



January 2026



Top Left: Chapter 109 members pose with volunteer at her swearing-in ceremony for USN.

Top right: Chapter and Unit 16 with PDC Laymond & Margaret Rose distributing Christmas gifts to Lake Nona CLC

Bottom Left: Chapter and Unit 18 Christmas Party

Bottom Right: Coleman Nee DAV National Commander



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN CORNISH

Celebration of Life for Mary Ann Keckler

In December, we gathered with heavy hearts at the James Haley VA Hospital in Tampa to honor the life and legacy of our beloved comrade, Mary Ann Keckler, who passed away on November 25, 2025. The Celebration of Life Ceremony brought together family, friends, and fellow comrades to reflect on the remarkable impact she made throughout her life.

The event was led by Master of Ceremonies Gerardo Navarro and coordinated by Ms. Freda Gardner, DAV Chapter 67 Commander. The program included the Posting of Colors by the JAH VA Police Honor Guard, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem. Erika Reynolds, JAHVH Chief of System Redesign, contributed her talents, while Chaplain Roosevelt Hanna, JAHVH Chief Chaplain, offered the invocation. Opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Melissa Sundin, JAHVH Acting Deputy Director. Heartfelt tributes came from Mr. John Donovan, DAV National Service Commander, and Mrs. Brenda Reed, DAV National 3rd Junior Vice Commander. The ceremony concluded with a benediction by Chaplain Jim Taylor, Department DAV Chaplain, and a moving performance of "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes by Officer Dean Johnson of the JAHVH VA Police. Major James Ferguson, Ret. VAVS Host, also contributed to the proceedings.

All present honored Mary Ann Keckler with dignity and respect, recognizing her unwavering compassion, dedication, productivity, and steadfast love for veterans. The stories shared during the ceremony highlighted her lifelong influence, which will continue to inspire future generations.

Ongoing Outreach to Veterans

Throughout December, visits to veterans at Oakview Nursing Home, Long-Term Care Facility, Life Care Center of Orange Park and Middleburg Rehabilitation & Nursing Center remained a meaningful part of our outreach. These visits are an essential aspect of our commitment to consistent support for veterans, and I will continue to prioritize them as the need for ongoing assistance remains significant.

Updates from NSO Supervisor Gerald Propst

We are pleased to announce that Ashley NSO Castanos has completed her training and has been promoted to Associate National Service Officer. In the next two months, two more individuals will graduate from the program, making our office the largest in the country. We look forward to seeing CSOs at next week's training. We need accurate email addresses for all CSOs and DSOs to ensure we can reach you about any CMS submission issues. Most suspensions from CMS occur when we are unable to reach someone to resolve an issue.

If any chapter would like to host an information seminar by NSOs, please submit your request with a 10-week lead time to allow for proper scheduling in the upcoming year.

Community Engagement and Holiday Events

This month, I attended festive Christmas parties with DAV Chapter 1 in Jacksonville, alongside Commander Paul McLemore and his chapter members. I also participated in the DAV Chapter 38 Christmas party in Orange Park, which saw over 40 members in attendance. Both events were held at our sponsor, Golden Corral, and were graced by the presence of Past Department Commander Tommy Ayala and his family.

Year-End Reflections

As we close out the year 2025, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and commitment to our Disabled American Veterans and their families. Your dedication is crucial as we strive to fulfill our promise to assist veterans and their loved ones. Together, we will continue to emphasize our unwavering commitment to those we serve.

Honoring Service and Sacrifice

Let us remember those currently serving on active duty, standing watch today, and the veterans whose sacrifices have shaped the freedoms we enjoy. Their honor, courage, commitment, and willingness to serve remind us that freedom is never guaranteed, it is protected daily by extraordinary individuals.

As your commander, I look forward to the new year with hope and determination. May God bless you all, Happy New Year and may we have a healthy and prosperous new year.





DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER *JOHN DUNN*

Happy New Year to you and your families. I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with your friends and loved ones.

This past year went by quickly, and it has truly been an honor to serve you. I am deeply grateful for your support and for the opportunities you have given me to grow in this role.

Over the past year, I had the privilege of visiting twenty-one of our forty-two chapters. I also attended seven zone training sessions throughout the state, the Department Mid-Winter Conference, Department Convention, National Mid-Winter Conference, National Convention, and Commander/Adjutant training, as well as several special chapter events.

These experiences allowed me to learn a great deal about how our organization operates at the National and Department levels and the broader services provided to the veteran community. Seeing the wider impact of our collective efforts reinforced just how important our work is beyond the local level.

My chapter visits, however, were the most rewarding part of the year. At the chapter level, you meet the true grassroots of our organization—the volunteers who are dedicated to our mission to **empower** veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity by ensuring access to benefits, advocating for their interests, and providing support for their families.

As I traveled around our great state, I was continually impressed by the extraordinary efforts of our comrades in assisting veterans. Some notable examples include:

- Chapter 49's VTN program, with drivers traveling throughout South and Central Florida to transport veterans to and from VA appointments and C&P exams, and providing monthly lunches to veterans in local nursing homes.
- Chapter 86's VTN and CSO programs, transporting veterans to Daytona, Orlando, and Gainesville for appointments and C&P exams, while operating a CSO office five days a week.
- Chapter 109's robust CSO program operating six days a week, a remote team that visits veterans who cannot travel, free lunches for veterans and their families five days a week, a food pantry, and a monthly veterans' appreciation cookout.
- Chapter 82's CSO program, operating five days a week out of a mall location, allowing them to serve approximately 300–500 veterans each month.
- Chapter 18, a strong chapter that devotes significant time and resources to veterans in need, providing medical supplies, wheelchairs, beds, and many other items to veterans and their families at no cost.

There are many other chapters that could be highlighted, but space is limited. Please know that at every chapter I visited, I found dedicated volunteers doing their very best to serve our veterans and their families.

I am honored that you have allowed me to serve as your Sr Vice Commander, and I look forward to continuing to serve you in the coming year. Working together, we will continue to strengthen our chapters and fulfill our promise to America's veterans.

If I have not yet visited your chapter, please expect to hear from me, as I will be reaching out to coordinate a visit. I welcome the opportunity to meet you, hear your concerns, and support the important work you are doing.



DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER PAUL MCLEMORE



Happy New Year to all my DAV friends. Well, Last year is behind us... As we look to 2026 let us continue and build on what we accomplished so far. Sr. Vice Dunn and I managed to visit over 20 chapters and really get to know and understand what you experience and help needed. We have so many hard-working volunteer veterans assisting our fellow veterans and your devotion to assisting is never overlooked or taken for granted.

We will be working hard to reach as many chapters as possible between now and June. Remember a visit by Commander Cornish, Sr. Vice Dunn or the Jr. Vice Mclemore is nearly always good. We want to help and provide assistance and information there to answer questions that always come up.

For December We were able to visit chapter 70 and spend time with the members. An amazing group of veterans. They voted to merge with chapter 158 and between the 2, I expect to hear and see great things coming out of there. The desire to assist and help our veterans is abundant. We also made it to chapter 30 (Sanford) executive board meeting. They are working on issues with the parking lot, and they have 2 CSO officers assisting veterans at the Seminole county office. We are hoping to see added days and to see them back at the chapter doing these claims to show how much of a difference they make.

I must add a brief comment on the passing of Mary Ann Keckler... She was an amazing veteran and loved helping all of us. She gave me great advice over the years and I along with so many will miss her. May my Irish friend rest in peace.

In summary,

2025 was a very busy year Between being chapter 1 commander and the honor of being elected Jr. Vice Commander for the Dept. My goal is and will remain to close any communication gaps between Dept and chapters. For the Department to succeed the chapters must succeed... So, we need to provide help where we can and work together for the

same purpose.

A special shout out to all the chapter commanders and line officers along with membership of the chapters we visited this past year. Your welcoming hospitality and genuine desire to learn and ask us the questions you have speaks volumes for you and was appreciated. I never imagined how many new friends I would make in such a short time but, I am thrilled and here if you ever need Sr. Vice Dunn or myself. Jan 6th -11th, we will be at Chapter Service Officer Certification Training and Mid-Winter Conference. If you are attending mid-winter stop by and say hey to me. If you are going to the commanders testimonial, then let me know and I will sit near you all and we can get in trouble together... lol

See you all soon!



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN REVEREND JIM TAYLOR

Department of Florida Newsletter Page 5



Hello to each of you and welcome to the New Year 2026. I remember my parents' saying things like, "This year certainly when by fast." When I was in school, I thought time stood still and summer would never come. Of course, I agreed with my parents relative to how long summer lasted. That was always shorter than I wanted to be. During my work years I am not sure I really paid much attention to years coming and going. Time was based on the day-to-day schedule and the next project to get completed. But now as I am in a somewhat retired status and I am aware of my age I am noticing time seems to move past very quickly. I was just getting used to it being 2025 and now it is 2026. I hope I can get the date correct when I fill out paperwork.

I am, however, looking forward to the new year. It always offers the opportunity to start fresh. It is time to review last year's accomplishments and plan for the possibilities of a new year. As the year 2025 ends I have completed a life goal of getting my book published. It is listed on Amazon under Dr James Taylor Moral Injury. The full title is *Moral Injury: Arming Pastors to Help Veterans Battle Soul Wounds Caused by Military Service*. I know this is rather self-serving to put this in the newsletter, but I have been working toward this goal for a couple of years now and am finding personal relief and satisfaction to say it is done. Of course, there is always the next thing. Now I am working with a marketing department for distribution. As with the editing of the book, my ideas and marketing ideas are not always the same and it seems they can ignore my ideas, but I must follow their ideas to move forward.

I am, however, both excited and anxious about our upcoming DAV events. I look forward to all of us being together at the Mid-Winter Conference in Lake Mary. I am anxious about the Service Officer training and the new CMS system.

I am blessed to have folks in my chapter who are getting very proficient with the CMS program, but my personal level of confidence is limited. I will be there, however, with my laptop and hoping to continue my growth in learning the new process. I hope the training is tailored to those with limited knowledge and not the fine tuning of the more experienced.

Beyond this I am looking forward to chaplain training and hope that there will be some of our department chaplains who stay long enough to be at the training. The Commanders and Adjutants have always been gracious enough to stay and attend the training which I greatly appreciate.

Well, I pray each of you have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and celebrated the beginning of a new year. Be blessed, be safe on your travels, and I look forward to being with each of you at our Department Mid-Winter, our National Mid-Winter in Washington, our Department Conference in Lake Mary and our National Conference in Orlando. May your local chapter grow strong in numbers and in service to veterans in this year 2026.

Blessings to you all.



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		4,278	23		782	83		722	112		6,086
4	429	2,250	29			84		5,017.5	113	683	6,222
5		793	30			85		4,619	123	10,015	62,521
6			32	3,411	22,554	86		9,257	125		
7		1,310	38		9,952	87	788	6,190	126	558	2,953
11		554.5	42			90		122	129		
12		447	49			94		416	133		1,816
13		915	57		4,812.5	97			144		648
16	1, 154	15,456	63			98			148		
17	387	387	67	178	1, 050	101			150	693	3,553
18	5,339	31,110	70	494.5	3,039.5	108	1,054	4,543	158		845
			73			109	12,727	87,992	159		430
22			82	1,334.5	8,971.5	110		394			

TOTALS 7/1/25-present (unofficial)

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE MICHAEL MICHELOTTI



VA Told Companies They May be Breaking the Law. Most Are Still in Business

Helping veterans get through the red tape of applying for VA disability benefits has become a multibillion-dollar industry over the past decade. Which might be surprising, because charging vets for such help may be against federal law.

An investigation by The War Horse and NPR reveals that over the past 10 years, the Department of Veterans Affairs has sent more than 40 letters to dozens of claims consulting companies, sometimes called "claims sharks" by critics, warning them to review their practices and "immediately cease" any illegal activities.

Yet this hasn't stopped them; on the contrary, many of these companies have only gotten bigger and bolder. One company even sent The War Horse a cease and desist letter, trying to prevent parts of this story from being published.

These companies exist in a wild west, raking in huge sums as lawmakers and regulators struggle to keep up with legal loopholes. Some of them are multimillion-dollar firms with more than 100 employees on their payroll, while others are small, family-owned businesses. Many are founded and run by veterans, who claim that their primary goal is to help other veterans get the benefits they deserve. But under federal law, only representatives [accredited by VA](#) — such as lawyers and nonprofit veterans service organizations — can provide such help, and the department has been trying for years to crack down on unauthorized firms with little to no success.

"We just focus on our client," said Chas Sampson, an Army veteran and CEO of Seven Principles, who insists he never received the [warning letter](#) that VA sent his company last year. "If the VA ever comes out and said, 'Hey, you're going to prison for this tomorrow,' we're going to stop doing it. Until then, we're going to continue servicing the people."

The War Horse obtained dozens of warning letters from VA in response to a Freedom of Information Act request for all cease and desist letters sent to claims consulting companies over the last 10 years. An analysis of the letters and an investigation into the recipients show:

- At least 29 of the 38 companies that were warned in letters that they may be engaged in unlawful activities appeared to still be operating as of late November. Twenty-nine still have active business registrations, and a total of 34 have an active website or social media account. At least nine of the companies were registered as nonprofits.
- Some of the biggest companies, including VA Claims Insider, Trajector Inc., and Veterans Guardian VA Consulting, received multiple letters over the 10-year period, all the while growing their companies to hundreds of employees and collectively spending [millions of dollars on lobbying efforts](#) and political endorsements.

One of the biggest companies, Florida-based Trajector Inc., received two warning letters: [one in 2017](#) when the company was called Vet Comp and Pen Medical Consulting, and [the second in 2022](#)



Adjutant's Column

WASHINGTON —The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs today released a request for proposals (RFP) for new community care contracts that will improve health care choice and quality for Veterans over the next decade.

View the [RFP](#) here.

VA's community care program enables Veterans to access health care from non-VA medical providers at the department's expense. Community care has been an integral part of caring for Veterans since the World War II era. In 2018, President Trump enshrined this right for Veterans by signing the bipartisan [MISSION Act](#). Today, about 40% of all VA care is provided through community care.

In 2018, VA signed contracts with health plans to serve as third-party administrators and manage VA's community care program. Many of these contracts are set to expire in 2026, and a new round of contracts is needed to ensure Veterans have continued access to the community care program.

The RFP VA announced today will lead to new community care contracts that will improve health care choice and quality for Veterans over the next decade in the following ways:

- More Choices for Veterans – The new indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract structure will provide more choices by allowing multiple national and regional health plans to compete to serve Veterans. Selected health plans will provide care and benefits uniquely adapted to Veterans and their communities.
- Improved Quality of Care for Veterans – The contracts will require health plans to adhere to broad industry standards of care used by all other major health care systems. This will ensure Veterans get care that has been shown to directly address their medical conditions and maximize their health and wellness.
- Improved VA Oversight of Community Care – The contracts will provide VA with the data, technology and systems to manage Veterans' care in real-time, drive innovation, and collaborate with the selected health plans to ensure that Veterans receive the highest quality health care.

- Contract Flexibility – The new IDIQ contract structure allows VA to issue multiple, competitive task orders over the life of the contract in order to adjust health plans, regions, contract requirements, and deliverables and ensure that health plans are empowered and accountable. Contractors that do not meet VA requirements can be off-ramped and replaced by other IDIQ health plans to ensure continuity of services and no disruption of care to Veterans or VA operations.

"VA has learned a lot about community care over the years, and we are putting that knowledge to use to help Veterans with the next generation of community care contracts," said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**. "This RFP will result in contracts that dramatically improve our ability to provide quality health care while ensuring Veterans can choose the care that's best for them.

HR 6047

In November, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mike Bost (R-Ill.), Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Mich.), House Committee on Financial Services Chairman French Hill (R-Ark.), Rep. Richard Hudson (R-N.C.), and Subcommittee on Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs Chairman Rep. Morgan Luttrell (R-Texas), introduced H.R. 6047, *the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion*

Act, landmark [legislation](#) that would increase the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) monthly compensation benefit for service-connected, catastrophically disabled veterans and the surviving family of 100% disabled or deceased veterans. This tax-free benefit, meant to financially support the loved ones for the loss of their disabled veteran, has not been increased in decades.

H.R. 6047 is supported by major veteran service organizations (VSOs) and stakeholders, including: The American Legion, Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), AMVETS, Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Gold Star Spouses of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart USA, Independence Fund, National Military Family Association (NMFA), Gold Star Wives of America, National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO), Quality of Life Foundation, and Veterans MS Alliance. **To learn more about the bill, click [here](#). Bill text can be found [here](#).**

Adjutant's Column Continued

Today, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mike Bost (R-III.), released the following statement after the House passed **S. 1071, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026**, which included key Transition

Assistance Program (TAP) reforms Chairman Bost secured in the final text to add accountability in the program, modernize offered services, and improve pathways for servicemembers and their spouses to take TAP – a top priority for Chairman Bost. The final text also includes key provisions to build on the *PACT Act* by cutting back the paperwork burden for veterans who apply for VA disability compensation benefits and were exposed to toxins during their time in service.

Under current law, the TAP program must begin no later than 365 days prior to separation for those who are transitioning out of the military. While TAP has evolved over the years, the most recent Congressionally mandated report as well as committee oversight [hearings](#) have revealed that only 50% of transitioning servicemembers make it to TAP on time at the 365-day mark. This number is concerning, as the [Committee](#) continues to look at ways to improve TAP – both through legislation and oversight – to ensure that veterans are equipped with all the [resources](#) and knowledge of the VA benefits they are eligible for to prepare them for their next mission after they leave the military.

"As Chairman, I have met with servicemembers, and their families stationed at home and around the world and heard firsthand their struggles when it comes to navigating the transition from active-duty to civilian life. We have worked hard to move the needle on TAP to get servicemembers – regardless of rank – the best program that meets their individual needs, but there is always more work to be done," **said Chairman Bost**. "The provisions I secured in this year's NDAA build on our efforts and will bring needed improvements to TAP by requiring pre-transition counseling, improving methods for spouses to also attend TAP, modernizing the financial planning section, expanding the network of resources available to servicemembers and new veterans, and more," **Chairman Bost continued**. "These changes will make a real difference in our servicemembers overall experience with TAP, and I am grateful to my friend, Armed Services Chairman Mike Rogers, for working with me to secure these vitally important provisions in this year's NDAA on behalf of servicemembers and their families."

to Chairman Bost fought for the following provisions which were included in the negotiated version of the FY26 NDAA:

Waiver for Certain Members of the Reserve Components – *Provides a waiver for certain members of the Reserve, allowing them to attend TAP every three years, unless there is relevant new information.*

Pilot Program for Military Spouses – *Makes it easier for spouses to receive TAP information by creating a program specific to spouses and meet the needs that transition is an event for the whole family, not just the servicemember.*

Enhanced Financial Planning Counseling – *Expands TAP's financial guidance to include individualized counseling on loans, debt management, and overall financial readiness.*

Strengthened Requirement for Separation Counseling – *Ensures pre-separation counseling is delivered in person whenever possible improve quality and engagement.*

Tracking TAP Timeliness and Participation – *Directs DoD to monitor when servicemembers begin TAP to improve accountability and ensure timely access to transition resources.*

Improved Access to Veteran Resources – *Requires VA to maintain an online resource hub allowing veterans and families to easily search by ZIP code for local programs and assistance.*

Annual Reporting on TAP Outcomes – *Mandates detailed yearly reporting on TAP participation, completion rates, and counseling timelines to drive program improvement.*

A federal appeals court affirmed an order requiring the VA to build housing for veterans.

On December 23, 2025, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court order requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to build more than 2,500 housing units on its West Los Angeles campus. The ruling affirms a long-fought legal battle by disabled and homeless veterans to reclaim the 388-acre grounds for their intended purpose.

The appellate decision includes several key mandates:

- **Housing Construction:** The VA must build 1,800 units of permanent supportive housing and 750 units of temporary housing.
- **Voided Leases:** The court affirmed the invalidation of several commercial leases that did not "principally benefit" veterans, including the Brentwood School's sports complex and an oil drilling operation.
- **UCLA Lease Reversal:** In a partial victory for the government, the panel overruled the lower court's invalidation of the UCLA lease for its baseball stadium, allowing it to remain in place.
- **Income Eligibility:** The ruling prohibits the VA from using veterans' disability payments to disqualify them from supportive housing, resolving a long-standing barrier for those whose benefits exceeded income limits.

The case, *Powers v. McDonough*, was brought by a class of veterans who argued the VA's failure to provide housing on the campus—originally deeded to the government in 1888 for that express purpose—prevented them from accessing essential medical and mental health services. The appellate court remanded the case back to U.S. District Judge David O. Carter to oversee the implementation of the housing construction.

S. 342 | H.R. 790, the Purple Heart Veterans Education Act, would allow individuals awarded the Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001 to transfer unused Post-9/11 Educational Assistance benefits to their family members. It would also provide flexibility for service members by allowing them to modify or revoke the transfer of benefits based on changing family circumstances.

Under current law, only those who have completed at least six years of active duty military service can transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a dependent family member.

2026 Camp Corral Registration Opens on Jan. 14

DAV's longtime partner, Camp Corral, will open applications on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026. Camp Corral is a no-cost summer camp for children ages 8–15 of wounded, disabled or fallen veterans. The 2026 camps will be held in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. The full camp schedule with dates and locations is attached. Spaces fill quickly, so we encourage those interested to apply once registration opens. Over the last 13 years, departments and chapters who have supported Camp Corral through DAV's Just B Kids scholarship have helped more than 7,700 children attend. In the coming weeks, you'll receive additional information on the Just B Kids program and its procedures. In the meantime, you can learn more at justbkids.org. If you're interested in sending a child to Camp Corral, visit campcorral.org for details and eligibility requirements. Please note that the summer camps are offered free of charge, but Camp Corral does ask for a fully refundable deposit of \$30 per child after an application has been approved. For any questions on the partnership, please contact partners@dav.org.

Camp Corral Schedule

S. 3138, the Veterans Supporting Prosthetics Opportunities and Recreational Therapy (SPORT) Act, would expand VA medical services to explicitly include adaptive prostheses and terminal devices—such as customized limbs for running, swimming, golfing, skiing, cycling and similar activities—with the VA medical services package for service-disabled veterans.

By broadening the scope of covered prosthetic devices, this legislation will help ensure that eligible veterans can access specialized support items, empowering them to engage in sports and recreation that are vital for their physical rehabilitation, fitness, independence and mental health.

DAV supports the Veterans SPORT Act because it aligns with our Resolution No. 97, which calls for dedicated funding and equal access to comprehensive, timely prosthetic care. Every veteran deserves the tools they need to live fully and pursue the activities that strengthen their bodies and minds.

Department of Florida Newsletter

Adjutant's Column Continued

VA.gov is the gateway to access and manage your VA benefits and health care. www.va.gov

The VA Welcome Kit provides an overview of benefits and services. www.va.gov/welcome-kit

With the official VA: Health & Benefits app, you can manage your VA health care, benefits, and payments from your mobile phone or tablet. www.mobile.va.gov/app/vahealth-and-benefits.

My HealtheVet is a free online tool to manage your health care. Refill and track prescriptions, access your medical records, and communicate with your health care team. www.myhealth.va.gov.

Apply for VA health care, find out how to access services, and manage your health and benefits online. Apply for VA health care Apply for health care benefits for Veterans and transitioning service members. Health Care Hotline: (877) 222-8387 www.va.gov/health-care-how-to-apply/

Manage your appointments online Schedule, cancel, and manage health appointments online. www.va.gov/health-care/schedule-view-va.

Pay copays and use multiple insurances Check your balance for medical services and prescription copays, request help, or dispute charges. Pay by Phone: (888) 827-4817 www.va.gov/health-care/pay-copay-bill.

Apply for travel pay Request reimbursement for travel expenses to and from approved health care appointments. Travel Pay Call Center: (855) 574-7292 www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay

Explore long-term care Learn about assisted living, residential, and home health care. Health Care Hotline: (877) 222-8387 www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health.

Learn about qualifying for VA dental care Find out if you qualify for dental care benefits. MyVA411: (800) 698-2411 www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care.

Learn about your VA primary care team VA takes a team approach to health care with you at the center. Research shows this kind of approach leads to better quality care, more satisfied patients, and fewer hospital visits. Health Care Hotline: (877) 222-8387 www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-healthbenefits/your-care-team VA Health Connect Clinical Contact Centers VA Health Connect provides Veterans with access to health care via virtual clinical contact centers that are available 24/7/365. Veterans can access VA Health Connect by calling their local medical center to schedule primary care appointments, speak to a nurse, meet with a clinical contact center medical provider, and check on their medications.

Find urgent and emergency care If you are having a medical emergency, dial 911. Have a plan of where to go for urgent and emergent care. www.va.gov/initiatives/emergency-room-911-or-urgent-care.

Explore Community Care/MISSION Act Access other providers when VA cannot provide the care needed. Community Care National Contact Center (877) 881-7618 www.va.gov/communitycare.

Hope to see you at our upcoming CSO Certification Training and Mid-Winter Conference.



January 1 New Years Day



January 6-9 CSO Training



January 9-10 Mid-Winter Conference



January 19 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day



