

Disabled American Veterans

Department of North Dakota

Tri-Annual News Bulletin



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

2009 4th STREET NE - JAMESTOWN, ND 58401

SEPTEMBER 2013

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT



Thomas Saddler, Jr.
Department Commander DAV

It seems like only yesterday we had our Department Convention in Bismarck-Mandan. I want to thank the members for putting their faith and trust in me and electing me commander. I hope I can justify that faith and trust and can count on your support to pursue DAV's mission which has a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity."

During the Department Convention a Resolution was passed in honor of Doug Patenaude, who because of health reasons could not attend. He had been to every Department Convention since 1992. Doug had moved through the chairs and successfully commanded the Department in 2004-2005 and thereafter continued to serve, most recently as a Finance Committee member. Unfortunately, Doug passed away on May 4, 2013 and never saw the Resolution. It was presented to the family at the Prayer Service and they were very appreciative of our thoughtfulness. Doug's outstanding dedication to the DAV, his leadership, fiscal guidance and his sense of humor will be greatly missed.

The Department held our annual picnic and bingo at the Veterans Home in Lisbon on June 13th for the residents and the staff. It is a great way to spend a day. If you have never been to the facility or participated in the event, I highly recommend you do so next year. The facility and the staff are outstanding and the residents are fun to be with and very appreciative of our presence. I would like to thank those members who slaved over a

grill in the heat of the day and those who worked on the serving line. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank the Auxiliary members who provided bake goods for after bingo, some of whom also participated in the event.

Speaking of the Auxiliary, sometimes it may seem like we take them for granted and not always give them the recognition they deserve. Clearly we would be lost without them! I would like to thank them for all they do supporting the Chapters and helping veterans. I want to remind DAV members that they are eligible for membership in the Auxiliary. Increasing Auxiliary numbers helps at the National level when it comes to obtaining Congressional support on critical legislative measures and helps the Auxiliary meet their membership quotas. Please give Auxiliary membership serious consideration.

It was an honor for me to represent the Department at the National Convention, August 9-13 in Orlando, FL. I had the pleasure of accepting for the Department the plaque for 1st place in Division 5 for Volunteer Services. Thanks go out to all the volunteers who support veterans (drivers and those working at the VA Hospital, CBOCs and at Chapter level) whose long hours and dedicated service made this award possible.

I also had the privilege of presenting two checks (each for \$2,000) upon behalf of Adam Klein Chapter 3 Bismarck-Mandan, one to the DAV National Service Foundation and one to the Columbia Trust. Congratulations and way to go Chapter 3! Chapter 3's own Keli Berglund was presented her award as DAV National 2012-2013 Outstanding Veterans Outreach Specialist, quite an honor and richly deserved.

Please refer to the DAVA Department Commander's Report for upcoming events and scheduled visitations.

Last, but definitely not least, keep making veterans aware of our great organization and its mission and offer them the opportunity to be a part of it all. MEMBERSHIP- MEMBERSHIP- MEMBERSHIP!

DAVA DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT



Jackie Saddler
Department Commander DAVA

What a busy summer this has been and what a fun one doing Auxiliary work. I cannot believe you voted me into office over four months ago. Hopefully, your summer has been good too and that you are all gearing up to start meetings and activities for the fall and winter. Our Veterans are counting on us.

The highlight of my summer was attending the DAV & Auxiliary National Convention in Orlando, FL, August 9 - 13th. This was my first National Convention and I hope not my last. It was a hectic few days, but so rewarding. I learned more about the DAV & Auxiliary. There were six of us representing the North Dakota Auxiliary, so I had many to guide me along. Thank you to Judy Steinhouse, Sandy

Dobmeier, Kathy Vandrovec, Carol Groven and Faye Litzinger, for your guidance. President & Mrs Obama made a special stop in Orlando to talk to the convention. Quite a surprise to most.

I look forward to visiting the units this 2013 - 2014 term. On July 11th Minot Chapter/ Unit #4 had Tom & I for a visitation. They had a picnic at the VFW and what a fun time we both had. The rain even held off until after we had eaten and visited. Thank you Minot for a relaxing and wonderful time. Williston is scheduled for October 17th, Jamestown is scheduled for December 3rd, Fargo is scheduled for December 12th, Bismarck-Mandan for January 23rd and Grand Forks for February 12th. Tom and I will be contacting the remaining chapters/units to schedule visits.

Do not forget to mark these special dates on your calendars: Fall Conference, Valley City, VFW Club for October 11th (auction) and 12th (meeting and luncheon). Also 14th District Conference in Fargo will be held October 25th (social) and 26th (breakfast and meeting) at the Kelly Inn on Main Avenue. Please make your room reservations early for both activities.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DAV AUXILIARY NATIONAL FALL CONFERENCE
October 3-5, 2013
 Cincinnati, OH

DAV and DAVA DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE
October 11-12, 2013
 Valley City, ND

DAV 14th DISTRICT MEETING
October 25-26, 2013
 Kelly Inn
 Fargo, ND

DAV MIDWINTER CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 23-26, 2-14
 Crystal Gateway Marriot
 Crystal City, VA

DAV and DAVA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
 April 24-27, 2014
 Jamestown, ND

DAV ANNUAL CONVENTION
August 9-12, 2014
 Ballys
 Las Vegas, NV



The above picture captures Chapter 1 DAV/DAVA project to support disabled vets by serving brats at Sam's Club in Fargo. Sam's Club was great to work with and they are permitting the project again in September.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2013-2014

DEPT. COMMANDER
 Thomas Saddler, Jr.
 email: tsaddler@gra.midco.net

SR. VICE COMMANDER
 Rod Olin
 email: rolin@daktel.com

1st JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Christian Wingire
 email: cwingire@gmail.com

2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Dave Vareberg
 email: davevareberg@hotmail.com

3rd JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Joe Hall
 email: joehall@nd.gov

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
 Erica Lavoie
 email: Erica.LaVoi@noridian.com

ADJUTANT-TREASURER
 Warren Tobin
 email: warren.tobin8@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR GENERAL
 Michael Vandrovec
 email: mdrover2@cableone.net

DEPT. SERVICE OFFICER
 Chanelle Lende
 email: lendec@casscountynod.gov

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN
 Richard Krajewski
 email: rkrajewski@gra.midco.net

CHIEF OF STAFF
 Jim Groven
 email: jimgroven@yahoo.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 3 Year - Jim Groven
 2 Year - Roy Fillion
 1 Year - Mark Landis

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
 John Baxley
 (701) 451-4636

DEPARTMENT HSC
 Darlene Farnias

Dept. Web Site:
www.davmembersportal.org/nd/default.aspx

VETERANS COORD. COUNCIL
 Commander: Thomas Saddler, Jr.
 Adjutant: Warren Tobin
 Member at Large: Richard Krajewski

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
 Ken Hasby
 Ron Otto
 Jim Haukedahl

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2013-2014

DEPT. COMMANDER
 Jackie Saddler

SR. VICE COMMANDER
 Marissa Jackson

1st JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Pat Resler

2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER
 Joyce Stuber

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
 Joyce Hastings

ADJUTANT
 Sandy Dobmeier

TREASURER
 Faye Litzinger

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSP. GENERAL
 Jan Novontny

Published Tri-Annually
 Disabled American Veterans
 Department of North Dakota
 2009 4th Street NE
 Jamestown, North Dakota 58401

The 14th District Fall Conference to be Held in Fargo

The 14th District Fall Conference for the DAV and DAV Auxiliary will be held at the Kelly Inn, on Main Avenue in Fargo, ND. The event will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2013.

The Kelly Inn (701-281-9700) is located at the junction of Interstate Highway 29 and Main Avenue in Fargo. (Approximately 2 miles north of Highway I-94)

Thirty Three (33) rooms have been set aside in the name of the DAV for Friday, October 25th at a cost of \$69.30 for a double room. The Kelly Inn will only hold these rooms until October 1st, so please make your reservations as soon as possible.

Please be advised that a reception, i.e., hospitality room, will be hosted by the 14th District on Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Rooms 174, 175, and 176 of the Kelly Inn. The 14th District will also be hosting a breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the O'Malley room of the Kelly Inn on Saturday morning.

Also be advised the District meeting will be held in the O'Ryan Room of the Kelly Inn beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Auxiliary meeting is also slated to begin at 9:00 a.m. in the O'Leary Room at the Kelly Inn.



DAV and DAVA Fall Conference

The Department of North Dakota DAV/DAVA Fall Conference will be held at the VFW Club, Valley City, on Saturday, October 12, 2013. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and is expected to be done by early afternoon.

There are several motels located in Valley City. Among them are the Super 8 (1-800-800-8000 National Toll Free or 701-845-1140) and the Wagon Wheel Inn (701-845-5333).

Activities begin on Friday evening with the Chapter 24 DAV and Auxiliary Auction. Coffee and Donuts will be available Saturday morning at the VFW.

VA Grants Will Expand Transportation in Highly Rural Areas

Veterans to Have Easier Access to Health Care

WASHINGTON – Veterans will have improved access to health care under a Department of Veterans Affairs initiative that supports new transportation services for those living in highly rural areas.

VA began accepting applications this month for grants to help state Veterans Service Agencies and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) operate or contract for transportation



services to transport Veterans to VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care. A new regulation establishes the program that will administer these grants. Transportation will be provided at no cost to Veterans.

“VA wants to be sure that all Veterans, including those who live in rural and remote areas, can receive the health care they have earned through service to our country,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “State Veterans Agencies and VSOs will now be able to employ innovative approaches to transportation services for Veterans in our highly rural areas. The end results will include better service and better health care for Veterans.”

VSOs and State Veterans Service Agencies may apply for grants up to \$50,000 to fund transportation of Veterans to and from VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care. If specified in the application, the services may be provided under agreements with contractors, such as private bus or van companies.

A highly rural area is defined as a county or counties with a population of fewer than seven persons per square mile. Many highly rural areas are found in the western and southwestern United States but at least half of the states have at least one highly rural area.

One of Secretary Shinseki's top three priorities is increasing access to VA care and services for Veterans wherever they live. VA is expanding access in a three-pronged effort that includes facilities, programs and technology. Veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan are eligible for an extended period of eligibility for health care for 5 years after they have left the service.

For more information, please see the [Federal Register](#).



Land of the Free! Home of the Brave!

THANK A VETERAN TODAY!

VA Partners with American Bar Association and Legal Services Corporation to Launch a Pilot Program to Help Veterans Receive Decisions Faster and Reduce Claims Backlog

Pro-Bono Pilot Program to Assist Veterans with Developing their Disability Claims

WASHINGTON (Aug. 9, 2013) – The Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announced today a new partnership and pilot program aimed at reducing the claims backlog and making it easier for unrepresented Veterans to receive assistance developing their claims for disability pay.

“Ending the backlog is an ‘all hands on deck’ effort that requires teamwork, both in and out of government,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “This partnership between VA, ABA and LSC is aimed at surging resources to deliver earned benefits to Veterans more quickly.”

In the coming months, ABA and LSC attorneys will provide free assistance to a targeted group of unrepresented Veterans who request their help gathering and obtaining evidence required by law to support their disability claims.

The development of the claim is often the longest part of the process that determines whether a Veteran is entitled to VA compensation. These steps can take more than 200 days in the rating decision process. The pilot will offer pro bono attorney assistance to Veterans with claims pending at the St. Petersburg and Chicago Regional Offices who do not currently have an authorized representative.

Veterans will choose whether to accept this pro-bono assistance. Similar Veterans with claims pending at other VA regional offices may also be considered for the pilot, if warranted.

“The ABA is proud to take the lead in connecting veterans with pro bono attorneys who will help them receive the aid our nation owes them for their selfless courage,” said ABA President Laurel Bellows. “We hope that our initial focus on Chicago and St. Petersburg can swiftly be expanded across the nation.”

The claims selected for this pilot program, which are

currently -- or will soon be -- part of the claims backlog, will vary in terms of complexity and degree of completeness. VA will accredit the attorneys who choose to participate, and the ABA and LSC will provide them with specialized training that will enable them to help evaluate and develop Veterans claims and make those claims ready for a rating decision. The two initial pilot sites were selected

based on proximity to ABA headquarters, and the opportunity for the biggest impact on the backlog.

In the coming months, VA will identify eligible Veterans to participate in the pilot program and send letters advising them of all their options for representation to help them advance their claims - from Veteran Service Organizations, attorneys and claims agents, to pro bono attorneys participating in this pilot.

The VA letter will inform Veterans of a 1-800 hotline and website to connect them to an attorney who is willing to assist with their claim, free of charge.

Under the partnership, the ABA and LSC will match interested Veterans and attorneys on several factors, including geographic location, complexity of the claim and the Veteran’s and attorney’s preferences on the nature and scope of representation.

VA is continuing to implement several initiatives to meet the Department’s goal to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015. As a result of these initiatives, VA’s total claims inventory has dropped to its lowest levels since March 2011.

The number of claims in the VA backlog – claims pending more than 125 days – has been reduced by 18 percent, compared to the highest point in March 2013.

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense-VA web portal, eBenefits, at www.ebenefits.va.gov/.



Department of
Veterans Affairs



Defending Liberty
Pursuing Justice



Golden Corral Military Appreciation Monday

On Monday, November 11, 2013, Golden Corral will host its Military Appreciation Monday from 4:00 - 9:00 pm

At the 12th annual Military Appreciation Monday dinner, Golden Corral honored over 375,000 veterans and active duty military with a free dinner buffet and beverage. All Golden Corral restaurants nationwide participated in this event to honor our military heroes, past and present.

Golden Corral restaurants and guests contributed a record total of over \$1,260,000 for the Disabled American Veterans organization to be used by state and local chapters to assist veterans. This is the third consecutive year that Golden Corral restaurants and their guests have raised over \$1 million dollars for the DAV.

To date, Golden Corral restaurants have provided over 3.7 million free meals and contributed over \$7.4 million to the Disabled American Veterans organization. In North Dakota, there are Golden Corral operations in Fargo and Bismarck.



Golden Corral and its guests raised over 41.2 million for Disabled American Veterans organization at 2012 Military Appreciation Monday Dinner



Bridgeview Assisted Living Apartments

Supportive Housing & Services for Seniors

Enhanced Supportive Services including:
 2 Meals Per Day in Dining room, Light Housekeeping, 24 Hour On-site Personnel, Weekly Bathing Assistance, 24 Hour Urgency Response, RN-Weekly Medication Set-up, Monthly Wellness Clinics, Activity Programming, Transportation Services, Daily Wellness Checks, Basic Maintenance and "While You're Away" Services, Occasional Group Outings.
 1120 5th St. NE
 Valley City, ND 58072
 701-845-8061

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



WILLISTON
 Chapter No. 9

Williston, North Dakota

Meetings Held 3rd Thursday of each month



MIKE LERUD
 ALLEN SCHULD

LERUD-SCHULD

Funeral Home, Inc

515 Central Ave. No. - Valley City, ND
 Phone 845-3232

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



BUSSY SPIDAH
 Chapter No. 31

Jamestown, North Dakota

Meetings Held 1st Tuesday of each month



Over 73 Years of Hometown Quality & Service

Across North Dakota in Grand Forks, Grafton, Devils Lake, Minot, Williston & Jamestown
 Family Owned & Operated Since 1939



James Ericson
 (701) 290-4861

Phone: 701-225-8156
 P.O. Box 1209
 Dickinson, ND 58601

Larry Schnell
 (701) 290-1858

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



FRANCIS J. BEATON
 Chapter No. 1

Fargo, North Dakota

Meetings Held 2nd Thursday of each month

VA Grants up to One Year Retroactive Benefits for Veterans Filing Fully Developed Claims to Help Reduce the Backlog

New Benefit Takes Effect August 6 for First-Time Filers

WASHINGTON (Aug. 1, 2013) – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that Veterans filing an original Fully Developed Claim (FDC) for service-connected disability compensation may be entitled to up to one-year of retroactive disability benefits. The retroactive benefits, which are in effect Aug. 6, 2013, through Aug. 5, 2015, are a result of a comprehensive legislative package passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama last year.

“VA strongly encourages Veterans to work with Veterans Service Organizations to file Fully Developed Claims and participate in this initiative, since it means more money in eligible Veterans’ pockets simply by providing VA the information it needs up front,” said Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits. “At the same time, it helps reduce the inventory of pending claims by speeding the process.”

Filing an FDC is typically the fastest way for Veterans to receive a decision on their claims because Fully Developed Claims require Veterans to provide all supporting evidence in their possession when they submit their claims. Often, this is evidence that VA legally must attempt to collect on the Veteran’s behalf, which is already in the Veteran’s possession, or is evidence the Veteran could easily obtain, like private treatment records.

When Veterans submit such evidence with their claims, it significantly reduces the amount of time VA spends gathering evidence from them or other sources -- often the longest part of the claims process. While VA will still make efforts to obtain federal records on the Veterans’ behalf, the submittal of non-federal records (and any federal records the Veteran may have) with the claim allows VA to issue a decision to the Veteran more quickly. Typically, VA processes FDCs in half the time it takes for a traditionally filed claim.

FDCs can be filed digitally through the joint, DoD-VA online portal, *eBenefits* (www.ebenefits.va.gov). VA encourages Veterans who cannot file online to work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) who can file claims digitally on Veterans’ behalf. While submitting an FDC provides a faster decision for any compensation or pension claim, only Veterans who are submitting

their very first compensation claim as an FDC are potentially eligible for up to one-year of retroactive disability benefits under the newly implemented law.

FDCs help eliminate VA’s claims backlog because they increase production of claims decisions and decrease waiting times. Also, VA assigns FDCs a higher priority than other claims which means Veterans receive decisions to their claim faster than traditional claims.

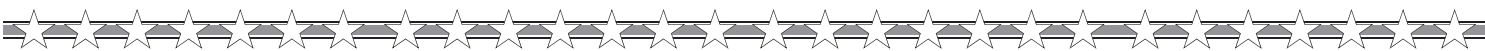
VA continues to prioritize other specific categories of claims, including those of seriously wounded, terminally ill, Medal of Honor recipients, former Prisoners of War, the homeless and those experiencing extreme financial hardship. As part of its drive to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015, VA also gives a priority to claims more than a year old.

In May, VA announced a new partnership with Veterans Service Organizations and others known as the “Community of Practice,” an effort that seeks to reduce the compensation claims backlog for Veterans by increasing the number of FDCs filed by Veterans and their advocates.

VA is continuing to implement several initiatives to meet the Department’s goal to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015. In May, VA announced that it was mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices to increase production of compensation claims decisions through the end of FY 2013. In April, VA launched an initiative to expedite disability compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have a waited a year or longer.

As a result of these initiatives, VA’s total claims inventory remains at lower levels not seen since August 2011. The number of claims in the VA backlog – claims pending over 125 days – has been reduced by 17 percent compared to the highest point in March 2013.

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal *eBenefits* at www.ebenefits.va.gov, and the FDC program at www.benefits.va.gov/fdc/.



Better Products
Better Installation
Better Warranty



800-732-6577
Siding • Gutters • Windows • Roof
online: ABCSeamless.com

WING FINANCIAL SERVICES
“Skip Wing”
PO Box 70
Stanley, ND 58784
701-628-2063 800-621-8536

Everson Funeral Home



We Honor And Thank Our Veterans
Williston, ND and Culbertson, MT
577-3738 or 1-800-895-3738

VA Reaches Out to Veterans about Health Care Law

WASHINGTON (Aug. 6, 2013) – The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched an awareness campaign and a new website, www.va.gov/aca, to let Veterans know what the Affordable Care Act means for them and their families. Veterans receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs will see no change in their benefits or out-of-pocket costs when portions of the Affordable Care Act take effect next year.

“VA wants all Veterans to receive health care that improves their health and well-being,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “If you are enrolled in VA health care, you do not need to take any additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards. If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time.”

“VA encourages eligible Veterans who are not enrolled in VA’s health care system to take advantage of the world-class care we provide to the men and women who have served this Nation in uniform,” Shinseki added.

Veterans can apply for VA health care at any time by visiting www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), or visiting their local VA health care facility. Full details on eligibility are available at www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book

VA’s health care system for Veterans has no enrollment fee, no monthly premiums and no deductibles. Most Veterans also have no out-of-pocket costs, though some may have small copayments for some health care or prescription drugs.

“VA will continue to provide Veterans with high quality, comprehensive health care and other benefits they have earned through their service,” said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA’s chief physician and under secretary for health.

The Affordable Care Act was created to expand access to coverage, reduce rising health care costs, and improve health care quality and care coordination. The Affordable Care Act creates new opportunities for coverage for uninsured Veterans and their families.

There are more than 1.3 million Veterans and more than 950,000 spouses and children of Veterans without health insurance. Most uninsured Veterans are eligible for VA health care. For those who are not eligible for VA care – such as Veterans’ family members – the law created a new Health Insurance Marketplace.

In 2014, the Marketplace will be a new way to shop for and purchase private health insurance. People who purchase insurance through the Marketplace may be able to lower the costs of health insurance coverage by paying lower monthly premiums. For more information, visit www.healthcare.gov.

For information about VA health care and the Affordable Care Act, VA encourages Veterans and family members to visit the new website at www.va.gov/aca, or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. or Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Eastern time. The new website includes a Health Benefits Explorer, where Veterans can learn about the benefits they can receive if they enroll in VA care.

DoD, VA Establish Two Multi-Institutional Consortia to Research PTSD and TBI



WASHINGTON (Aug. 10, 2013) –

In response to President Obama’s Executive Order, the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) highlighted today the establishment of two joint research consortia, at a combined investment of \$107 million to research the diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) over a five-year period.

“VA is proud to join with its partners in the federal government and the academic community to support the President’s vision and invest in research that could lead to innovative, new treatments for TBI and PTSD,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We must do all we can to deliver the high-quality care our Service members and Veterans have earned and deserve.”

The Consortium to Alleviate PTSD (CAP), a collaborative effort between the University of Texas Health Science Center – San Antonio, San Antonio Military Medical Center, and the Boston VA Medical Center will attempt to develop the most effective diagnostic, prognostic, novel treatment, and rehabilitative strategies to treat acute PTSD and prevent chronic PTSD.

The Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC), a collaborative effort between Virginia Commonwealth University, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and the Richmond VA Medical Center will examine the factors which influence the chronic effects of mTBI and common comorbidities in order to improve diagnostic and treatment options. A key point will be to further the understanding of the relationship between mTBI and neurodegenerative disease.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 2.5 million American service members have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Military service exposes service members to a variety of stressors, including risk to life, exposure to death, injury, sustained threat of injury, and the day-to-day family stress inherent in all phases of the military life cycle.

To improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health conditions, the President released an Executive Order directing the Federal agencies to develop a coordinated National Research Action Plan. The Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Department of Education (ED) came forward with a wide-reaching plan to improve scientific understanding, effective treatment, and reduce occurrences of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, co-occurring conditions and suicide.



www.ramada.com

RAMADA

RAMADA LIMITEDS • INNS • PLAZA HOTELS

1-800-570-3951

• Spacious & Comfortable Rooms • Data Port W/High Speed Internet, Cable TV, (HBO) • Dreamers Lounge • Banquet Facilities for 750 guests

CONVENIENT LOCATION - (All Within 5 Minutes)

• Alerus Center • Engelstad Arena • UND
• Shopping Mall • Golf Course • B&B’s Restaurant

701-775-3951

Jct I-29 & US Hwy 2 Exit 141 Grand Forks, ND

AL'S GRILL & CATERING

Al's Original
Tips & Toast

3615 GATEWAY DR
GRAND FORKS, ND

701-795-5183

OR

218-791-2065

Catering by Design!



Al Burger

Alerus™

FINANCIAL

Member FDIC

Inspired Banking.™

VA Health Care Facilities Named to 2013 “Most Wired” Hospitals List

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs, representing 152 VA medical centers, was recently named to the 2013 “Most Wired” hospitals list. The list, which is released by

Hospitals & Health Networks, in partnership with McKesson, the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) and the American Hospital Association (AHA), is the result of a national

survey aimed at ranking hospitals that are leveraging health information technology (HIT) in new and innovative ways.

“At VA, we are committed to expanding access to high quality care for our Nation’s Veterans,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “As the nation’s largest health network, VA is continuously working to improve and enhance our understanding of which technologies best meet the needs of our Veteran patients.”

Over the past year, VA has provided Veterans and VA health care teams with 21st century health care through the use of new and innovative technology. Some examples are:

- Telehealth being used in Veterans homes as an adjunct to traditional face-to-face care;
- recent VA Blue Button enhancements that allow improved access to critical patient medical information;
- Deployment of asset tracking devices;
- the use of technology to better link specialty care providers to primary care physicians in rural areas.

The survey, which was conducted between Jan. 15, 2013 and March 15, 2013, polled 1,713 hospitals and health systems nationwide to answer questions regarding their information technology (IT) initiatives. Overall, roughly 30 percent of all U.S. hospitals were surveyed.

“VA is honored to have its integrated health care system on the ‘Most Wired’ hospitals list for the first time ever,” said Dr. Robert Petzel, Undersecretary for Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs. “VA is dedicated to providing Veteran patients with the best experience possible. Integrating health IT into our everyday processes throughout our vast health care system has helped us to accomplish that goal. This recognition and this year’s 10th anniversary of the introduction of VA’s Personal Health Record, My HealthVet, indicate we’ve made great strides in accomplishing our goals, and we’re eager to build on this progress.”

With this designation, for the first time, all VA medical centers nationwide were named to the 2013 “Most Wired” list. The location of VA medical centers can be found here: www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp.



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



ANDY NOMLAND
Chapter No. 2

Grand Forks, North Dakota

Meetings Held 2nd Wednesday
of each month at 6:30 pm
County Office Building - 6th Floor
September - June



1345 Main St. SW • Box 966
Valley City, ND 58702
701-845-1671 • 1-800-599-3792

MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER
Past Natl. Commander

*Thank you for
your support!*

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



CLARENCE “TOM” LEMLEY
Chapter No. 24
and Auxiliary Unit 24

Valley City, North Dakota

*We ask you to support your
Department and Chapter Projects*

VA Announces \$300 Million in New Grants to Help End Veterans Homelessness

Initiative Targets 120,000 Homeless and At-Risk Vets and Families

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced today the award of nearly \$300 million in grants that will help approximately 120,000 homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. The grants have been awarded to 319 community agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

“With these grants, we are strengthening our partnership with community non-profits across the country to provide Veterans and their families with hope, a home, and a future,” said Shinseki. “The work of Supportive Services for Veteran Families program grantees has already helped us prevent and end homelessness among tens of thousands of homeless Veterans and their families, but as long as a single Veteran lives on our streets, we have work to do.”

Under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, VA is awarding grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide services to very low-income Veteran families living in -- or transitioning to -- permanent housing. The SSVF program supports VA's efforts to prevent at-risk Veterans from becoming homeless and rapidly re-house those who have recently fallen into homelessness.

Thanks to the SSVF grants, those community organizations will provide a range of services that promote housing stability and play a key role in connecting Veterans and their family members to VA services such as mental health care and other benefits. Community-based groups can offer temporary financial assistance on behalf of Veterans for rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs.

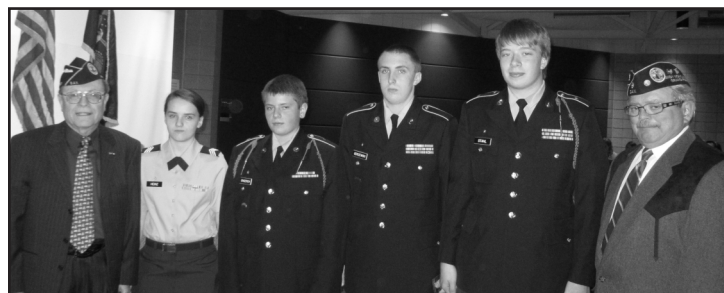
This is the third year SSVF grants have helped Veterans and their families find or remain in their homes. Last year, VA provided about \$100 million to assist approximately 50,000 Veterans and family members.

In 2009, President Obama and Secretary Shinseki announced the federal government's goal to end Veterans' homelessness in 2015. The grants are intended to help accomplish that goal. According to the 2012 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness, homelessness among Veterans has declined 17.2 percent since 2009.

Through the homeless Veterans initiative, VA committed over \$1 billion in fiscal year 2013 to strengthen programs that prevent and end homelessness among Veterans. VA provides a range of services to homeless Veterans, including health care, job training, and education.

More information about VA's homeless programs is available at www.va.gov/homeless.

Details about the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program are online at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.



L to R: Tom Saddler, Department Commander, Army JRRTOC Cadet Award winners for Outstanding Achievement 2012-2013 - Junell Heinz, Kiefer Gingerich, Joseph Gerszewski, and Isaac Stahl, Past Chapter Commander Larry Holweger. Achievement Medals are presented to the Cadets by Tom Saddler and Larry Holweger.

Standing Up For One Another

By Marc Burgess, National Adjutant

During the month of September, we must pause to reflect on one of the most critical crises facing our nation's veterans and servicemembers.



We lose 22 veterans each day to suicide, and active duty suicides hit an all time high in 2012 as 349 men and women took their own lives.

It is always a shock to hear these statistics. It is estimated a veteran takes his or her life every 80 seconds, and roughly 31 percent of those individuals are under the age of 49.

The VA's crisis hotline reports having saved 28,000 veterans from taking their own lives since its launch in 2007. While this service is clearly a vital lifeline for many veterans, we cannot ignore the fact that 28,000 of those who served our country were at some point in such dire need of help.

We have logged a very successful year in recruiting new members to become part of DAV, and the work we do paired with our new outreach endeavors has given us a strong foothold in the veterans community. This is a valuable resource in the fight against veteran suicide, and not something to be taken for granted.

many of these men and women are struggling with life-altering injuries and illness, the loss of relationships and a fear that they have all but been abandoned. As an organization of veterans helping veterans, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to engage and support each other.

Our NSOs, TSOs, and countless members and volunteers take the time each day to show veterans that DAV is there not only to fight for their rights and benefits, but to provide the camaraderie and compassion we all need to make it through difficult times.

Our veterans deserve better than these statistics. They deserve to know the country they sacrificed for is ready and willing to stand by them and help heal the wounds that remain from their time in service. Resources alone are not enough if we aren't reaching out and helping guide at-risk veterans.

These are our brothers and sisters, and we cannot stand to lose one more of our own. Be part of the solution by knowing what resources are available and by being ready to provide them when needed:

- The Veterans Crisis Line is 1-800-273-8255, with responders standing by 24/7
- Private online chat sessions available at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat*
- Veterans can send a text message to 838255 to connect to a VA responder
- Self-check quizzes available at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/quiz*
- Active Duty, Reserve, or Guard can visit www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net

VA Announces Award of Patient-Centered Community Care Contracts

Contracts Provide Expanded Access to Community-based Care

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that Veterans will have greater access to quality health care through a new initiative: Patient-Centered Community Care (PCCC).

"PCCC is an innovative solution that helps VA medical centers continue to provide quality care efficiently," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This will be a valuable option for VA medical centers to use to expand our Veterans' access to care."

Under PCCC, VA medical centers will have the ability to purchase non-VA medical care for Veterans through contracted medical providers when they cannot readily provide the needed care due to geographic inaccessibility or limited capacity. Eligible Veterans will have access to inpatient specialty care, outpatient specialty care, mental health care, limited emergency care, and limited newborn care for enrolled female Veterans following the birth of a child.

"PCCC provides a regional contracting vehicle for VA to work with local community providers to give Veterans access to high quality care," said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "It will also help VA in our continued efforts to ensure timely and accessible services are provided to Veterans for non-VA medical care."

In total, VA has awarded two contracts under PCCC, one to Health Net

Federal Services LLC and another to TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. These companies will set up networks in six regions covering the entire country. VA expects to have these regional contract networks available to its medical centers by the spring of 2014. The awarded contracts, estimated at \$9.4 billion, include one base year and four option years.

PCCC is part of the overall Non-VA Medical Care Program. It will provide all VA facilities with an additional option to purchase non-VA medical care when required Veteran care services are unavailable within the VA medical facility or when the Veterans benefit from receiving the needed care nearer to their homes.

Among the many benefits to the Veterans and VA under these new contracts, VA will enjoy standardized health care quality metrics, timely return of medical documentation, cost avoidance with fixed rates for services across the board, guaranteed access to care, and enhanced tracking and reporting of non-VA medical care expenditures over traditional non-VA medical care services.

For additional information, please visit: https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=3dde670a20de9c5a6b38d8ca53642e1&tab=core&_cview=0

National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic Dates Announced

Dates: March 30 - April 4, 2014 • Location: Snowmass Village, CO

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic is a world-leader in adaptive winter sports instruction for the U.S. Military Veterans and active duty servicemen and women with disabilities.

Set in stunning Snowmass, Colorado, the Clinic will celebrate its 28th year by bringing nearly 400 Veterans with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, certain neurological conditions and other disabilities to the mountain.

More than 200 certified ski instructors for the disabled, and several current and former members of the U.S. Disabled Ski team, serve as ski instructors to meet the unique needs of the participants. In addition to Alpine skiing, the Clinic also features a number of other sports including: cross country, rock climbing, scuba diving, kayaking and snowmobiling.

The Clinic is co-sponsored by The VA and DAV and made possible by a number of sponsors who make monetary and in-kind donations. Registration for volunteers begins in June and participants can sign up beginning in August.

Participants will develop sports skills and take part in a variety of adaptive sports workshops. Clinic participation demonstrates that having a physical or visual disability is not an obstacle to an active rewarding life.

The five-day Clinic consists of downhill and cross-country ski lessons, a challenge race, adaptive sports workshops and educational classes, plus sponsored and self-directed alternate activities such as scuba diving, sled hockey, a climbing wall, snowmobiling and other activities.

For more info visit: www.snowmassvillage.com

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



MINOT Chapter No. 4

Minot, North Dakota

Meetings Held 2nd Tuesday of each month

VFW Post 7564 and Ladies Auxiliary

308 SHEYENNE STREET
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA



Stutsman County

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE

Law Enforcement Center • 205 Sixth Street Southeast
Jamestown, North Dakota 58401 • Phone: 701-252-9043

RITA MORRIS
Secretary

WARREN J. TOBIN
Veterans' Service Officer

Lafarge Dakota Inc.

Valley City Watts 1-800-533-8662
Bismarck Watts 1-800-472-2697
Grand Forks Watts 1-800-255-1723
Williston Watts 1-800-633-6884
Wahpeton Collect (701) 642-5577
Minot Collect (701) 852-8163



FITTERER OIL CO., INC.

New England, ND 58647

Office: 579-4887 Home: 579-4426

Post-9/11 GI Bill Celebrates Fourth Anniversary

Nearly 1 Million Veterans, Servicemembers and Families Benefit

WASHINGTON – Thursday, August 1, marked the fourth anniversary of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VA has issued approximately \$30 billion in Post 9/11 GI-Bill benefit payments since its inception in August 2009 and helped nearly 1 million Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families pursue their education.

“The Post-9/11 GI Bill has helped many of our Nation’s Veterans pursue their education and successfully transition to civilian life,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We’re proud that the Department of Veterans Affairs can administer this important benefit that makes such a big difference in the lives of nearly a million Veterans and their families.”

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is the most extensive educational assistance program since the Serviceman’s Readjustment Act of 1944, more commonly known as the GI Bill, was signed into law.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides comprehensive educational support through tuition, books and housing allowance to people with at least 90 days of total service after September 10, 2001, or people discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days.

Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, vocational and technical training, on-the-job training, flight training, correspondence training, licensing and national testing programs, entrepreneurship training, and tutorial assistance.

VA is now processing benefit payments for currently enrolled students in an average of seven days, largely as a result of VA’s ongoing transformation to electronic claims processing. The delivery of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits has been automated and processing time cut in half through implementation of VA’s Long Term Solution, an end-to-end claims processing system that uses rules-based, industry-standard technologies.

“Since the end of World War II, GI Bill programs have shaped and changed the lives of Veterans, Servicemembers, their families and their survivors by helping them reach their educational and employment goals,” said Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits. “That is still true today.”

In April 2012, President Obama signed Executive Order 13607 which established the Principles of Excellence, offering guidelines that

promote student success under the program and ensure accurate information about institutions and their courses. Over 6,000 educational and training institutions have agreed to comply with these principles.

“The Principles of Excellence, further strengthened by Public Law 112-249, provide future student Veterans with greater consumer education” said Michael Dakduk, executive director of Student Veterans of America. “It is extremely important to have the right tools and information before making a decision on a post-secondary credential, degree program, or institution of higher learning.”

VA is working with schools, community organizations and other partners to ensure beneficiaries have all the information they need to use their education benefits, including:

- Education plans for all military and Veteran education beneficiaries;
- A designated point of contact for academic and financial advice at each school; and
- An end to fraudulent and aggressive recruiting techniques and misrepresentation.

This summer, VA is launching new tools to help beneficiaries learn more about their vocational aptitudes and select an education institution.

• The “Factors to Consider When Choosing a School” guide offers future students steps to take when researching, choosing, and attending a school.

• CareerScope® is a free, new tool featured on <http://www.gibill.va.gov> that measures a student’s aptitude and interests through a self-administered online test, identifying potential career paths.

• The new GI Bill® Comparison Tool allows students to research and compare schools, including key indicators like average student loan debt and graduation rates.

“We will continue to work hard to improve VA’s benefits delivery process for post 9/11 GI Bill beneficiaries and to ensure that Veterans and their families have the tools they need to choose the right education institution to help them build a foundation for the future,” Hickey added.

For more information on the 9/11 GI Bill and other Veteran education programs, visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



ADAM KLEIN
Chapter No. 3

Bismarck, North Dakota

Meetings Held 1st Thursday
of each month at 6:30 pm
AmVets Club

DACOTAH BANK

Here for you.™

BANKING • INSURANCE • MORTGAGE • TRUST

240 3rd Street NW • Valley City • (701) 845-2712

dacotahbank.com



**V.F.W. of
Valley City**

*The place where good
friends meet.*

138 East Main

Phone 1-845-2764

HUD & VA Announce More Vouchers to Help Homeless Vets Get Into Permanent Homes

HUD-VASH vouchers to build on 17% decline in veteran homelessness since 2009

WASHINGTON (Aug. 21, 2013) – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the second round of HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) funding to local public housing agencies across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The \$7.8 million will provide housing and clinical services for 1,120 currently homeless veterans. In May of this year, the two agencies announced \$60 million in HUD-VASH vouchers

The supportive housing assistance announced today is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. Since 2008, a total of 58,140 vouchers have been awarded and 43,371 formerly homeless veterans are currently in homes of their own because of HUD-VASH.

“Our nation’s veterans have sacrificed and given up so much for our freedom,” said HUD Secretary Donovan. “These vouchers are helping America end veterans’ homelessness one veteran at a time until we see not one veteran living on the street. I look forward to continue working with Secretary Shinseki and the Department of Veterans Affairs to target assistance to our homeless veterans.”

“These HUD-VASH vouchers are a vital tool in our effort to provide these brave men and women with the earned care and benefits that help them live productive, meaningful lives,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “So long as a single Veteran lives on our streets, we have work to do. But with the continued support of President Obama, Congress and our community partners, we will end homelessness among Veterans.”

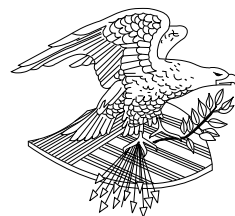
HUD-VASH is a critical part of the Obama Administration’s commitment to end Veteran and long-term chronic homelessness by 2015. *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* serves as a roadmap for how the federal government will work with state and local communities to confront the root causes of homelessness, especially among former servicemen and women. HUD’s annual “point in time” estimate of the number of homeless persons and families for 2012 found that veteran homelessness fell by 7.2 percent (or 4,876 people) since

January 2011 and by 17.2 percent since January 2009. On a single night in January 2012, 62,619 veterans were homeless.

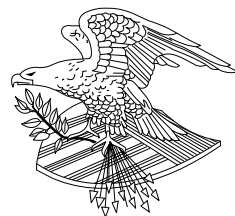
The grants announced today are part of \$75 million appropriated this year to support the housing needs of homeless veterans. Local public housing authorities provide rental assistance to homeless veterans while nearby VA Medical Centers (VAMC) offer supportive services and case management. This is the second round of the 2013 HUD-VASH funding. HUD expects to announce more HUD-VASH funding this year.

VAMCs work closely with homeless veterans then refer them to public housing agencies for these vouchers, based upon a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of the homelessness and the need for longer term more intensive support to obtain and maintain permanent housing. The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that VAMC staff provides.

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services through its medical centers across the U.S., Guam and Puerto Rico.



REMEMBER OUR VETERANS
Yesterday’s Military Heroes • Today’s Veterans
Today’s Military • Tomorrow’s Veterans



North Dakota Veterans Cemetary Presented with Excellence of Appearance Award

The U.S Department of Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration (NCA) presented the agency's "Excellence of Appearance Award" to the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery on 21 AUG. State veterans cemeteries are inspected every three years by the NCA. The review includes headstone general appearance, alignment, turf conditions, drainage, as well as building and equipment maintenance. The "Excellence in Appearance Award" is presented to those cemeteries that meet or exceed the requirements of this triennial review. Pam Helbling-Schafer, the cemetery director, said upon receiving the award, "We are really proud of this memorial park and our efforts to make it a first-class facility for our military veterans and their loved ones. It is truly an honor to provide our military members a respectful and dignified interment area." The N.D. Veterans Cemetery is a member of the NCA's national cemetery system and was established by an act of the 1989 Legislative Assembly. Opened in 1992, is operated by the Office of the Adjutant General of North Dakota. It is located 6.5 miles south of Mandan on Highway 1806 on a 35-acre tract of land in the southwest corner of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. The Kiosk gravesite locator is available in the foyer of the visitors center. The cemetery office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm., closed weekends and on State Holidays. The cemetery grounds are open twenty four hours a day for grave visitation. The following is germane for interment and visitation:



Application and Eligibility For Burial. It is not required that you have an application on file at the cemetery. However, the cemetery will accept applications if you so desire. To pre-register, complete the application form and submit a copy of your discharge (DD Form 214 or the equivalent) for active duty or the NGB 22 for National Guard and reservists. These documents must verify that you meet the eligibility requirements prior to any interments taking place. The funeral director will contact us to complete final arrangements. For veterans with multiple enlistments, it is imperative all discharges are considered. Information on the headstone is taken from the discharges; therefore war service, highest rank earned, significant decoration's and branches of service will reflect what is displayed on the headstone.

The application form can be downloaded at: <http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/benefits/veteranscemetery/applicationforburial/Documents/Application%20for%20Burial%202012.pdf>

Burials. Burials are conducted on the hour, every hour, between 9:00AM and 3:00PM CT. All committal services are held in the committal chapel. A limited number of chairs for the immediate family are provided. Committal services are the only type of service that will be accommodated in the committal chapel. The intended purpose of the committal chapel is to provide a safe, comfortable gathering space, away from gravesites, for a brief committal service. Services such as funeral

services or memorial services are not allowed in the committal chapel or on the cemetery grounds at any time. Viewing open caskets is not allowed at any time. There is no cost to the veteran for burial. If a spouse or eligible dependent is to be interred at the cemetery there is a \$550.00 interment fee, subject to change over time.

Gravesites. Lot determination is normally the next one available in the area currently being utilized. As in National Cemeteries, only one plot would be used for the veteran, spouse and/or eligible dependent. The first vault would be placed at a depth sufficient to accommodate additional vaults. A basic grave liner is required, but can be up graded to a vault through the funeral homes. The grave liner or vaults are purchased thorough the funeral home, they are not provided by the cemetery. There is no vault requirement for cremated remains, whatever urn or container provided will be placed directly into the grave.

Military Funeral Honors.

Family members of the deceased veteran should first notify their funeral director of their desire to have Military Funeral Honors rendered. There is no cost to the veteran's family to have Military Funeral Honors provided by the military or Veteran Organization. The family should provide the funeral director with the following information, if available: Name of deceased, date of birth, social security number, form DD 214 (discharge), or any other proof of veteran status or eligibility for burial honors. Family members that are not going through a funeral home, should contact: ND Military Funeral Honors, P.O. Box 5511, 4200 East Divide Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58506, Tel: 1-866-963-4977

Floral & Decoration Regulations. Fresh cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time. Only temporary flower containers are permitted. Floral items will be removed from graves when they become faded or unsightly. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves during the period of October 15th to the 10th day following Memorial Day. Christmas wreaths or blankets are permitted on graves during the Christmas season commencing 1 December and will be removed by caretakers on 1 February each year. Permanent plantings will not be permitted on graves at any time. Potted plants will be permitted on graves during the period 10 days before and 10 days after Easter Sunday and Memorial Day. Statues, vigil lights, glass objects of any nature or any other commemorative items are not permitted on the graves at any time. All graves will be decorated on Memorial Day by the cemetery staff with 8"x12" United States Flags. U.S. Flags are not permitted on graves at any other time. During lawn mowing and ground maintenance season all floral items will be removed from graves when that section of the cemetery requires mowing or other maintenance.

[Source:

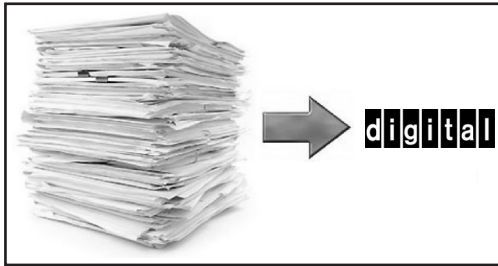
<http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/benefits/veteranscemetery/Pages/default.aspx> & DVIDS News Aug 2013 ++]



VA Has Converted Over 30 Percent of Disability Claims into Digital Files

165 Million Pages Have Been Scanned and Uploaded to Help Transform Paper-Based Claims Process to Digital Environment

WASHINGTON—The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reached another milestone in its disability claims transformation process – over 30 percent of the current disability claims inventory is now digital and accessible to claim raters in VA's electronic claims



processing system, which has now been fielded ahead of schedule at all 56 Regional Offices across the country. This effort is a key part of transforming outdated paper processing into an electronic system that is delivering disability claims decisions for Veterans more quickly. In addition, all incoming paper claims are transformed into digital records for electronic processing using VA's new claims processing software and electronic repository.

"A key element that slows our process is the thousands of tons of paper documents we handle each year related to Veterans' claims," said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "While we continue to expand our ability to process claims electronically, we still have to handle those we receive in paper form—the Veterans Claims Intake Program (VCIP) is our answer to this and helps us move into a fully digital environment."

On Sep. 28, 2012, VA established the VCIP program to maximize the use of electronic intake for all claims, creating digital, searchable files. The document conversion service, part of VCIP, has now been implemented at all 56 VA regional claims processing offices across the country. VCIP is a capability that enables high-speed document scanning to help VA end its reliance on paper-based claims. With VCIP, a new paper claim that is received at a regional office is recorded in VA's electronic claims processing system—called the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS)—and shipped to one of three document conversion locations to be scanned and converted into digital images. The document images, which are made keyword searchable in the conversion, are placed into a VBMS electronic folder for use by the VA employees who work the Veteran's claim.

Digital conversion improves processing timeliness by eliminating paper folder transport, reducing manual data entry, streamlining the review of medical records, and standardizing correspondence with Veterans and beneficiaries. To date, VA has

converted more than 165 million pages of claims documents to digital images, and continues to add over 1 million images into VBMS every day.

"Finding a key piece of evidence in a thick paper file folder takes time," said James Thomas, a claims specialist at the Salt Lake VA Regional Office. "With digital claims records, we can find all the key information related to the claim with a key stroke."

At the same time, VA is working closely with the Department of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Service Organizations to urge Veterans and separating Servicemembers to file their disability claims electronically and, when possible, to file a Fully Developed Claim through the joint DoD/VA online portal, eBenefits (www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits). Registered eBenefits users with a Premium account can file a claim online, track the status, and access information on a variety of other benefits, including pension, education, health care, home loan, and vocational rehabilitation and employment programs. Additionally, eBenefits users can take advantage of 50 self-service features that both VA and DoD have made available.

VA is continuing to implement several initiatives to meet Secretary Shinseki's goal to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015. In May, VA announced that it was mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices to increase production of compensations claims decisions, which will continue through the end of FY 2013. In June, VA announced that under an initiative launched in April to expedite disability compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have waited a year or longer, more than 65,000 claims nationwide – or 97 percent of all claims over two years old in the inventory – had been eliminated from the backlog.

Today, VA's total claims inventory remains at lower levels not seen since August 2011 and the number of claims in the VA backlog – claims pending over 125 days – has been reduced by nearly 12 percent since the "oldest claims first" initiative began.

VA continues to prioritize disability claims for homeless Veterans, those experiencing extreme financial hardship, the terminally ill, former Prisoners of War, Medal of Honor recipients, and Veterans filing Fully Developed Claims, which is the quickest way for Veterans to receive a decision on their compensation claim (<http://www.benefits.va.gov/fdc/>).

Claims for Wounded Warriors separating from the military for medical reasons will continue to be handled separately and on a priority basis with DoD through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES).

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits, and register and/or upgrade to a free Premium account on the joint Department of Defense/VA web portal eBenefits at www.ebenefits.va.gov.

REMEMBER VETERANS DAY - NOVEMBER 11

DAV Commanders and Adjutants Orientation

Department Senior Vice Commander Rod Olin and Adjutant Warren Tobin attend the DAV Commanders and Adjutants Orientation at DAV National Headquarters, Cold Spring, KY this summer. The conference gives new leaders from the departments an opportunity to get acquainted with the national staff and to understand the essentials of DAV.

This training helps keep the department leaders focused on the DAV's primary goal: fulfilling the promises made to the men and women who served.



L to R: Warren Tobin, President, Commanders and Adjutants Association, Floyd Watson; (Past) National Commander Larry Polzin, and Rod Olin.



The recently renovated DAV Sign at the Nation Headquarters.



L to R: National Commander Larry Polzin, Keli Berglund (Chapter 3), National Adjutant J. Marc Burgess, and National Director Barry Jesinoski at the National Convention.

Keli Berglund, Chapter 3, received the National Commander's Award, Disabled Veteran's Outreach Program (DVOP), at the DAV National Convention in Orlando, FL in August.

The award recognizes significant contributions made by Keli, who is a Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist in Bismarck, ND.

The Disabled American Veteran's has established an annual awards program to honor the Nation's Outstanding DVOP for enhancing employment and training opportunities for disabled veterans.



Support The Organization That Does All This For You!

Valley City
201 N. Central Avenue
845-2210
wellsfargo.com



© 2005 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC



V.F.W. Post 1326
1326 East Broadway
Bismarck, N. Dak. 58501
•Best Prime Rib in North Dakota
•Off of the Menu every Night
•\$4.95 Special every Wed. Night
•Dancing every Fri. & Sat. Nights
•Bingo - Pull Tabs - Black Jack
•Lowest Prices Always
•4 Blocks East of Holiday Inn
•Dial 701-255-3432

Those who fought together, wine and dine together.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



DICKINSON
Chapter No. 8

Dickinson, North Dakota

Meetings Held 4th Thursday of each month

D.A.V., Dept. of ND
2009 4th Street NE
Jamestown, ND 58401

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 FARGO, ND 58103
 Permit No. 2113



Banking, the American State Way.

223 Main Street, Williston, ND 58801
(701) 774-4100 Member FDIC



VETERANS UPWARD BOUND
 Department of Education Grant

The place to prepare for college.
Free class room or on-line courses

North Dakota State University 701-231-9706
 University of North Dakota 701-777-6465
 Toll Free 1-800-570-5719

† CATHOLIC HEALTH
 INITIATIVES

Mercy Hospital

570 Chautauqua Boulevard
 Valley City, ND 58702
 701-845-6400



Beautiful Setting
 Located at
 King's Walk Golf Course

Serving Lunch, Dinner
 Sunday Brunch (9am-2pm)
701-203-1506

Three Dollars Off
 the Purchase of
2 Lunches or 2 Dinners

Not valid with any other coupons or discounts.
 Not valid toward banquets or specials.
 Valid Monday-Saturday only.
 Excludes Holidays. Expires 11-30-13

5301 Columbia Road • Grand Forks, ND



Jake Liudahl
 Owner/President

11-East Broadway Suite 101
 Williston, ND 58801
 www.balouniform.com

1-800-544-1270
 Cell: 701-570-0798
 Fax: 701-572-4824
 jake@balouniform.com

**AMERICAN LEGION
 POST #37**

**115 1st Avenue East
 Williston, ND**

MIKE BARELA
 COMMANDER

WALTER DARR
 ADJUTANT

Edgar A. Fisher
Post #60
American Legion
Valley City
North Dakota

*"Where Veterans
 &
 Friends Meet"*

322 E. Main

Tel. 845-1662