



HAWAII DAV DEPARTMENT NEWS

March 2011



“Building better lives for all of our nation’s disabled veterans and their families.”

Regulation 10: National Constitution Bylaws and Regulations

Priority: To help veterans, focus on resolution.

Convention

60TH DAV STATE CONVENTION, June 10, 11, 12, 2011 at the Pagoda Hotel in Honolulu. Chapters, please submit your candidates for the Service Officer Training. This is the backbone of the DAV throughout. Most often, it is the Service Officer that takes the critical first step in “building better lives for all our nation’s disabled veterans and their families”, our mission statement. The convention packets have been delivered to the chapters and all members should be ready to support the convention through solicitation and promoting DAV in your daily operations. The convention booklet is an excellent way of promoting goodwill, and provides the community a direct line of support to the veterans of the community through the DAV with advertising and communicating of available services. The convention committee is always looking for pictures to represent your part for the convention book. It will only be as good as we make it. The convention committee stands ready to assist you, please contact: 60TH DAV State Convention; Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 860945, Wahiawa HI 96786, Phone 808-621-8888 FAX 808-839-5376,

Midwinter Conference Arlington, VA February 27 - March 2

C & A President William Anton opened the Commanders and Adjutants Association Midwinter Conference in Arlington Virginia to an enthusiastic crowd with two representatives from Hawaii, and a third on the second day when Veterans Administration Secretary Eric K. Shinseki addressed the group with advancing statistics of claims processing and goals. The goal is a 98 percent accuracy by the end of 2012, up from the current 85 percent. Comparing these statistics with the Convention statistics of

last July, improvements have been made, with much more work to do, but it is a work in progress. The attending veterans were treated to a live session of National Commander Tyson’s presentation of the Legislative Presentation to the sitting Joint House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committees chaired by Honorable Jeff Miller. Several exchanges between DAV and the committee were lively and pertinent. DAV was well represented by testimony from six other



Veteran Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki addressing the Midwinter Commanders and Adjutants Association

DAV executives. They brought to light some disconnects within the system the committee needs to address, stressing the need for communication and coordination between agencies, from the Congress to the final focus, the veteran himself.

February 13, 2011

The Fred Ballard luncheon at Oahu Veterans Center was filled to capacity as veterans and friends gathered to pay tribute to our loyal friend and fellow veteran, Fred Ballard. Very early in the program one realized the debt to Fred, like many veterans, cannot be repaid, only acknowledged. His many, many contributions alphabetically from Arizona Memorial to Veterans Center serve as inspiration for all of us. The newly christened "Fred M. Ballard Hall" will serve as a reminder to all of us the need to continue to work in his footsteps to attend to the many needs of our fellow veterans and the communities we live in. Thank you Fred!

Last Doughboy

The War to End All Wars officially passed into the pages of history last week with the death of Frank Buckles, the last known of 4.7 million American doughboys who served their country in World War I, at the age of 110.

DAVA

Commander Lorna Kakesako reports the proposed bylaw changes have been approved. One of the changes expands the membership qualifications considerably thus increasing the potential for increasing support and membership. Commander Kakesako has been actively assisting Convention Chairman Willie Howard with the multitude of tasks at hand.

Hospital Service and Transportation Coordinator

HSC Nalu Perez continues to expand the Van Transportation service. For the month of February, a total of 433 hours of volunteer time traveled 5018 miles and transported 183 veterans. On the down side, service was denied to 8 veterans because of lack of equipment and drivers. Take heart, there are three new vans being added to the system, and should be arriving sometime in April and be in service shortly thereafter. One 12 passenger van will be assigned to Oahu, and the two smaller vans will go to the Big Island. Four potential new drivers are in the training cycle for Oahu.

Publicity Officer and Rehab

Robert Kent reports from local Director Dr. Hastings they are going to have better communications between the island VA Centers through a conference calling system. Plans are to have a working Veteran Center at St. Francis West serving the nearly 10,000 veterans from Waipahu to Makaha that now are required to come to Tripler for treatment.

National Service Officer

Danny Soto reminds all chapters that Chapter Service Officer (CSO) required annual training for certification is going to be conducted on June 8th & 9th at Keehi Lagoon Memorial in the Kakesako building. Applicants names must be submitted by 04/01/11. This training is two days of quality training away from the distractions of the convention. It offers opportunity to have a direct exchange of ideas and experiences from the field to be addressed by NSO Danny Soto. This program is highly recommended by National Commander Tyson to the seasoned DAV member all through the ranks to the newest member. It is truly an opportunity for the individual member to make a difference.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day March 30th

Last week the Senate unanimously passed a resolution introduced by Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, declaring March 30th as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" Vietnam statistics websites:

<http://ww.vietnamwall.org>

<http://www.viethero.com>

Welcome home!

OFFICE HOURS: The DAV Headquarters is staffed 1000-1400 Mondays & Wednesdays.

Please give us your feedback and/or offer of assistance, PLEASE, on this newsletter; 808 833-3746 / Fax 808-839-5376; or HIwebmaster@davfrat.org

Edward K Keoho, Sr.

Commander, Department of Hawaii DAV