

DAV Midwinter Legislative Forum

The Department of North Dakota recently participated in the DAV Midwinter Legislative Forum held in Washington DC in late February.

Committee Members were Adjutant Warren Tobin, Department Commander Joe Hall, National Judge Advocate Mike Dobmeier and Past Department Commander Joseph Litzinger. They traveled to Washington, DC to meet with our representatives in Congress. The group had successful meetings with Representative Cramer, Senator Hoeven, and Senator Heitkamp. As part of the week's activities, the members also supported our National Commander, Dave Riley, as he provided testimony to a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

In addition to our legislative visits, committee members attended forums and seminars which provided additional information to help make our department even more successful.



Veteran Jack O'Donnell to Receive American Red Cross Hero Award



Fargo VA volunteer and WWII Veteran, Jack O'Donnell, has been nominated to receive the American Red Cross Hero Award! Mr. O'Donnell will receive his official award June 8 at the American Red Cross Annual meeting. Mr. O'Donnell has been volunteering at the Fargo VA for over 10 years and has donated over 2,400 hours of his time to the service of Veterans.

Congratulations, Jack! We are honored to know you!!

The award was presented by Keith Huff of the American Red Cross and members of the Disabled American Veterans of which Mr. O'Donnell is a member.

DAV and DAVA Department Convention

Our annual DAV and DAVA Department Convention will be held from April 28-30 at Mandan, ND.

Lodging information is as follows: the guest room rate

for the Department convention at the Baymont Hotel in Mandan will be \$99 per night plus tax. A block of rooms has been reserved for April 28-30, 2017. The rooms will be released on April 13th, so

please make reservations prior to that date.

The Baymont was formerly the Seven Seas. For room reservations, please call (701) 663-7401.

Registration is \$40 for the convention. Registration begins Friday afternoon, the first business Session is at 8:30 Saturday morning. All delegates are invited to the pre-convention Department Executive Committee Meeting at 5:00 Friday.



VA Fixes Veterans Crisis Line

WASHINGTON — In response to the recently released VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) report that reviewed processes from June 6 through Dec. 15, 2016, of the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released the following statement: "The Department of Veterans Affairs is proud to announce that the challenges with the

Veterans Crisis Line have been resolved. Prior to the opening of our new Atlanta call center, our call rollover rate often exceeded 30 percent. Our current call rollover rate is less than 1 percent, with over 99 percent of all calls being answered by the VCL."

"Suicide prevention is one of our highest priorities," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin. "Fixing the Veterans Crisis Line was a critical step in keeping our commitment to Veterans."

To reach a VA professional, who is specially trained to attend to emotional crises for Veterans and service members:

- Dial the National Suicide Prevention Hotline number, 800-273-TALK (8255). Veterans should choose option 1 to reach a VCL responder;
- Text 838255 — AVCL responder will text back.
- Chat online at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>



DAV Chapter 2 Presents Check to the Wounded Warrior Guide Service

A check for \$500 was recently presented to the Wounded Warrior Guide Service by the DAV Chapter 2 Grand Forks, ND after an excellent presentation by David Morse. The guide service provides recreational activities for disabled veterans of the United States Armed Forces, these activities and related expenses are provided at not cost.

They were established in 2009 and began offering disabled US veterans the opportunity to join them on waterfowl hunts. They now offer year round adventures that include fishing both summer and winter, large and small game hunting, long range shooting, backpacking/camping, and more.

Pictured Left to Right: Bill Boner, DAV Chapter 2 Commander, James Groven, Chapter 2 Adjutant/Treasurer, Dave Morse, Wounded Warrior Guide Service and Steve Benson, 2nd Jr Vice Commander, DAV Department of ND.



US Bank Donates Check to Chapter 1

US Bank presented a check of \$1055 to ND DAV Francis J Beaton Chapter 1. "We know the donation to the local DAV will help and support veterans which makes the donation even more special."



Chrysler Liquidating Trust Commits \$750,000 to Support Homeless Veterans

Donation is Part of VA's Partnership Efforts Resulting in 220 Grants to Veterans and Families

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs is partnering with Chrysler Liquidating Trust to provide funds to support VA efforts to end Veteran homelessness. The partnership is part of the MyVA Strategic Partnership Initiative, which works with external Organizations to improve the delivery and access of care for Veterans.

Earlier this year, the Chrysler Liquidating Trust committed \$750,000 to support VA's effort to prevent homelessness in Detroit, Philadelphia and Los Angeles. Leveraging VA's existing partnership with the Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation, more than \$233,000 of these funds have been awarded to cover rent and utility deposits for Veterans. As of July 2016, approximately 220 grants were distributed to support Veterans and their families.

The Chrysler Liquidating Trust partnership grew out of discussions between Secretary McDonald and Bob Manzo, Trustee for the Trust on the importance of forging strategic partnerships and the ongoing work to end Veteran homelessness.

"It give me great pleasure to announce another VA partnership," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "VA's new strategic partnership with the Chrysler Liquidating Trust is a great example of ways VA is opening its doors to new kinds of partners to better serve Veterans. Just last summer President Obama announced a nearly 50% decline in Veteran homelessness. It's these kinds of collaborations that are helping us achieve result.

Caring for Veterans is a shared responsibility and opportunity."

"After speaking with Secretary Bob and hearing about VA's newly invigorated effort to work with external partners, I wanted to find a way to use these funds to support Veterans," said Trusts Manzo. "There's no reason VA has to take on issues like homelessness by itself. There are ways that all organizations can step up to the plate to support this important national issue."

The Chrysler Liquidating Trust was established as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). During its creation, it was pre-determined any surplus funds would be allocated to a national cause benefitting Americans. Trust officials chose to allocate those surplus funds to Veterans' issues.

Since the launch of the MyVA, the largest transformation in the history of VA, the Department has entered into new collaborations with dozens of external organizations to combat issues of homelessness, suicide and Veteran unemployment.

For more information about VA's Homeless Programs, visit www.va.gov/homeless. Information about MyVA transformation effort may be found at

www.va.gov/opa/publications/myva_transformation_update_2_2016.asp



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Tom Saddler
Past ND Department Commander

Thank you for helping fulfill DAV's promises to the men and women who served.

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