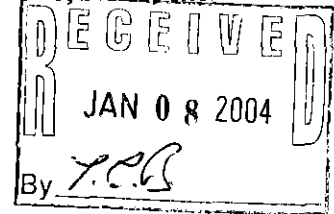


CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE



For GOD and Country, we former members of the armed forces of the United States having aided in maintaining the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our country, holding in remembrance the sacrifices in common made and drawn together by strong bonds of respect and mutual suffering, solemnly and firmly associate ourselves together in creating the Disabled American Veterans, the principles and purposes of which will be supreme allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and by-Laws; to hold aloft the torch of true patriotism; to strive for a better understanding between nations that peace goodwill may prevail; to cherish and preserve the memories of our military association; and to aid and assist worthy wartime disabled veterans, their widows, their orphans and their dependents.

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be "PAUL L. THOMPSON MEMORIAL CHAPTER NO. 1 DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, INC."

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1 The purpose of this Chapter shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the preamble and the National and Department Constitutions of the Disabled American Veterans.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Eligibility for membership in this Chapter shall be as prescribed in Article III of the National Constitution, as is now existing or shall hereafter be amended.

Section 2 There shall be no form or class of membership except that of an active member. An active membership shall be deemed as that membership which have been made known to the Chapter by the National Headquarters.

Section 3 All dues payable by Life Members are as governed by the National Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV - AUTHORITY

Section 1 Paul L. Thompson Memorial Chapter No. 1, Disabled American Veterans, Inc. Agrees to abide by, and be bound by, the National Constitution and By-Laws, as now in force or shall hereafter be amended and further agreed to be bound by the Constitution and By-law of the Department of Maryland as now enforced or shall hereafter be amended.

Section 2 No member or members, by virtue of membership in this Chapter shall acquire any property rights, or any present or existing right to the property which this Chapter may now or in the future acquire.

ARTICLE V - CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1 The elected officers of this Chapter shall consist of a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, a Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Chaplain, and Judge Advocate who shall be elected annually, and who shall serve as members of the Chapter Executive Committee, together with Junior Past Commander and three (3) members elected at large.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCE

Section 1 The revenue of this Chapter shall derived from membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Chapter, Dept. of Maryland and the National Organization, if required by the National By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII - PROCEDURES

Section 1 The latest revised Robert's "Rules of Order" shall govern the procedure at all meetings of the Chapter, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution or By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1 This Constitution may be amended at a regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting, provided: (a) that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at a previous meeting; (b) that written notice shall have been given to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the date when the proposed amendment is to be voted upon; and notification has been given to the members as to the date, time, and place of said meeting.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1 This Constitution shall become in full force and effect upon its approval by this Chapter's members, Department of Maryland, and the National Organization.

Section 2 No additions shall become effected until such additions have been approved by Chapter, Department of Maryland, and the National Judge Advocate.

BY-LAWS

By-Laws of Paul L. Thompson Chapter No. 1, Disabled American Veterans, Inc.

ARTICLE I - MANAGEMENT

- Section 1 The government and management of the Chapter is entrusted to an Executive Committee, as defined in Article V, Section 1 of the Chapter Constitution.
- Section 2 Only a member in good standing, as provided under the Chapter Constitution, shall be nominated, elected or appointed to any office, or act as a delegate or an alternate to Department or National Convention for this Chapter, and only such a person shall be allowed to vote on any chapter matter.
- Section 3 The appointed officers of this Chapter shall consist of an Adjutant, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Officer of the Day, Assistant Chaplain and Chapter Service Officer, appointed by the Commander-elect. Appointed officers serve at the pleasure of the Commander.
- Section 4 In the event of the death, resignation, inability or removal from office of a Vice Commander, or the succession of the Senior Vice Commander to an unexpired term of a Commander, all Vice Commanders shall advance to the next senior rank. All other vacancies of elected officers shall be filled by appointment by the Commander and confirmed by the executive Committee for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE II - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- Section 1 The Commander is the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter. The Commander shall maintain order and dispatch such business as may legally come before the Chapter. All check or vouchers issued by the Chapter Treasurer must be countersigned by the Commander or by an officer designated as a signer by the Commander, and approved by the Executive committee.
- Section 2 The Senior Vice Commander shall, in the event of the absence of the Chapter Commander, perform such duties as are those of the Commander.
- Section 3 The Chapter Vice Commanders shall perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Chapter Commander.

- Section 4 The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all moneys of the Chapter. He shall make authorized disbursements only by check, which are to be countersigned by the Commander or designated officer. He shall keep a system of accounts in accordance with the National Finance Report requirements, July 1 through June 30 of the subsequent year, and retain all receipts and vouchers for payments. He shall render an audited annual report of expenditures, Chapter property and funds to the Executive Committee and the Chapter. He shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Commander. The Treasurer shall send a copy of the annual Chapter Financial Report to the Department and National Organizations not later than ninety days after the close of the accounting/fiscal period. This statement shall be signed by the members of the audit committee certifying the accuracy of the statement.
- Section 5 The Adjutant shall act as a communications liaison for the Chapter Commander and he shall conduct Executive Committee roll calls at all official meeting of the Chapter. The Adjutant shall advise the Commander of meetings, gathering and visitations as may necessitate his attention. The Adjutant shall dispatch such newsletters to members and will advise them of the activities of the Chapter. The Adjutant shall employ or appoint such clerical assistance as may be needed to carry on the business of the Chapter. Such expenditures must fall within the budgetary constraint of the item "service" (line item 5). The Adjutant is responsible for the control and disposition of all Chapter property. He shall also serve as the secretary of the Executive Committee.
- Section 6 The Chaplain shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the official ritual book of the National Organization, and such others as may be assigned by the Chapter Commander.
- Section 7 The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for keeping order at all meetings, and such other duties as may be delegated by the Commander.
- Section 8 The Judge Advocate shall advised the Commander on matters pertaining to parliamentary procedures and interpretation of Constitution and By-laws
- Section 9 All officers elected or appointed shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chapter Commander.

ARTICLE III - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section 1 The Executive Committee shall consist of all elected officers, Three (3) members to be elected at large, and the Junior Past Commander.
- Section 2 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once during each month that the Chapter is in session.

- Section 3 The Executive committee shall have the authority to review all contracts affecting the Chapter, subject to the approval of the Chapter, the Department and National Organizations as required, and is empowered to exercise any and all precautions deemed necessary to protect the finance and property of the Chapter, and to promote its welfare. It shall render its recommendations and a complete report to the Chapter of all its transactions at the time of the next regular meeting of the Chapter.
- Section 4 The Executive Committee may recommend to vacant the office whose holder fails without proper excuse, to attend three (3) consecutive meetings, or by reason of becoming delinquent as to payment of his dues, or for failure of any member to properly perform the duties of his/her office. Such vacancies shall therefore be filled as herein provided.
- Section 5 The Chapter will adopt, amend, or reject any or all reports and recommendations of the Chapter Executive Committee meetings or any parts thereof.

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES

Section 1 The Chapter Commander, immediately upon taking office each year, shall appoint the following standing committees with the number of members deemed necessary, but not less than the number specified below. The Commander may appoint other committees he feels necessary..

- a. Hospital Committee _____ 5 members
- b. Welfare Committee _____ Chaplain and 2 members
- c. Auditing Committee _____ 3 members
- d. Membership Committee _____ 5 members
- e. Citations and Awards Committee _____ 5 members
- f. Legislation Committee _____ 3 members
- g. Ways and Means Committee _____ 3 members
- h. Budget Committee _____ 3 members
- i. Nominating Committee _____ 5 members
- j. Americanism Committee _____ 3 members
- k. Installation Committee _____ 3 members

Section 2 The Auditing Committee shall audit the records and accounts of the Treasurer at least annually and prior to the Treasurer's annual report to the Chapter. This audit shall include an audit of the Adjutant's records.

ARTICLE V - RESTRICTIONS

- Section 1 All matters relating to charges, trials and suspensions shall be governed by the National By-Laws as now in effect or as hereafter amended.
- Section 2 A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be constituted by a majority thereof. (A quorum of the chapter shall consist of not less than (5) five members.) Which will include no less then (3) three chapter elected officers.
- Section 3 The order of business at any regular meeting shall be as prescribed in the official ritual of the National Organization and as the needs of the Chapter require.
- Section 4 All withdrawals from the savings account require the prior notification and approval of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VI - NOMINATIONS

- Section 1 The Commander shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of at least five (5) members in good standing to present a slate of officers and Executive Committeemen to the membership for the coming year at the February meeting.
- Section 2 Nominations from the floor and the annual election of officers of this Chapter shall be at the March meeting of each year. Installation of those will in April.
- Section 3 No Chapter Commander shall succeed himself, unless by two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS

- Section 1 All voting shall be by voice vote or written ballot, by those members in good standing attending the March meeting. It shall require a majority of votes to elect a candidate for any office. It shall require a majority vote cast to elect delegates and alternates to a state or national convention; provided, however, that if there are less delegates than that to which the Chapter is entitled, then all such candidates nominated for delegate or alternate shall be declared elected.
- Section 2 All newly elected and appointed officers will be installed in the office to which they were elected or appointed during the regular meeting in April of each year, and shall hold office until their successors have been duly elected and installed. A list of the duly elected, appointed and installed officers will be submitted to the Department within ten (10) days subsequent to the installation.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

- Section 1 The regular meeting of the Chapter shall be held on the second Thursday of the month, except for summer recess, at a place designated by the Chapter Commander. The Chapter may authorize a change in the meeting date at its discretion.
- Section 2 Notice of any special meetings may be called by the Commander as he deems necessary or when requested in writing by at least five members of the Chapter in good standing. The purpose of said special meeting shall be stated and no other business shall be transmitted at said meeting.
- Section 3 Notice of any special meeting shall be mailed to the Chapter members at least ten days prior to the scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENT

- Section 1 These by-laws may be amended at any Chapter meeting by a vote of two-third of the members attending, providing the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the preceding regular meeting of the Chapter, and providing further that written notice shall have been given to all members at least ten days prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be voted upon.

ARTICLE X - MISCELLANEOUS

- Section 1 These by-laws become in full force and effect on and after their approval and adoption by this Chapter, Department of Maryland Judge Advocate, and National Judge Advocate.
- Section 2 Gender, whenever used, shall include both masculine and feminine.

The above By-Laws were adopted by the Paul L. Thompson Memorial Chapter No. 1, DAV, Inc., at Baltimore, Maryland, this 10th day of September 1998, as amended.

Edward L. Hardy, Jr. Jose Sherrard
 Adjutant of Chapter #1 Commander of Chapter #1

Maryland Hall 13 Oct 1998
 Department Judge Advocate

James S. Pelkey
 Department Commander

National Judge Advocate
 177-188