

NEWS BULLETIN



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DAV Dept. Commander, Dr. Charles Edwards
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COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Fulfilling Our Promises to The Men and Women Who Served

On behalf of thousands of veterans, we may never know personally, thousands of veterans we may never meet, I want to say **thank you** for your service to our country as we together celebrate Veterans Day, 2016. This Veterans Day, I am honored to participate with DAV Chapter 3 in Waco, Texas. This chapter is our oldest chapter in the Department of Texas where Mr. Oscar W. Lee is the commander.

As we continue to reflect on the month of November, we are thankful for you, all members of the DAV, Department of Texas and for your continued support of our Veteran Service Organization. Through your commitment to service, we can partner together to help many additional disabled veterans within the great state of Texas.

My appreciation to Mrs. Teresa Johniken, DAV Adjutant/Treasurer, and her husband Mr. Craig Johniken, DAVA National Senior Vice Commander, for hosting our Department Officers Training in Lufkin, Texas, September 11-13, 2016. My thanks also to Mr. Brad Adams, Administrative Assistant, for his work as it relates to our Department website, the DAV directory, and the updating of the DAV Constitution and By Laws booklet. During the months of September and October, I have had the privilege of visiting several U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and have seen first-hand the community involvement of our DAV chapters within their respective communities. Listed below are the chapters and individuals who made my visits very special and informative.

September 19-20, 2016, Amarillo, Texas – Visit to the Amarillo VA Health Care System

- ★ Mr. Ron Hearn, Commander, Chapter 26 – Amarillo, Texas
- ★ Mr. Earl Clift, Adjutant, Chapter 26 – Amarillo, Texas
- ★ Mrs. Tammy Hearn, Adjutant, Unit 26, DAVA – Amarillo, Texas
- ★ Mr. Ed Edwards, DAV Department Service Officer – Amarillo, Texas
- ★ Mr. Michael L. Kiefer, Director, Amarillo VA Health Care System
- ★ Ms. Carolyn Kingham, Program Manager, Voluntary Service – Amarillo VA Health Care System
- ★ Ms. Barbara Moore, Chief Community and Patient Relations Service – Amarillo VA Health Care System
- ★ Visit with patients and other staff members

September 20-21, 2016, Big Spring, Texas – Visit to West Texas VA Health Care System

- ★ Mr. Edgar H. Meiser, Past Department Commander, Big Spring, Texas
- ★ Mrs. Heidrun Meiser, Sr. Vice Commander, Unit 47 – DAVA – Big Spring, Texas
- ★ Mr. Michael S. Tarpley, Sr. Vice Commander, Chapter 47 – Big Spring, Texas
- ★ Clarence Hartsfield, Adjutant, Chapter 47 – Big Spring, Texas
- ★ Mrs. Anita Lee, Commander, Texas Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
- ★ Mr. Don Boling, Department Service Officer – Big Spring, Texas
- ★ Mr. Oscar W. Lee, Commander, Chapter 3 – Waco, Texas
- ★ Mrs. Geri D. Massey, Commander, Chapter 36 – Abilene, Texas
- ★ Ms. Kalautie JangDhar, Acting Directory – West Texas VA Health Care System
- ★ Mr. Manue M. Davila, Associate Director – West Texas VA Health Care System
- ★ Ms. Akisha Williams, Chief, Voluntary Service – West Texas VA Health Care System
- ★ Mr. Scott Jimenez, Staff Chaplain – West Texas VA Health Care system
- ★ Visit with patients and other staff members



September 22-23, 2016, El Paso, Texas – Visit to the El Paso VA Health Care System

- ★ Mr. Thomas S. Tarango, Commander, Chapter 10 – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Mr. Humberto M. Nevarez, Sr., Sr. Vice Commander, Chapter 10 – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Ms. Cindy Ross, Jr. Vice Commander, Chapter 10 – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Mr. Andrew Crowe, Commander, Chapter 165 – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Ms. Tabitha Chapman, Commander, Chapter 187 – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Mr. David Garcia, Sr. Vice Commander, Chapter 187 – El Paso, Texas

- ★ Mr. Jesse Kelly, 1st Jr. Vice Commander, Chapter 187 – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Mr. Marcus Duvall, 2nd Jr. Vice Commander, Chapter 187 – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Mr. Richard Flores, Chapter Service Officer, Chapter 187 – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Mr. Steven Welsch, Treasurer, Chapter 187 – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Ms. Veronica Pena, Department Service Officer – El Paso, Texas
- ★ Mr. Richard Cerros, District Representative in Congressman Beto O'Rourke Office
- ★ Mr. Dwayne A. Williams, Director, Emergence Health Network-Veterans One-Stop Center
- ★ Ms. Karen Clark, Customer Service – El Paso Veterans Health Care System
- ★ Ms. Paige Kahlbaugh, Voluntary Service Specialist – El Paso Veterans Health Care System
- ★ Mr. Robert Obongo, Chief, Police Service – El Paso Veterans Health Care System
- ★ Director's VSO's quarterly meeting – El Paso Veterans Health Care System
- ★ Visit with patients and other staff members



September 30, 2016, Houston, Texas – Visit to the VA Regional Office

- ★ Mr. Aaron Delaughter, NSO Supervisor – Houston, Texas
- ★ Ms. Romain Barnett, NSO – Houston, Texas
- ★ Ms. Christy Sloane, NSO – Houston, Texas

October 5, 2016, San Antonio, Texas – Visit to the Best Corporate Event

- ★ Mr. Daniel P. Jameson, Commander, Chapter 14 – San Antonio, Texas
- ★ Mr. David F. Sweeney, Adjutant, Chapter 14 – San Antonio, Texas
- ★ Mr. Federico Vasquez, Treasurer, Chapter 14 – San Antonio, Texas
- ★ Mr. Howard T. Ray, Sr. Vice Commander, Chapter 128 – San Antonio, Texas

Best Corporate Event, a high-tech team building project, sponsored a 'build a wheelchair' which is a corporate social responsibility program born out of a desire to help American veterans with various mobility challenges. It was good to be present and watch the assembling of wheelchairs by corporate

employees from across America and to thank them and to accept 21 wheelchairs donated to the DAV, our organization. Most of these chairs were given to the South Texas Veterans Health Care System.

October 13, 2016, Kerrville, Texas – Visit to the Kerrville VA Medical Center

- ★ Ms. Kimberly Hoge, Administrative Officer – Kerrville VA Medical Center
- ★ Ms. Mary Teri Garza, Administrative Secretary – Kerrville VA Medical Center
- ★ Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez, Manager, Voluntary Service – Kerrville VA Medical Center
- ★ Mr. Michael Bath, VAVS Representative – Kerrville VA Medical Center
- ★ Ms. Anita Lee, Commander, DAV Auxiliary State Department of Texas
- ★ Mr. Oscar W. Lee, Commander, Chapter 3 – Waco, Texas
- ★ Visit with patients and other staff members



October 14, 2016, San Antonio, Texas – Visit to South TX Veterans Health Care System

- ★ Mr. Vincent D. Emery, Commander, Chapter 5 – San Antonio, Texas
- ★ Mr. J.R. Garza, Past Commander, Chapter 5 & 14 – San Antonio, Texas
- ★ Mr. Al Owens, Past DAV Department Chaplain, Chapter 5 – San Antonio, Texas
- ★ Mrs. Pat Owens, Past DAVA Department Chaplain, Chapter 5 – San Antonio, Texas
- ★ Mr. Robert J. Klein, Sr. Vice Commander, Chapter 14 – San Antonio, Texas
- ★ Mrs. Anita Lee, Commander, Texas Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
- ★ Mr. Oscar W. Lee, Commander, Chapter 3 – Waco, Texas
- ★ Ms. Earlene Cole, Commander, Chapter 114 – Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
- ★ Mrs. Joyce G. Brown, Chief, Voluntary Service – South Texas Veterans Health Care System
- ★ Mr. Rodney Risemas, Voluntary Service Specialist – South Texas Veterans Health Care System
- ★ Visit with patients and other staff members



As this year concludes, let us consider these thoughts:

- ★ Blaming your past won't help change your future. Instead, invest that energy in ensuring that you have a future that doesn't involve looking back.
- ★ May the dream of your past be the reality of your future.
- ★ If you believe the doubts in your mind, you won't achieve the dreams in your heart.
- ★ If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way.
- ★ My job is not to judge. My job is not to figure out if someone deserves something. My job is to lift the fallen, to restore the broken, and to heal the hurting.

Please remember to add the dates of our upcoming 2017 DAV events to your calendar

- ★ DAV Department of Texas Mid-Year Seminar – January 13 -15, 2017 – Corpus Christi, Texas
- ★ DAV National Mid-Winter Conference – February 26 – March 1, 2017 – Arlington, Virginia
- ★ DAV Department of Texas Convention – June 9 – 11, 2017 – Austin, Texas
- ★ DAV & DAVA National Conventions – July 29 – August 1, 2017 – New Orleans, Louisiana

Again, I appreciate your membership in DAV. Your support will make us stronger, and a stronger DAV means a more effective DAV and benefits for you, your family, and all disabled veterans of our state and nation. I am honored to serve as your Commander and offer my best wishes for the Holiday Season and the New Year, 2017.

DAV Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdr., Robert Squyres

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WE DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP

We all know veterans, some that would work with or for veterans and many that would assist veterans and their families. We talk with them tell stories, some that belong to the same clubs, organizations, churches and even other veteran organizations, BUT, how many have we asked to join our organization?

How many people do we explain to about all the things the DAV does daily for veterans? And, they don't even have to be members!

The DAV has a mission:

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.

This mission is carried forward by:

- ★ 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 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.
- ★ Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.
- ★ We have one of the largest number of veterans this country has ever had, many veterans eligible to be a member and yet we continue to decline in membership.

Texas has almost two million veterans and we have less than 68,000 members. I know the old story, well the older vets don't want the younger vets, the younger vets say there is nothing for them and their families. BUT THERE IS! Other vets that need help, other vets that need help, other vets with families that need help, need service, need to talk to someone.

Maybe we all have been a little lazy, maybe we can come up with ideas, ideas we can share. Send me your ideas and we will share some in the next issue. Maybe your chapter can have a Saturday where you have free coffee and doughnuts for any veteran each month. Talk to your co-workers.

Talk to people you work with, go to church with, go to dinner with, old school friends. Tell people about the DAV and offer to pay \$25 to start their membership.

We will discuss goals at Mid-Year, and a 4-year membership plan.

The Mid-Year Seminar is January 13-15, 2017 at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel. We will have National Commander Dave Riley and National Adjutant Marc Burgess as guests.

Membership goal for 2016-2017 is 70,000 members, let get started. WE CAN DO IT!!

DAV Dept. 1st Jr. Vice Cmdr., Robert Delgado

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Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom.

- Gen George S. Patton

What an incredible past couple of months we have had. From our Convention to our Department officer training, to the upcoming DAV 5k in Tulsa, we have many events happening across our great nation. As most of you are aware Veterans Day is fast approaching and it is my desire to see all of you out and about in your respective communities making a difference. As members of DAV, we stand at the door ready for the opportunity and always ready to assist our fellow veterans.

Now a little history for our veterans. Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day and celebrated the Armistice with Germany on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. It was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

I am grateful for all veterans that have served our great nation and you should be too. Let us take the time to thank our fellow veterans on this 98th anniversary of Veterans Day.

As we prepare for military appreciation night with our partner Golden Corral please spread the word and raise awareness of this fantastic event. This is also a fantastic opportunity to recruit for our great organization and we should go above and beyond to inform veterans of our great organization.

I ask that you be safe and work hard because without you the DAV would not exist.

In closing, I want to thank all our NSO's, DSO's, TSO's and our CSO's for all your hard work. You play a vital role in the growth of our organization and I am very proud of the work you are conducting daily.

DAV DEC District I, John Gragowski

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Taylor County Chapter 36 has been very busy.

In August, Taylor County Chapter 36 was chosen as one of two nonprofits in our community to receive a wonderful gift. For three days Lowe's #0138 employees and their family members donated their time to make some major repairs and cosmetic improvements to the Chapter House. It was a very emotional time for the entire Chapter and The Lowe's Family.

In September, Chapter 36 participated in the West Texas Fair and Rodeo. It was an awesome ten-day event. It is always a great way to interact with veterans and active duty members and their families to file some claims, answer questions about benefits exchange stories. This was our third year and the chapter has been asked back for next year.

In October, Chapter 36 started the month off with the Homeless Veteran Stand Down. It was great to see all the area veteran organizations come together for this one day event.

The chapter had the great honor of participating in the Living History and the ribbon cutting ceremony for Buffalo Solider Heritage Trail which begins at Ft. Griffin State Historic Site. It was a great history lesson about these amazing men and women who served our country.

R.L. Ferguson Chapter 44 in Lubbock has been out serving veteran's daily through many different events.

First, the chapter offers rides to veterans Monday through Thursday from their home to the V.A. clinic in Lubbock. Drivers typically log about 100 to 300 miles per day as some of the places they go are far out there!

Second, Chapter 44 is in the middle of two fundraisers. They have begun the month long annual fund raiser at Golden Corral. This requires 6 people per day to sit and talk to people about the DAV and what we do. They also point a lot of veterans towards the VA clinic and our DAV representative there – Harry Carrol – who helps them with the paperwork maze that the VA has so generously set up for us. Thanks for a great job Harry, and thanks to all those who volunteer from Chapter 44. Additionally, the chapters is in the middle of raffling off a Henry .30 - .30 rifle. They have sold raffle

tickets at several different stores throughout the area. The volunteers have sat at two different Walmart's, the Tractor Supply Company location and the local feed store HFC. We want to thank these stores and all the many volunteers who sat these locations throughout the drive.

Third, the chapter has just finished the County Fair. For this they rent a booth there and spend a lot of time educating local veterans, their spouses and many civilians about the DAV and what we do as well as refer them to the DAV and Harry if they need to go. Thanks to everyone for pulling this one off but a special thanks to Ron Nance who went above and beyond to run this function. Feel free to contact me if you want any information of how we do things here in Lubbock and if you might want to make some suggestions for us those are also welcome.

DAV DEC District II, Tom Archer

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The heat of summer is over. It's been an exciting and busy summer in District II. Chapters around the area have been busy getting the word out that DAV is there to assist with claims, assisting with helping Veterans in need. Helping to achieve the goal of making disabled veterans lives better.

I'm appalled as to the number of veterans that endure life at levels that are below poverty levels and still do not know of benefits that they so rightly deserve. We must not waver, pressing on without stopping.

The holidays are fast approaching, bring with them an opportunity to meet veterans around the country, exchanging stories of how to cope with some issues that we all face. It is most important that we let the veterans that are coming home from war, that we are here to assist and help guide them through their transition to civilian life, not forgetting their personal problems. Hoping it improves our efforts to bring younger veterans into DAV. We must involve them into local chapters. Sometimes it requires older veterans to take special notice to teach these veterans how DAV operates, they want to learn and be involved.

Locally, in Paris, the Veterans Memorial continues to move forward toward completion. A memorial dedicated to veterans that gave their lives, that we may enjoy our freedom. If you get an opportunity to visit, it is a visit that you will not soon forget. At night, the memorial takes on a most humbling place, bringing back our thoughts of military times and buddies that are now but a memory.

DAV DEC District III, Ron Minter

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Another year is soon to pass and as we reflect on our achievements in 2016 it's easy to realize that there's more to be done. As Veteran's Day is fast approaching I encourage all of you to engage your local communities and DAV partners during this special holiday in which we recognize the service and sacrifice of our men and women who served. This is a time when all eyes are on us and a perfect opportunity to advance our cause. DAV and our Veteran's should resonate with everyone not just on Veteran's Day, but every day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share the success Chapter 3 experienced in partnering with the Waco VA Medical Center and co-hosting the 28th Annual PRRP Reunion on October 1, 2016. The event included a Veteran's car club show with over 50 cars on display. Local musicians and bands also donated their time and talent for this great event. Through our community engagement we received a variety of donations that allowed us to serve BBQ to nearly 300 Veteran's, their families and friends. Also on hand at the event were DAV National 1st Jr. Vice Commander and Department of Texas Inspector General Dennis Nixon and his wife Maxine. We had a total of 10 volunteers donating their time through DAV resulting in 52 hours being reported to our DAV National Voluntary Services Department under the LVAP program.

I look forward to seeing everyone in January at the Department Mid-Winter Seminar in Corpus Christi. Until then please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions, or ideas that you may have.

DAV Benefits Protection Team Leader, Howard Ray

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Veterans Legislation

1. [New COLA Stays Stagnant](#): Military retirees, veterans receiving VA compensation, and some 70 million Americans on Social Security will see a 0.3 percent cost-of-living increase at the end of the year. Veterans' benefits are not automatically tied to the Social Security increase, but Congress in July passed legislation to link them in 2017. The slight increase matches the 2016 raise and marks the third consecutive year COLA has been less than a half percentage point.

2. [Women Veterans Campaign](#): The Department of Veterans Affairs partnered with Lean In Women Veterans to launch the campaign "I Serve" in efforts to highlight women veterans who have answered the call to duty. The campaign aspires to promote the diversity of women veterans and celebrate the many accomplishments they have had in our military. To participate, female veterans are asked to record a 15-second video on their phones reading a specific script— "I am (name), and this is what a veteran looks like..." (Pause) "I serve/served!" To learn more about the campaign, visit: <https://likeawomanblog.wordpress.com/2016/10/13/womens-i-servedserve-campaign/>.
3. [Quarterly PTSD Research Report Released](#): The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder released their quarterly report on Tuesday. The publication focused on accelerated aging associated with PTSD that has been researched by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Boston University School of Medicine. This is believed to be mostly due to factors of stress and external environmental factors increased by PTSD that lead to poor physical health. Researchers also believe that mental health directly impacts the physiology of individuals just as much as their external environment.
Read full report : <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/newsletters/research-quarterly/V27N3.pdf>
4. [Delay in DOD New Electronic Health Care Record](#): This week, the Department of Defense announced it would modify its initial roll out of its new electronic health care record, Military Health System (MHS) GENESIS. Instead of piloting MHS GENESIS in four military installations before the end of the calendar year, DOD will begin the new health care record at Fairchild Air Force Base this calendar year and expand to other inpatient facilities in the Pacific Northwest by June 2017. DOD is still on track for full implementation by 2022. To learn more about MHS GENESIS, visit: <http://www.health.mil/News/Articles/2016/10/13/MHS-GENESIS-to-launch-in-February-2017>.
5. [Veterans Online Self-Help Resources](#): The Department of Veterans Affairs has created free, online and confidential training for service members and veterans to learn skills and tools to manage stress and to overcome life's challenges such as parenting, financial difficulties and adjustment issues. To learn more, visit: <http://www.veterantraining.va.gov/>.

DAV Chaplain, John Hicks
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I would like to thank you for electing me as your chaplain. I would ask and remind you that during these trying times that you remember after these elections are complete God is still on his throne.

| Psalms 47:8 - God reigns over the nations, God sits on his Holy throne. NASB

That since he reigns and is still on his throne, we as American's have rights.

You have the right to Vote and I highly encourage you to exercise that right.

You as fellow veterans have fought and others have died for these rights and rights for all Americans.

Before you vote, please examine each candidate and pray. After you decide and vote, encourage others to vote. As a nation, we can continue to move forward. That we continue to support our fellow veterans and fellow Americans as we defended the rights of Americans and please exercise your Right to Vote.

Whoever is elected you support the new President Elect until they are sworn in and Pray and Support them after they become President in Jan 2017.

As our Motto is Fulling Our Promises to the Men and Women Who Served.

That also includes defending and exercising our rights as Americans and Vote.

I look forward to the future through eyes of a servant and as fellow veteran. If you need to contact me by phone at (210) 380-8010; by mail at 8054 Coral Meadow, Converse, TX 78109; e-mail address, chaplain@davtexas.org

DAVA Commander, Anita Lee
anitaleedava@gmail.com



What an Exciting Time We Live In

I have just completed another VA Hospital visitation both in Kerrville and San Antonio. I am truly amazed how far our Veteran's Health Care has come in just a few years. Between the traumatic brain injuries (TBI), mental health issues (PTSD) of today and the transition facilities that I have visited in just this short time I have been your State Department Commander for this great state of Texas, I am humbled beyond belief. Our Veterans are receiving first rate care along with being able to adjust to living in the civilian world again after returning home from the war-torn areas of the world. It is so uplifting to see in action the work that our VA Hospitals do. It is a blessing to know that our service members receive such customized treatment for their disabilities and injuries received while keeping our country free. It is the most heartwarming feeling to see how our doctors reach out to help reconstruct lives and bring independence and quality of life to our returning soldiers.

As we enter the coming holiday season, let's take time out of our busy lives to reach out to these soldiers and their families. Visit the nearest VA Hospital or nursing home in your area. Sometimes it only takes a smile and a "Thank you for your service" to bring new life and hope to a needy one facing a long recovery.

Fall Conference is over and it is time to start looking forward to the Annual State School of Instruction January 13-15, 2017. It is not too soon to make your reservations at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel. By now, you should have already received the letter from Adjutant/Treasurer, Darlene Spence with all the hotel reservation information. This is the opportunity to learn the workings of the Auxiliary. There will be many many past, present and future officers all in one location to ask questions to and find out what it is that you don't understand about how to make your meetings go more expedient and smoother. This is the best opportunity to get the most up to date information. Bring your auxiliary members and meet new friends. Now is the opportunity to meet and visit with the new best friends.

Be sure to fill out the registration sheet and get it mailed by January 2, 2017 in order for us to have your personal identification cards ready for you. Also, send in your Luncheon reservation and payment by January 14. We look forward to seeing every one of you there.

We are "LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE THRU WINDOWS OF THE PAST". We need to look at our Veteran's today to be able to see how we can improve service to them in the future.

DAVA Senior Vice Commander, Charlene Parker

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Membership

Just what does that mean to most individuals? Webster defines membership as the state of belonging to or being a part of a group or an organization. But, we as members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, are not just a part. We are a whole - each and every one of us, united as one. We are one entity with one purpose in mind - to serve our veterans as best we can. Generally, when membership is discussed, numbers immediately come to mind. But, when I think of membership, I think of activity. We all should desire to grow our units; and recruiting members is how we grow. But, if we only grow in numbers and not in activity, we've accomplished nothing. Passive membership is not growth. Growth requires nourishment or food. I would like to challenge all of us to not only recruit members, but to feed our new members, guiding them and encouraging them, accepting new ideas as they come, and always putting our veterans first and foremost.

I would also like to encourage all members to get involved in the National "Membership Sprint Series". It is split into three separate drives: October-December, January-March and April-June. At the end of each sprint, every member who has signed up a new paid member will have their name put in a drawing to receive \$100. For more information from our National Membership Chairman, Ellen Timmerman, please read the DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News which can be viewed online at <http://www.davauxiliary.org/news/>.

DAVA Adjutant/Treasurer, Darlene Spence
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Check Out Our New Website at <http://aux.davtexas.org>

The State Department of Texas has a new Website! Please take some time to check our new edition at <http://aux.davtexas.org> or <http://auxiliary.davtexas.org>. I think you'll like what you see. Soon we will be able to post events, pictures and information about what Texas units are doing to help our veterans.

A big Texas size "thank you" to Brad Adams for developing the site. What an outstanding job he has done! If you see Brad, please let him know how much we appreciate him and the work he does to support the Auxiliary. However, if you are unable to thank him in person, please feel free to send him an email.

Don't miss the 2017 State School of Instruction where attendees will have the opportunity to gain knowledge of Auxiliary activities and programs. Let's make this a record attendance year! Safe travels and I look forward to seeing you there.

State School of Instruction January 13 – 15, 2017

Omni Corpus Christi Hotel 900 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Reservations: call (888) 444-6664 – reservations must be made no later than December 21, 2016.

Room Rates: \$106.00 Single and \$120.00 Double

The holidays are just around the corner, don't forget our Veterans and their families this Holiday Season and all year.

DAVA Chaplain, Fannie Lowe

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“Never underestimate your ability to make someone else’s life better even if you never know it.” - Greg Louganis

The end of 2016 is fast approaching. There have been times in my life when at this time of year, I would begin to think of what gifts I could give to others during the holidays. Sometimes I would be overcome with sadness thinking that I had nothing to give. That was the wrong thought process because we all have something to give to someone. When we think of giving to others it does not always mean material things or certain times of the year. What about giving of ourselves and our time during the whole year?

When your unit commander or committee chairman asks for volunteers do you raise your hand or sit by and observe as the same hands go up every time? Please remember that God has given each of us specific skill sets and special know how to complete certain tasks. He (God) wants us to willingly and gladly share whatever we can with others. Hebrews 13:16 says, “Don’t forget to do good things for others and to share what you have with them. These are the kind of sacrifices that please God.” When we share in the tasks at hand, we not only lighten the load for everyone who volunteers, we can receive the satisfaction of sharing our abilities, and serve as a compelling example for others who do not yet know the joy of responding to a call for help.

Let us pray that God will give us the desire to share our skills with others and grant us a willingness to step forward to help in whatever way we can. Our Veterans and their families need our support.

I wish you joy, peace, love and safety during the holidays and always. 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.



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