



CHAPTER 10 ARLINGTON- FAIRFAX, VA

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NOVEMBER MEETING CHANGE!

Because of a conflict with American Legion Post #176 activities, the next Chapter 10 regular business meeting will be Thursday, November 15. Obligation of new Chapter members will be conducted at this meeting.

If you are a new member and have not taken the oath and received your certificate and pin; Please call James Hopkins at (703) 824-9288. The meeting will take place at our regular meeting place American Legion Post #176, 6520 Amherst Ave. Springfield, VA. Bring a friend. ★

GORDON H. MANSFIELD IS ACTING SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon H. Mansfield, who is also a member of DAV Chapter 10, is the Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs following the resignation of Secretary Jim Nicholson. Secretary Nicholson tendered his resignation to President Bush on July 17, 2007, to be effective no later than October 1, 2007.

Mansfield assumed the role October 1 under the terms of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, where a Deputy Secretary begins to serve as the acting officer immediately and automatically upon the occurrence of the vacancy. Mansfield is serving as Acting Secretary until the next nominee of the President is confirmed by the United States Senate.

Appointed by President Bush in November 2003, Deputy Secretary Mansfield served as the chief operating officer for the federal government's second largest department, responsible for a nationwide system of health care services, benefits programs and national cemeteries for America's veterans and their dependents.

He previously served as VA Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs since August 1, 2001, serving as the legislative advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He was responsible for VA's Congressional relations and representing VA programs, policies, investigations and legislative agenda to Congress.

Prior to joining the VA, Mr. Mansfield served as executive director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) since April 1993. In that position, the highly decorated Vietnam veteran oversaw the daily operations of PVA's national office in Washington, D.C. Mr. Mansfield held a number of positions at PVA from 1981 to 1989, and served as the organization's first associate executive director of Government Relations.

Mr. Mansfield received his undergraduate degree from Villanova University and law degree from the University of Miami. Following his 1964 enlistment in the Army, Mr. Mansfield served two tours of duty in Vietnam. While serving as company commander with the 101st Airborne Division during his second tour, he was wounded during the Tet Offensive of 1968 sustaining a spinal cord injury. For his actions while his unit was under fire, he was decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest personal decoration for valor in combat. He was medically retired by the U.S. Army at the grade of Captain. His other combat decorations include the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Presidential Unit Citation. ★

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CHAPTER 10 COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As 2007 comes to a close, I would like to express my thanks to all those members who worked on our successful fund raising efforts, without your help there wouldn't be a Chapter 10. I would also like to thank the members who attended meetings; however, it is always nice to see some new faces.

This Veterans Day let us all salute our newest veterans and show our pride by flying the flag.

This Thanksgiving help Chapter 10 support our hospitalized veterans with a small tax deductible donation.

I hope everyone will have happy holidays. During 2008 I would ask that you commit twenty hours to Chapter 10. Other disabled veterans are counting on us.

Sincerely,
James Hopkins
Commander

CHAPTER 10 DELIVERS NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

If you would like to start receiving your Chapter 10 newsletter by e-mail as a pdf file, send an e-mail to: webmaster@DAV10.org. This will save the Chapter postage.

We are currently putting together a data base of all Chapter 10 members who would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

Past copies, as well as additional information, are also available on the Chapter 10 website at www.dav10.org. THANKS! ★

HONOR GUARD MEMBER NEEDED

Chapter 10 is in need of one good man or woman honor guard member to carry our Chapter 10 flag for the ceremonies at Quantico National Cemetery. Chapter 10 will pay for a Navy Blue blazer, striped tie, and white shirt/blouse. Please contact the Commander if you wish to volunteer. ★

SICKNESS OR DISTRESS

On October 9, Mary Reed, the loving wife of Francis Reed and longtime member of Unit 10, passed away. She will be missed. In addition the following members have passed away: Richard Halverson, Fairfax, VA and John A. Brawner, Alexandria, VA. We pray for them and their families.

John Capriotti, is recovering from cancer surgery on his arm, yet he continues to work hard for patients at VAMC. Keep him in your prayers.

Please notify the Chaplin or any officer of any sickness or distressed members or their families.

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

COME TO A CHAPTER MEETING

The next Chapter 10 meeting will be Thursday, November 15. 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

- Nov. 1-4** DAV Virginia Fall Conference, Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center.
- Nov. 8** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home. Contact John Capriotti if you can help with this volunteer activity.
- Nov. 10** Executive Committee Meeting.
- Nov. 11** Veterans Day - Chapter 10 will be hosting patients from DCVAMC at ceremonies at Quantico National Cemetery, Quantico, VA. Following the ceremony we will accompany the patients to the Stafford, VA American Legion for a home cooked meal. All members are encouraged to attend.
- Nov. 12** Golden Coral, Culpepper, VA Military Appreciation Monday. Free meals for veterans.
- Nov. 15** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post #176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA.
- Dec. 6** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home. Contact John Capriotti if you can help with this volunteer activity.
- Dec. 7** Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 2 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Lobby, Washington, D.C.
- Dec. 11** No regular business meeting due to holiday dinner.
- Dec. 16** Chapter 10 Holiday Dinner, see below details.
- Dec. 18** Holiday Party for the patients at the Washington D.C. VA Medical Center ★

Chapter 10 Holiday Dinner

Sunday - December 16, 2007

At

Athena Pallas Restaurant

556 22nd Street South

Arlington Virginia

Social Hour: 4:00PM

Dinner: 5:30PM

\$25.00

Entrees

\$25.00

Grilled Salmon Or Boneless Broiled ½ Chicken Or Filet Medallions - Tenderloin

Salad - Roasted Potatoes/Rice - Vegetable

Rolls - Coffee - Tea - Milk

Apple Pie/ Ice Cream/Cheesecake

Everyone is welcome - Please bring your spouse - friends - veterans.

You may call past Cmdr. June Springer at (703) 548-7023 and leave your name, phone number, number of guests and choice of entrees.

Join in Friendship - Laughter - Good Food

There will be door prizes. Let the Holiday Season Begin.

Please come - you will have a wonderful time.

WHEELCHAIRS

The Wheelchair Foundation and Knights of Columbus have graciously donated 500 wheelchairs to the DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Do you know of any veterans or veteran family members that are in need of a new wheelchair?

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving a wheelchair, please contact Chuck Gallina from the Knights of Columbus at (202) 203-6255. Please be ready to give the veteran's name and size of each chair requested, (16, 18, or 20 inches). Please limit the number of wheelchairs requested to 25 per organization.

Veterans receiving a new wheelchair will be honored at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center on Saturday, November 10 at 11 a.m. ★

WHAT IS VONAPP?

The VONAPP (Veterans On Line Applications) website is an official VA website that enables veterans to apply for benefits using the Internet. U.S. military veterans and some service members within six months of separation or retirement can apply for compensation, pension, and vocational rehabilitation benefits.

The VONAPP Homepage is at: www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp. ★

METRO & PHONE CARDS

John Capriotti is still collecting cards for hospitalized and adjusting veterans. ★

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. ★

HOLIDAY CARDS

Don't throw those unwanted holiday cards away. Bring them to the November meeting and they will be given to patients at the DCVAMC. ★

SPECIAL THANKS

I want to thank Harriet Epstein for her informative presentation about community resources, other than DAV and VA, available to aging veterans and their families. Harriet is an officer with Unit 10 and would be happy to answer questions. ★

FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS 2007 EDITION

The 2007 edition of Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents is available on-line in portable document format (PDF) and as a series of Web pages at http://www.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp.

The booklet provides the rates for certain federal payments and outlines many programs and services provided by VA and other federal agencies. It also includes toll-free phone numbers, Internet addresses and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country. ★

VA MEDICAL FACILITIES LEADERS IN FIGHT AGAINST MRSA

Building on the success of a pilot program that reduced a worrisome staph infection by 50 percent, the VA has tough new screening requirements now in place in all of its 153 hospitals.

In addition to emphasizing its commitment to hospital hygiene and flagging affected patients for special precautions, VA facilities monitor all incoming patients on key units with nasal swabs and cultures for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

“VA demonstrated that dramatic reductions in MRSA-related infections are possible,” said Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon H. Mansfield. “VA’s completion of our national deployment of these serious prevention measures reinforces VA’s stature as one of the safest health care environments nationally.”

Recently published data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in collaboration with other researchers estimated there may be more than 94,000 MRSA cases a year in the United States associated with 18,650 deaths annually.

“MRSA is a dangerous infection, difficult to eradicate, that can cause pneumonia, wound or bloodstream infections,” said Dr. Michael J. Kussman, VA’s Under Secretary for Health. “Our ability to reduce the number of cases of MRSA infection enhances our ability to provide quality health care for veterans.”

MRSA reflects the broader problem of multi-drug resistant organisms, which are difficult to treat with conventional antibiotics. In addition to hand-washing, isolation of infected patients and the use of gowns to prevent spread, the VA initiative focuses on “culture change” among its health care workers to improve awareness of the threat and to make infection prevention a routine component of care during each patient encounter every day.

After a successful pilot program in VA’s Pittsburgh Health Care system, the Department began screening incoming patients to its intensive care units in March. The program has been expanded to other high-risk hospital units, including transplant and spinal cord injury as well as general surgical and medical patient wards. ★

ASSURED FUNDING MEASURE INTRODUCED

Representatives Phil Hare (IL-17) has introduced H.R. 2514, the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act, which would move the funding of veterans’ health care from discretionary to mandatory funding. However, no similar bill has yet been introduced in the Senate. We urge you to contact your elected representative in the House to co-sponsor and actively support the passage of this measure. We also urge you to contact your Senators to introduce a similar measure. ★



**ATTENTION MEMBERS!!!
THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING HAS BEEN
CHANGED TO NOVEMBER 15!! THAT'S NOVEMBER 15!!**



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