



CHAPTER 10 ARLINGTON- FAIRFAX, VA

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CHAPTER 10 WEB SITE

The Chapter 10 Arlington-Fairfax, VA web site has information for members and non-members alike.

There are links to the National Headquarters, Department of Virginia, and other chapters' web sites. The site also contains information on news and events of interest.

Visit the Chapter 10 web site at www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/va/10/

VA REACHES OUT TO VETERANS IN CYBERSPACE TO PROVIDE HEALTH INFORMATION IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to veterans and their families in an innovative new way by setting up an office inside the Second Life virtual world at www.SecondLife.com.

Virtual worlds are online three-dimensional spaces, enabling users to interact with each other and their environment through an animated character called an 'avatar,' which is similar to characters used in video games.

In VA's new office, avatars can view and link to important information about VA health care and benefits. The avatars can interact with other avatars and communicate further with VA.

The features provide a creative way to access information that also is posted on VA's Internet site. Avatars also can watch videos, listen to audio, view pictures, participate in presentations before a live audience, link to external web sites, and set up a live conference to communicate with other avatars.

"This communication strategy enhances VA's outreach to new veterans and their family members through a non-traditional pathway such as Cyberspace," said Dr. Michael J. Kussman, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "The office provides an imaginative, light-hearted approach to offer veterans who like to

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CHAPTER 10 PICNIC

The Chapter 10 picnic is scheduled for July 20 from 12-3 p.m. at the Fort Belvoir picnic area, just inside the J.J. Kingman gate off Fairfax County Parkway. You won't need a military ID, but should carry a picture ID. Once inside the gate, just follow the signs to the DAV Chapter 10 picnic.

VA NAMES MEMBERS OF GULF WAR VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON — Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during 1990–1991 will have their own special advocates before Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake, thanks to a new advisory committee Peake established to respond to issues unique to them.

The 14-member, independent panel will advise the Secretary and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on the full range of health care and bene- continued on page 2

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Newsletter Editor: David L. Barrette

CHAPTER 10 COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I appreciate the confidence you place in me to lead the Chapter for the upcoming year. This is a busy era for Chapter 10, as we work on service programs and initiatives to help disabled veterans and their families during this time of war.

We live in a digital age, and I believe we must explore alternative methods such as the Internet and electronic methods to communicate our programs and services. I urge to you visit our new web site at:

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters.va/10/default.aspx>

The new site takes advantage of Sharepoint technology to provide local information from the Chapter, as well as DAV news and information ported from other servers.

We are able to distribute a paper newsletter on a regular basis. Aside from being very costly to print and mail, it is difficult to provide up-to-the-minute information to members in this format. The Chapter web site is able to be updated at any time, and therefore contains news and calendar items as soon as they are available. Updates include the Chapter newsletter in digital format, where it is available for online reading or printing before the paper version arrives in your mailbox.

I am interested in hearing your ideas for integrating new technologies to enhance our Chapter communications and services. I would like to form a technology advisory committee to explore this topic, and to provide recommendations for future enhancements. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in such a project.

John L. Maki
Chapter 10 Commander

continued from page 1 fits needs of those who served in the conflict.

"Gulf War veterans made an invaluable contribution to national security and peace in a volatile region," Peake said. "This new panel will ensure that VA benefits and programs adapt to the needs of these veterans, just as our services have adapted for veterans of other conflicts."

Serving on the committee are Gulf War and other veterans, veterans service organizations' representatives, medical experts, and the survivors of Gulf War veterans. Members were selected to provide a variety of perspectives, experiences and expertise.

The committee will be chaired by Charles Cragin, a retired Navy captain, who has had several senior level positions within the federal government, including Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and Chairman of VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals.

In January 2002, the Department created an advisory committee to assist VA's secretary on research into the medical problems of Gulf War veterans. That older committee will retain responsibility for research involving veterans of continued on page 2

SICKNESS OR DISTRESS

June Springer, John Capriotti, David Barrette, and Fiona Greenwood are our Chapter members sick or still recovering this month. Please notify the Chaplain or any officer of any sickness or distressed members or their families.

Please remember in your hearts and prayers all those in "harm's way," especially those we have lost. Also pray and do something for all the new disabled veterans. ★

COME TO A CHAPTER MEETING

The next Chapter 10 meeting will be Tuesday, June 10. We meet at American Legion Post #176, 6520 Amherst Ave. Springfield, VA. (the Post is just off Backlick Rd., South of Old Keen Mill Rd.).

Please bring another DAV or potential member. Bring your wife and friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 10** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post #176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA.
- June 14** Welcome Home Heroes Event at the Washington, D.C. Medical Center.
- June 26** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
- July 3** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
- July 13** DAV Day at the Washington Nationals Ball Park. Call Brian Beck at 202-640-7647 for tickets.
- July 20** Chapter 10 Picnic at the Fort Belvoir picnic area.
- Aug. 7** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home. ★

continued from page 1 go online to obtain information they need and can use.”

The pilot project is housed in a modern three-story virtual office building. Posters hang on the walls, showing the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) homepage and a map of the United States avatars may touch to obtain official information about VA medical facilities. Visitors to the office can stop at the desk and pick up a free virtual VA t-shirt that their avatar can wear.

Additional features at this site include access to a video clip from VA's "Get Fit for Life" exercise DVD. Users will soon be able to obtain additional information from VA by submitting questions through their avatars, and VA staff will communicate with avatars using instant messaging.

The Second Life project came about through research VA conducted on how to better reach veterans through the Internet. VA worked with a contractor to develop the approach and "lease" the office in Second Life to establish an entry point into the virtual world. New features will be added over time to support key initiatives. VA joins a growing number of federal agencies hosting projects on Second Life.

For more information on VHA's presence in Second Life, visit: www.va.gov/health/VHAINSecondLife.asp. ★

the 1990-1991 conflict in the Middle East.

This committee's first meeting will be held in mid-June in Washington, D.C. It is expected to complete its work within 18 months. Committee meetings will be open to the public.

A list of the members of VA's Gulf War Advisory Committee is attached.

Membership

VA Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans

Charles Cragin, (Chair) of Raymond, Maine; Martha Douthit of Ashburn, Va.; Dr. Henry Falk of Atlanta.; Mark Garner of Lorton, Va.; Dr. Lynn Goldman of Chevy Chase, Md.; Dr. John Hart of Plano, Texas.; William (Rusty) Jones of South Riding, Va.; Kirt Love of Crawford, Texas.; Daniel Ortiz of Whittier, Calif.; Daniel Pinedo of Oceanside, Calif.; Thomas Plewes of Annandale, Va.; Valerie Randall of Savage, Md.; Edward (Randy) Reese of Washington, D.C. and Steve Robertson of Fredericksburg, ★

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE (Washington, D.C.): 202-530-9260

DAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE (Roanoke, VA): 1-540-857-2373

VA MEDICAL CENTER: 202-745-8000

VA CENTER FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER: 1-802-296-5132

WOMEN'S COORDINATOR (DC VA MED CTR): Fran Johnson: 202-745-8469

ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC,: 703-313-0694

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME - WASHINGTON, D.C.: 800-422-9988

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: 703-607-8585

QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY: 703-221-2183

METRO CARDS

John Capriotti is still collecting cards for hospitalized and adjusting veterans at the DC VAMC.

If you have extra cards you can donate, please send them c/o DAV Chapter 10 or bring them to a meeting. ★

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has been enhanced to provide a new service for veterans in crisis. Veterans will be connected immediately to VA suicide prevention and mental health service professional by calling 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and pressing 1. ★

NEWSLETTER

To receive your Chapter 10 newsletter by e-mail as a pdf file, send an e-mail to: webmaster@DAV10.org. This will save us the postage. Past copies, as well as additional information are also available on our website at www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/va/10/THANKS! ★

DAV LEGAL SERVICES

The DAV has its own nationwide network of attorneys who have agreed to give reduced-fee services to our members. These lawyers will prepare simple wills for \$100 and health care and financial powers of attorney for \$35 each. Other legal services are provided at 10 percent off the lawyer's prevailing rate.

You may access our list of participating lawyers in the DAV Legal Services Network (LSN) at the Membership section of our website, <http://www.dav.org/membership/legal-services.asp>, or call the National Headquarters Membership Department for assistance. Simply choose a participant, call his/her office and identify yourself as a DAV or DAV Auxiliary member. If none of the lawyers is conveniently located, just let us know if there is a specific lawyer you would like to see and we will invite him/her to join the network. ★

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT) SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		MI	SUFFIX	TITLE
STREET ADDRESS				SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE		SEX	M	F
BIRTH DATE	DATE ENLISTED	BRANCH	DATE DISCHARGED	RANK	V.A. CLAIM NO.	
I RECEIVE		<input type="checkbox"/> VA COMP	<input type="checkbox"/> VA PENSION	<input type="checkbox"/> PURPLE HEART	<input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE RETIREMENT	
DISABILITIES		<input type="checkbox"/> AMPUTEE	<input type="checkbox"/> BLIND	<input type="checkbox"/> HEARING IMPAIRED	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	
APPLICANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER				PERCENT (%) OF DISABILITY		
				%		
MEMBER CODE NO.		CHAPTER PREFERENCE				
		ARLINGTON-FAIRFAX CHAPTER 10				
SPONSOR'S NAME			SPONSOR'S TELEPHONE NUMBER ()			
SPONSOR'S ADDRESS			SPONSOR'S MEMBERSHIP CODE NO.			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE				

_____ () _____
 APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE TELEPHONE NO.

The full cost of Life Membership is based on the applicant's age: 80 and over is free; 71-79 is \$140.00; 61-70 is \$180.00; 41-60 is \$230.00; and 40 or younger is \$250.00. A Life Membership can be paid for on a quarterly basis with a \$40.00 initial payment.

Mail completed application form to: Arlington-Fairfax Chapter 10, P.O. Box 4001, Arlington, VA 22204-4001

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE DAV?

Any man or woman, who was wounded, gassed, injured or disabled in the line of duty during time of war, while in the service of either the military or naval forces of the United States of America, and who has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service, or who may still be in active service in the armed forces of the United States of America is eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans. Others who are disabled while serving with any of the armed forces of any nations associated with the United States of America as allies during any of its war periods, who are American citizens and who are honorably discharged, are also eligible.

Dates of active duty service that are considered during "time of war": World War I - 04/06/1917-07/02/1921; World War II and Korea - 09/16/1940-01/31/1955; Vietnam and other engagements - 01/31/1955-10/14/1976; Iranian Crisis, Lebanon Crisis, Invasion of Panama and other engagements - 11/04/1979-01/31/1990; Persian Gulf Crisis and other engagements 08/02/1990 - present. ★



Currently DAV Chapter 10 has 3,183 members.
 Help recruit a fellow disabled veteran to Chapter 10.



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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
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