

NEWS BULLETIN



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 4 ★ JAN/FEB 2017 ★ CHARTERED BY ACT OF CONGRESS 1932

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

Fulfilling Our Promises to The Men and Women Who Served

What a wonderful opportunity on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Texas, to bring New Year's greetings to you and your family. As we begin 2017, may we all give thanks for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us as individuals and as an organization, however, we are reminded, we must keep in mind the many disabled veterans who are less fortunate. Indeed, there are far too many veterans struggling during these difficult times.

As we celebrate the beginning of a New Year and that of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served, yes, providing service to the disabled veterans of Texas, you as a member of our Veteran Service Organization (VSO) must continue your support and assistance. We understand that these are challenging times and we need the help of your chapter more than ever! Join me and the Department Line Officers, the National Service Officers, the Department Service Officers, the Chapter Service Officers in ensuring that the veterans of Texas receive the benefits that they fought for and deserve.

I was invited to attend the annual Waco, Texas Veteran's Day Parade by Past Department Commander, Mr. Tom Parker. The Waco parade is the largest Veteran's Day parade in the nation with over 150 entries and nearly 3,500 participants. Indeed, it was an honor to participate with the oldest DAV Chapter in the Department of Texas. Mr. Oscar W. Lee is Commander, and Mrs. Maxine Nixon is Unit Commander. Other DAV participants included Mr. Dennis Nixon, our National 1st Jr. Vice Commander, and Mrs. Anita Lee, Auxiliary Department Commander.

My thanks to the DAV chapters that invited me to your Christmas parties. I was only able to attend two outstanding parties, the Doug Herrle Chapter 61 in Seguin, Texas, where Mr. Leon Garcia is Commander and Ms. Terri Herrle is Unit Commander. The second party was at the SGT James W. Allen Chapter 219 in Austin, Texas, where Ms. Michelle Clark is Commander. Both parties were totally outstanding celebrations. It was good to visit with and meet some wonderful veterans and their family members.

Deadlines: Please place on your calendar the dates for upcoming deadlines, 2017:

Nominations due for George H. Seal and Jessie Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship, February 28, 2017

Nominations due for National Commander's Awards, February 28, 2017

Birthdays:

U.S. Army, Birthday June 14, 2017

U.S. Coast Guard Birthday, August 4, 2017

U.S. Air Force Birthday, September 18, 2017

U.S. Navy Birthday, October 13, 2017

U.S. Marine Corps Birthday, November 10, 2017

Reminder: Please place on your calendar the dates of our upcoming DAV events for 2017:

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 & DAVA Department of Texas Convention – June 9 – 11, 2017 – Austin, Texas

DAV & DAVA National Conventions – July 29 – August 1, 2017 – New Orleans, Louisiana

Commander's Medical Center Visitation Schedule for 2017:

VA Medical Center – Houston, Texas – Monday, January 23, 2017.....9:00 a.m.

VA Medical Center – Dallas, Texas – Thursday, February 16, 2017.....9:00 a.m.

VA Medical Center – Bonham, Texas – Friday, February 17, 2017.....9:00 a.m.

VA Medical Center – Waco, Texas – Thursday, March 9, 2017.....9:00 a.m.

VA Medical Center – Temple, Texas – Friday, March 19, 2017.....1:00 p.m.

If your chapter is located near one of our VA Medical Centers, please plan to attend. Contact me or our VAVA Chairman, Mr. Jose Garcia, and we will provide additional information regarding the medical center visitations.

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 looking forward to seeing many of my DAV brothers and sisters from each of our chapters at our Mid-Year Seminar in Corpus Christi – January 13-15, 2017. Mr. David Riley, DAV National Commander, will be with us as well as our National Adjutant, Mr. J. Marc Burgess. Come and meet our national leaders for they work tirelessly on behalf of all of us. Once again, I am honored to serve as your Commander and offer my best wishes for the New Year, 2017.

DAV Dept. Membership Chairman, Robert Squyres

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First, I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and hope each of you and your family have the greatest New Year ever!

We have reached the half way mark of the membership year and are 1,894 members short of our goal of 60,864. We must all look deep inside and determine if we want the DAV to continue to grow and remain a viable organization that will diligently work to help veterans and their families.

Our organization was founded to assist and help veterans. We cannot continue to do the work we have promised if we cannot continue to grow. The number of veterans has continued to grow and we must grow also.

With the number of veterans in Texas it hurts to realize we have less than 4% of our veteran population as members. We must, each and every one, actively, seek new members or we will fail to continue helping veterans as we should.

We all know a big part of the VA problems exist because they do not have the money, or the staff, to continue to fulfill what they have been charged to do. The DAV faces the same problem; however our problems can be helped with increasing membership. Let us all make a promise to sign a new member.

I challenge each member to invite a veteran to attend a chapter meeting. Let them meet the members, explain to them what the DAV is and ask them to join.

I challenge each chapter to sign up at least 1 post 911 veteran as a new member.

I challenge each chapter to sign up at least one woman veteran.

I hope each chapter will assign a mentor to each new member for at least one year. Have the mentor remind the new member of upcoming events, have them encourage each new member to get involved, to serve in committees, ask them for ways to get younger veterans and families to get involved.

Membership is not just something to talk about, it is what each and every member needs to participate in.

If anyone can think of things to get new members, to get awareness for the DAV, to continue to make the DAV a premier Veterans Service Organization, drop me a line, send me a txt, or email.

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

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To my fellow comrades what a year we have had and I am excited and can't wait for the new year to start. I am left to reflect on all that has happened within our great department over the last year and it is my desire to see all of our chapters continue to not only grow but increase in activity within your respective areas. During the Holidays it can be a tough time for many veterans. I encourage all of you to reach out to your fellow veterans and create new initiatives that would not only grow your chapters but build your relationships within your communities. We must keep the promise and ensure that we as members of this fine organization represent it to the best of our ability. I encourage all chapters to think outside the box when it comes to reaching our next generation of veterans. You have many resources to include your National Service Officers. NSO's are here to help and you can have your commander ask to set up an information seminar in your area. Information seminars are a great way to reach new potential members as well as filing claims onsite. It is imperative that we work together and all chapters should feel comfortable communicating to each other new and viable information. I have personally worked with chapters within my district to share information on recruiting and fundraising as well as chapter level training. Now is the time to make an impact on our great state, our counties, and cities. Veterans are an asset and should be recognized as such. You have served your country with honor and pride and I stand ready to ensure our success within this department. It is my hope that our chapters will set the bar higher this up coming year and set goals that will grow our public relations. I look forward to seeing many of you at this years Mid Winter Seminar in Corpus Christie.

DAV Dist. II Exec. Committee, Tom Archer

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In reflection on the year past, the department convention, the national convention, multiple conferences, visiting with several chapters in District II of Texas, installing officers, sharing ideas for the past year, and seeing many ideas become reality. Helping the membership in Texas grow and meet its goal and bringing a positive reflection on the DAV, which is always our utmost desire. Looking back is always good, but it only helps us to build on the future.

Moving forward is the desire of all of us, and we shall indeed achieve even greater accomplishments in the coming year. But to do so it takes the combined efforts of all my fellow comrades. None can accomplish this alone, so let's all select a direction that we are willing to take to contribute at our chapter level, which is the cornerstone to a strong and effective DAV. Keeping in mind our goals for DAV, which is always service.

One thing that comes to mind is the past holiday season, when each chapter stepped up to the task of remembering the veterans that have no home family to celebrate the holidays with. We prepared gifts for veterans and distributed them where ever we could find them, in assisted living is a prime example. Chapter 89 and its auxiliary distributed toiletries and under-garments to sixty-one veterans in Lamar county and additionally to the Bonham VA veterans.

To start the year of right, let's all meet in Corpus Christi to greet our Commander, David Riley, January 13th-15th.

DAV Dist. III Exec. Committee, Ron Minter

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By the time you read this Christmas and the New Year might have already passed. I trust everyone had a great holiday season and enjoyed their time with family and friends. Since our last bulletin we participated in the Golden Corral Veteran's Appreciation dinner at the Waco location. The event was successful and we were able to disseminate information about DAV programs and services to all in attendance. We also participated in the local Veteran's Day Parade. We had several guests that joined us on our parade float including Department Commander Charles Edwards and DAV National 1st Junior Vice Commander and Department of Texas Inspector/Judge Advocate Dennis Nixon.

As most of you are aware our Department Mid-Winter Seminar is fast-approaching. I encourage all of you who are able to attend this worthwhile event during which time valuable information will be

discussed and learning tools provided that you'll be able to take home with you and share with those from your Chapter that were unable to attend.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year and looking forward to a successful 2017.



DAV Chaplain, John Hicks

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I would like to thank you for your service to the Military and to the Nation.

Psalms 96: 3, 7 and 10 (NASB) God's Intention

3: Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

7: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

10: Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."

Isaiah 49: 6 (NASB)

6: Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Since our last letter, He still reigns, and He is still on his throne, we as American's have rights.

You had the right to Vote and I encouraged you to exercise that right.

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

Since all votes have been casts, we have the right and obligation to support President-Elect Donald Trump. As we bring in the New Year. Please continue to Pray for our leaders and for our fellow Americans that are in harm's way. We shall not forget the ones that did not return, or their family members. As Americans and I say that with a free heart, we have an obligation to support the families for our current Military members that are fulfilling their obligations to their Country as we did.

As the Lord is still on His throne, President's have come and gone. The Lord has not changed, as he was talking to the Israelites and he is talking to us, we should tell others of his wonderful deeds, how he is still on his throne. We as Americans and fellow Veterans have an obligation to remember what he has done for us and through us, as we start 2017 we should continue to share that the Lord is still there and he will remain. We should be diligent and share his Love that he has shown us with others and continue to Love them.

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 Pray for our Fellow Americans and Veterans alike.

President-elect Donald Trump is sworn in on Inauguration Day January 20, 2017, we should Pray and Support our new President and hold him accountable to continue to support our Veterans and Our Veteran Programs.

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

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, hicksje5@gmail.com.

You Texas DAV Chaplain John Hicks

DAVA Commander, Anita Lee

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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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Our membership continues to grow. Let's remember to always be looking for those who want to support our veterans. Let's continue to work toward making quota for all of our units. So looking forward to seeing everyone at the School of Instruction.

A few pictures following on the next page.

Christmas Get Together with Grand Prairie Unit 42



Christmas Get Together with Grand Prairie Unit 42



DAVA Adjutant/Treasurer, Darlene Spence

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Happy New Year 2017

May each of you be favored with good health, joy, love, peace and prosperity during the coming year and always!

“Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.” – Carl Bard

ANNOUNCEMENTS – INFORMATION – REMINDERS

On behalf of Commander Lee and State VAVS Chairperson Pat Owens, thanks to the Chapters and Units that participated in the Annual VAVS Christmas program for our hospitalized veterans. This year our combined donations of \$4755.00, allowed us to increase donation to nine different VA Medical Centers. Without the generosity of each of you, this support of our hospitalized veterans would not have been possible.

Attention Adjutants:

Once elections and installations have been completed, please remember to send a copy of your report listing the unit's officers to DAVA National Headquarters, DAV Department of Texas and

State DAVA Headquarters. Additionally, a copy of financial reports must also be forwarded. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that the reports are completed and received by each of the Headquarters in a timely manner.

Thank you for all your hard work. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Remember our State School of Instruction is January 13-15, 2017 at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas. Hope to see you there!

DAVA Chaplain, Fannie Lowe

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Greetings All,

For several days now I have been in thought about what words of support I could say to you going into the New Year. Sometimes we are exhausted at the end of the holidays because of all the preparation, the gatherings and the associated excitement. Therefore, at the beginning of the new year we may want to make resolutions that will change how we did things the year before. My words to you are these.

Please learn from my experience, New Year's Resolutions do not work unless we become new from the inside out! With this in mind, we must ask God to bless us with,

A new attitude toward life and the ability to live in His newness;

A new focus on the Word and the knowledge and strength to be gained from it;

A new passion for seeking unity by learning ways to work through disagreements with love and understanding thereby developing strong lasting friendships;

A new mission based upon love in action, standing firm in our beliefs and using our gifts and talents to be of service to our veterans, their families and all others that cross our paths; and,

The ability to begin each new day facing the world with, "combat boots and cookies."

"Don't change yourselves to be like the people of this world, but let God change you inside with a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to understand and accept what God wants for you. You will be able to know what is good and pleasing to Him and what is perfect."

Romans 12:2 (ERV)

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

