



Disabled American Veterans

Department of North Dakota

Tri-Annual News Bulletin



DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

2009 4th STREET NE - JAMESTOWN, ND 58401

APRIL 2017

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT



Joe Hall
Department Commander DAV

As every Commander has said before me, wow I can't believe that my year is almost over. May 1st, 2016 I was sworn in and by April 30th, 2017 I will be another Past State Commander. Thank you all for your trust and support over this last year, I truly appreciate the opportunity I have had this past year.

I enjoyed coming around to each Chapter and getting to see firsthand what is going on at the Chapters across the state. I took some of these trips with our State Auxiliary Commander, Joyce Stuber, which was an absolute joy.

Thanks to her for our discussions and sharing of ideas. We found that we are all dealing with very similar issues. 1. How do we effectively grow our membership? 2. How do we increase participation within our Chapters and Auxiliary? Have I found the special formula? No. What I have found is that many of you have great ideas to actively inform and engage your Comrades. We all need to ensure we share those ideas.

We have Chapters active on social media; Chapters keeping their local news informed of anything they are up too; and most important sharing news with Comrades through multiple ways like newsletters, emails and the first two ways I mentioned. Chapters are also coming up with creative incentives to get better participation at monthly meetings. Communication is key to the

successes we have and by sharing them that success will spread. Please call, email or write chapters for ideas if you want all contact information can be found here at this link:

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/nd/default.aspx>

During this last year, besides the incredible trips across ND; I was fortunate enough to attend the 2016 DAV National Mid-Winter Conference in Washington D.C. While there you learn so much more about the many DAV programs along with the privilege of engaging our State Senators and Congressman on the DAV's Legislative agenda. I was fortunate to attend 2016 and 2017, please go to this link to learn more.

<https://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2017/veterans-gather-capitol-hill-urge-congress-keep-promise-new-va-secretary-addresses-way-forward/>

I was also honored to go to the 2016 DAV National Convention in Atlanta, GA. Regardless of the event I network with other states and find everyone deals with similar issues, but together and with communication we will all succeed. That is why Nationally the DAV is growing, in our State we have again attained our membership goals and most importantly we see growth at the Chapter levels. Please continue to engage your communities and build relationships that will continue to grow your local Chapters and most importantly help the veterans and their family members within those communities.

Thank You again for this opportunity to serve as ND Department Commander. Thank you to all of the line officers, Dept. Adjutant Warren Tobin and my Chief of Staff Rod Olin for guidance and friendship.

Most importantly, thank you to my family! Without your love and support I never would have made it through the year.



DAVA DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT



Joyce Stuber
Department Commander DAVA

Thank you for your service. As I complete my term as your Department DAVA Commander, I especially want to thank you for all that you do for the DAV. As we march forward together, let us continue to support our disabled veterans and their families.

I have had a great year as your commander and enjoyed meeting you as the year progressed. I look forward to

meeting you at the Department Convention.

Have you thought about attending a national convention? It is a great opportunity to meet the leadership of the DAV and DAVA.

Here is the lodging information: 2017 DAV/DAV Auxiliary National Convention ~ New Orleans, Louisiana Hilton New Orleans, Riverside Hotel Two Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130—504.561.0500 \$130 Single/Double. Dates are July 27 through August 1.

DAV Auxiliary
Making a Difference



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DAV DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

April 28-30, 2017
Barmont Inn
Mandan, ND

DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 29-August 1, 2017
Hilton New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

**Don't take
America's Freedom
for granted,
our Veterans
Fought for it!**



MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically;
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government;
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level Departments and local Chapters; and
- Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2015-2016

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3 Year - Jim Groven
1 Year - Mark Landis
2 Year - Roy Fillion

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DEPARTMENT HSC

Matt Herrud

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

VETERANS COORD. COUNCIL

Commander: Joe Hall
Adjutant: Warren Tobin
Member at Large: Dave Vareberg

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Marlys Morgenstern
Jim Haukedahl
Roy Fillion

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2016-2017

DEPT. COMMANDER

Joyce Stuber

SR. VICE COMMANDER

Bernadine Burke

1st JR. VICE COMMANDER

Sue Geising

2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER

Mary Restad

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Laurel Evans

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Judy Steinhouse

TREASURER

Judy Steinhouse

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSP. GENERAL

Sandy Dobmeier

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DAV COLA Bill Introduced In House of Representatives

On March 2, 2017, the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Disability and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, Congressman Mike Bost (IL) and Ranking Member Elizabeth Esty (CT) introduced H.R. 1329, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017.

This bill, if enacted, would provide an increase, effective December 1, 2017, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

Disabled veterans' disability compensation has not kept pace with the rest of the economy; even in years when there were COLA payments, disability benefits lagged. Many disabled veterans and their survivors are on fixed incomes and rely on COLAs to keep pace with their current living expenses. In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 013, DAV strongly supports H.R. 1329.

Please use the prepared electronic letter or draft your own to urge your member in the House to cosponsor H.R. 1329.

As always, we appreciate your support for DAV and your grassroots participation in the Commander's Action Network. Your advocacy helps make DAV a highly influential and persuasive organization in Washington.

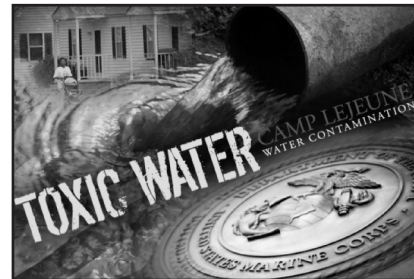
Thank you for all you do for America's veterans and their families.

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/ESnls3iy1SrhfGko6ITw>

VA Rule Establishes Connection for Diseases Associated with Water Supply at Camp Lejeune

VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. are effective as of today.



"Establishing these presumptions is a demonstration of our commitment to care for those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David J. Shulkin. "The Camp Lejeune presumptions will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned."

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

This presumption complements the health care already provided for 15 illnesses or conditions as part of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. The Camp Lejeune Act requires VA to provide health care to Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune, and to reimburse family members, or pay providers, for medical expenses for those who resided there for not fewer than 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987.

Andy Nomland Chapter 2 Presents Donation



Andy Nomland Chapter 2 Grand Forks, ND recently presented a check for \$500 to the Air Force 1st Sergeants Association during a regular chapter meeting. The AFSA over the past decades has built a reputation as a stalwart advocate for Air Force enlisted members, past and present, and their families. Pictured Left to Right: Msgt Byron Ball, Msgt Robyn Kaufhold, Scott Ross, Chapter 2 Chaplain, Bill Boner, Chapter 2 Commander and Msgt Ronald Brooks.