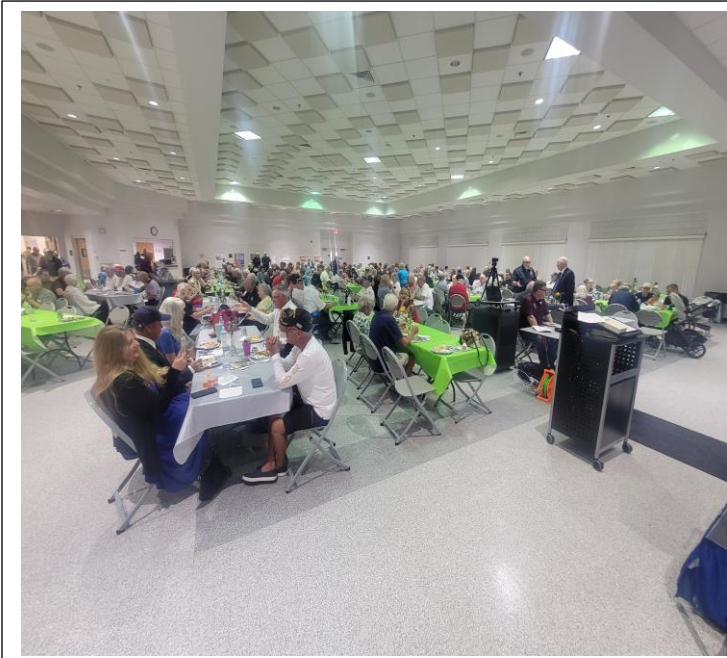




April 2025



Top Left: Guests are Vietnam Appreciation Dinner sponsored by Chapter 32
 Top Right: Chapter 38 participating in Clay County Salute to Veterans Week.
 Bottom Left: PNC Joyner; Department SVC Cornish; JVC Dunn and DSO McLemore at Vietnam Recognition sponsored by Chapter 32
 Bottom Right: Chapter 98 members attending their April meeting.



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER LAYMOND ROSE

Spotlighting two chapters:

For the past several months, the Department has been strongly promoting the implementation of a repetitive contact strategy using your chapter membership list and your hot list (provided by National) to encourage more of your members to attend meetings and participate in chapter functions as well as to recruit new membership.

We identified a common, and major, problem that existed in all our chapters when it came to keeping in contact with our membership and in reaching out to potential members within our communities. For the most part, we simply did not communicate with most of our members and virtually none of our prospects due to missing usable contact information.

The Department did something about the problem. We found a resource that could take our membership lists or hotlist (prospect list) and significantly enhance and enrich the contact data they contained. The Department paid the cost of having the statewide hotlist (96,000 names) run through their system. The result was six new columns of information added to approximately 75% of the names on the list. Three columns containing up to three cell (not landline) phone numbers and three columns that contained email addresses. Every chapter now had a prospective list of new members with cell phone and email addresses (in most cases this list has more names on it than the chapter membership list.)

Additionally, we identified multiple third-party services that could execute bulk texting and email campaigns at affordable costs while managing your lists and complying with opt-out policies and other rules of the internet providers. Now every chapter can improve their communication with both existing members and new prospects.

In this month's article, I would like to bring attention to two chapters that I believe have set the standard as to how this should be accomplished. Both chapters have aggressively implemented their own communication outreach strategy to engage current membership, attract new members and volunteers, and increase community recognition and support. They have been extremely successful in doing so.

Here are some of the highlights of what they have accomplished in the past several months:

Chapter 32 Melbourne: Commander Rodney Deflumeri
Average meeting attendance before – struggled to achieve a forum. Average attendance now – **25+**. New members recruited – **97**. New CSOs Recruited – **8**.

Some of the events the chapter has conducted:

- Inaugural 9/11 – First Responders recognition event: **200 attendees**
- Veterans Appreciation Day 11/13 – **125 attendees**
- Team Depot Beautification Day (chapter building paint/refurb) – **90 attendees**
- National Vietnam Veterans Day – **300 attendees**
- Speaking Event at VFW Post 4206 – **30 attendees**
- Vietnam Veterans Recognition Event- **280 attendees.**

Other: Chapter 32 has also been very successful in engaging local businesses in supporting and sponsoring these activities.

Chapter 109 Titusville/Mims: Commander John Dunn
Average meeting attendance before = **12-14**. Average attendance now = **30-35 (high 51)**.
New members recruited – **108**. New CSOs Recruited – **3**.
New VTN Drivers -**5**.

Some of the events the chapter has conducted:

- 'Monthly' Veterans Appreciation Day – Average attendance **100+**
- Armed Forces Day event – **203 attendees.**
- Farmers Market (monthly event) – Average attendance **300+**

Other: DAVA Unit 109 has also recruited **12** new members and **5** new volunteers.

The success of these two chapters is undeniable proof that implementing a repetitive contact program (text and email) will produce positive results. Your chapter can grow, recruit new members and enhance your impact/contribution to your local veteran community, thereby fulfilling the most basic premise of our mission statement.

Need help? Contact any Department Officer.





DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN CORNISH

We attended the Disabled American Veterans DAV MID-WINTER CONFERENCE (Freezing, Washington, D.C.) in Crystal Gateway Marriott, located in Arlington Virginia. It is always a special time and an awesome experience to see your DAV at work presenting our veterans Critical Policy Goals of the 119th Congress.

It all begins with our National Commander Daniel Contreras leading the way. Each day was full of information and on Saturday, February 22, conference registration administered by Commanders & Adjutants Association. It continued on Sunday 23rd-, with Opening Session welcome remarks presented by Kirk Johnson, President of the C&A Commanders and Adjutants Association; Doug Collins, Secretary of the Veterans Affairs; Daniel Contreras, National Commander; Barry Jesinoski, National Adjutant, and Christopher Easley, Auxiliary National Commander.

We continued throughout the week with workshops, Benefits Protection Team Legislation workshop, view DAV's Full Critical Policy Goals for 2025, View DAV's Condensed Critical Policy Goals for 2025, Members of our Department visited several of our Congressional Representatives and presented our Critical Policy Goals to them and/or staff. Florida was well represented in Washington.

Seminars included: Art of Resolution Writing Techniques and Tips, Service Workshop, Voluntary Services Workshop; Inspector General Workshop, and Employment Workshop. Monday 24th, Service Workshop, VAVS Workshop; Employment & Entrepreneurship Workshops.

Other seminars included: Communications Workshop, Outreach Workshop. Tuesday, 25th Presentation of DAV Legislative Program, Cannon House Building, Cannon Caucus Room by National Commander Daniel Contreras,

Later that afternoon other DAV meetings continued. National Service Foundation, Andy Marshall, President;. Charitable Service Trust, J. Marc Burgess, President;. Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial Foundation, Dennis Joyner, President. Later that night the National Commander's Reception was held. sponsored by ORACLE. The following day, Wednesday, 26th, the final meetings were held before adjournment, National Executive Committee, and Board of Directors, Nancy G. Espinosa, Chairman.

Additionally, in your free time you can enjoy the sights and sounds of the Nation's Capital along with a tasty dinner with Department of Florida's Leadership Mr. Andy Marshall and all our Florida members.

Thanks to those who attended the Conference and visiting with their Congressional Representatives.

I have been advised that our room capacity at the Lake Mary Marriott for our Department Convention has reached its capacity. Other hotels in the area include 2 other Marriott properties with one sharing the same parking lot and a Hampton Inn about half mile away.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention and seek your support as I seek the office of Department of Florida Commander.



DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN DUNN



I recently had the opportunity to assist a Veteran referred to me by Thomas Ayala. Since our facility was closer to the Veteran's home, Thomas reviewed the Veteran's VA file and recommended several items for filing. Among these recommendations was hypertension (HTN) secondary to asthma, a connection I had not previously considered. This prompted me to explore other possible secondary conditions linked to asthma.

Asthma is associated with systemic inflammation, which can impact multiple body systems, including the cardiovascular system. Chronic inflammation and long-term use of corticosteroids for asthma management are known contributors to hypertension. Corticosteroids can lead to fluid retention and alter blood pressure regulation, while asthma-related inflammation exacerbates cardiovascular strain. This bidirectional relationship highlights the importance of recognizing comorbidities like hypertension in asthmatic patients.

While some may already be familiar with these connections, many were new to me. Understanding these relationships is crucial for providing comprehensive care and ensuring Veterans receive appropriate benefits for secondary conditions related to their service-connected disabilities.

Possible conditions secondary to Asthma

Asthma can lead to several secondary conditions that may be eligible for VA disability benefits. Here are some of the most common secondary conditions associated with asthma:

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA):

1. **Asthma** increases the risk of developing OSA due to upper airway inflammation and nocturnal asthma symptoms. OSA is rated under Diagnostic Code 6847, with ratings ranging from 0% to 100% based on severity.
2. **Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD):** Up to 80% of asthma patients may experience GERD, which can exacerbate asthma symptoms. GERD is rated under Diagnostic Code 7206, with ratings from 0% to 80%.
3. **Chronic Sinusitis:** Commonly associated with asthma due to the unified airway theory. It's rated under Diagnostic Codes 6510-6514, with ratings from 0% to 50%.
4. **Anxiety and Depression:** The chronic nature of asthma can contribute to these mental health conditions. They are rated under Diagnostic Codes 9400 and 9434, using the General Rating Formula for Mental Disorders.
5. **Allergies:** Often associated with asthma and can trigger asthma symptoms.
6. **Nasal Polyps:** Can develop as a result of chronic inflammation in the airways.
7. **Vocal Cord Dysfunction (VCD):** Can mimic asthma symptoms and complicate its management.
8. **Panic Disorder:** Common in asthma patients due to the fear of asthma attacks. It's rated under Diagnostic Code 9412.
9. **Bronchiectasis:** A condition where the airways become damaged and widened.
10. **Type 2 Diabetes:** Can develop as a secondary condition to asthma.

Of course a medical opinion will be necessary!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN REVEREND JIM TAYLOR

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I wish to offer my thoughts as I write this newsletter on March 29th. You will remember this is the day that we as a nation, honor our Vietnam Veterans. Just saying "honor our Vietnam Veterans" invokes several memories. I am sure many of you lived through much worse than I did. I am a war era Vietnam Veteran but did not have to suffer coming back after being in combat in country. What I dealt with was never being able to wear my uniform off base. Bring clothes to change into after a duty day. Hide your ID in your shoes to not be caught with an ID. We were allowed to keep our hair a little longer and wear beards to be less conspicuous in public. It was certainly not patriotic to join the military, it was just the opposite. If I was traveling, I was told to get a passport that listed my occupation as electrician rather than US Navy. People I knew in high school thought joining the military was a dumb choice and would be a dead job for any future I could hope for in life.

Well, enough negative. Today represents an effort on the country's part to right the wrong done to so many back then. Personally, I am very honored to be a part of this group that not only served our country but each of you did so despite the cultural pressures of the time in history. My respect goes out to all who served.

Whether you joined or were drafted, you chose to stay and meet the commitment you accepted back when you entered the service. We taught an entire generation about serving something greater than themselves. We can take great satisfaction in knowing that played a major role in the youth of our nation in growing up to become good citizens. It seems there may need to be another lesson offered by a new nation of service members.

But that is changing the subject.

My hope and desire today and with this newsletter is to say I am proud to be one of you. Our country is better, even today, because of you. I hope and pray that as you remember the trials of the past, which I know you will, you can also be convinced and accept the truth that you helped guide a nation to be a better place as it grew up.

I have been advised that information packets containing registration information for the upcoming Department Convention has been mailed to all chapters. Please pay attention to the fact that only the registration list containing the members name and membership code number needs to be returned along with the \$10.00 registration fee and \$25.00 for Commander's Ball tickets if attending the banquet. The member is to hand carry their registration form signed by both the Chapter Commander & Adjutant to the convention.

US HB1685 | 2025-2026 | 119th Congress

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death.

Action: 2025-02-27 - Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.



LVAP HOURS:

The timely and accurate reporting of LVAP hours will be one of my priority goals this fiscal year. Last year only 21 of our 52 chapters reported LVAP hours to the department monthly as required. It is my belief that every chapter is performing functions for which LVAP hours can be claimed – they simply are not reporting those hours. Consequently, we are significantly under-reporting the activity of the Department of Florida.

Reporting LVAP hours, by every chapter, is very important to the DAV organization. DAV is required to report volunteer hours to Congress, watchdog groups, members, and donors. Reporting 'ALL' of our volunteer hours can strengthen our lobbying capabilities in congress, elevate the favorable opinion of watchdog groups, and reinforce the trust of our members and donors.

The below chart will be updated and appear in this newsletter monthly going forward so that every chapter will know where they stand.

Chap #	Current Month	YTD	Chap #	Current Month	YTD	Chap #	Current Month	YTD	Chap #	Current Month	YTD
1	1, 424	6,969	23		2566	83	325	2,553.5	112		6,589
4	434	4,028	29	85	408	84	338	5,250	113	1,508	9,401
5	324	2,997	30	538	1,155	85		5,081	123	6,647	41,174
6			32	3,862.5	18,032	86	2,042	9,410	125		278
7		1,242	38	1,190	15,860	87	1,157	6,222	126	313	3,371
11	259	1,576.5	42		708	90	24	540	129		783
12	128	883	49		3,467	94	60	821	133	59	4,552
13			57	544	2,157	97		2,475	144	1,412	5,905
16	2,295	19,620	63			98	1,082	5,987	148		
17			67	551	1,876	101			150	486	5,103
18		27,202	70	1,172.5	6,629.5	108	807	3,238.5	158	208	916
			73	11	18	109	13,119	89,891	159	531	2,010
22			82	1,371	11,648	110	346	673			

TOTALS 7/1/24-present 361, 266 (unofficial)

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE MICHAEL MICHELOTTI



Former Marine Pleads Guilty to Submitting False Purple Heart Application

Paul John Herbert, of Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, pleaded guilty to one count of making false statements. Beginning in 2010, Herbert filed false claims to the VA for disability benefits, stating an improvised explosive device injured him. In 2018, he submitted a false Purple Heart application to the Marine Corps through his local congressman. He obtained more than \$344,000 in benefits over 13 years. "Today's guilty plea holds this defendant accountable for falsifying his service record to steal funds intended for our nation's deserving veterans," said Special Agent in Charge Christopher Algieri with the VA OIG's Northeast Field Office. "The VA Office of Inspector General will continue to aggressively investigate those who would represent themselves as something they are not in order to exploit VA programs and services." The VA OIG and the Department of Defense OIG Defense Criminal Investigative Service investigated this case.

FL Business Owner Convicted in \$100 Million Medical Equipment Scheme

Raheel Nawiwala, of Coral Springs, Florida, was convicted of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and wire fraud, health care fraud, conspiracy to violate the Anti-Kickback Statute, and violating the Anti-Kickback Statute. Nawiwala and his coconspirators purchased contact lists of Medicare patients' and hired telemarketers to convince the patients to get orthotic braces. These telemarketers pre-filled prescriptions and picked the highest-paying braces to bill to insurers.

Nawiwala then paid telemedicine doctors to sign the pre-filled prescriptions for braces, regardless of medical necessity. Nawiwala sold the signed prescriptions to durable medical equipment supply companies that could bill insurers for the braces. Medicare and insurers paid at least approximately \$100 million for the durable medical equipment associated with Nawiwala's companies. The loss to VA was \$330,000. Nawiwala personally pocketed more than \$10 million in fraud proceeds. This case was investigated by the VA OIG, FBI, HHS-OIG, and DCIS.

TX Pharmacist Sentenced for \$145M Scheme

Texas pharmacist Dehshid "David" Nourian, of Plano, was sentenced to 17 years in prison, ordered to pay over \$115 million in restitution, and forfeit \$405 million in assets for his role in a \$145 million scheme to defraud the Department of Labor through the submission of fraudulent claims for prescriptions between May 2014 and March 2017. Nourian and others owned and operated pharmacies located in Fort Worth and Arlington and conspired to pay doctors to prescribe medically unnecessary compound creams to injured federal workers. Throughout the scheme, they paid doctors millions of dollars in illegal bribes and kickbacks for referring expensive compound medications to be filled by those pharmacies. Evidence at trial showed these compounds were mixed in the back rooms of the pharmacies by untrained teenagers at a cost to the defendants of around \$15 per prescription and then billed to the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs for as much as \$16,000 per prescription.





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The Department is expanding its involvement with VAVS by including the State Veterans Homes. Chapter's 4 and 16 have already made contact with two State Veterans Homes. Chapter 4 hosted a cookout at one home and Chapter 16 provided Christmas Gifts at another and are sponsoring cook-outs at Lake Nona and Baldwin.

Our Department Adjutant is in the process of contacting the other State Nursing Homes to set up dates to host cookouts at their facilities. The Department furnishes the burgers, hot dogs and chicken patties along with salads and baked beans. We also provide all condiments and drinks. Chapters should attend the cookouts and mingle with the veteran patients and sign-up members for those eligible veterans over age 80 as they are of course **free if eligible.**

State Veterans Homes Schedule

Clyde Lassen State Veterans Home May 8
St. Augustine

Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home in Panama
City May 14 (120 veterans)

Emory Bennett State Veterans Home July 4
Daytona Beach (175 veterans)

Ardie Copas State Veterans Nursing Home 13000 SW
Tradition Parkway Port St. Lucie July 15 (110
residents)

Bipartisan, Bicameral Bill Will Allow Over 50,000 Combat-injured Veterans to Receive Full Disability Compensation and Retired Pay

Washington, DC: —Representatives Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Raul Ruiz (D-CA) have reintroduced the *Major Richard Star Act* alongside Senators Rick Scott (R-FL), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). This critical legislation will rectify an injustice that keeps combat disabled Veterans from receiving full military benefits. Currently, over 50,000 medically retired Veterans are forbidden from receiving their full retirement pay and disability compensation.

The *Major Richard Star Act* would repeal this unfair offset, allowing these disabled Veterans to receive both their retirement pay and their disability compensation. The bill is named in honor of Major Richard A. Star—a father, husband, and decorated war veteran who, as a result of his combat-related injuries, was medically retired. Major Star sadly lost his battle with cancer on February 13, 2021.

Today, when the bill was re-introduced, it already had the support of over 185 original cosponsors in the House and 43 in the Senate.

"The brave men and women who return from serving our country should be able to receive the benefits promised to them. Military retirement pay and service-connected disability compensation are two completely different benefits. One does not diminish the merits of the other," said Bilirakis. "I am committed to rectifying this injustice for all Veterans, and passage of the Major Richard Star Act will get us one step closer to our goal of ensuring that Veterans receive the benefits they have earned and deserve."



Adjutant's Column Continued

US SB611 | 2025-2026 | 119th Congress

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purpose.

Status: Introduced on February 18 2025 - 25% progression
Action: 2025-03-11 - Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
Hearings held.

US SB879 | 2025-2026 | 119th Congress

A bill to expand medical, employment, and other benefits for individuals serving as family caregivers for certain veterans, and for other purposes.

Status: Introduced on March 6 2025 - 25% progression
Action: 2025-03-06 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

US SB749 | 2025-2026 | 119th Congress

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had

Status: Introduced on February 26 2025 - 25% progression
Action: 2025-02-26 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. such disease prior to death, and for other purposes.

US SB599 | 2025-2026 | 119th Congress

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes.

Status: Introduced on February 13 2025 - 25% progression
Action: 2025-02-13 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
Pending: Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

US SR105 | 2025-2026 | 119th Congress

A resolution condemning the mass terminations of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs carried out with no justification or analysis of the impact on veterans and their families.

Action: 2025-03-04 - Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text: CR S1500)
Pending: [Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee](#)

US HB303 | 2025-2026 | 119th Congress

To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or combat-related special compensation.

Action: 2025-02-11 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
Pending: [House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Committee](#).

US HB439 | 2025-2026 | 119th Congress

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to furnish hospital care and medical services outside a State to veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as permanent and total, and for other purposes.

Action: 2025-01-15 - Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

US HB1288 | 2025-2026 | 119th Congress

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes.

Action: 2025-02-13 - Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide

This annual guide helps connect Florida's veterans and their families with earned federal and state benefits, services and support. It also contains useful phone numbers and website addresses for additional information.

[Click here to view the 2025 edition of the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide.](#)

To view the digital version of the 2025 *Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide*, [click here](#)

WASHINGTON — Veterans seeking transgender-related medical treatments “will have to do so on their own dime,” Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins said Monday, as he announced an end to health coverage for gender dysphoria.

The VA is phasing out what is known as cross-sex hormone therapy as well prosthetics for veterans with a medical diagnosis or history of gender dysphoria, the VA said. Gender dysphoria is the medical term for individuals whose gender identity does not match their biological sex at birth.

Democratic lawmakers and advocates for transgender veterans immediately condemned the decision, along with the change Friday to VA policy that ensured health-care access for transgender veterans.

The VA did not provide numbers on how many veterans received medical treatment for gender dysphoria. But the agency said it will continue to provide transgender veterans access to other VA health care and benefits for which they qualify. The VA estimated about 9,000 transgender veterans are enrolled in VA health care, which serves more than 9 million veterans.

Any savings from ending the medical treatments will be redirected to help defray costs of care for veterans with catastrophic injuries that include amputations and paralysis, the VA said. Though the VA has never offered sex-change surgeries, it also will end the practice of providing clinical letters of support for veterans seeking the operations with private doctors, the VA said.

Collins' announcement Monday excludes veterans who already are receiving care for gender dysphoria at the VA or who receive the care from the military as part of their separation from service, the VA said. The Defense Department in February ended funds for gender-affirming surgeries.



The theme for the Commander's Ball at our Department Convention will be WESTERN from the period 1800's. Dress as your favorite cowboy, cowgirl, outlaw, etc.

If you haven't made your reservations at the Lake Mary Marriott for the upcoming Department Convention, I suggest you do it ASAP.

Dates for the Department Convention are Thursday, June 12, 2025, beginning with the Department Executive and Finance Committees beginning at 6:00 pm. Joint Opening Session will begin at 9:30 am on Friday, June 13. The convention closes Saturday afternoon, June 14 followed by the Commander's Ball honoring our incoming DAV & DAVA Line Officers.

We will elect our Department, Senior Vice and Junior Vice Commanders as well as Member of the Finance Committee, Judge Advocate and Chaplain.

Inasmuch as the membership passed a Department By-Law Amendment last June to increase from 5 to 7 Area Committeepersons, they will be elected on Friday afternoon during the Convention when the Areas meet.

Dates for the 2026 CSO Certification Training is Tuesday, January 6, 2026, beginning at 1:00 pm with testing on Friday, January 9, 2026. **All CSO's should schedule their departure from hotel after 11:30 am on Friday, January 9.** CSO's will need to turn in their test and other documentation when they pick up their certificates following recess of the Joint Opening Session around 11:00 am-11:30 am on that day.



Department of Florida Newsletter

Adjutant's Column Continued

Membership Update

Chapters 1, 13, 18, 32, 57, 82, 101, 109 and 123 for reaching their membership goal.

Our Department has 60, 527 total members with a goal of 61, 525 members. We are at 98.35% of goal. We have 18 trial members and 2, 218 Part-life members.

It would be a good idea to convert these Part-life members to full-paid life members. Chapters can access the membership system and get a print-out of their Part-life members.

Top membership recruiters so far this membership year

Rodney Deflumeri	73 total members
Brenda Culbreath	58 total members
Kenneth Gore	60 total members
Eduard Bueno	37 total members
Catherine Mohan	32 total members
Jeremy Lam	28 total members

Numbers 2-5 are NSO's. Good job Rodney for being top recruiter thus far. Top DSO Recruiter is Paul McLemore with 19 total members.



State Legislation

SB 574: Toll Exemptions for Purple Heart Medal Recipients

Toll Exemptions for Purple Heart Medal Recipients; Revising eligibility for toll exemptions to include operators displaying a Purple Heart specialty license plate or a Purple Heart special motorcycle license plate, etc.

SB 910: Veterans' Benefits Assistance

Prohibiting a person from receiving compensation for referring an individual to another person for advising, assisting, or consulting on veterans' benefits matters; requiring that persons who advise, assist, or consult on veterans' benefits matters for compensation provide a specified written disclosure before entering into a business relationship with a client; prohibiting persons who advise, assist, or consult on veterans' benefits matters from charging certain fees, etc.

CS/CS/SB 116: Veterans

Requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct a study that includes a survey evaluating the extent to which specified persons are aware of certain existing programs or services; requiring the department to ensure coordination to the greatest extent possible with the United States Department of Defense for a specified purpose; revising the purpose of the Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program to include specialized mental health training; requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop a plan to establish adult day health care facilities across this state to serve veterans and their families, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$350,000

SB 884: Florida State Guard

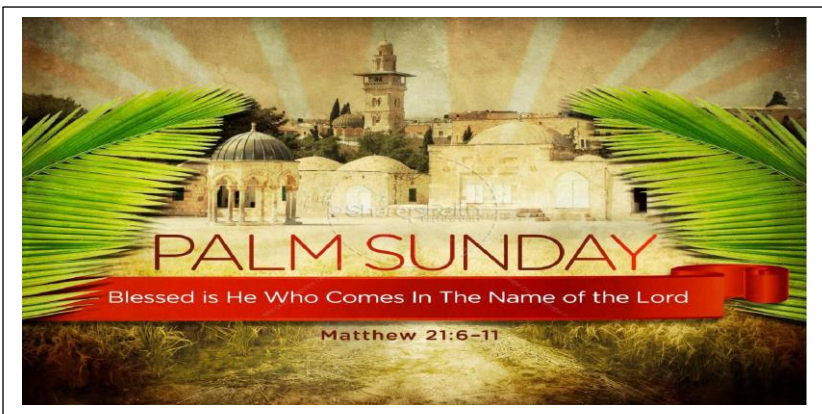
Authorizing leaves of absence for members of the Florida State Guard when they are engaged in certain ordered training; providing a discount on annual entrance passes to state parks for current members of the Florida State Guard; creating and specifying the annual fee for the Florida State Guard gold sportsman's license for hunting and fishing; creating the Florida State Guard Scholarship Program for a specified purpose, etc.

Last Action: 3/11/2025 Senate - Now in Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development.

April 1-6 DAV/VA Winter Sports Clinic



April 13 Palm Sunday



April 18 Good Friday



April 20 Easter

