

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

DEPARTMENT of TEXAS, HEADQUARTERS

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/tx/default.aspx>

BULLETIN

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FEBUARY 2009

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

There is really never a slow time of the year for dedicated, active DAV'ers; these past six months certainly have been no exception, to say the least. But here we go again, sliding right smack into one of our busiest times of our year with Spring Meetings, and Department and National Conventions, and all functions in between.

Every meeting is important from Chapter, to District, to Department and National. It's a well known fact that the grass roots of our organization are at the chapter level. As I've said before, "this is where the blood, sweat and tears take place." In addition to your service and legislative programs, resolutions for the welfare of all veterans are generated here. It takes a whole lot of integrity and hard work to run a successful chapter business. **Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.**

At the District level, Commanders and Finance Chairmen are elected to serve on the Department Executive and Finance committees to help in the making of important Department business decisions. Many excellent ideas are shared at these meetings for the benefit of all chapters and members.

More valuable knowledge can be attained by attending the Department Convention and sitting in on the business and committee meetings, as well as the administrative and VAVS seminars. Your input at these conventions is important so we can better serve our comrades across Texas.

By attending the National Convention and all of their seminars and workshops, you can enhance your knowledge even more, making life at the chapter level a whole lot easier in service to all veterans. Your voice is important at all levels of the organization; your service is invaluable to all those with whom you come in touch. Thank you!

In addition to all of the dedicated members and leaders within our organization, numerous corporations and individuals have partnered with DAV in promoting our mission in service to veterans.

One of these fine individuals is Gary Sinise who was recently awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by President George W. Bush for his humanitarianism and selfless acts of patriotism in performing exemplary deeds of service for the nation.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake recently presented business leader and veterans' advocate Ross Perot a special award for embodying "the very spirit of America" in his selfless support of veterans and the military. Mr. Perot has been operating behind the scenes, quietly providing financial support for our defenders.

Whether you are in the limelight or operating behind the scenes, **you are the most important aspect of this great organization**; your ideas and thoughts, promoted through your voice, can make a very significant difference in "building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families. So I urge you to attend these functions and participate and make your voice heard for all those who served their country with pride, and now need our help in their lives.

Thank you for everything you do in promoting brighter lives for those less fortunate. I'm really looking forward to seeing ya'll again really soon.

Yours in comradeship,

Ed Meiser

Department Commander
edgar_meiser@msn.com

DAVA STATE COMMANDER

Hello Auxiliary

February...the month of love. As we all remember our special loved ones with Valentine Day on the 14th, let us also remember our hospitalized veterans this week. The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Day is a perfect time to visit your local VA Medical Center and pass out cards, roses, flags, SMILES, and THANKS to our veterans. Each time I visit with our veterans, I try to thank them for what they have done for our country. Some accept the thanks with a nod or a smile while others will thank you for remembering them.

Have you met quota for membership? Remember you have to give National Headquarters time to enter all your information before you receive credit for new members. This means that in order for you to receive credit for meeting quota for the Mae Holmes Award, it has to be entered into the membership system by National before April 1, not postmarked by April 1. If you do not make quota by April 1, don't quit trying. You still have time meet quota since the membership year ends June 30.

District Meeting/Conferences (for the Auxiliary) are starting in March. District Commanders need to keep the Units informed on all needed information. The Units need to be making plans to attend. Members who have attended District conferences in the past are in a good position to encourage members who have not attended. Let them know this is a time for learning, fun and fellowship. There are members who may be able to attend District that may not be able to attend the State or National Conventions. If someone isn't sure they will be able to attend but is interested in trying to go, please elect them and send their name in on the delegate or alternate list. This way, if they are able to go, they will be able to vote. After each of the conferences, ask those that attended to share their experiences with the Unit. This is how we learn and grow.

Please feel free to contact me or State Adjutant Patti Rapisand with Unit news, concerns, questions, etc. We are here to help you. Patti's email is:

pattidava@yahoo.com

Many thanks, and remember...

DARE To DREAM...

Mary Bergeron

State Auxiliary Commander

DAV MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS HAD THE FOLLOWING POPULATION SUMMARY AS OF, 2/12/2009:

Life Members	54,501
Total Members	69,826

This years GOAL for full paid life members is:	
Goal	55,293

As our National Membership Director, Anthony Baskerville, stated in our last Membership Bulletin (Nov. 30, 2008), "This may be a very challenging year as we struggle to meet our goals." Sadly enough, many Chapter members do not get to see or even hear the **communications** from **National** and **Department**, and thus are ignorant beyond the Chapter level as to what's happening in the D.A.V.

I highly encourage all Chapter leaders to help disseminate this information beyond your Membership Chairperson or Committee, and enlist the help of all your members to recruit new members for your Chapter. As Mr. Baskerville states, "**Recruit a Recruiter.**" I say, "Recruit as many Recruiters as you possibly can." And use the Membership Bulletin in reference as a recruiting tool.

As an added tool, which you may already have in use (and I applaud you) is the National Prospect Report which is available to you on the DAV Website. In order to access this information follow these steps:

#1 Go to:

[https://www.davmembers.org/Membership/Wayspring/ExternalHelpFrame.aspx?/Membership/\(a4pv0145btajv055jrk0ganu\)/Login.aspx](https://www.davmembers.org/Membership/Wayspring/ExternalHelpFrame.aspx?/Membership/(a4pv0145btajv055jrk0ganu)/Login.aspx)

#2 Log on using your log on I.D. and password

#3 On the left side of the screen put your cursor on "Request for Information" and click on "Reports"

#4 To the right of the top white "Report" box, click the down arrow

#5 Click on "Net Prospect Report" at the bottom of the list

#6 Under "Parameters", select TX as the state

#7 Click on "Generate"

This is a lengthy document but it is in order by zip code, therefore you will be able to print the pages that pertain to your area.

I hope you will be able to use it effectively during the remainder of this DAV fiscal year, and

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that it will produce favorable results for you and your Chapter and the DAV Organization. Please protect this report in accordance with D.A.V. National Bylaws Article 19, Section 19.2.

Respectfully yours in comradeship,

Teresa Johniken

Membership Chairman
tjohniken@yahoo.com

ADJUTANT'S COMMENTS

I know that it is difficult to keep up with all that is published these days, but in the Nov 30 Membership Bulletin there was information about the November Military Appreciation Monday. Yes, there were problems and those problems need to be reviewed and addressed by all chapters who are assigned to a Golden Corral for these events. I'll ask the Chapter Commanders to review that Bulletin and discuss it with the chapter during a regular meeting. Also, Dolly Mercer, Consumer Promotions & National Events Manager from G.C. Headquarters is planning to attend the Department Convention in June to address some of the problem areas and offer suggestions on how to make 2009 go more smoothly.

How soon is too soon to make plans? Of course we will be sending out "Call to Convention" letters for the Department Convention but some early "heads up" information never hurts. The Department Convention will be at the DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 Interstate Highway-35 North, Austin TX. Joint opening session (when the auxiliary and chapters are both present) starts on Friday the 19th of June. Contracted room rates are \$85 plus tax. When calling for reservations, call the hotel at 512-454-3737 and tell them you are with the Disabled American Veterans attending their convention. That will get you the special room rate. Cutoff date to make reservations is May 26.

Report

FY Financial Position 12-31-09

Income Balances:		Expenses:		
		Line	Admin	Service
Note receivable	6,609.48			
CD	548,379.72	11	15,454.70	
Checking	21,898.08	12	12,473.81	
Savings	97,680.26	13	2,328.60	1,260.67
Investments	<u>913,426.46</u>	14		92,506.77
		19	7,422.18	36.51
		21	<u>1,255.30</u>	
Total	1, 581,384.52		38,934.59	93,803.95

Eldon Armstrong

Department Adjutant / Treasurer
davtx.adj@sbcglobal.net

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Commanders (National) Awards Bulletins are dated November 29, 2008. I have received calls from chapters who did not receive this mailing. I am putting these 3 documents on the Department web site:

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/tx/default.aspx>

Click on the NEWS tab to get them. A problem - The following rules outline the procedures to be followed in making nominations. All nominations **must be submitted with the complete information and necessary photos no later than February 27, 2009.** This normally comes to Department and is put in the hands of the Awards Committee who selects Department award winners and then forwards the documents to National. The cutoff date may be a problem. For the Department awards, the cutoff date is extended to March 31.

The majority of chapters will be electing their officers for 2009 within the upcoming months and it is important that those being put in office are willing to perform their duties. This requires understanding the National, Department, and Chapter bylaws and running the chapter in a professional manner. Anytime a chapter needs assistance in understanding the rules or doing the job as it should be done, Department is always willing and able to assist. All that is needed is to ask.

2009 DAV at the Ballpark Schedule

Coming soon but one major and one minor game in Texas has been scheduled. Dates are September 20, Rangers vs the Angles in Arlington and on August 14 the Airhogs (minor league) in Grand Prairie. More details as they become available. Local area chapters are encouraged to support this project.

A new Golden Corral in San Antonio at 1025 Military Road was scheduled to open the end of February. If you are in the area, stop by and support them. Be sure you let them know that you are with the DAV and will be looking forward to their Veterans Appreciation Day in November.

DISTRICT II

Comrades.

Here it is time for District meetings again and the District II is going to have theirs at the Holiday Inn Select in Richardson, which will be held the 3,4, & 5 of April 2009. The room rates will be \$79.00 (Dollars) a night same as last year.

For reservations call, 972-669-0508. Cut off date for reservations will be 22nd of March, 2009.

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The Hotel is located at 1655 North Central Expressway in Richardson, Tx.

For those of you wishing to be certified as a service officer it will be on Friday, April 3, 2009. Start time will be at 8 AM.

This is where the District meeting is going to be so don't let someone tell you any different.

All of you Chapters get you delegates and alternates ready to come and have some fun. With the country in the shape it is getting in, if it keeps going District Meetings maybe a thing of the past if we don't get some good people in office. So that is where you come in. We can get some one in the DAV who can help see that this does not take place.

We will have the registration start at 1PM Friday, April 3rd, 2009. **This is a no smoking facility by a new ordinance of the City of Richardson. You cannot smoke within 25ft of the outside doors. If caught smoking in the room there will be a stiff fine.**

This has been one terrible year having to switch hotels and gas price like it was. I have enjoyed doing this for Veterans and will continue to work with Veterans.

Hope to see you all at the District Meeting,

Yours in service,

Arlen "Jay" Butler

Commander, District II

tab@argontech.net

DISTRICT III

Hello to all of District III

With the New Year comes our new legislators, a new Congress, and a new President. With his swearing into to the highest office of our nation, we need to back him and go forward. Please remember to write your representatives in Washington DC. Now, more than ever, they need to hear from each of us; they need to know our opinions on ALL of the issues.

Let's not forget February 14, our "Sweethearts Day" and "Hospitalized Veteran's Week". Have your chapter and auxiliary make Valentines for those in the hospital and the domiciliary. Let them know that they are not forgotten. Show them the love we all have for them!

Things at Chapter 215 are going well with the new building and our thrift store. The Whitney Community has responded great since we moved

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into town. When you are in the area, please stop by to say "Hi". We are located at 105 N. Colorado in Whitney, TX.

Our District III Chaplin George Abston sends his prayers out to all veterans and military personnel. May God bless everyone. Please remember in your prayers Billy Wright, Chapter #219, Art Curtis, Chapter #173, Martin Basore, Chapter #4, and Jimmy Perkins, Chapter #173. They are experiencing health problems! We wish them well in their recovery. The district sends their condolences to Jack Barron, who recently lost his wife, Beverly, a past DAVA District III and State Commander.

As of this writing, there still is no word on the time and the place for our 2009 District III Meeting in the spring. Once I receive word, I will let everyone know, and our adjutant will send the "Call to the Meeting" to each chapter. Have a safe and warm month.

Yours in Comradeship,

Roger Garza

Commander, District III

tiredock@yahoo.com

DISTRICT IV

Hi Comrades

Just a few words to say I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and wishing all a Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Mid-Winter Convention this year in February in Washington D.C. I wish a safe and informative time. Please attend the training sessions and legislative update sessions since these will improve Chapter operations. It is important for Chapters to send delegates to the Conventions so that the individual Chapter needs can be presented and that the Chapters can benefit from other Chapters' experiences. Make sure to get appointments with your elected member of Congress and the Senate. Please be sure to go to Capital Hill on the given day to support the National Commander's Speech to the Joint Senate/ House Subcommittee .

Please remember that recruiting new members is a priority for all Chapters. A larger DAV has more "clout" with Congress – this enhances the Good of the Order. Also, New members will often be younger members. We need to get them involved in Chapter operations because an active membership improves the Chapter's effectiveness.

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The Good of the Order is always enhanced by strong and active Chapters.

Yours in Comradeship,

Teddy Richardson

Commander, District IV
teddy-123@sbcglobal.net

DISTRICT V

Greetings Comrades:

The District V planning board meetings for February, and March 2009 will be held on the following dates at Christ The King Lutheran Church 1129 Pat Booker Rd. Universal City, Texas.

7 March 2009 11:00am

14 March 2009 11:00am

21 March 2009 11:00am

Please make your room reservations early if you are planning to attend the District V meeting that will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, 37 NE Loop 410 San Antonio, Texas 78216 (210) 366-2424 or 1-800-535-1980. Guest room rates are \$109.00 Single or Double. Last day for room reservations at the above rate is March 6, 2009

Percy A. Spence III

Commander, District V
spencedav1@aol.com

BPT / LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Happy New Year. We hope that 2009 will be less stressful than the year we have finished. We have hope that the new Administration will take the needs of all Veterans, and especially those of Disabled Veterans, to heart and begin to turn around the Systemic Disintegration of our Claim System.

We have Mid-Winter coming at the end of February. I would urge all Chapters to consider sending at least 1 person so that All Congressional Staff will be aware of the needs of Disabled Veterans are fresh on their mind.

Some of the most recent improvements, in VA Benefits supported by your DAV Legislative Staff are:

1. If you have a Conventional Mortgage you can now Refinance using your VA Home Loan Guarantee Benefit.

2. Increased reimbursement for travel related to Compensation and Pension Exams and travel to

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medical appointments.

3. The President has signed a Bill creating Epilepsy Centers of Excellence. Since seizures are a common side effect of Traumatic Brain Injury these centers, which concentrate on diagnosis and treatment will be of significant benefit to our comrades from OEF/OIF.

4. Implementation of the new Post 9-11 GI Bill. This is creating changes in payments sufficiently different from the current GI bill to require retraining of VA Staff and changes in the computerized payment system.

5 Change in payment for Veteran's Month of Death Payments. Encourage the Widows of Service Connected Veterans to call 1-800/749-8387 to determine if a payment is due.

Please remember that the best assistance for your Disabled Comrades comes from other Disabled Veterans and the Department and National DAV.

Your DAV Legislative staff is contacting the Congress. Support their efforts. Let your Legislators hear your views and need. Speak out for the Good of the Order.

G. "Wolf" Biedenfeld

BPT/Legislative Chairman
Wolf.Biedenfeld@va.gov

VAVS REPORT

The DAV National Headquarters is seeking nominations for two annual awards to recognize and appreciate volunteers. The first is the 2009 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program. This program awards scholarships to outstanding youth volunteers who have participated in the VAVS Program the previous year. The other award is the 2009 George H. Seal Memorial Award which recognizes extraordinary DAV and DAV Auxiliary members who are enrolled as an accredited VAVS Volunteer. These awards offer a wonderful opportunity to recognize deserving and dedicated volunteers.

To obtain more information about the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program and eligibility requirements, please go to the DAV National Website at www.DAV.org and click on Volunteers. If you would like more information concerning the George H. Seal Memorial Awards, see your VAMC Voluntary Service Program Manager or to obtain a nomination form, call (859) 441-7300 ext

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3315. Nominations for these awards must be received at the DAV National Headquarters **no later than Friday, March 6, 2009.**

I am Jackie Bazile your Department VAVS Chair, you may contact me at home at (281) 489-1943, cell: 281-627-3070 or by email at jjace4u@aol.com for more information on the VAVS Program.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Bazile

Department VAVS Chairman
jjace4u@aol.com

Women Veteran's Representative

I recently read about a female veteran who kept on serving her country, in a civilian capacity, in Afghanistan. Paula Loyd, was a young 36 year old veteran, who had spent 4 years in the Army, then 4 more years in the reserves where she obtained the rank of staff sergeant. "Her goal had been to rebuild both lives and services within foreign countries" and she continued to pursue education to place herself within reach of that goal. On November 4, 2008, an Afghan civilian doused her with fuel and set fire to her. She died on January 7, 2009 at Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio from the burns. For giving the ultimate sacrifice, to keep freedom alive for us all, we honor this brave and dedicated female veteran. Paula is the latest of 22 women (including veterans and civilians) killed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Yours in service
Linda Smithee

Women's Veteran Department Appointee
linda.smithee@sbcglobal.net

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BEGINNING WHERE WE LEFT OFF

First, greetings to all, this New Year

Beginning where we left off, is important. Specifically what, for example, would have happened to the sheep and to the livelihood of some shepherds, if they had gone on as forerunners to some new movement? What would have happened to those wise men, had they not returned to their country by another way?

There is a time to lay down one's cares and duties, and run with excited spirits to Bethlehem and to the manger, to see this thing that came to pass. There is a time to flee for refuge from the troubles of the world and seek the safety of the

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mountaintop. There is also a time to return to the hillside, the scene of one's labors, to begin again where we left off.

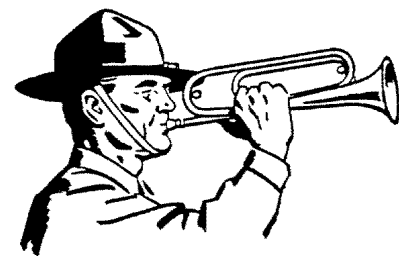
One institution, the church in its rhythm, knows this and for sure it is a lesson we might well learn, and there is no better time than the New Year to consider it. So then, the questions are (1) is the world any different because of the New Year? (2) Is the newness we seek going to make us better than we were? For truly, the expectation of the New Year is that somehow circumstances will be adapted to a new and happier way and that we too will be brought along. Of course the world has not changed; the duties we have put off await us. Even though we have experienced an encounter with the world of the impossible in the midst of the impossible, however we are called to begin where we left off and then we are to make a new beginning that is really a cause for joy, that the gospel, i.e. the good news of second chances and new opportunities to claim the love of the father, new opportunities to share and express, that love in the world, and what we can become in Christ.

In the Name of Him
Who sits as Judge Supreme
Rev., Dr. Curtis Michael
Department Chaplain
revmike1930@yahoo.com

PRAYER LIST

Prayers are needed for the following:

Jack Barron, past Dept Chief of Staff, eye surgery because of loss of eyesight.



TAPS

Department has been notified that the following comrades have been called into final formation above:

David Price, Ch 32 passed Christmas day.

Waldo Luedeker, Ch 139

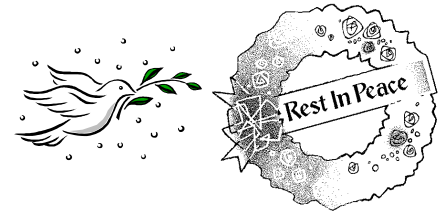
From Chapter 150: **David Gonzalez, Jr.**; **Frank Sierra, JR**

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From DAVA 10, **Ron Duncan; Margie Freetly; Harriette Beadle; Lone Kubby.**

Department and the membership extend deepest sympathies to the family members, friends, and comrades of these fallen heroes. May each one rest in honor.

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Please feel free to call, write, or e-mail the Adjutant's office if you have a loss in your family, Chapter, or Unit that should be included in this column.

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Department of Texas, Inc.
2305 Oak Lane. Suite 225
Grand Prairie, TX 75051-4896**

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To:



Left to right - Manager Alex Orabi, Richard Stewart, and Owner Alexander Kim
A grateful DAV coordinator thanks his Golden Corral restaurant for their participation
in Veterans Appreciation Day 2008