

DAV



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/

SECOND LIFE: VIRTUAL DAV WORLD GOES ONLINE

What is Second Life?

Second Life is an online 3D virtual world developed by Linden Lab. It provides an immersive environment where users are able to create a digital character, or 'avatar', and interact with people from around the world.

Second Life allows users or 'residents' to come together to engage in a range of activities including socializing, attending musical events, playing games, shopping, running businesses, building, collaborating, attending meetings and presentations and undertaking training and education.

What makes Second Life unique is that the world is 100% user-generated - that is, everything you see and experience in the world is created by the residents - and residents retain intellectual property rights over everything they create.

Why is DAV Using Second Life?

Today's DAV membership is a new generation; one who enjoys different forms of social interaction.

The notion of attending a fraternal meeting in a chapter hall does not always appeal to these new members. So how do we get them more involved?

One way will be through our new Virtual DAV. Created online in Second Life, this social networking tool will provide the DAV with a new avenue of outreach, social interaction and advocacy. This type of newer technology reaches a younger generation since it supports a networking structure with which they are familiar. More importantly, it will provide an opportunity for physically disabled members to get involved using a virtual environment to interact and collaborate.

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Chapter 10 Commander John Maki's avatar at the welcome area in the DAV virtual world Second Life.

PRO BONO PROGRAM FOR VETS

From Arthur Wilson, DAV National Adjutant

After long and careful consideration, the DAV has accepted a proposal from Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, one of the nation's leading law firms, to offer free representation at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to certain veterans referred by DAV.

This new arrangement will provide even more resources to disabled veterans seeking to obtain benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. In a number of cases, they will now be able to access the resources of Finnegan and its very talented lawyers in exercising their right to independent judicial review of benefit decisions.

Under the agreement, Finnegan will offer pro bono represen- continued on page 3

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CHAPTER 10 COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We live in a digital age, and I believe we must explore alternative methods to communicate our Chapter programs and services to our members, and to the disabled veteran community. The recent construction of a virtual DAV world created online in Second Life is an exciting development in our exploration of digital communication tools.

The Chapter internet site is one method to provide up-to-the-minute information to members and the public about our activities. I am interested in hearing your ideas for integrating new technologies and methods to enhance our Chapter communications and services. Having virtual gatherings of members in the DAV areas in Second Life is now a viable resource, and provides an opportunity for disabled members to get more involved through a highly interactive environment.

I intend to appoint a Technology Advisory Committee to explore this topic. The Committee would be charged with providing recommendations for implementation of effective programs and methods to enable:

- 1) Intra-chapter communications for officers and committee members of Chapter 10.
- 2) Intra-chapter communications for Chapter members to contact fellow members.
- 3) Effective communication of DAV programs and services to disabled veterans and their families living in Northern Virginia.
- 4) Effective use of digital technologies to enhance the business operations of the Chapter.

This announcement is intended to make Chapter members aware of this initiative, and to solicit the assistance of members who have technical, business or communication skills that could help provide cost-effective ideas and solutions. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact me at the following email address:

jmaki82550@aol.com Subject: Chapter 10 TAC.

Please provide contact information, and a brief description of your particular ideas, talents and skills.

I hope to have the committee operational as soon as possible. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

John L. Maki

Commander

PENTAGON 9/11 MEMORIAL

The Pentagon Memorial to the 184 victims of September 11, 2001 opens to the public at 7 p.m. September 11, 2008. The stainless steel benches and reflecting pools and the surrounding site honoring the 125 servicemembers and civilian workers from the Pentagon and the 59 passengers and crew of American Airlines flight 77 who were killed in the attack will be dedicated this September 11th.

Parking is not available at the Pentagon. Guests are encouraged to arrive by Metro at the Pentagon stop, located on the Yellow and Blue Lines. Upon arrival at the Pentagon, please proceed to Pentagon South Parking. The nearest public parking facility is located at Pentagon City Mall. Parking is at the guest's expense. For more information about the Pentagon Memorial please go to the following link: www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2008/0708_memorial/. ★

COME TO A CHAPTER MEETING

The next Chapter 10 meeting will be Tuesday, September 9. The speaker will be Danny Soto Assistant Supervisor of the Washington, D.C. DAV National Service Office. He will speak about the DAV's service and claims activities concerning wounded servicemembers and the military's Physical Evaluation Board process.

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.).

If anyone knows of any other disabled veterans near you, or newly discharged disabled veterans, please bring them along and let them get acquainted with the DAV.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 4** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
Sept. 9 Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post #176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA. There will be a speaker.
Oct. 2 Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
Oct. 14 Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post #176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA. Induction of new Chapter members ceremony
Nov. 6 Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
Nov. To be announced. 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. ★

VA ANNOUNCES ON-LINE CLAIMS APPLICATIONS

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that on-line applications are now accepted from veterans, survivors and other claimants filing initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without the additional requirement to submit a signed paper copy of the application.

Effective immediately, VA will now process applications received through its on-line application website (VONAPP) without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Normal development procedures and rules of evidence will still apply to all VONAPP applications.

VONAPP (www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm) is a Web-based system that benefits both internal and external users. Veterans, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits can apply electronically without the constraints of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery. ★

continued from page 1 tation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to certain veterans referred by DAV. All in all, Finnegan will likely handle between 100 and 200 cases each year at the court, all of which will be selected from the thousands that DAV handles — and will continue to handle — at VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals.

The DAV's foremost concern continues to be ensuring that disabled veterans have the very best representation possible as they pursue their claims for disability compensation and other earned benefits from the VA. We are very pleased that a prestigious firm such as Finnegan has volunteered to provide pro bono services to our nation's veterans and their families, services that will complement our vast program of representation by our National Appeals Officers, National Service Officers, Transition Service Officers, Department Service Officers and Chapter Service Officers.

This new arrangement with Finnegan provides DAV the opportunity to create a better balance in our National Service Program. This includes allowing us to devote additional resources to our operations at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, where the workload is increasing at a rapid pace. ★

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. ★

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! ★

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let the Chapter know by mail if you have moved. Also, it is important that you notify the Department of Veterans Affairs office so that any and all mail will reach you.

If you do not notify the VA or the Chapter as soon as possible, it could mean your compensation checks could be delayed or not received at all. This also affects receiving your monthly DAV magazine and may affect benefits for your family. ★

KEEP YOUR RECORDS

To all veterans: Keep a folder with a record of all VA benefits to which you are entitled. Make sure you keep the folder up-to-date. It is important to you and your family that you keep a folder that documents what benefits you, your spouse and your children are due.

Keep the folder, your claim number and the VA phone number where you or your family can find it in an emergency. Keep all of your VA records together. You should update your personal copy of your VA medical records every year. Just sign for them at the VA Medical Center when you visit and receive them in a week to 10 days. You should also keep a record of all the medications you take, in the file and in your purse or wallet if possible.

Another VA form you should sign is a Living Will. In case of an emergency and you are unable to sign anything, your wishes will be carried out. ★

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We are hopeful that our members who physically cannot get to chapter meetings will have a greater sense of participation and belonging to the organization. Through illustrative scenery, and some very cool graphics, DAV members will have areas for training, viewing presentations or merely brainstorming together as a group.

Key Features

- Provides members with a great sense of participation and belonging to the organization.
- Provides an opportunity for physically disabled members to get more involved through a graphical and highly interactive environment.
- Six DAV Islands are available to explore; four are open to the public and two for DAV Members only.
- Social gatherings can be conducted in a variety of areas throughout the islands, such as in a typical office building, a beach house, or even at a campfire.
- Multiple channels of communication exist, including images, audio, video, text and voice, for both groups and individuals.
- A recreation of the concept plan for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial can be found on DAV Island.

GETTING STARTED IN SECOND LIFE

1. Check that your computer meets System Requirements:

Second Life has specific software and hardware requirements.

Check the website for further information - <http://secondlife.com>. If your computer doesn't meet these requirements, you may not be able to participate in Second Life effectively.

2. Visit the Second Life Homepage:

Go to 'Join Now' where you will find an online form to fill out.

3. Choose a Name for Your New Avatar: You don't need to use your real name... be creative. Choose a first name of your own creation, and a last name from a drop-down list of choices.

4. Choose from Some Basic Avatar Options: New users need to choose a basic setup for their new avatar. There are a number of male and female options on the website to choose from. Don't worry too much about this, as you will be able to modify and create your own avatar later on.

5. Complete the Registration Form: Add the required details to the final registration form (name, password, email address etc) and submit. Once completed, you will receive a confirmation email and steps for the activation process. Now you are ready to go!

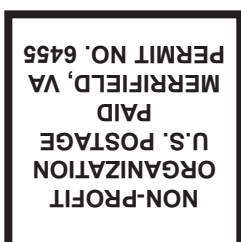
6. Optional - Premium Accounts: If you're interested in owning land or engaging in the Second Life economy, you may wish to sign up for a Premium account. However - to join our tours in Second Life, you do not need to spend any money - simply skip this step.

7. Download and install the Second Life client: Users need to download and install the Second Life software onto their computer. (About 30MB for Windows users and 62MB for Mac users). You must have this software installed in order to access Second Life.

8. Log in to Second Life and Start Exploring!: That's it! You're ready to start your Second Life. Launch the Second Life software and login. You will arrive on Orientation Island where you will be able to use the resources there to familiarize with the Second Life interface.

9. Instant Message Us!: We'd love to hear from you! To contact us, you can use the Instant Message tools within Second Life. Simply click on the Search button, and under 'people' search for Annee Hotshot or Reanae Burnstein. Press the Instant Message button at the bottom of the Profile to send us direct messages.

More information about the Second Life virtual website can be found on the Chapter 10 website at www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/va/10/.



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



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
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