

Jacksonville Chapter #1 INC

Disabled American Veterans

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

Phone: 904-720-0244

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Volume 9 Issue 1

January-March 2009

OFFICERS

DAV
Guy Diffenbaugh 233-4125
Ray Paine 714-6677
Al Braun 720-0244
Thurman Dubberly 751-4325

Commander
Sr. Vice Cmdr
Adjutant
Chaplain

DAVA
Jean Christian 646-1372
Erlinda Loubier 221-6404
Elaine Rickman 724-8490
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.

DAV COMMANDER'S REPORT

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed holiday and will have a prosperous new year.

We culminated a very good year at Chapter 1 in a Christmas Party with sumptuous meal on 20 December. You should be very proud of all your Chapter has accomplished this past year. We did a lot and did it well. Your Chapter made things happen to better veterans lives beyond the VA.

The Chapter purchased a van to provide much needed service to the Lake City VA Hospital, got involved in the community, raised over twice as much in donations as the previous year at the Golden Corral, delivered Christmas bags to veterans in the nursing homes, served an average of 15 veterans per week in the service office, and other charitable deeds – some known only to the provider and recipient.

The Chapter has members in State and National leadership this year as part of an effective organization working to ensure disabled veterans receive the benefits they've earned. Some of you have had to pass the baton on (and you will never be forgotten) but if you are able I challenge you to get involved in 2009. The degree of your involvement will determine the size of your personal blessing and growth. Test me in this – you have nothing to lose and an enormous amount to gain. May 2009 be the best and happiest year of your life.

Guy Diffenbaugh
Commander DAV

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Since our last letter we have had Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have given thanks for everything and the birth of Jesus. Oh, we have so much to be thankful for. Just look around the other parts of the world and look where we are and where we came from. Yes, I know the economy is bad and crime is up, but we still have the best country to another. Amen.

The following members have gone to meet the Supreme commander this quarter: James b. Mitchell, Paul D. Cartette, Nathan A. Potter, Joseph A. Mongiello, Donald G. Knox, Henry A. Boulanger, Daylon Brenson, Pink D. Stovall, David F. Hauck, Samuel B. Daniel, Philip R. Rude, Raymond P. Lanoue, Joseph L. Varney, Roscoe D. Coleman, Emanuel "Babe" Lauritano, Kenneth K. Parker, Harold R. Lindstrom, Robert "Bob" L. Boland, Donald Field, Howard J. Higgins, Rhydon C. Dennette, Jr., Kenneth K. Parker, Daniel L. Ribera. May they rest in peace and never to be forgotten.

Thurman Dubberly
Chaplain DAV

SERVICE OFFICER

The service office remains busy and even with some service officer illness and the holidays saw 154 veterans during the quarter ending December 2008.

We welcome new service officers Faye Patin and Paul Markiewicz who will accompany us to annual certification training in Orlando 6-9 January. They are both motivated, very sharp, and will strengthen our program. Our service office is staffed with volunteers so remember to tell them they are appreciated.

There are many good things happening in appropriations for veterans. Probably the best news for the majority of us is the increase in the cost of living allowance (COLA) for 2009. At 5.8% it is the largest COLA since 1983 and pertains to retired pay, SBP annuities, social security, VA disability and survivor benefits.

In the area of mortgages, the Veterans Improvement Act of 2008 can now help veterans who have sub prime loans. Both sub prime and conventional mortgages can be refinanced for up to 100% of the value of the property. The maximum amount of the loan has also increased. For more information call the VA.

Your service office remains committed to serving all veterans but especially our own chapter members. If you have a service-connected disability that has worsened, consider seeing us for an upgrade. Also many things happen to us down the road which are rooted in our military service. For example, Viet Nam veterans with possible exposure to Agent Orange have a lengthy list of diseases that the VA considers presumptive to exposure. It doesn't hurt to ask us and you might be pleasantly surprised.

We remain committed to you. Call before coming to ensure someone is available, bring all documentation and VA letters, and please contact us when the VA responds about your benefits.

Guy Diffenbaugh
Senior Service Officer pro tem

AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S REPORT

It is hard to realize that 2008 is almost over and gone., but looking back at all the projects we tackled, I am amazed and happy to tell you that they were all completed. Our active members worked really hard to make sure that our disabled veterans in the Lake City VA hospital, several homeless veterans and veterans in local nursing homes had a nice gift bag for Christmas. Refreshments have been furnished every day for the veterans at the downtown Jacksonville VA outpatient center. Prepaid phone cards (furnished by a Chapter 1 member) were sent to the U. S. O. for distribution to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A Christmas food basket including a ham and Christmas gift package was delivered to a veteran and family in need.

We had a nice Christmas party after our joint meeting on December 20th. Auxiliary members prepared a Christmas dinner and Unit 6 members from St. Augustine were our guests. The drawing for the king size quilt was held and Barbara Howard from Middleburg had the winning ticket, congratulations Barbara.

There is much work to be done in the coming year and I know all of you will step up and do all that you can to help our veterans and their families.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Jean Christian
Commander DAVA

MEMBERSHIP

The following is from this past Quarter, 10/01-12/31/2008:

NEW MEMBERS

10/01/2008-10/31/2008:

Willie C. Davis
Charles A. Olmstead
Robert Bates
James Greene
Frank Hookfin, Jr.
Fredrick A. Humphries
Rollie B. Scott
Alexie Sanchez
Johnnie L. Smith
Herman E. Springs
Yvette D. Garvin
Kevin C. Jackson

PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP

Thomas M. Mari
Charles A. Blake
Felix P. Bermudez
Bolivar L. Miranda-Cruz
Jimmie Vareene
Stewart T. Sampler
Frank Del Drete

TRANSFERRED IN

Orri L. Smith

11/01/2008-11/30/2008:

Chadwick R. Hoey
Raphael A. Thomas
Lonnie McNair

Eric D. Garong
Edward E. Smith
Alcidez Babilonia

John R. Jenkins
Faye W. Patin
Charles F. Straw

12/01/2008-12/31/2008:

Michael L. LaCour
Althea Y. Boston
Timothy E. Clark
Teresa Y. Thompson
James A. Jiles

Andrew Brooks

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.

We encourage you to update your personal information such as correct address, phone numbers, spouse's name, email address and etc. Having correct info enables us to send you a newsletter every quarter. Also to notify National on behalf of the Chapter should anything change concerning your well being or we can offer assistance or condolences should a tragedy occur. You can call me at (904) 714-6677 or send an email to ligar@bellsouth.net and I will make the necessary changes that you provide. 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 Fiscal Year. Their generosity helps us to continue our services to our members and to all of our Veterans, donors listed below:

Business Donations

*SWISHER INTERNATIONAL
UNITED WAY BUSINESS DONATION
UNITED WAY JACKSONVILLE

Community Donations

BESSIE CREEKMORE

Golden Corral

AL & LOLA DEALY
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JEAN CHRISTIAN
DEBBIE VEALE
FRANK KESSLER
MELISSA TUFF
THOMAS & MARTHA TENPENNY
LEONA INGE
ROBERT O. KAY III
GOLDEN CORRAL CASH DONATIONS

Member Donations

RAY & MARJORIE PAINE
TONY & CATHY GRAFFEO—NEWSLETTER BOOSTER
MISC MEMBER MEETING DONATIONS
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CALVIN LEE
DAVID JOHNSON
ROBERT WAHL—MEMBER DONATION
JOHN MARKIEWICZ

*-VERY SPECIAL THANKS

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 24 NOTR 11:00
 General Meeting DAV/DAVA 1:00
February 18 NOTR 11:00/Nominations for Officers
 General Meeting DAV/DAVA 1:00
March 28 NOTR 1100/Installation of Officers
 General Meeting DAV/DAVA 1:00/Nominations for upcoming 2009
April 25 NOTR 11:00
 General Meeting DAV/DAVA 1:00/Election of new Officers.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
SOUTHSIDE CHAPTER NO. 1, INC
1439 PARENTAL HOME ROAD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32216-3007
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