



# NEWS BULLETIN

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**Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Jr., Commander - DAV**

[commander@davtexas.org](mailto:commander@davtexas.org)



## COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

### FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

I would like to offer my appreciation to all who attended our Mid-Year Seminar, January 13-15, 2017, in Corpus Christi, Texas. This seminar was well attended with participation from our DAV National Commander, Mr. David W. Riley, and our DAV National Adjutant, Mr. J. Marc Burgess. We were inspired and enlightened as a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) by many outstanding presentations from our Department Committee Chairpersons and our Department Service Commission. There were two major seminars presented by Mrs. Teresa Johniken, Department Adjutant/Treasurer, and Mr. Dennis Nixon, Department Inspector/Judge Advocate. The seminars were centered around officer reports, annual finance reports, tax form 990, the three times rule, fundraising, convention committee appointments and committee resolutions. Life doesn't allow us to go back and fix mistakes made in the past, but it does allow for us to live each new day better than our last. The 2017 Mid-Year Seminar has equipped all of us as members of the DAV, to live each new day better than our last.

On Tuesday, January 3, 2017, I had the opportunity to visit our Houston Regional Office where Mr. Aaron Delaughter is the supervisor. I was very impressed with his organizational skills and contributions to the Houston veterans community. On Monday, January 23, 2017, our DAV delegation visited the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. My thanks to Mrs. Barbra Bell, Chief, Voluntary Service, for her assistance in setting up the agenda for this meeting. She gave those attending a short briefing regarding DAV volunteer hours and donation opportunities. She led us on a tour of the newly remodeled women's clinic and introduced us to the Medical Center director, Mr. Frank Vazquez before his presentation and the questions-answers session. We had two members from the Pasadena Memorial Chapter #194 attending: Mr. William R. Bezdek, Commander and Mr. Israel Cortez, Jr., Senior Vice Commander. Our Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAVA) Department Commander, Mrs. Anita Lee, and her husband, Mr. Oscar W. Lee, were present for this visit. Department Senior Vice Commander, Mr. Robert Squyres as well as our VAVS Chairman, Mr. Jose Garcia, and my brother, Mr. Vince Foley also accompanied me on this outstanding visit to the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.

On Thursday, February 16, 2017, I had the privilege of visiting the VA North Texas Health Care System (NTHCS) in Dallas, Texas where Mrs. Bobbie K. Scoggins serves as Chief, Voluntary Service.

Mrs. Scoggins and her staff shared with us the outstanding work of DAV volunteers at their medical center. DAVA volunteers present for our visit were past DAV Department Commander, Mr. Ken Hackney, past DAVA Department Commander, Mrs. Belinda Hackney, past DAVA Department Commander, Ms. Mary Choate, DAVA representatives, Ms. Dottie Dozier, Ms. Jean Scott and Mr. Larry L. Dockery. They are members of Grand Prairie Chapter #42. Also attending this site visit were our DAVA Department Commander, Mrs. Anita Lee and her husband, Mr. Oscar W. Lee, Commander of the Frank F. Simpson Chapter # 3 in Waco, Texas. Mr. Jeffery L. Milligan, Director of the North Texas Health Care System gave an outstanding presentation regarding the overall operation of the NTHCS. His presentation was followed by the introduction of several other important staff members. We had a most memorable tour of the Fisher House on the medical center's campus. Our tour guide was Ms. Lydia Henderson, Manager of the Fisher House.

On Friday, February 17, 2017, DAVA Department Commander, Mrs. Anita Lee and I were honored to visit the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham, Texas. Mrs. Tina McDaniel, Voluntary Specialist and Mr. James L. Douglas, Administrative Service Manager provided our group with a briefing and tour of their Community Living Center (CLC). Other DAV members attending were Mr. Frederick H. Haas, Mr. Lorenzo H. Gonzalez, Jr., Mr. Michael Reaves, and Mr. William Roth--all from Chapter #38 in McKinney, Texas. VAVS representatives present were Mr. David Johnson and Mr. O.H. Hubbard. My thanks to our DAVA Department Commander, Mrs. Anita Lee, and her husband Mr. Oscar W. Lee, for being present for this outstanding visit. Thanks to all of you, our DAV/DAVA volunteers for your long-term commitment to our hospitalized veterans and their family members. Our Veteran Service Organization (VSO) commitment has been the foremost reason why our mission has been successful for more than 96 years. Indeed, as members of the Disabled American Veterans, you have enriched the lives of veterans and their families within the great State of Texas.

I attended the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C., February 25-March 1, 2017. DAV established several helpful talking points in scheduling appointments with our elected officials. Those talking points included: 1) Strengthening, reforming, and sustaining the VA Health Care System, 2) Putting the "Choice" program for veterans in context, 3) Planning Fiscal Year 2018 VA Budget, 4) Providing comprehensive support for caregivers of veterans, 5) Improving Women Veterans Health programs, and 6) Legislating reform of the claims appeal process. Detailed information regarding these talking points is found at [dav.org](http://dav.org). Then you must go to 1. Veterans, 2. Events, 3. 2017 Mid-Winter Conference, and 4. Talking points. Remember, a dream written down with a date becomes a goal. A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan. A plan backed by action makes your dreams come true.

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

DAV National Winter Sports Clinic – March 25-31, 2017 – Snowmass, Colorado

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

DAV Commanders and Adjutants Association Orientation - July 8-11, 2017 – Cold Springs, Kentucky

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

**Commander's Medical Center visitations scheduled for March 2017:**

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

VA Medical Center – Temple, Texas – Friday, March 10, 2017...1:00p.m.

If your chapter is located near the Temple or Waco VA Medical Centers, please plan to attend. Contact me or our VAVS 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 you at our DAV Department Convention in Austin, June 9-11, 2017. Once again, I am honored to serve as your Department Commander and offer my appreciation to all of you for your Commitment to Service. Yes, we are connected through our service and through our sacrifice. IT IS REAL!!!

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## Robert Squyres, Membership Chairman - DAV

[sviccmdr@davtexas.org](mailto:sviccmdr@davtexas.org)



Isn't it great to be alive! Great to be a member of this great organization the **DAV!**

### **Who is the DAV? What is the DAV?**

The DAV is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to the service of our nation's injured heroes, the DAV is here to help you and to ensure that you are not alone on your road to recovery. We help veterans like you transition back to civilian life by linking you with services that address your physical, emotional and financial needs. We were the first to ensure the nation recognizes posttraumatic stress. We developed the primary treatment program the Department of Veterans Affairs uses today, and for more than half a century, we have advocated for veterans with mental health challenges. We provide employment resources to and facilitate career fairs for transitioning military members, veterans and their families. We help homeless veterans by providing food and shelter while connecting them to medical care, benefits counseling and job training. We give emergency grants to ill and injured veterans impacted by natural disasters

### **WOW! WE ARE THE DAV. VETERANS HELPING VETERANS.**

To continue these services, we need everyone we can get to help us continue these programs. We need members to take veterans and families to services, set up volunteers to go to them and help where needed. We cannot continue to be one of the premier Veterans Service Organizations without members. Members give our voice a roar when we go to congress and ask for America to keep their promises. DAV members are the ones telling our fellow Americans of the problems our veterans and their families have, just to live the American Dream they so valiantly fought for and continue to fight for. Veterans must not be left suffer in silence, you can't look at a veteran and see the problems they face. It is time to step up and let America know the pains of veterans, just to live, to provide for their families, to be a member of society. We need members to help America continue to be the greatest nation in the world.

### **DAV MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

Membership is open to anyone **wounded, injured or disabled** during honorable wartime service. The following provides the dates of active duty service that are considered during "time of war":

World War I .....	04/06/17 - 07/02/21
World War II & Korea .....	09/16/40 - 01/31/55
Vietnam & Other Engagements .....	01/31/55 - 10/14/76
Iranian Crisis, Lebanon Crisis, Invasion of Grenada, Invasion of Panama and other engagements .....	11/04/79 - 01/31/90
Persian Gulf Crisis and Subsequent Engagements.....	08/02/90 - until terminated by Presidential Proclamation or Congressional Resolution

Included in these dates are the changes adopted by the delegates to the 1990 and 1991 National Conventions. They reflect the military engagements that U.S. Forces have been involved in since Vietnam. The requirement "during time of war" is also met if it is determined that the applicant's wound, injury or disability, was incurred at any time (1) as a direct result of armed conflict, or (2) while engaged in extra-hazardous service under conditions simulating war, or (3) while the United States was engaged in any war. A disability incurred or aggravated during service between September 16, 1940, and December 7, 1941, is included in the term "under conditions simulating war." Documentation of disability and/or military service is required with applications of those serving under conditions simulating war. It starts with a single step!

**YOU HAVE TO ASK!**

**ASK** your family members, your friends, your neighbors, your coworkers.

Start a conversation and

**ASK** "ARE YOU A VETERAN?"; tell them about the DAV and

**ASK** "WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE PREMIERE VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS in the world?"

**ASK** "WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OTHER VETERANS?" hand them a membership form and

**ASK** "WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING OF THE DAV?"

Goals are great, but it isn't really about the goals, it is

**THE DAV IS HELPING VETERANS LIKE YOURSELF!**

**REMEMBER, I ASK EACH OF YOU TO SIGN UP 2 NEW MEMBERS BY DEPARTMENT CONVENTION. I WILL, I PROMISE!**

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## Tom Archer, DEC District II - DAV

[decdist2@davtexas.org](mailto:decdist2@davtexas.org)



Winter is almost over and the time has been a beneficial time to plan the events necessary to fund the support of local needs of veterans. Needs continue to grow and so we must be ready to assist them. Veterans continue to need our assistance with their claims, as we were once assisted. Continuing to assist is our utmost effort. Not only claims but assistance issues present themselves more and more often. Veterans needing transportation to medical appointments is a common need and we must step up to assist. Needs sometimes come to our attention more frequently each year. Being prepared to assist must be our goal at all times. Being prepared is a much easier job if we direct our efforts to recruiting new members. New members bring with them exciting new ideas which help to keep us abreast of the ever changing times. Let us never forget the sound beginning that the DAV is founded on, but always exploring ways to assist the veterans that are now coming home. These veterans are the future of DAV.

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# Mike Rader, Benefits Protection Team Leader

[legislative@davtexas.org](mailto:legislative@davtexas.org)



Greetings from west Texas. I was honored when asked to become our Benefits Protection Team Leader for Texas. I was saddened when I learned our former team leader Comrade Howard Ray is seriously ill. Please keep the Ray family in your prayers.

Marc Burgess our National Adjutant, our Commander Dr. Edwards, and our Adjutant Teresa Johniken each talked with me about what this position entails. We, meaning our state office and each chapter is expected to advocate for or against a particular bill in our US Congress. This is not politics, but exercising our right to contact our elected officials and asking them to support, modify, or vote against a particular bill.

How do I know who represents me. In your local telephone directory you will find the names and offices of our state legislators and our U.S. Congressman and both our Senators. How should I contact them? Call the local office and ask what method is best to contact our elected officials.

How do I know what to discuss or to talk about with my elected office holder? DAV provides us with a list of topics for us to advocate for or against. With a new administration we need to keep ourselves informed, especially since two of the issues affecting our members is overhauling our military and fixing our VA, especially Health Care. Each of these offers opportunities to both help and harm our benefits.

Why should I get involved? Our By-Laws clearly state that we fight for the benefits we have earned; and that we offer our help to any veterans in need free of charge. So, when we took off our uniforms; we continue to serve. We must work with the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress to advocate our DAV position.

How do I find the DAV Commanders Action Network? 1<sup>st</sup> go to DAV.org. There is a box at the top that says "Help DAV". Then move the mouse over this tab and you will see a drop down listing and you should click on "Advocate". You will now see a page titled "DAV Commanders Action Network". This page can help in finding who are your elected officials. It allows you to sign up and get real time alerts about pending legislation. This is an important tool for Chapter Benefits Protection Team Leaders. This page also has a tab for current legislation and whether or not DAV supports the legislation. We can print out these bills and advocate for or against them with our elected officials. I encourage each chapter to print copies for those without computer access, so they may contact their legislative representative.

## Commander's Action Network



### DAV: Taking Action at Home

Our nation's service men and women put their lives on the line for our country. Our political leaders need to be kept informed and our grassroots campaign makes sure they know.

DAV's multi-aspect legislative campaign protects our country. Take some time here and learn how you can stand with our veterans.

To view DAV's current advocacy campaigns, [click here](#).

To become part of the DAV Commander's Action Network, [click here](#).

Ways To Give

Volunteer

Advocate

Charitable Service Trust

National Service Foundation

Estate Planning

Corporate Partners

DAV SK

America's freedom. Our public and private lives. DAV's legislative

the capitol and across the country. Read more and stand in Washington.

[< Back to Learn More](#)

ISSUE BRIEFS

TUTORIALS

RESOLUTIONS

TESTIMONY

INDEPENDENT  
BUDGET

COMMANDER'S  
ACTION  
NETWORK

Here is a list of the current bills we support:

### Benefits

H.R. 457: VA Appeals Modernization Act of 2017

### Concurrent Receipt

H.R. 303: Retired Pay Restoration Act

### Women Veterans

H.R. 91: Building Supportive Networks for Women Veterans Act (115th Congress)

H.R. 93: To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans.

I encourage each chapter Benefits Protection Team Leaders, chapter elected officers to look at the DAV Commanders Action Network and get behind our efforts to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

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

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## Jennifer Kellogg, Women Vets Coordinator - DAV

[jennifer.kellogg@va.gov](mailto:jennifer.kellogg@va.gov)



### 2017 National Women Veterans Summit April 21-22 in Dallas.

The following information is from Vantage Point, the Official Blog of the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Women Veterans account for approximately 10 percent of the U.S. Veteran population, which will grow to 15 percent by 2030. While many of their challenges and opportunities are similar to those of their male counterparts, some are unique or disproportionate to the women Veterans population—which is younger and more ethnically diverse than their male peers. It is for this reason that VA is planning a national platform to discuss these issues—the 2017 National Women Veterans Summit.

The 2017 summit will focus on the needs and issues important to women Veterans and provide training, information and guidance to assist women Veterans—and those who serve them—with navigating through VA and community resources.

This event, the first national-level women Veterans summit since 2011, will bring together key stakeholders from across a variety of sectors, to identify challenges and opportunities facing women Veterans and collaborate on identifying and diffusing best practices in serving them. It is designed to promote forward-thinking dialogue and innovative collaboration among private industry, nonprofit organizations, the federal government, innovators, researchers, caregivers, and women Veterans.

The target audience for the summit includes women Veterans; public sector partners, including military, federal, state, and local agencies; Veterans service organizations and other nonprofit partners; academics and others in the research community; representatives from the tech industry and corporations; other community partners; and VA employees, including women Veteran program managers and women Veteran coordinators. The summit will consist of lectures, discussion panels, an exhibit hall and an open forum. Discussion by all attendees will be encouraged throughout the event.

Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from VA leadership, and participate in breakout sessions focused on employment, mental health, entrepreneurship, military sexual trauma, reproductive health, culture change and more. Additionally, plenary sessions will focus on VA care and benefits, partner organizations, and a special “Voice of the Veteran” panel. The event will also feature a women Veterans art exhibit, a display of artwork by select women Veteran artists from across the United States.

The event is tentatively scheduled for April 21 through April 22 in Dallas, Texas. These dates and a location will be confirmed soon. Please check out the Center for Women Veterans website (<https://www.va.gov/womenvet/index.asp>) for updates and registration information. We hope to see you there.

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## Jose Garcia, VAVS Coordinator - DAV

[vavs@davtexas.org](mailto:vavs@davtexas.org)



### PAY IT FORWARD

At our Mid Year Seminar in Corpus we discussed the importance of getting credit for the hours that DAV volunteers use in helping fellow veterans under the Local Veteran Assistance Program (LVAP) . Part of the problem of reporting is that not everyone is familiar with how to report these hours. For those that may not be familiar with the Local Veteran Assistance Program (LVAP), it is a unique way to help capture the many hours our members are using helping veterans, widows/widowers/and or their families.

A DAV member may claim volunteer credit hours for about any volunteer hours providing direct assistance to veterans and their families that improves their life.

- \* Home repairs, grocery shopping, yard work, running errands, etc.
- \* Funding effort (Forget-Me-Not and other fund raisers),
- \* Support activities for homeless,
- \* Work to support DAV Department or Chapter,
- \* DAV Outreach efforts
- \* Involvement in Community activities that support and encourage veterans, as well as many other areas which are not already being reported under the VA Hospital Volunteer program or the DAV Transportation program.

To obtain credit you must first fill out a Local Veteran Assistance Program Form LVAP 21 which registers you into the Data Base at Department of Texas. You only need to register once in the Data Base. Thereafter, you, along with other members may submit a LVAP Monthly Report Form (LVAP 60) to denote the hours you volunteered and in what areas. The forms are easy to fill out and are located in the Department of Texas website [davtexas.org](http://davtexas.org). The forms are under the heading of Voluntary Services and Volunteer Info Forms.

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## John Hicks, Chaplain - DAV

[chaplain@davtexas.org](mailto:chaplain@davtexas.org)



I would like to thank you for your service to the Military and to the Nation. Since you served your obligation and service is still required. You have a responsibility as an American and a member of the DAV to continue to strive to help Veterans, their families and our Country. The United States of America is a country that we served and protected and now we have members, fellow service members and their families that need our help and our voice. The Commanders Action Network (CAN) is one way to stay informed and a way to voice ourselves to our political representatives and the government.

Activities that we are preparing for is the 5K DAV run in our State in San Antonio, Texas on Nov 4, 2017.

We have already completed our Mid-Winter Conference Jan 2017 in Corpus Christi, Texas. The event was and educational forum and a meeting where Chapter leaders can meet with other Chapters and there State Representatives. We had three DAV National Representatives, the



National Commander, National Adjutant, And National Senior Vice-Commander from Our Great State.

We have our Annual Department of Texas Convention scheduled for June 2017. We encourage you to be present and represent your chapter. We will discuss items important to Texas veterans and their families and prepare them for the National convention in July and Aug 2017. These items can be coordinated with other DAV Departments and presented for National to pass to our Government Representatives and Congressmen.

Proverbs Chapter 4: 1-5 NASB

- 1 Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father,  
And give attention that you may [a]gain understanding,
- 2 For I give you [b]sound teaching;  
Do not abandon my [c]instruction.
- 3 When I was a son to my father,  
Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother,
- 4 Then he taught me and said to me,  
"Let your heart hold fast my words;  
Keep my commandments and live;
- 5 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!  
Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

Wisdom is something that we have a responsibility to share and teach others and at the same time, we can learn from others, only if we will just listen. This applies to the old and young ones among us. We do not have to change but it will not hurt to listen and let others speak.

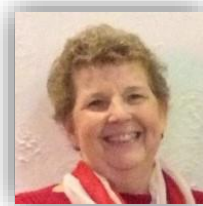
As our Motto is Fulfilling Our Promises to the Men and Women Who Served.

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.

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## Charlene Parker, Sr. Vice Commander - DAVA

[charprkr2@aol.com](mailto:charprkr2@aol.com)



Recruiting others into the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAVA) should always be on our minds. We should always be looking to give others the opportunity to share in the blessings we receive as we help our disabled veterans.

And yet, our membership numbers in the DAVA in Texas are lacking. And, as we all know, we Texans really don't like to hear that we are lacking in any way, shape or form. According to the latest reports on the DAVA National website, our membership population is 5,889; with our membership quota being 5,963. This puts us at a shortage of 74. That's right, we only need 74 new paid members to make our state quota, and 74 is not such a large number for the Great State of Texas. So, just what can we do about this? RECRUIT, of course. We already have 16 units who

have met quota or exceeded their quota. The rest of us need to follow suit. Many units lack less than 5 new paid members to meet quota. Let's make this a challenge? As we roll into March, we're coming to the end of the DAVA National 3rd quarter sprint. Let's make our quota by the end of this sprint. This sprint will end March 31, 2017. And, then, we will still have the last quarter of our sprint, to add even more members to help us take care of our disabled veterans. As an incentive and reminder, for every new paid member you recruit, you will be entered to win \$100 cash from National, and if you recruit a total of 10 new paid members between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, you will receive a certificate of appreciation. But, if you "sprint" a little harder and recruit 25 members you will receive a \$30 gift card to use at the DAV Store. And the person who recruits the most new paid members from July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 will be awarded the "Recruiter Of The Year" award, and will win \$200 cash. And, better yet. The more active members we have, the better we can serve our veterans.

THE CHALLENGE IS ON!! HAVE FUN AND RECRUIT!!!

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## Darlene Spence, Adjutant/Treasurer - DAVA

[davatexas20@gmail.com](mailto:davatexas20@gmail.com)



The State School of Instruction was very informative, we had a great turnout and all presenters were well prepared and provided valuable information.

It's time for us to start making plans to attend the State Convention June 9-11, 2017, in Austin at the DoubleTree Hotel. Unit Adjutants, I will be mailing out packets of information to you. This will be your annual reports, State Convention registration and Luncheon information. Please take this Information to your meetings and be aware of the deadlines on some of the documents.

State History Chairperson Abby Gates, needs pictures from the units for State Commander Lee's book. This includes pictures of the Unit Commanders, junior members, and activities.

Please mail your pictures for the State Commander's History Book to:

Abby Gates  
900 Rancho Dr.  
Mesquite, Texas 75149

### State School Donations

Thanks to the Units, Members, and Friends who made donations to the DAV Auxiliary State Department during the State School of Instruction.

The collection amounts were as follows:

Donations: \$160.00	Sports Clinic: \$285.00	Lenovo: Lap Top Computer
Raffle: \$589.00	T-Shirts: \$540.00	



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Integrated Service Network

VISN 17

2301 E. Lamar Blvd., Suite 650

Arlington, Texas 76006

### NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 13, 2017

Contact: Kathryn Gifford, VISN 17 Public Affairs Officer

[Kathryn.Gifford@va.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Gifford@va.gov); 210-412-7631



Temple, Texas – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Christopher R. Sandles, MBA, FACHE, as the new Medical Center Director of the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System (CTVHCS).

“We are excited to bring Mr. Sandles on board as the new Medical Center Director of the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System,” said Mr. Michael L. Kiefer, Interim Network Director, Heart of Texas Health Care Network. “His sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the health care system, the employees, volunteers and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve. Mr. Sandles will begin his appointment February 19, 2017.”

With more than 13 years of experience with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Sandles comes to Central Texas from the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) in Houston, Texas, where he served as Associate Director/Chief Operating Officer since April 2014. As MEDVAMC's Chief Operating Officer Mr. Sandles was responsible for an operating budget of \$976 million, and direct oversight responsibility for Finance, Human Resources, Health Administration Service, VA Care in the Community, Logistics, Pharmacy, Clinical Documentation Improvement, Contracting as well as Clinical Application Coordinators. His years of VA service include positions as Assistant Director of VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Chief of Health Administration Service at VA Loma Linda Health Care System, Assistant Chief of Medical Administration Service at VA North Texas Health Care System, Special Assistant to the Director-VA North Texas Health Care System, and Administrative Director for Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service.

Mr. Sandles began his healthcare career in 2002 at Covenant Health System in Lubbock, Texas. In 2003, he was accepted into the Government Health Administration Training Program (GHATP) and served his post graduate fellowship with VA North

Texas Healthcare System. Mr. Sandles received both his Bachelor's degree in Business and his Masters of Healthcare Administration from Texas Tech University where he served as President of the Forum Chapter of Mortar Board and was a sitting member of national council.

Mr. Sandles also holds a green belt certification in six-sigma from Villanova University and is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Mr. Sandles was recently accepted into the United States Navy Reserve and will be commissioned as a Lieutenant.

Central Texas Veterans Health Care System (CTVHCS) consists of two hospitals located in Temple and Waco; one large outpatient clinic located in Austin; four community based outpatient clinics (CBOCs); and operates a total of 632 beds (154 inpatient, 200 Community Living Center, and 278 Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program beds). CTVHCS provides more than 1.15 million outpatient visits and 8,500 admissions annually ,approximately 104,000 unique Veteran patients. CTVHCS employees more than 3,700 full time equivalent employees (FTEE) and has an annual operating budget in excess of \$650 million.

Mr. Sandles has an exceptional background and possesses the leadership, knowledge, and skills necessary to successfully lead the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System into the future.

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# Temple VA officials respond to report of opioid thefts

BY JANICE GIBBS | TELEGRAM STAFF | Posted: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 7:57 pm

Veterans Health Administration's controlled substance inspection programs are one of the primary means Central Texas Veterans Health Care System uses to reduce the risk of the diversion of controlled substances at its medical facilities.

Using government data from 2009, The Associated Press reported that federal authorities are increasing investigations at VA medical centers because of an increase in opioid thefts and unauthorized drug use among VA employees.

"At our facilities, we monitor and track our opioids through a robust controlled substances program," said Deborah Meyer, public affairs officer for the Temple-based Central Texas Veterans Health Care System, which includes the Olin E. Teague Veterans' Medical Center. "Our program includes a controlled substance coordinator as well as two alternate controlled substance coordinators to ensure we maintain compliant with inspections."

Each area within the VA facility that contains controlled substances is randomly inspected on a monthly basis by CTVHCS health care professionals who are not involved with controlled substances, Meyer said.

According to the AP report, medical staff within the VA system stole controlled substances for their own use or street sales, or drugs intended for patients simply disappeared.

Aggravating the problem, the AP said, is that some VA hospitals have been lax in tracking drug supplies. Congressional auditors said spot checks found four VA hospitals skipped monthly inspections of drug stocks or missed other requirements. Investigators said that signals problems for VA's entire network of more than 160 medical centers and 1,000 clinics, coming after auditor warnings about lax oversight dating back to at least 2009.

"To further ensure accountability, a 100 percent count of all controlled substances in the Central Texas Veterans Health Care facility is completed quarterly," Meyer said. "A September 2016 review of our local controlled substance program by VA officials noted our program had a high level of compliance with VA policies and DEA regulations regarding accountability."

Both the inspector general's office and the Drug Enforcement Administration said they have increased scrutiny of drug thefts from the VA, with the DEA reporting more criminal investigations.



Olin E. Teague Veterans' Medical Center

The Olin E. Teague Veterans' Medical Center is seen Nov. 11, 2014, in Temple.



## U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
Office of Connected Care

### VA Telehealth Services

Operating the nation's largest health care system, the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) uses a wide variety of technologies to ensure excellence in care delivery. New technologies are revolutionizing health care and VA is recognized as a world leader in the development and use of telehealth. Telehealth services are mission-critical to the future direction of VA care to Veterans.

Telehealth increases access to high quality health care services by using information and telecommunication technologies to provide health care services when the patient and practitioner are separated by geographical distance. VA is committed to increasing access to care for Veterans, and has placed special emphasis on those in rural and remote locations.

**Telehealth is Transformational.** Telehealth is one of VA's major transformational initiatives aimed at ensuring care is convenient, accessible and patient-centered.

- In fiscal year (FY) 2016, about 12% of Veterans received elements of their care via telehealth.
- Telehealth in VA provides mission-critical services that help Veterans to live independently in their own homes and local communities.
- VA providers and patients discuss and decide together which telehealth care services are available in their location and clinically appropriate for the patient to opt into.

**Telehealth is Robust and Sustainable.** Telehealth is an effective and convenient way for patients to receive, and clinicians to provide, VA care. VA has implemented national quality, implementation, and development resources to ensure local services from more than 900 VA locations.

**Telehealth is Visionary.** Telehealth in VA is the forerunner of a wider vision in which the relationship between patients and the health care system is changed with the full realization of the "connected patient". The high levels of patient satisfaction and positive clinical outcomes attest to this.

#### VA Telehealth by the Numbers Fiscal Year 2016

- The number of Veterans receiving care via VA's telehealth services grew approximately 4% in FY16, and is anticipated to grow by approximately 4% in FY17.
- VA provided care to more than 702,000 patients via the three telehealth modalities. This amounted to over 2.17 million telehealth episodes of care.
- Forty-five percent 45% of these Veterans lived in rural areas, and may otherwise have had limited access to VA healthcare.

#### VA Telehealth Modalities

**Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT)** is defined as the use of real-time interactive video conferencing, sometimes with supportive peripheral technologies, to assess, treat and provide care to a patient remotely. Typically CVT links the patient(s) at a clinic to the provider(s) at another location. CVT can also provide video connectivity between a provider and a patient at home. CVT encompasses more than 50 clinical applications in VA such as specialty and primary care.

**Home Telehealth (HT)** is defined as a program into which Veterans are enrolled that applies care and case management principles to coordinate care using health informatics, disease management and technologies such as in-home and mobile monitoring, messaging and/or video technologies. The goal of Home Telehealth is to improve clinical outcomes and access to care while reducing complications, hospitalizations, and clinic or emergency room visits for Veterans in post-acute care settings, high-risk Veterans with chronic disease or Veterans at risk for placement in long-term care.

**Store and Forward Telehealth (SFT)** is generally defined as the use of technologies to asynchronously acquire and store clinical information (e.g. data, image, sound and video) that is then forwarded to or retrieved by a provider at another location for clinical evaluation. VA's national Store-and-Forward Telehealth programs operationalize this definition to cover services that provide this care using a clinical consult pathway and a defined information technology platform to communicate the event/encounter between providers, as well as enabling documentation of the event/encounter and the associated clinical evaluation within the patient record.

(over)

## Signature VA Telehealth Programs

In developing VA Telehealth programs, VA has focused on the needs of Veteran patients as the main driver to prioritize areas of care. Signature VA Telehealth Programs that have been developed, or are currently under development include, but are not limited to:

- TeleAddiction Services
- TeleAmputation Care
- TeleAudiology
- TeleBipolar Disorder
- TeleCardiology
- TeleDental Care
- TeleDermatology
- TeleCardiology
- TeleChaplain
- TeleDentistry
- TeleDermatology
- TeleEpilepsy
- TeleGastroIntestinal/Hepatitis Care
- TeleGenomic Counseling
- TeleInfectious Disease
- TeleIntensive Care
- TeleKinesiology
- TeleMental Health
- TeleMOVE! Weight Management
- TeleNephrology
- TeleNeurology
- TeleNutrition
- TeleRetinal Imaging
- TeleOccupational Therapy
- TelePain Management
- TelePathology
- TelePodiatry
- TelePolytrauma Care
- TelePrimary Care
- TelePulmonology
- TeleRehabilitation
- TeleSchizophrenia
- TeleSpinal Cord Injury Care
- TeleSpirometry
- TeleSurgery (Pre - & Post- Care)
- TeleTransplant (Pre - & Post- Care)
- TeleWound Care
- Women's Telehealth

## Veteran Enrollment in Telehealth

- Telehealth has been implemented in over 900 VA sites of care.
- Providers and patients agree on suitability for Telehealth.
- Veterans can elect to have traditional in-person care instead of Telehealth.
- Telehealth is available for over 50 specialty areas of care.

## Telehealth by Modality

**Veterans accessed VA care through one (or more) of the following telehealth types in FY16:**

- More than 307,000 Veterans used Clinical Video Telehealth
- More than 150,000 Veterans used Home Telehealth
- More than 304,000 Veterans used Store-and-Forward Telehealth

## Training for VA Physicians and other Clinicians

**VA provides its national telehealth training for VA staff virtually. In FY16:**

- VA provided 282 training sessions, with a total of 45,700 training completions. More than 10,000 staff attended at least one training session. VA conducts annual competency testing.

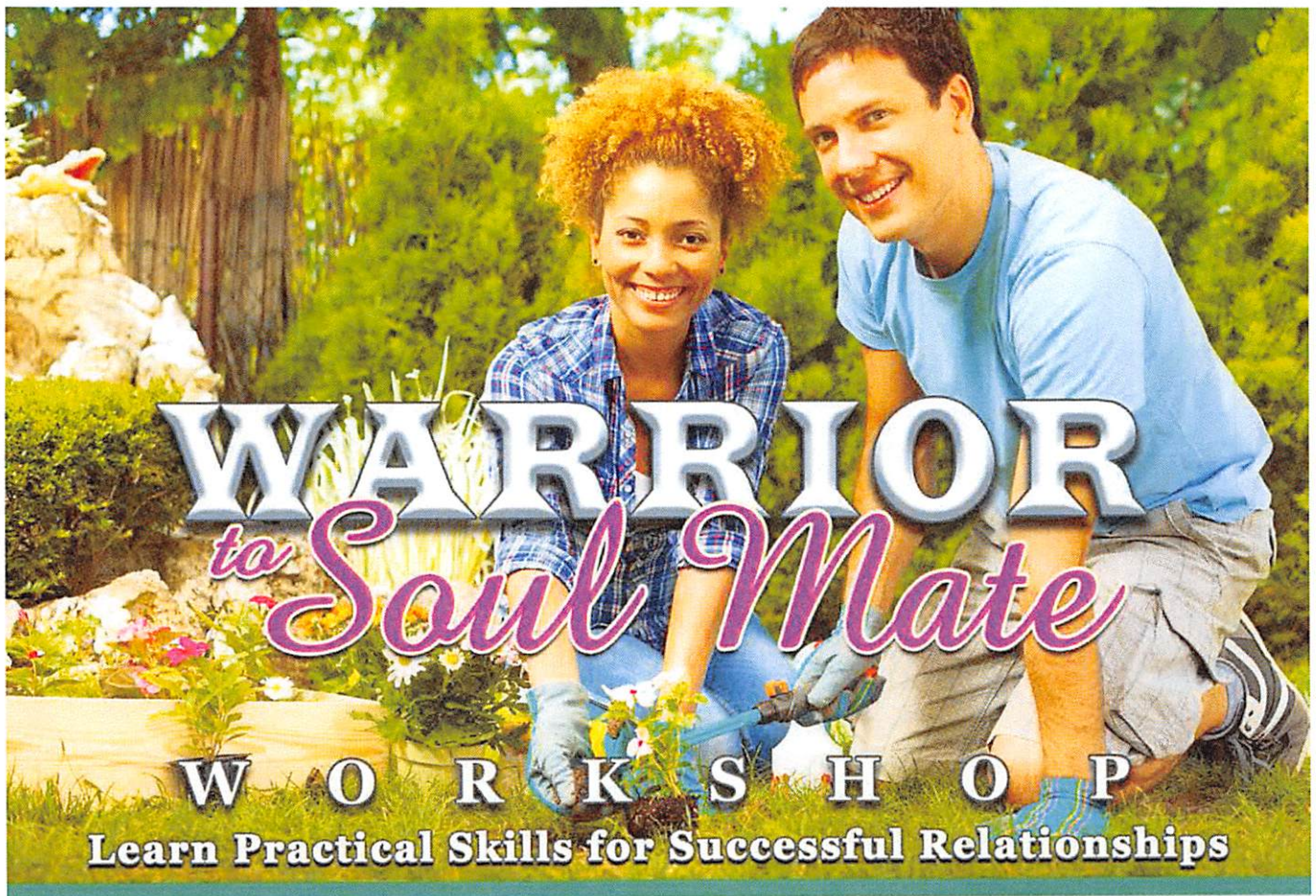
## VA Telehealth Outcomes

**Improved patient outcomes resulting in reduced utilization of inpatient care in FY16:**

- Veterans enrolled in Home Telehealth for non-institutional care needs and chronic care management had a 59% decrease in VA bed days of care and a 31% decrease in VA hospital admissions.
- Mental Health services provided to Veterans via Clinical Video Telehealth (TeleMental Health) reduced Acute Psychiatric VA bed days of care by 39% and a 32% decrease in VA hospital admissions.

**High Veteran satisfaction scores in FY16:**

- 92% for Clinical Video Telehealth
- 88% for Home Telehealth
- 94% for Store and Forward Telehealth



# WARRIOR *to Soul Mate*

W O R K S H O P

**Learn Practical Skills for Successful Relationships**

**STOP:** Feeling misunderstood and confused  
**START:** A better relationship

Veterans & their spouses are invited to a nine-hour workshop led by Chaplain Service. The workshop is based on the PAIRS Essentials Program that allows participants to learn practical skills for successful relationships and the concepts for a life journey to enriched intimacy.

No cost to eligible Veterans. One person must be a Veteran who is eligible for benefits (call if you have questions).

*NOTE: This PAIRS Essentials Program is an educational program and not therapy. If you believe you need therapy, please talk to your healthcare provider or we will help you arrange therapy.*

**April 7 & 8, 2017**

**Friday, April 7, 2017, from 6 to 9 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Building 171, Conference Room A25  
Olin E. Teague Veterans' Medical Center  
1901 Veterans Memorial Drive, Temple, Texas (Location might change)

Space is limited to 15 couples, so register soon.

For more information or to register, call the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System's Chaplain Service at 254-743-0991.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Central Texas Veterans Health Care System





# Free Veterans Benefits Fair

*For Veterans, Military Members and Their Families*

## March 11, 2017

**Killeen Convention Center**

3601 South W.S. Young Drive  
Killeen, Texas 76542

**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Come and Go**

Brought to you by the Texas Veterans Land Board,  
Texas Veterans Commission & U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

### EXHIBITORS

- **TEXAS VETERANS LAND BOARD:** Home Loans, Land Loans, Home Improvement Loans, State Veterans Homes and State Veterans Cemeteries.
- **TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION:** Counselors to assist with disability and pension claims, employment services and educational benefits.
- **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Representatives to assist with federal earned benefits.

For more information, contact

**Jim Mickler at 512.417.3757 or [jim.mickler@glo.texas.gov](mailto:jim.mickler@glo.texas.gov)**

# 800.252.VETS

**[texasveterans.com](http://texasveterans.com)**

Texas Veterans Land Board • George P. Bush, Chairman  
Texas Veterans Commission • Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Chairman  
Department of Veterans Affairs • Joseph Dalpiaz, Network Director – VISN 17  
P.O. Box 12873 • Austin, Texas 78711-2873





RECRUIT MILITARY®

# 2017 Veteran Career Fair Schedule

- EMPLOYERS
- FRANCHISORS
- EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Average **330**  veterans and military spouses attend per event

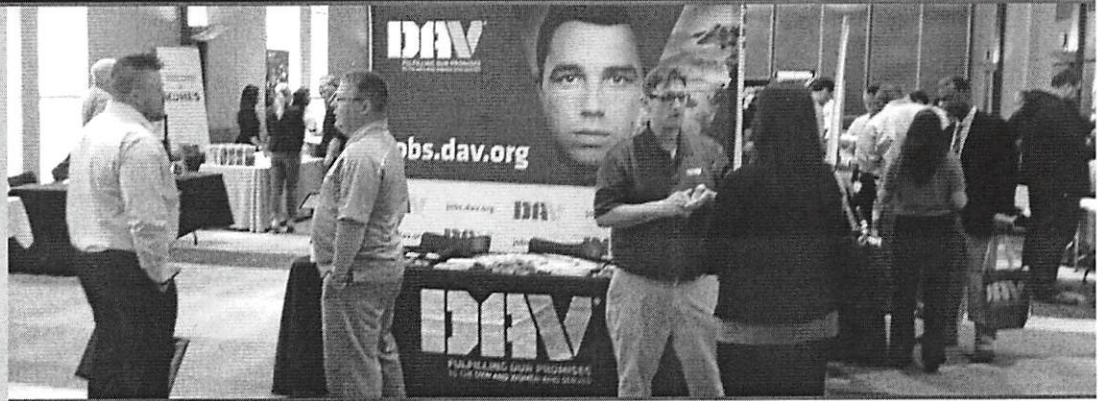
**125+**  average job offers per event

Average **52**  companies per event

**79%**  of attendees would recommend other veterans to attend

### DAV provides:

- Benefits Counseling
- Employment Assistance
- Transition Support
- Volunteer Opportunities



## 1ST QUARTER

### JANUARY

- 12 San Antonio, TX
- 12 Tampa, FL
- 18 Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA\*
- 26 Oklahoma City, OK
- 26 Raleigh, NC

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Atlanta, GA
- 2 Riverside, CA
- 7 Fort Stewart, GA\*
- 8 Hunter Army Airfield, GA\*
- 9 Baltimore, MD
- 9 Nashville, TN
- 16 Jacksonville, FL
- 16 Phoenix, AZ
- 16 Richmond, VA
- 16 Sacramento, CA

### MARCH

- 1 Fort Bragg, NC\*
- 2 Fort Bragg, NC\*
- 2 Dallas, TX
- 2 San Diego, CA
- 2 Washington, DC
- 9 Fort Lee, VA\*
- 9 Houston, TX
- 9 New York, NY
- 9 San Jose, CA
- 23 Kansas City, MO
- 23 New Orleans, LA
- 23 Pittsburgh, PA
- 29 Huntsville, AL
- 30 Columbus, OH
- 30 Philadelphia, PA

## 2ND QUARTER

### APRIL

- 6 Austin, TX
- 6 Boston, MA
- 13 Denver, CO
- 13 Tulsa, OK
- 20 Chicago, IL
- 20 Orlando, FL
- 25 Fort Bliss, TX\*
- 27 Minneapolis, MN
- 27 Orange County, CA

### MAY

- 4 Charlotte, NC
- 4 Oakland, CA
- 10 Columbus, GA
- 11 Dallas, TX
- 11 Norfolk, VA
- 11 Omaha, NE
- 17 Lawton, OK
- 18 Milwaukee, WI
- 18 San Antonio, TX
- 24 Eglin AFB, FL\*
- 25 Cincinnati, OH
- 25 New York, NY
- 25 Seattle, WA

### JUNE

- 1 Baltimore, MD
- 1 Colorado Springs, CO
- 7 Fort Knox, KY\*
- 8 Houston, TX
- 8 Phoenix, AZ
- 14 Fort Bragg, NC\*
- 15 Fort Bragg, NC\*
- 15 Detroit, MI
- 15 Los Angeles, CA
- 20 Camp Pendleton, CA\*
- 21 Fort Wainwright, AK\*
- 22 Atlanta, GA
- 22 Washington, DC

## 3RD QUARTER

### JULY

- 13 Indianapolis, IN
- 13 St. Louis, MO
- 20 Sacramento, CA
- 20 Tampa, FL
- 26 Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA\*
- 27 Dayton, OH
- 27 Fort Hood, TX\*

### AUGUST

- 3 New Orleans, LA
- 3 San Diego, CA
- 9 Fort Stewart, GA\*
- 10 Fort Stewart, GA\*
- 10 Philadelphia, PA
- 17 Birmingham, AL
- 22 Fort Lee, VA\*
- 24 Dallas, TX
- 24 Denver, CO
- 31 Boston, MA
- 31 Cleveland, OH
- 31 San Antonio, TX

### SEPTEMBER

- 7 Houston, TX
- 7 Miami, FL
- 14 Fort Riley, KS\*
- 14 Nashville, TN
- 14 New York, NY
- 19 Fort Bliss, TX\*
- 21 Columbia, SC
- 21 Phoenix, AZ
- 28 Cincinnati, OH

## 4TH QUARTER

### OCTOBER

- 3 Camp Pendleton, CA\*
- 5 Atlanta, GA
- 5 Chicago, IL
- 5 San Francisco, CA
- 12 Austin, TX
- 12 Baltimore, MD
- 12 Minneapolis, MN
- 19 Oklahoma City, OK
- 19 Pittsburgh, PA
- 19 Riverside, CA
- 25 Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA\*
- 26 Charlotte, NC
- 26 Milwaukee, WI

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Colorado Springs, CO
- 2 Columbus, OH
- 2 Los Angeles, CA
- 2 Norfolk, VA
- 8 Fort Bragg, NC\*
- 9 Fort Bragg, NC\*
- 9 Washington, DC
- 9 St. Louis, MO
- 16 Dallas, TX
- 16 Detroit, MI
- 16 Philadelphia, PA
- 30 Houston, TX
- 30 Jacksonville, FL
- 30 San Diego, CA

### DECEMBER

- 7 Fort Hood, TX\*
- 7 Indianapolis, IN
- 7 Las Vegas, NV
- 7 Orlando, FL
- 12 Fort Knox, KY\*
- 13 Fort Campbell, TN\*
- 14 Seattle, WA

\*MILITARY BASE EVENTS  
2/17

For details, visit [RecruitMilitary.com/job-seekers](http://RecruitMilitary.com/job-seekers) or [jobs.dav.org](http://jobs.dav.org)

