



Department of Texas Headquarters  
 1015 Lee Avenue, Lufkin, Texas 75901  
 Phone: (936)637-3281 Fax: (936)637-3283  
[www.davtexas.org](http://www.davtexas.org)

Volume 25 Issue 4 November/December Edition

# NEWS BULLETIN

Greetings Comrades,

Fall greetings to all! It's been a great journey this far as we move onward in the DAV mission of ensuring that our injured veterans lead high quality lives with respect and dignity.

**MAKE DAV A HABIT** – With our busy lives and so many distractions, it's easy to prioritize other things before putting DAV first. As November approaches, excitement is in the air. So many are preparing for Veterans Day activities and feeding patients at the VA hospitals for Thanksgiving.

I hope all of you can give your support to these activities, and I thank you in advance for your participation.

I would encourage each member that plans to volunteer or carry his or her family to dinner, at the Golden Corral on Veteran's day, to carry membership applications with them. These applications can be obtained from your Chapter membership Chairman. Insure veterans you approach know that the event is organized and supported by Golden Corral and the Disabled American Veterans. Inform them of the benefits of a DAV membership.

I have a concern that personalities are hindering progress within our ranks, this matter is being addressed and hopefully resolved when this article is read.

I would like to draw an analogy from this, and that is our chapters can find themselves in a similar conundrum at any time. A lack of cohesion can stall progress, and meetings can get bogged down in rules and regulations. Matters of this kind leads to less and less participation by the members. Membership stagnates when prospective new members attend a chapter meeting with dysfunctional characteristics such as I've described and decide not to participate.

We are a strong and vibrant organization that many of you have poured your time and talents into and there's a sense of ownership. But there comes a time when we need to loosen up, focus on our mission and have fun working at achieving it. One wise sage that I look up to constantly reminds me that **"we're all volunteers"** I cannot over emphasize how important this is for the future of the chapters and department.

Please know that every member, Chapter and District in the Department of Texas is a valuable asset, is appreciated and held in high esteem.

I want to thank Department Senior Vice Commander Charles Edwards who accompanied me to the **DAV/Recruit Military All Veterans Opportunity Expo on 15 September 2015 at the Ervin Center in Austin, Texas sponsored by DAV National Headquarters.** It was indeed gratifying to speak with veterans who were excited about job possibilities, and job offers, that some had received from agents representing several employers at the Fair.

**REMEMBER:** Time is our most valuable asset, yet we tend to waste it, kill it, and spend it rather than invest it!

## Calendar

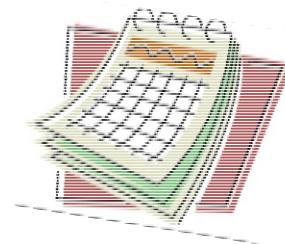
### NOVEMBER

11th— Veteran's Day  
 &  
 Military Appreciation Night  
 at Golden Corral from  
 5pm-9pm.

26th— Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

25th— Christmas Day



*Yours in Comradeship,*  
**Jay Johnson, DAV Commander**

Greetings,

The leaves on the trees are starting to change colors and that means Veterans Day is around the corner. We are again given an extraordinary opportunity to honor our veterans. Let's open our hearts and think of the different ways we can pay tribute to our veterans. Some opportunities only require time and understanding. For example we can:

- Say Thank You, ("For many veterans, the most powerful thanks you can give is to simply understand why they served and what this nation is really all about.");
- Visit a retirement or convalescent home;
- Invite a veteran and when appropriate their family to dinner on or before Veterans Day;
- Write a letter or send a note of thanks;
- Recognize veterans in church on Sunday before or after Veterans Day;
- Dedicate a patriotic song in a veteran's honor on the radio; and/or,
- If appropriate, invite a veteran to speak at a school where you teach.

Of course there are so many activities that we can do so join in as we make this a special time of honor, remembering that the best way to honor our veterans is to love our country and work to make it a better place for all. In addition, please make sure Junior Members are given the opportunity to plan and participate in activities that honor our veterans during this special time.



### **Reports and Announcements**

Fall conference in Louisville was just like being at home amongst family members. We gained new knowledge, enjoyed meeting new people and had an all-around fun time.

I hope to see everyone in January for our State School of instructions (Mid-Winter Seminar). You will be able to among other things, learn about the changes in the Constitution and By-Laws. Mark your calendar and join us, January 22-24, 2016 at the Double Tree in Austin for new educational experiences, making new friends, sharing ideas and an enjoyable two days.

Remember, recruitment of senior and junior members must be a continuous process if we are to accomplish our goals.

Congratulations and a Big Texas Welcome to Auxiliary Unit Paris 89, our newest unit!

"COMMITTED ALL THE WAY" – Serving our Veterans and their families

**"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."**

~ Hamilton Wright Mabie

**Happy Holidays From My Family To Yours!**

Darlene Spence  
DAVA Commander

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is an organization of veterans helping veterans. We receive no government funding, however, we look out for our members 100% of the time because we have been in their shoes. We are proud of our history-90 plus years of helping our country's veterans. We are proud of our record of fighting for veterans' rights and proud of working alongside so many other non-profit and advocacy organizations to make sure that we continue to fulfill our promises to the men and women who have served our great country as military veterans.

However, we need more veterans to join our veteran service organization, so the first question might be, who is eligible? Any man or woman who served in the armed forces during a period of war or under conditions simulating war, and was wounded disabled to any degree, or left with long-term illness as a result of military service, and was discharged or retired from military service under honorable conditions.

A second question might be, what does DAV do for you? DAV helps returning veterans transition back to civilian life by linking them with services that address their physical, emotional, and financial needs. DAV provides free, professional assistance to veterans of all generations in obtaining VA and other government benefits earned through service. DAV fights for veterans' rights on Capitol Hill. DAV links veterans to job training and job assistance programs. DAV funds rehabilitation programs for veterans with severe disabilities, such as blindness or amputation.

Membership in the DAV organization includes access to a wide range of money-saving and life-enhancing benefits. A Member Benefits Package which includes a list of programs, products and services can be found at the National DAV website:

[\(http://www.dav.org/membership/membership-benefits/\)](http://www.dav.org/membership/membership-benefits/).

Also included with your membership is a free subscription to the DAV Magazine.

The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Texas membership goal for this year is 58,932. This is 1,730 more than last years' goal, presently we are at 96.16 % of reaching our goal for this year. Thanks to all of you for your commitment and support as we together move forward in reaching our membership goal. I must say over and over again, it's folks like all of you that makes the DAV such a great organization to be a member of, therefore, let all of us continue to invite others Disabled Veterans to be members of our Veterans Service Organization.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please do not hesitate to contact me at

(210) 274-5841 or e-mail: [cweddwards07@hotmail.com](mailto:cweddwards07@hotmail.com).

Holiday Greetings to all and God bless each of you.

Dr. Charles Edwards  
DAV Sr. Vice Commander



After returning from the Fall Conference, I am pleased and excited to see all of the new information coming our way from National Headquarters. With the MEMBERSHIP program being expanded, it is easier to qualify for membership into the Auxiliary.

As the Veteran's Day activities are almost upon us, let us not forget to bring Auxiliary Application forms with us as we attend these Veteran programs. This is a perfect time to reach out and invite people to come join our wonderful organization. We will see many Veteran's and family members in attendance so let's not miss this

opportunity when it presents itself. Sometimes, a simple smile and a **"Thank you for your service"** might open up doors to someone who is in need of information regarding benefits available to them to help a Veteran find the help they need. Let us share a smile and appreciation for the sacrifices each Veteran has made for **GOD and Country**. The new members are out there standing at attention as we salute the Flag of Our Country. We just need to speak up and let them know **"WE, The Disabled American Veteran's Auxiliary support our Veteran's"**.

This would be a perfect time to set up a display and have Auxiliary members pass out flag etiquette brochures and flag stickers or small 4 X 5 flags to the attendees. This will also be a good chance to pass out "Forget-me-Not" flowers to remind Veteran's how proud we are for the things that have been done in our honor.

Our membership is rising but we still need to **Recruit, Recruit, Recruit** to make this **SECOND 100% Year in a row**. I know we can reach our goal if **EVERY AUXILIARY MEMBER would sign up "JUST ONE MORE MEMBER"**.

**As of October 1, 2015**, we are at 95.59% in our yearly quota. We still need 267 new members to make our 100% for the **SECOND YEAR IN A ROW!!!!**

We are **"Committed All The Way!"**

Anita M Cox,  
Sr. Vice Commander  
DAVA Membership Chairman

## **Come One Come All to the Annual Auxiliary School of Instruction:**

The annual State School of Instruction which will be January 22-24, 2016 at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin, TX. The State Aux Commander, Officers and the State School Instructor are working diligently to set up an informative training session with the most up to date information straight from Fall Conference in Louisville, KY.

**Please make plans to attend as we have some very important changes to discuss regarding fund raising and your Unit's finances.** Letters and reservation forms have gone out to all Unit adjutants to share with the Unit membership. The deadline to make your room reservation will be December 30, 2015. The room rate is \$119. We will have our luncheon on Saturday at 11:45 and the cost will be \$20 per person. There will be a reception on Friday night at 6 pm for all attendees. Our Auxiliary session will start on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.

**House Cleaning items:** Unit Adjutants-please make sure that after your installation of your new officers each year that you send a copy of the Officer's Report to the office of DAV Dept Adjutant Teresa Johniken so your

contact information remains updated in the online Dept Directory.

Unit Treasurer's-Please makes sure that you send a copy of your yearly financial report to the office of the DAV Dept Adjutant Teresa Johniken at DAV State Headquarters.

VAVS Christmas Fund- We continue to receive donations from the chapters and units for the Auxiliary State Department Annual Christmas fund for our hospitalized veterans. This is an ongoing project for the Auxiliary State Dept and we would love for each of you to participate. Thank you to all the Chapters and the Units that have already sent in donations.

Food for thought: Time passes by so quickly, we often leave important thoughts unspoken.

Ruth Gates  
DAVA Adjutant



Dear Comrades:

**HOLD ON! WAIT! DON'T TRASH ME!!**

I am sure that most of you continuously receive requests for donations to this or that organization, including from DAV National. Some of the time you may put them aside "for later." Please, take a moment and read through this letter before you set it aside. This is not a request for a donation.

Large corporations, such as Golden Corral Buffet and Grill Restaurants, support veteran's organizations. Ford Motor Company also supports the veteran's causes. Programs such as the Ford/DAV Van Program, which transports veterans to and from VA hospitals, may be in jeopardy for lack of matching funds coming from the sponsoring chapters.

Many individuals support the DAV. Let me quote what Jack E. Hearn of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, had to say in the *DAV Magazine*, "Loud and Clear" section of January/February 2004 issue. "I just mailed my small donation to the DAV, and I felt moved to tears for being lucky enough to be able to share the good fortune and safety that has been preserved and protected by the courage and dedication of our men and women who have served this great nation. I hope in the future I may be able to contribute more to the care and memory of our brave veterans. It's the least I can do

when I consider all they have given to me."

At some time each of you answered the call, "**I Need You,**" or "**I Want You,**" and you gave service to your country. Additionally, you took an oath to aid and assist any disabled comrade.

**NOW! AGAIN! WE NEED YOU!**

The DAV still needs your individual help. This letter is to remind each of you that there is much that you can do to support the DAV. You are not expected to match the support of Ford or Golden Corral. **You can be like Jack E. Hearn by simply bringing you membership dues up to date.** A share of your dues funnels down to the Chapter level.

Teresa Johniken  
DAV Adjutant/Treasurer





## VA ACCUSED OF DENYING BENEFITS TO SERVICEMEN SICKENED BY TOXINS

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs (SVAC), said at a hearing on Sep. 29 that the modern battlefield has all sorts of toxic substances perilous even for the veteran not engaged in combat.

Service members, and sometimes their families, contract maladies, especially cancer, that manifests after leaving service. Then they must face the Department of Veterans' Affairs, a bureaucracy that may be slow or unwilling to recognize the connection between the veteran's illness and his or her exposure to a toxic substance during service.

"While the impact is undeniable, establishing and qualifying a clear link between the [toxic] exposures and health effects has become an intolerably long and complex process," said Blumenthal.

The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs heard from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), the Institute of Medicine (IOM), several veterans groups, and three angry U.S. senators.

Emotions ran high at the hearing as advocates for veterans strongly disagreed with representatives of VA on the way veterans' claims are processed, and on the efficacy of two bills that the committee is considering—S.901 and S.681—which the veterans' organizations strongly support.

### PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION

VA's authority to grant medical care and disability compensation largely depends on statutes that establish "presumptions" of a service connection for diseases related to exposure to biological, chemical, or other toxic agents at a particular time and place, such as the Republic of Vietnam during Jan. 9, 1962, through May 7, 1975. The VA uses reports from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and other scientific information available to establish "presumption of service connection," but that may be difficult to do when exposure data is lacking. Next, VA proposes a regulation regarding the basis of the presumption connection and defines the eligibility criteria. Absent a presumption connection, the individual veteran will have a hard time getting compensation.

### AGENT ORANGE

During the Vietnam War, approximately 20 million gallons of Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals were sprayed to remove jungle foliage. These herbicides have been linked to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, various cancers, Type II diabetes, and Parkinson's disease, stated John Rowan, national president of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), in written testimony. Congress passed, and the President George H. W. Bush signed, the Agent Orange Act of 1991, which requires that VA provide presumptive coverage to Vietnam veterans with illnesses linked to Agent Orange.

But in March 2002, VA "changed the intent of Congress, halted coverage to an estimated 174,000 veterans, including those who served in the blue waters just off the Vietnam coast," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand.

The VA is only recognizing the exposure to Agent Orange presumption for those that stepped foot on enemy soil or entered "inland" waterways, but not offshore waters, according to written testimony of retired Cmdr. John Wells, who is executive director of Military-Veterans Advocacy (MVA). Sens. Blumenthal and Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) have introduced the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, S.901, which would establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of veterans' children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren affected by the veterans' exposure to toxic substances during service in the armed forces.

VA continues to oppose S. 901, said McLenachen, who said, "The epigenetic research that is called for is very new," and the VA does not have the expertise. Other federal departments and agencies are better able to support research on the multigenerational health effects of toxic exposures, testified Dr. Rajiv Jain, assistant deputy under-secretary for health for patient care services, veteran's health administration, at VA hearing on June 24, 2015. "VA would be better designated as a collaborator with these organizations," Jain said. McLenachen said that VA would support having the proposed research center housed in another agency.

I am disturbed that those tasked with the ultimate responsibility of taking care of our veterans would be so callous as to remove their benefits.

—Steve Daines, senator

**Howard T. Ray**  
Chairman of Legislation and Veterans Rights

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## LEGISLATIVE

### HOUSE BILLS THAT PASSED (7/2015)

**H.R. 251** — "To transfer the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Office of the Secretary, and for other purposes." – **ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL – PASSED 412 – 1**

**H.R. 2722** — "To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer." – **ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL – VOTE ORDERED**

**H.R. 1047** — "To authorize private nonprofit organizations to administer permanent housing rental assistance provided through the Continuum of Care Program under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and for other purposes." – **ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL – PASSED BY VOICE**

The Veteran Affairs has done a lot of work this year to make women's treatment more available, and to give us, women Veterans, easier access to care. Over the past two decades, VHA has rolled out numerous initiatives designed to improve access and quality of care for women Veterans. Along with clinical advances, VHA women's health research has accelerated, providing an evidence base that further sharpens the focus on women Veterans. In doing this they have now put together a Center for Women Veterans link at <http://www.va.gov/womenvet/> that outlines health Information, resources, benefits information, outreach, news, and events with just one click of the mouse. They have also created many source books, and links to show their latest work and the findings they are using to make the VA system more women focused. On May 5th, Dr. Patty Hayes, who runs VA's national women's health program, joined a panel of OEF/OIF women Veterans to speak out about the VA, its many improvements, and how women Veterans can get connected with the VA health care services. You can view this video at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrcUV\\_ytIcl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrcUV_ytIcl)

Christy Sloane, NSO  
Women's Veteran Coordinator



Well, in the past month, Chapter 44 has lost four members. As some are aware, Clarence L. Lee passed away September 29, 2015. He was our Senior Vice Commander for the District (alternate Department Executive Committee member), and held numerous positions within the chapter: Senior Vice Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander, Master at Arms. He was a life member of the DAVA as well. Mel Pope, Ed Huckabee, Floyd Casey, and Basilio Perez also passed away. I hope everyone intends to vote in the coming November elections.

National Order of Trench Rats  
Mid-Winter Rendezvous January 18 - 20, 2016,  
1 Main St., Las Vegas, NV 89101,  
Phone: 702-386-2110 FAX: 702-386-2436

There will be a meeting of the National Order of Trench Rats (NOTR) Dugout 632 at the Department of Texas Convention in Austin, Texas, at the winter meeting (date /

time / room to be announced at the meeting).

We will induct new members and elect officers and delegates for the National Convention in Georgia. I will provide information on joining at the meeting.

If you have information that you would like published in this area, please send me a text, e-mail, call me ... just get in touch with me.

(713)302-3062 or [majrsimmonsjr@hotmail.com](mailto:majrsimmonsjr@hotmail.com)

Robert Simmons Jr.  
District I DEC

Welcome to the fall and cooler temperatures (at least sometimes). This is my second favorite time of year following closely behind spring. There are changing colors to see, we can go outside for extended periods of the day without getting heat stroked and they're a lot of events going on. Veteran's Day is on the way and I hope everyone is ready to enjoy some occasions celebrating that day. We have to be active in reminding people of the sacrifices made by our veterans and those being made by our active military comrades right now. We do this to show of patriotism keeping the ideals of America on the frontal lobe of Americans so they do not succumb to a feeling that the ways of the US are over. That there are still people who believe in this country. We also make these events to keep these sacrifices in the public memory ensuring that the rights and benefits we earned are not taken away leaving Veterans wondering if the country will continue to honor it's word to our Veterans.

Golden Corral is coming up as well. Another great opportunity to get our message out to the public. While it is a great opportunity to raise some much needed funds for our Chapter's, I like to think of it as a great way to meet the public and tell them who we are and what we do. A great membership opportunity as well if the event is approached in a manner of enthusiasm instead of something we have to do to stay afloat. If your Chapter is not partnered with a Golden Corral, go and support someone else's Chapter by stopping in and saying hello.

The point is not to miss any opportunities to meet and remind the public of our presence and our mission during any of these special events. Enjoy the fall and make a celebration out of these events. That's what they're for.

Marlin Howze  
District V, DEC

Fellow veterans, families and friends, DAV has had a busy year. It's my intent to make sure we get even busier.

Last year at this time, the talk around the campfire was that our weary nation was beginning to wind down from nearly 13 years in a nonstop battle rhythm.

But events occurring in the world in just the past few months remind us that the tactical situation on any battlefield is always in flux, always in motion, always fluid. Just the other day, the news reported that we had more than 4,000 American service members back in Iraq. There's also talk of extending our commitments in Afghanistan.

While there's no guessing what the political process will determine for our men and women in uniform, it reminds me of our legacy of service to veterans and their families. It's why we exist. We still have men and women deployed in harm's way, and many will come home with their lives changed forever.

But that's where we come in. That's where DAV is at its best. We've all been there before. DAV was there for us when many didn't know who to turn to. Now we owe it to those who brought us into the DAV family to ensure we're still reaching out to veterans of all eras today. That includes older generations who may not know about us, up to and including those currently serving.

Last year, several issues came to light that disappointed and angered a lot of veterans—as well they should. But access and funding remain the central issues, and DAV will continue to tell our elected leaders we expect them to fully fund the VA so our country's bravest receive the health care and benefits they absolutely have earned.

I have spoken with Secretary McDonald, and I truly believe he cares deeply for veterans and is fully committed to fixing the issues within the VA.

I look forward to working with you all this year. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your National Commander. I pledge to work tirelessly to ensure your voices are heard as we build upon our 95 years of service to the men and women who raised their hand, said "Send me," and went forward to conduct America's business when called.

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**Moses McIntosh**  
**DAV National Commander**

# Chaplain's Corner

Service to others has always been someplace in my thought processes. Today my thoughts have focused on unselfishness in service. If you were given the opportunity to define "unselfish service", what would your response be? Years ago my response would have included the need for long hours of planning projects, elaborate gift giving, reserving considerable amounts of time coupled with large outlays of cash to pull all the activities together. However, after much personal thought and putting it in prospective with my own needs, I came to the conclusion that unselfish service did not require such elaborate gestures. It could be a simple thank you, a random act of kindness, a loving glance or sincere gesture, loving smile or just listening. Sometimes listening may be the most important unselfish service act of all. Bringing joy to an otherwise sad day or breaking a short period of unhappiness may often times be done by sitting quietly and listening to the stories of a disabled veteran or their family members.

Holidays can be a time of despondency especially for our veterans; however by listening we may determine what we can do to provide support. In our hurried pace to get things done listening may present a challenge, if or when it does, (I know it does for me) remember this quote from Mark Twain "If we were meant to talk more than listen, we would have two mouths and one ear." Although opportunities to listen do not always present themselves, we can always pray. There is Someone who hears and listens to our prayers 24/7.

I wonder what difference we would make if each auxiliary member started a personal campaign and made the unselfish service act of just taking time to listen to our veterans and their family members a consistent part of being committed all the way?

No matter what unselfish services you choose to provide let us not forget Dot Richardson, Olympic softball gold medalist's request to a college graduating class. She requested that the class not squander the moments in their lives when they are given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

I request that if I can be of service and support please allow me to do so. You may request any services that I, as your State of Texas DAV Auxiliary Chaplain, can provide by contacting me by phone at (512)461-2924; by mail at 20605 Raptor Roost Rd., Pflugerville, TX 78660; or at e-mail address, fannielowe@aol.com.

My holiday prayer for you is:

May your holidays be filled with joy and thanksgiving and may you be a blessing to others as well as being blessed.

Fannie Lowe  
DAVA Chaplain

With Veterans Day coming up I encourage all our comrades to get involved with any Veterans Day program. Whether at your children's or grandchildren's school or church or community event, get involved. It is up to us to let folks know the sacrifices made by veterans. To encourage you, I would like to publish this letter written by a true American and one that appreciates veterans.

## AN OPEN LETTER OF THANKS TO VETERANS

By: Kyle-Anne Shiver

"Let me start by simply saying, "Thank you." To every man and woman who preserved my liberty this year, and for all of you who have ever proudly worn our Nation's uniform, I say, "Thank you!"

Today I read a book, which I bought from a bookstore a mile from my home. There are more books in that Barnes & Noble than once filled an entire library, and they represent the independent thought and ideas of thousands and thousands of people living free. For this weighty privilege, I say, "Thank you!"

Last Sunday, I attended mass with my family. We worshiped God in the exact manner of our own choosing. And I am sadly reminded that there are millions of other people still suffering dire religious persecution, even death, doled out by governments that do not respect this inalienable right. To all my American soldiers, past and present, I say, "Thank you!"

Our daughter went to college classes today. There she studies and argues with her professors. She is hammering out her own view of the world in safety, and with the dignity of a free woman in charge of her own destiny. To all of you veterans, wherever you are, she and I say, "Thank you!"

For the dozens of freedoms that we ordinary citizens have enjoyed every single day of our lives in America, we are grateful to you. We take it all for granted, you know, and only express our thanks one day a year. I'm ashamed of that, truly ashamed.

We hardly ever stop to even consider the sacrifices you have made and are making this very day in faraway places, with scant comfort, if any at all, and yet you don't complain. You just continue to serve and give and demonstrate genuine love for us every day. Day in and day out, in danger, in fatigue, in strange places all over the world. We are more indebted to you than we will ever even comprehend.

I am ashamed of my Countrymen who denounce you, who call you despicable names, who tell the world you are criminals. These scoundrels don't deserve the freedom for which you risk your lives. But the truth is that none of us deserves what you do.

And it is also true, that unless one has been in battle, one does not truly understand the depth of your





May our Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Ralph Marchesano  
DAV Chaplain

passion for liberty. To families that have borne no soldiers, you are an enigma. To cowards, you are a shaming presence, a constant reminder of their weakness. To your parents, you represent both the mountaintop of pride, and the deepest valley of concern that mothers and fathers can ever know. And to most of us ordinary citizens, you are the unseen, under-appreciated protectors of all that we hold dear.

I have lived in America all my life, for 56 years now, and every single night when I have laid my head upon my pillow, you were somewhere watching over my safety. For every single one of those nights of peaceful rest, I simply say, "Thank you!"

You serve and fight for the greatest Nation in the history of civilization. There has never been a grievous wrong that good Americans have not sought to rectify. There has never been a just cause on which America has turned her back for long. You, our soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and coast guard men have been and continue to be, the greatest force for freedom and human rights ever gathered. You have raised our flag around the world, not for domination, but to bring greater liberty and a better way of life. You are the reason America remains a beacon of hope to the entire world.

You seek neither glory nor riches, nor even fame. You are our best, our brightest, our bravest. Please always know that even when we don't show it, we love you. We appreciate you. We thank you. And we will never forget you or forsake you."

**.Kyle-Ann Shiver**

I can't begin to explain how this letter encourages me; yes there is still hope for this nation with folks like this. However let us not forget that we must do more and it's up to us to shed light on the sacrifices made by all those who gave of themselves for this nation. All gave some, some gave all. This is a truth we veterans know above all others, as it remains with us for a lifetime. On this Veterans day we must reflect on the service and sacrifice of all veterans and share that with our fellow Americans.

## **ANNUAL CONVENTION HOTEL REGISTRATION**

### **INFORMATION**

Group Name: 2016 DAV Annual Convention  
Group Code: DVC  
Check-in: June 7, 2016  
Check-out: June 13, 2016  
Hotel Name: Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Austin  
Hotel Address: 6505 N Interstate 35  
Austin, Texas 78752-4346  
Phone Number: 512-454-3737

To make reservations, go to the website listed below or click the link. \*\*

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/A/AUSLNDT-DVC-20160607/index.jhtml>



## HOUSTON AIR SHOW

Pictured from left to right:

Rex Lloyd, Chapter 195;  
 Dietrich Von Biedenfeld, DAVA Unit 9;  
 Carlos Lopez, Chapter 233;  
 Rudy Gaona, Chapter 194

### Department of Texas Links:

DAV Website

<http://www.davtexas.org/>

Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/davtexas>

Department HQ Members Portal

[http://www.davmembersportal.org/tx/Web\\_Pages/dava.aspx](http://www.davmembersportal.org/tx/Web_Pages/dava.aspx)

### National DAV Links:

National DAV Website

[Www.Dav.org](http://www.Dav.org)

Commander's Action Network

[www.dav.org/CAN](http://www.dav.org/CAN)

National Membership Benefits

<http://www.dav.org/membership/membership-benefits>

To Join DAV

<http://www.dav.org/membership/join-dav>

Auxiliary Link: [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org)

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



We have some exciting news for you

PNC Jim Sursely and Brian Meyer, a life member and amputee injured in Afghanistan, will be featured on The History Channel with Mike Wolfe, the Star and Host of

### AMERICAN PICKERS

The episode was filmed at the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. PNC Ron Hope was also featured on a separate episode of American Pickers with star Mike Wolfe. Check out the video segments at the links below:

<http://www.history.com/shows/american-pickers/videos/jim-and-brians-story>

<http://www.history.com/shows/american-pickers/videos/vietnam-veteran-pick-along>

Our *DAV Thank A Vet* initiative will be officially launched November 2 and you can make personalized thank you Videos for the veteran in your life.

Go to [www.DAV.org/thankavet](http://www.DAV.org/thankavet)

### DAV 5K Run To Honor

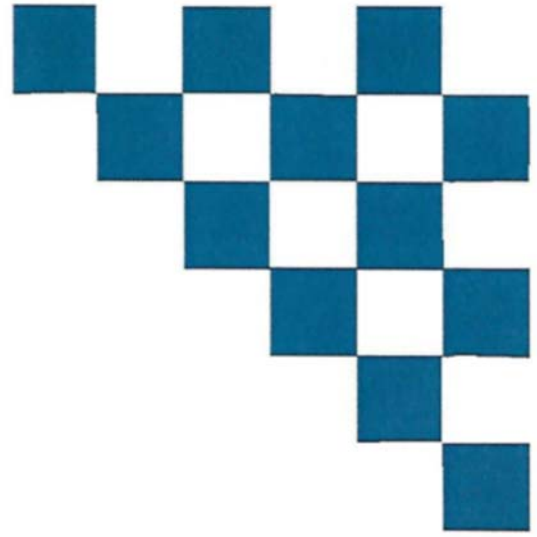
There are 3 events coming up

- Atlanta, November 14
- Cincinnati, November 7
- San Diego, November 7

### Keep the Promise

We will be launching a partnership with iHeart Radio to promote our Keep The Promise campaign in the weeks leading up to Veteran's Day. Nationally syndicated Personality and country music radio show host, Bobby Bones, will share information about DAV on all of iHeart's streaming county stations and on [BobbyBones.com](http://BobbyBones.com).

In addition, we are excited to announce a new partnership with Reba McIntire to help promote our Thank A Vet initiative and our Keep the Promise campaign. Reba will serve as our celebrity spokesperson to help encourage participation and will also leverage her 6.2 million Facebook Fans to promote it as well.



## **Golden Corral Military Appreciation Night**

November 11, 2015 - Veteran's Day  
5 pm - 9 pm

All veterans and active duty military members will receive a free "Thank You" dinner buffet and beverage on Military Appreciation Night.

**No identification is required.**

## **Mid Year Seminar**

January 22-24, 2016

AT THE DOUBLE TREE  
HILTON HOTEL IN  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

## **78th Annual State Convention**

June 9-12, 2016





Department of Texas Headquarters  
1015 Lee Ave  
Lufkin, TX 75901  
Phone (936) 637-3281  
Fax (936) 6373283  
[www.davtexas.org](http://www.davtexas.org)

