



CHAPTER 10 ARLINGTON- FAIRFAX, VA

Volume 7, Number 4

Sept/Oct 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COMMANDER'S MSG PAGE 2

*DISABLED FOR LIFE
MEMORIAL DESIGN
APPROVED* PAGE 2

UPCOMING EVENTS PAGE 3

*VA LAUNCHES
HEALTH STUDY* PAGE 3

*CHANGE OF
ADDRESS* PAGE 3

*DAV LEGAL
SERVICES* PAGE 3

*CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER* PAGE 3

*IMPORTANT PHONE
NUMBERS* PAGE 3

*VA REOPENS
ENROLLMENT* PAGE 4

*VA VOLUNTARY
SERVICE* PAGE 4

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/

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PARTNER WITH VA TO IMPROVE GI BILL BENEFITS

WASHINGTON, DC - August 3, 2009 President Obama recently celebrated the beginning of implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill. This bill, through its Yellow Ribbon Programs and partnerships with colleges and universities throughout the nation, will provide our service members with the most generous educational benefits package since the original GI Bill of 1944.

Over 3,400 agreements were received from the 1,100 schools participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program. The Yellow Ribbon Program, a provision of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, funds tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate.

"Sixty-five years ago, a grateful nation offered a generation of World War II heroes the chance to go to college," President Obama said. "The original GI Bill paved the way to a better life for millions of veterans and their families while building the foundation of the American middle class. Today, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is affording a new generation of heroes a 21st century version of that same opportunity."

"The President and I know that the nation's courageous service members and their families have shouldered the heaviest burden for our country's security and safety over the past eight years," VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said. "This new GI Bill is a way for a grateful nation to tangibly demonstrate our heartfelt appreciation and abiding respect for their service."

"More than two and half years ago, we began with the simple concept that those who have been serving since 9/11 should have the same opportunity for a first class educational future as those who served during World War II," Senator **continued on page 3**

MORE POST 9/11 GI BILL BENEFITS

The Defense Department has implemented policy for transferring educational benefits to the spouses and children of service members under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, which took effect Aug. 1, 2009. Career service members on active duty or in the selected reserve on Aug. 1, 2009, and who are eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, may be entitled to transfer all or a portion of their education entitlement to one or more family members. To be eligible, service members must have served in the Armed Forces for at least six years, and agree to serve four additional years, from the date of election to transfer.

Service members with at least 10 years of service, who by DOD or service policy are prevented from committing to four additional years, may transfer their benefits provided they commit for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute.

Additionally, to maintain proper force structure and promotion opportunities, temporary rules have been developed for service members eligible to retire between Aug. 1, 2009 and Aug. 1, 2012. Depending on their retirement eligibility date, these service members will commit to one to three additional years, from the date of election to transfer. ★

CHAPTER 10 OFFICERS

COMMANDER

Steve Deines 703-989-9721

ADJUTANT

John Maki 202-554-3501

SR. VICE CDR

Russ Dority 202-461-8098

1ST JR. VICE CDR

Robert Hughes 703-237-2634

2ND JR. VICE CDR

Jim Proconier 703-916-0417

TREASURER

Vacant

CHAPLAIN

John Murray 703-796-1212

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Arnold H. Sells 703-642-3611

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Joy J. Ilem 202-554-3501

OFFICER OF THE DAY

Anna Lutz 703-451-0794

SGT AT ARMS

Thomas Griffiths 703-581-4848

CHAPTER SERVICE OFFICER

Danny Soto 202-530-9260

PAST CDR

John Maki 202-565-3501

DEC

John Maki 202-565-3501

ALT. DEC

S. Kenneth Booker 703-534-4354

UNIT 10 OFFICERS

COMMANDER

Lena Mae Maki 703-262-0016

ADJUTANT

Ruth Sells 703-642-3611

SR. VICE CDR

Marci Reed 703-250-1206

JR. VICE CDR

Harriet Epstein 703-560-4137

TREASURER

Ingrid Capriotti 703-521-3014

CHAPLAIN

Beatrice Stephenson 703-273-5730

CONDUCTRESS

Gracie Moody 703-548-7023

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTRESS

Harriet Epstein 703-560-4137

PAST CDR

Beatrice Stephenson 703-273-5730

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter 10

P.O. Box 4001

Arlington, VA 22204-4001

703-534-4354

Home page: <http://www.davmember-portal.org/chapters/va/10/>

Newsletter Editor: David L. Barrette

CHAPTER 10 COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I hope all Chapter 10 DAV members are having a really great summer. Since I was installed as your Chapter commander, a lot of things have happened. I went to the Department convention to learn how to serve all of you on the DAV team. We had a very successful Forget-Me-Not drive the last weekend in May. The volunteer response was tremendous for which I want to say, "Thank you!"

There is a lot of team spirit in Chapter 10 and I hope I can meet more of you in the upcoming months. We have a very nice meeting location at the Mason District Government Center for the Chapter and Auxiliary, with plenty of handicap accessible parking.

In July we lost two very active members of Chapter 10. Both were also past Chapter commanders. We said goodbye to John (Jack) Stephenson and John Capriotti.

Jack died July 9. He was a member of Chapter 10 for 53 years and even when confined to a wheelchair still attended meetings on a regular basis. It was truly great to see him as he always had a smile on his face.

John died July 24 and will be greatly missed. He was a Chapter 10 member for 28 years, serving as treasurer for most of that time. John was dedicated to the mission of the DAV, and actively involved in the volunteer program monthly bingo at the VA Medical Center, Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies at Quantico National Cemetery, annual holiday events for patients in the VA nursing home, and recreational events for patients. In June he received the George H. Seal award and was named the volunteer of the year 2009 by the VA Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

I ask that you keep their wives, Bea Stephenson and Ingrid Capriotti in your thoughts and prayers.

The weather was perfect for the Chapter picnic in July at Davison Army Airfield near Ft. Belvoir. The Bob Alexander family did a great job preparing the food for us, and our special guests from the VA nursing home had a fine outing. I wish to thank the recreation staff at the VA Medical Center for their assistance in transporting the patients to this event.

I hope to see you at our upcoming events and meetings. We are dedicated to the DAV mission of "Building better lives for disabled veterans and their families." I invite you to become involved in the Chapter's activities and programs and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow veterans disabled in service to our great country. Thank you for your continuing support of our programs.

Steven D. Deines
Commander, Chapter 10

FINAL DESIGN FOR MEMORIAL APPROVED

August 18, 2009 - The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation announced today that the Commission of Fine Arts has granted final approval of the site design for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial near the National Mall in Washington D.C.

The approved design juxtaposes marble and glass to convey an interaction of strength and vulnerability, of loss and renewal. The focal point of the Memorial will be a star-shaped reflecting pool, its surface broken by a single eternal flame. A grove of trees will stand sentry beside the pool, signifying the persistence of hope. The glass walls will contain quotations and imagery that represent personal journeys of courage and extraordinary sacrifice made in service to our country. The Foundation anticipates breaking ground on the Memorial in 2010. ★

COME TO A CHAPTER MEETING

The next Chapter 10 meeting will be at our new meeting place Tuesday, Sept. 8. We meet at the Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. If you need assistance finding the meeting location, please contact one of the Chapter Officers and they will assist you with directions.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 8** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District, Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA.
- Sept. 15** Join the Virtual March on Washington in support of disabled veterans and their families. Visit: <http://march.dav.org>
- Oct. 13** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District, Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA.
- Nov. 10** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District, Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA.
- Nov. 11** Veterans Day Ceremonies at Arlington and Quantico National Cemeteries.
- Dec.** Annual Chapter Holiday Dinner. Date and Time TBA. ★

VA LAUNCHES 10 YEAR HEALTH STUDY

VA has initiated a large, long-term study to look at a broad array of health issues that may affect Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) veterans and their counterparts who served during the same time period. VA's "National Health Study for a New Generation of U.S. Veterans" will begin with 30,000 veterans deployed to OEF/OIF and 30,000 comparison veterans who were not deployed.

The study includes veterans who served in each branch of service, representing active duty, Reserve, and National Guard members. Women will be over-sampled to make sure they are represented and will comprise 20 percent of the study, or 12,000 women. A combination of mail surveys, online surveys, telephone interviews, and in-person physical evaluations will be used to collect data from the veterans.

The study will compare the deployed and non-deployed veterans in terms of chronic medical conditions, traumatic brain injury (TBI), post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other psychological conditions, general health perceptions, reproductive health, pregnancy outcomes, functional status, use of health care, behavioral risk factors (smoking, drinking, seatbelt use, speeding, motorcycle helmet use, and sexual behavior), and VA disability compensation. VA has contracted with an independent veteran-owned research firm, HMS Technologies Inc., to collect the data. ★

continued from page 1 Jim H. Webb said, "This bill provides a modern and fair educational benefit to address the needs of those who answered the call of duty to our country – those who moved toward the sound of the guns – often at great sacrifice."

With the implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, our nation has an opportunity to honor America's veterans in a very tangible way. The maximum benefit under the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows veterans, service members, Reservists and Guard members the ability to receive an in-state, undergraduate education at a public institution at no cost.

President Obama has directed Secretary Shinseki to create a results-driven, 21st Century VA. Since the signing of this monumental legislation, VA made meeting the August 1 implementation deadline a top priority. As of July 30th VA processed over 112,000 claims. ★

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

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. ★

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. ★

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! ★



VA REOPENING HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT TO THOUSANDS OF VETERANS

VA will add nearly 266,000 more veterans into its medical centers and clinics across the country by expanding access to health care enrollment for certain veterans who had been excluded due to their income.

Under a new regulation effective June 15, 2009, VA will enroll veterans whose income exceeds current means-tested thresholds by up to 10 percent. These veterans were excluded from VA health care enrollment when income limits were imposed in 2003 on veterans with no service-connected disabilities or other special eligibility for care. There is no income limit for veterans with compensable service-connected disabilities or for veterans being seen for their service-connected disabilities.

Veterans who have applied for VA health care but were rejected due to income at any point in 2009 will have their applications reconsidered under the new income threshold formula. Those who applied before 2009, but were rejected due to income, must reapply. Information about enrollment and an income and assets calculator are available at the web site: www.va.gov/healtheligibility. The calculator provides a format in which veterans enter their household income, number of dependents, and zip codes to see if they may qualify for VA health care enrollment.

In addition to applying online, veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (1-877-222-8387). Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide veterans with enrollment and eligibility information. ★

VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE

VA's Voluntary Service (VAVS) is the largest volunteer program in the federal government. Men and women from their teens to their nineties become volunteer partners on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care team. Some bring special skills and knowledge, while others have a desire to explore and learn. Many come with a gift for working directly with patients, while others bring dependability to assignments behind the scenes. Voluntary Service matches the volunteer to the assignment, provides orientation and training for volunteers and maintains an awards program to recognize volunteer service.

VA volunteers perform a variety of duties at VA medical centers, national cemeteries, regional offices and regional counsel offices. At medical centers, their roles range from traditional ones, such as escorting patients and administrative duties, to creative activities, such as teaching arts and crafts and developing newsletters. As VA has expanded its care of patients into the community, volunteers now assist VA staff in hospice programs, outpatient clinics, home-based primary care and outreach centers.

At cemeteries, volunteers provide military honors at burial services, create memorials, plant trees and flowers, build historical trails and place flags on graves for Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Volunteers have been particularly active in supporting community programs aimed at reaching and serving the homeless in one- to three-day events offering a variety of services. Volunteers also have become an integral part of national and local "showcase events" aimed at introducing people with disabilities back to mainstream activities. These include the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (the largest wheelchair athletic meet in the world), the National Veterans Golden Age Games and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Corporate volunteers play a strong role in these events, setting the pace for the future of VA Voluntary Service, along with a strong and growing youth volunteer program that is introducing teenagers and college students to careers and community service. In VA medical centers, young volunteers work in such areas as audiology, speech pathology, dietetics and physical therapy. Scout groups assist in landscaping and decorating at VA national cemeteries.

Contact Chapter 10 for more information on being a VAVS volunteer. ★



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



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA
PERMIT NO. 6455

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
Arlington-Fairfax Chapter 10
P.O. Box 4001
Arlington, VA 22204-4001