



# 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/](http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/va/10/)

## PRESIDENT SIGNS COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR VETERANS

President Bush has signed into law legislation providing a 5.8 percent cost-of-living increase in VA compensation benefits.

The measure increases compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, as well as dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of deceased veterans. Last year's cost of living adjustment was 2.3 percent.

The benefit increase, to take effect Dec. 1, is pegged to changes in the Consumer Price Index, a key measure of inflation, and is tied to the annual increase for Social Security recipients. The increase, which applies to about 2.8 million veterans and survivors, will first appear in January VA benefit checks. ★

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION EXPEDITING APPLICATIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Military service members can receive expedited processing of disability claims from Social Security. Benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application. The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.

Active duty status and receipt of military pay does not, in itself, necessarily prevent payment of disability benefits. Receipt of military payments should never stop military service members from applying for disability benefits from Social Security. If a military service member is receiving treatment at a military medical facility and working in a designated therapy program or on limited duty, SSA will evaluate their work activity to determine eligibility for benefits. The actual work activity is the **continued on page 3**

## VA AND DOD ELECTRONICALLY "HAND OFF" RECORDS OF WOUNDED PATIENTS

WASHINGTON (Sept. 25, 2008) - Instant electronic medical information from the Department of Defense (DoD) about severely wounded troops soon will be transferred to four Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) special treatment centers. The two departments completed a successful pilot project sharing patient information between Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Polytrauma Unit at the Tampa, Fla., VA Medical Center.

The pilot's expansion will share enhanced data between VA's four polytrauma centers in Tampa, Fla.; Richmond, Va.; Minneapolis; and Palo Alto, **continued on page 4**

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## CHAPTER 10 COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter 10 Holiday Dinner – Sunday, December 14, 2008.

All members of Chapter 10 are cordially invited to attend the annual holiday dinner, to be held on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at Athena Pallas Restaurant, 556 22nd Street, Arlington, VA 22202. The restaurant has a web site at [www.athenapallasrestaurant.com](http://www.athenapallasrestaurant.com), which includes driving directions. The event includes a social hour with cash bar from 4 to 5 p.m., with dinner to be served at 5:15 p.m.

Our special guests will include Department of Virginia officers, and residents of the Washington, D.C. VA Comprehensive Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (CNRC). Door prizes will be awarded as part of the festivities. Attendees may bring a small wrapped gift to be provided at Christmas to residents of the CNRC. Designate whether the gift is for a male or female recipient, if needed. Appropriate gifts for the CNRC residents are such items as playing cards, note cards and pens, soft crew and bed socks, books, etc.

Dinner reservations are \$30 per person in advance, and must be provided no later than Wednesday, December 10, so that the restaurant may determine the number of meals to prepare. Mail your reservations to the Chapter at: DAV Chapter 10, P.O. Box 4001, Arlington, VA 22204-4001. Make checks payable to: DAV Chapter 10.

Please include with your payment the name of each person attending the event, a contact telephone number, and each person's choice of entrée.

Choice of Entrée:     New York Strip Steak, or  
                              Stuffed Flounder with Crab Meat, or  
                              Baked Half Chicken

The meal will include salad and bread; choice of baked potato, rice, or mashed potatoes; and apple pie a la mode for dessert. If you have questions or need additional information, contact event coordinator June Springer at (703) 548-7023.

Plan now to attend this special event. I look forward to seeing you at this festive and fun annual gathering of chapter members and their guests.

John L. Maki  
Commander

## VGLI RATES GO DOWN

As of July 1, 2008, VGLI premium rates were reduced for those ages 30 to 64, which comprise 85 percent of those insured under the program. Premium rates for those under age 30 are already very competitive. These premium reductions will range from 4 percent to 12 percent and are a result of recent improvement in claims experience. They will ensure that VGLI remains in a highly competitive position with similar insurance offered by commercial insurers. Follow this link to view a table of reduced VGLI premium rates.

Go to: <http://www.insurance.va.gov/SGLISITE/VGLI/VGLI%20rates.htm>

## COME TO A CHAPTER MEETING

The next Chapter 10 meeting will be Wednesday, November 12. 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. 6** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.  
**Nov. 12** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post #176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA.  
**Dec. 14** Chapter 10 Holiday Party at Athenas Restaurant.  
**Dec. 16** Holiday Party at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.  
**Jan. 8** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home ★

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## NEW LAW AUTHORIZES VETERANS' SALUTES DURING NATIONAL ANTHEM

WASHINGTON (Oct. 30, 2008) — Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.”

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem.

Last year’s provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation’s veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization’s official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008. ★

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**continued from page 1** controlling factor and not the amount of pay the military service member receives or military duty status.

Military service members may apply for disability benefits at any time while in military status or after discharge, whether still hospitalized, in a rehabilitation program or undergoing out-patient treatment in a military or civilian medical facility.

Military service members may apply online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/wounded-warriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/wounded-warriors), in person at the nearest Social Security office, by mail or by telephone. Or, call 1-800-772-1213 to schedule an appointment. If the military service member is deaf or hard of hearing, they may call SSA’s TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. ★

## 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

## 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. ★

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## 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. ★

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## 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. ★

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## NEWSLETTER

To receive your Chapter 10 newsletter by e-mail as a pdf file, send an e-mail to: [webmaster@DAV10.org](mailto: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](http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/va/10) THANKS! ★



**continued from page 1** Calif. and all Army medical treatment facilities. The patient information to be shared between DoD and VA involves electronic notes on the patient's situation and background, an assessment of his or her condition, and recommendations for future care.

This uniform, standard method of communicating patient information will ensure veterans receive high quality care immediately after being transferred and the information is available and accessible at all times.

"I'm proud to announce the launch of this partnership," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Because it is targeted at severely wounded veterans transferring directly from DoD to VA, it enhances their care."

The VA-funded project is the result of collaboration among VA and DoD nurses and information technology professionals. The departments are working to make all of their electronic patient records interoperable.

Peake said the announcement represents a significant step forward in those efforts.

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## TIME OUT FOR VETERAN'S HEALTH

**TOUR THE LOCKER ROOM ...**

**GET A PLAYERS PERSPECTIVE OF FEDEXFIELD ...**

**BE PROACTIVE ABOUT YOUR HEALTH!**

**WHAT:** In recognition of Veterans Day, the Washington Redskins, GlaxoSmithKline, Men's Health Network, Prostrate Cancer Education Council, and the American Heart Association are hosting a unique screening event in the Redskins team locker room at FedExField to encourage men and women military veterans to be proactive about their health.

Participating male and female veterans will have the opportunity to receive a comprehensive series of free health screenings including: cholesterol, diabetes, osteoporosis, blood pressure, prostate exams, body fat, grip strength, and patient health educational materials for men and women on various health conditions.

Be sure to bring your family and camera as you tour the Redskins locker room and get a "player's view" of FedExField! We'll have games for your kids, snacks and refreshments, and discounts on Redskins retail merchandise!

**WHERE:** Redskins Locker Room, FedExField, Landover, MD

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 8, 2008 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**WHO:** Military Veterans (Men and Women), all ages

Space is limited. Visit [www.redskins.com/healthandwellness](http://www.redskins.com/healthandwellness) or call 1-866-543-6461 ext. 120 to register.



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



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
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