital on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Chapters and Units #6 & #7 will join with us to put on our annual Carnival. We will be joined by other

Veteran organizations, such as the American Legion, VFW and Am Vets. A local band usually provides the music and everyone has a great time. While the veterans play "Trick or Treat" at all the Carnival booths and win some cash at the Chapter's Bean Bag Toss, we have the privilege of seeing them enjoying themselves and forgetting their problems for a little while.

The Auxiliary held its annual "Forget-me-not" drive at NAS Jax and NS Mayport on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter Commander and several of the Chapter members joined with Auxiliary members both Friday and Saturday collecting donations for the Disabled Veterans. This was the most successful drive we have

ever had. I personally believe that Buddy Rickman "held up the payroll master" at NAS Jax and just pretended he stood in the hot sun all those long hours begging for donations. No matter how he did it, "thanks Buddy, you did a good job." The entire Auxiliary members and myself are very grateful to all the Chapter members who helped us so much. We will return the favor when Auxiliary members help the

Chapter collect donations for the veterans at the Golden Coral restaurants during the Veterans Day Remembrance.

I would like to remind everyone that all donations and monies collected by the DAV and the DAVA are used for veteran benefits. Our Chapter and Unit do not have any CEO's and officers on salary. We are all volunteers.

Tickets for the Quilt Raffle will go on sale next week. Auxiliary members should be receiving their tickets by mail in the next two weeks. I know this is a difficult time for many of us and our financial situation may not be as secure as it once was, but if you possibly can, I urge you to purchase the raffle tickets and be sure to enclose the ticket stub with your name and phone number on it. The drawing for the Quilt will be held at our December meeting.

Many of our younger disabled veterans have special needs that the VA does not provide. They have young families who need assistance for a period of time. If our Quilt Raffle is as successful as our "Forget-me-not" drive was that may enable us to address and assist some of these issues the veterans have.

This has been both a great year and a sad one for me. But I look forward to keep spreading a little cheer and happiness to some of our veterans through the holiday season. I thank each and every one of you who have attended meetings, made donations, volunteered at the VA Hospital and Nursing homes, did the cutting and sewing for the ditty bags, helped to fill and distribute the ditty bags to the veterans, decorated and helped to fill Christmas gift bags. Then there are those of you who worked long hours doing reports and cleaning the Chapter and Auxiliary quarters. All of you contribute so much of your time to support our veterans, I thank you for them.

We have learned that on October 7<sup>th</sup> our good friend Jane Ziers of St. Augustine Unit #6 was found out

doors at home with a head injury so severe that it necessitated her being "life-flighted" to Shands in Jacksonville. Jane is our Auxiliary's Past State Commander and currently our State Chaplain. She is still unconscious in the CCU, in critical but stable condition. Please say a prayer for her and put her on your prayer list at church.

Remember to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Have a good Thanksgiving and let your family know how much you love them. Enjoy the Christmas Holidays and don't forget to pray for our troops who are away from home in a strange country. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Jean Christian  
Commander DAVA**

**MEMBERSHIP**

*The following is from this past Quarter, 7/01/2008-9/30/2008:*

**PAID –UP MEMBERSHIP                      NEW MEMBERS                      TRANSFERRED IN**

**7/01-7/31/2008**

Casey Ryles	Jehue V. McDonald	Paul M. Whiteman
Bernard A. Wilson	Howard E. Zientek	
William A. Viola	Robert R. Williams	
Caroline G. Herah	Lee A. Allen	
Johnny W. Carter	Lonnie Kraminer	
Patrick L. Hoffman	Jon M Beard	
John H. Page	Fredrick A. Humphies	
	Reinald Long	
	Rollie B. Scott	

**8/01-8/31/2008**

David G. Diffenbaugh	Fredrick Wilson	Roman Jones
Alberto A Avena	George R. Gentry	Ronald L. Weeks
Felix P. Bermudez	Paul A. Graham	
Robin L. Higgs		
Howard E. Zientek		
James K. Smith		
Roy V. Rudd		
Scott A. Bieber		
William A. Viola		
Johnny W. Carter		
Derek A. Jones		
Bolivar L. Miranda-Cruz		

**9/01-9-30/2008**

Efrain Hernandez	Terrance L. Rembert
John F. McGowan	Michael W. Rauls
Gregory L. Printy	James E. Greene
Darnell J. Adams, Jr.	Ray F. Stubbs
Jimmie Vareene	
Michael N. Bading	
Derek A. Jones	
Rodica J. Taylor	

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.

In every good leader, there always was the evidence of three qualities: character, love for soldiers and professional competence. And because they possessed these qualities, they managed to inspire their soldiers to have confidence in them.

Update your file, make sure your address, phone numbers, especially your spouse's name, paid up dues, email address, 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 update 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 Chairman**

**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:

United Way of Jacksonville  
Robert Wahl  
Guy Diffenbaugh

Ray & Marjorie Paine  
C. D. Hayes  
John Markiewicz

Tony & Cathy Graffeo  
James Kinney  
Miscellaneous meeting donations

**Upcoming events**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** – Fall Carnival at VA Hospital Lake City – Contact DAV CDR Diffenbaugh.

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** – NOTR meeting at 1100. DAV/DAVA meeting 1pm at Chapter House.

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** - Congressman Crenshaw recognizes Vietnam War Veterans for District 4 at NS Mayport - must register by October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Call 904-598-0481 for more information.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** - Filipino Veterans Society Ball at Hyatt Regency -Tickets \$45.

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** - City of Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade, if you would like to go contact CDR Diffenbaugh.

**November 17<sup>th</sup>** - Golden Corral in partnership with the Disabled American Veterans will have their annual Veterans Recognition Meal with a free dinner to all veterans from 5-9pm.

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>** – NOTR meeting at 11am, DAV/DAVA meetings 1pm at Chapter House.

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** – THANKSGIVING DAY

**December 7<sup>TH</sup>** – PEARL HARBOR DAY-All US Flag's half-mast.

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** – Short meeting; Annual Christmas Party

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** – NOTR meeting will be combined with Chapter 1 DAV meeting for Christmas Party at 1pm

**January 1' 2009** – New Years' Day.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
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