Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
S; 2006-0257-F

FOIA Number:
S

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Backup Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13768
Folder ID Number: 13768-009

Folder Title:
Disabled American Veterans 9/12/91 [OA 8327]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	21	5	7

to P
9/12

91 SEP 11 P7:14

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 11, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: TONY SNOW TS

FROM: ROBERT SIMON RS

SUBJECT: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, September 12, at 8:30 p.m., you will drop by a reception at the Disabled American Veterans HQ in Washington. The DAV is honoring 20 patients from Walter Reed Army Hospital who were wounded in the Persian Gulf.

II. DISCUSSION

The audience of about 300 will consist of VA staff, members of Congress, diplomats of allied nations, and representatives of veterans' organizations based in Washington.

The remarks (4 minutes, on cards) thank the DAV for their work helping injured veterans.

Prior to your arrival, there will have been brief remarks by Secretary Cheney, Secretary Derwinski, Ambassador Al-Sabah, Sen. DeConcini, and Rep. Montgomery.

Simon
September 11, 1991
Draft 3 (DAV)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
D.A.V. HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1991
8:30 p.m.

My thanks to Cleveland Jordan [National Commander] for inviting me to this gathering. Twice now, unforeseen events have kept me from speaking to the D.A.V., so I'm doubly pleased to be here tonight.

I want to recognize two members of my Cabinet, Dick Cheney, who was here earlier, and Ed Derwinski -- both doing an outstanding job for our servicemen and women and our veterans. There are many members of Congress here -- all strong supporters of veterans' causes, including Senators DeConcini and Simpson, and your friend and mine, Sonny Montgomery. And members of the diplomatic corps, including Ambassador Al-Sabah of Kuwait and Ambassador Juan Cassiers of Belgium.

Tonight we honor those who answered their country's call to service. They went proudly, willingly, on a mission of high principle and noble purpose: to defeat aggression and defend freedom. In a far-away land, they battled the enemy in the field -- and the inner enemy of fear. Through their sacrifice, they put an end to brutal aggression. They freed a captive nation, and set America free by renewing our faith in ourselves.

From the time Operation Desert Shield began, a sacred bond grew between Americans here at home and those serving in the Gulf. Think of all those yellow ribbons. Think of how the

American family has never been more united. That bond, that unity, and that love must be preserved for those injured or disabled by war.

For more than 70 years, the D.A.V. has helped veterans the old-fashioned way: person to person, veteran to veteran. The soldiers here tonight are finding out how fortunate they are to have thousands of volunteers ready to help, to offer support, and just be a friend to those on the road to recovery. So I just wanted to offer my sincere thanks for all you've done and all that you continue to do on behalf of America's veterans. As President, but even more as a veteran, I'm proud to be a member of the D.A.V. \\\

You know, every day, many important papers and documents cross my desk in the Oval Office, but very few items remain there for long. There's one thing, though, that stays there, as a constant reminder. It's a small American flag -- the same kind they give to children to wave at parades. An American soldier gave it to me in a hospital in San Antonio, and I'll never forget what he said. "This is from all the men in Panama," he said, "and I want you to have this from them. And we thank you for sending us." \\ That soldier had come home a paraplegic.

Where would America be without its veterans? There wouldn't be an America. No Commander-in-Chief forgets the sacrifices of America's veterans. Nor will America forget those who do the hard work of freedom. We supported you in peacetime and in wartime, and we will support you now that you are home. \\

May God bless America, and the veterans who keep her free.

# # #

JERRY ATCHISON
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE AND
LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
807 MAINE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024

OFFICE: (202) 554-3501
HOME: (301) 292-7652

BRUCE G. NITSCHE
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF
VOLUNTARY SERVICES
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE AND
LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
807 MAINE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024

PHONE: 554-3501
AREA CODE (202)
FAX: 554-3581

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS \ D.A.V. HEADQUARTERS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1991 \ 8:30 P.M.

MY THANKS TO CLEVELAND JORDAN [NATIONAL COMMANDER] FOR INVITING ME TO THIS GATHERING. TWICE NOW, UNFORESEEN EVENTS HAVE KEPT ME FROM SPEAKING TO THE D.A.V., SO I'M DOUBLY PLEASED TO BE HERE TONIGHT.

I WANT TO RECOGNIZE TWO MEMBERS OF MY CABINET, DICK CHENEY, WHO WAS HERE EARLIER, AND ED DERWINSKI -- BOTH DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB FOR OUR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN AND OUR VETERANS.

THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HERE -- ALL STRONG SUPPORTERS OF VETERANS' CAUSES, INCLUDING SENATORS DECONCINI AND SIMPSON, AND YOUR FRIEND AND MINE, SONNY MONTGOMERY. AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR AL-SABAH OF KUWAIT AND AMBASSADOR JUAN CASSIERS OF BELGIUM.

TONIGHT WE HONOR THOSE WHO ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL TO SERVICE.

THEY WENT PROUDLY, WILLINGLY, ON A MISSION OF HIGH PRINCIPLE AND NOBLE PURPOSE: TO DEFEAT AGGRESSION AND DEFEND FREEDOM. IN A FAR-AWAY LAND, THEY BATTLED THE ENEMY IN THE FIELD -- AND THE INNER ENEMY OF FEAR. THROUGH THEIR SACRIFICE, THEY PUT AN END TO BRUTAL AGGRESSION. THEY FREED A CAPTIVE NATION, AND SET AMERICA FREE BY RENEWING OUR FAITH IN OURSELVES.

FROM THE TIME OPERATION DESERT SHIELD BEGAN, A SACRED BOND GREW BETWEEN AMERICANS HERE AT HOME AND THOSE SERVING IN THE GULF. THINK OF ALL THOSE YELLOW RIBBONS. THINK OF HOW THE AMERICAN FAMILY HAS NEVER BEEN MORE UNITED. THAT BOND, THAT UNITY, AND THAT LOVE MUST BE PRESERVED FOR THOSE INJURED OR DISABLED BY WAR.

FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS, THE D.A.V. HAS HELPED VETERANS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY: PERSON TO PERSON, VETERAN TO VETERAN.

THE SOLDIERS HERE TONIGHT ARE FINDING OUT HOW FORTUNATE THEY ARE TO HAVE THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS READY TO HELP, TO OFFER SUPPORT, AND JUST BE A FRIEND TO THOSE ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY. SO I JUST WANTED TO OFFER MY SINCERE THANKS FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE AND ALL THAT YOU CONTINUE TO DO ON BEHALF OF AMERICA'S VETERANS. AS PRESIDENT, BUT EVEN MORE AS A VETERAN, I'M PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE D.A.V. \\\

YOU KNOW, EVERY DAY, MANY IMPORTANT PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS CROSS MY DESK IN THE OVAL OFFICE, BUT VERY FEW ITEMS REMAIN THERE FOR LONG. THERE'S ONE THING, THOUGH, THAT STAYS THERE, AS A CONSTANT REMINDER. IT'S A SMALL AMERICAN FLAG -- THE SAME KIND THEY GIVE TO CHILDREN TO WAVE AT PARADES. AN AMERICAN SOLDIER GAVE IT TO ME IN A HOSPITAL IN SAN ANTONIO, AND I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT HE SAID. "THIS IS FROM ALL THE MEN IN PANAMA," HE SAID, "AND I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS FROM THEM.

AND WE THANK YOU FOR SENDING US." \\ THAT SOLDIER HAD COME HOME A PARAPLEGIC.

WHERE WOULD AMERICA BE WITHOUT ITS VETERANS? THERE WOULDN'T BE AN AMERICA. NO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FORGETS THE SACRIFICES OF AMERICA'S VETERANS. NOR WILL AMERICA FORGET THOSE WHO DO THE HARD WORK OF FREEDOM. WE SUPPORTED YOU IN PEACETIME AND IN WARTIME, AND WE WILL SUPPORT YOU NOW THAT YOU ARE HOME. \\

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA, AND THE VETERANS WHO KEEP HER FREE.

# # #

Simon
September 11, 1991
Draft 2
(DAV)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
D.A.V. HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1991
8:30 p.m.

My thanks to Cleveland Jordan [National Commander] for inviting me to this gathering. Twice now, unforseen events have kept me from speaking to the D.A.V., so I'm doubly pleased to be here tonight.

I want to recognize two members of my Cabinet, Dick Cheney, who was here earlier, and Ed Derwinski -- both doing an outstanding job for our servicemen and veterans. There are many members of Congress here -- all strong supporters of veterans causes, including Senators DeConcini and Simpson, and your friend and mine, Sonny Montgomery. And members of the diplomatic corps, including Ambassador Al-Sabah of Kuwait and Ambassador Juan Cassiers of Belgium.

Tonight we honor those who answered their country's call to service. They went proudly, willingly, on a mission of high principle and noble purpose: to defeat aggression and defend freedom. In a far-away land, they battled the enemy in the field -- and the inner enemy of fear. Through their sacrifice, they put an end to brutal aggression. They freed a captive nation, and set America free by renewing our faith in ourselves.

From the time Operation Desert Shield began, a sacred bond grew between Americans here at home and those serving in the

Gulf. Think of all those yellow ribbons. Think of how the American family has never been more united. That bond, that unity, and that love must be preserved for those injured or disabled by war.

For more than 70 years, the D.A.V. has helped veterans the old-fashioned way: people to people, veteran to veteran. When I talk about a Thousand Points of Light, the D.A.V. shines as one of the brightest. The soldiers here tonight are finding out how lucky they are -- how lucky we all are -- to have thousands of volunteers ready to lend a hand, a heart, and sometimes just an ear, to those on the road to recovery. So I just wanted to offer my sincere thanks for all you've done and all that you continue to do on behalf of America's veterans. As President, but even more as a veteran, I'm proud to be a member of the D.A.V. \\\ You know, every day, many important papers and documents cross my desk in the Oval Office, but very few items remain there for long. There's one thing, though, that stays there, as a constant reminder. It's a small American flag -- the same kind they give to children to wave at parades. An American soldier gave it to me in a hospital in San Antonio, and I'll never forget what he said. "This is from all the men in Panama," he said, "and I want you to have this from them. And we thank you for sending us." \\ That soldier had come home a paraplegic.

Where would America be without its veterans? There wouldn't **be** an America. No Commander-in-Chief forgets the sacrifices of America's veterans. Nor will America forget those who do the

hard work of freedom. We supported you in peacetime and in wartime, and we will support you now that you are home. \\

May God bless America, and the veterans who keep her free.

# # #

Good

Simon
September 11, 1991
Draft 1
(DAV)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
D.A.V. HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1991
8:30 p.m.

My thanks to Cleveland Jordan [National Commander] for inviting me to this gathering. ~~As some of you know,~~ Twice now, unforseen events have kept me from speaking to the D.A.V., so I'm doubly pleased to be here tonight.

I want to recognize two members of my Cabinet, Dick Cheney, who was here earlier, and Ed Derwinski -- both doing an outstanding job for our servicemen and veterans. There are many members of Congress here -- all strong supporters of veterans causes, including Senators DeConcini and Simpson, and your friend and mine, Sonny Montgomery. And members of the diplomatic corps, including Ambassador Al-Sabah of Kuwait and Ambassador Juan Cassiers of Belgium.

~~We are here tonight to honor~~ Tonight we honor those who answered their country's call to service. They went proudly, willingly, on a mission of high principle and noble purpose: to defeat aggression and defend freedom.

In a far-away land, they battled ~~not only~~ the enemy in the field, ~~but~~ and the inner enemy of fear. Through their sacrifice, they ~~caused a~~ put an end to brutal aggression ~~to fail.~~ They ~~set~~ freed a captive nation, ~~free~~, and ~~in the process, they~~ set America free by renewing our faith in ourselves.

From the time Operation Desert Shield began, a sacred bond grew between Americans ~~here~~ at home and those serving in the Gulf. Think of all those yellow ribbons. Think of how the American family has never been more united. That bond, that unity, and that love must be preserved for those injured or disabled by war. \\

For ~~over~~ more than 70 years, the D.A.V. has ~~been helping~~ helped veterans the old-fashioned way: people to people, veteran to veteran. When I talk about a Thousand Points of Light, the D.A.V. shines as one of the brightest ~~stars in the constellation of veteran organizations.~~ These soldiers here tonight are finding out how lucky they are -- how lucky we all are -- to have thousands of volunteers ready to lend a hand, a heart, and sometimes just an ear, to those on the road to recovery. So I just wanted to offer my sincere thanks for all ~~that~~ you've done and all that you continue to do on behalf of America's veterans. As President, but even more as a veteran, I'm proud to ~~be a member of the~~ salute D.A.V. \\\

You know, every day, many important papers and documents cross my desk in the Oval Office, but very few items remain there for long. There's one thing, though, that ~~is on my desk as a~~ stays there, as constant reminder. It's a small American flag -- the same kind they give to children to wave at parades. An American soldier gave it to me in a hospital in San Antonio, and I'll never forget what he said. "This is from all the men in Panama," he said, "and I want you to have this from them. And we thank you for

sending us." \\ That soldier had come home a paraplegic.

Where would America be without its veterans? ~~Quite simply,~~ there wouldn't be an America. No Commander-in-Chief forgets the sacrifices of America's veterans. Nor will America forget those who do the hard work of freedom. We supported you in peacetime and in wartime, and we will support you now that you are home. \\

May God bless America, and the veterans who keep her free.

# # #

DAV Reception Thurs. 9-12

Cleveland Jordan DAV Nat'l. Commander
Charles Joeckel Nat'l. Adjutant

Amb. al-Sabah Kuwaiti amb.
Sonny Montgomery Sen. Deconcini + 7
Derwinski
JCS ?
Cheney
Delton Burke - (Major Mom)

20 Disabled Vets from Desert Storm
5 in wheelchairs 1 in gurney

about 300-400 DVA and veterans community in D.C.

100 combat 300 non-combat

5 minutes

VP Bush 5 or 6 years ago

Ford was here

OPERATION DESERT STORM VETERANS' RECOGNITION

6:45 P.M.

(WALK-IN MUSIC PERFORMED BY THE U.S. NAVY BAND)

6:59 P.M.

(PRESENTATION OF COLORS BY THE JOINT SERVICES COLOR GUARD, MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON)

7:00 P.M.

JESSÉ BROWN: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

7:05 P.M.

JESSE BROWN: I WILL NOW ASK THE REV. HERBERT B. CLEVELAND, CHIEF OF THE VA CHAPLAINS SERVICE FOR THE INVOCATION. REV. CLEVELAND...

(INVOCATION)

JESSE BROWN: SGT. OF THE COLOR GUARD, RETIRE THE COLORS.

(COLORS ARE RETIRED BY COLOR GUARD)

JESSE BROWN: GOOD EVENING. I'M JESSE BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DAV'S NATIONAL SERVICE AND LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS, AND YOUR MASTER OF CEREMONIES FOR THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM.

JESSE BROWN: I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR JOINING THE DAV IN EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THE FINE MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES WHO WE ARE HONORING TONIGHT.

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PRESIDENT SPOKE MOST ELOQUENTLY ABOUT THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF OPERATION DESERT STORM DOING THE HARD WORK OF FREEDOM.

TONIGHT WE ARE REMINDED -- AS DISABLED VETERANS FROM ALL OF AMERICA'S PAST WARS HAVE BEEN REMINDED -- THAT THE HARD WORK OF FREEDOM CAN GO ON LONG AFTER THE LAST BOMB HAS FALLEN OR THE FINAL GUNSHOT FIRED.

THERE IS THE LONG -- AND OFTEN PAINFULLY DRAWN OUT -- HARD WORK OF RECOVERY FROM BATTLEFIELD WOUNDS, THE PHYSICALLY DRAINING PROCESS OF REHABILITATION, AND THE LONELY STRUGGLE THROUGH THERAPY TO HEALING.

WE WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL THOSE DISABLED VETERANS OF OPERATION DESERT STORM THAT WE ARE WITH YOU IN SPIRIT AS YOUR OWN HARD WORK -- AND PERSONAL STRUGGLE FOR RECOVERY -- CONTINUE.

JESSE BROWN: WE RECALL THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF THOMAS PAYNE WHO IN 1776 SAID: "THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS. THE SUMMER SOLDIER AND THE SUNSHINE PATRIOT WILL, IN THIS CRISIS, SHRINK FROM THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY. BE HE THAT STANDS IT NOW, DESERVES THE LOVE AND THANKS OF MAN AND WOMAN."

TONIGHT WE OFFER OUR LOVE ... AND A SMALL MEASURE OF OUR THANKS TO YOU, THE VETERANS OF OPERATION DESERT STORM.

WE'RE ALSO REMINDED THAT PAYNE SAID, "TYRANNY, LIKE HELL, IS NOT EASILY CONQUERED. YET WE HAVE THIS BELIEF THAT THE HARDER THE CONFLICT, THE MORE GLORIOUS THE TRIUMPH."

WE HAVE ALL SHARED IN YOUR TRIUMPH. NOW WE ARE HERE TO SHARE -- IN ANYWAY WE CAN -- YOUR CONTINUING STRUGGLE TO BE ONCE AGAIN HEALTHY, HAPPY AND WHOLE. WE IN THE DAV KNOW FROM PAST EXPERIENCES THAT FOR SOME, THE GREATEST BATTLES -- REQUIRING THE DEEPEST RESERVOIRS OF COURAGE -- HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN.

JESSE BROWN: IN THE END, WE KNOW THAT ONLY YOU CAN WAGE THE BATTLE AND ACHIEVE THE FINAL VICTORY OF A HEALTHY RECOVERY. THE DAV AND YOUR FRIENDS HERE OFFER OUR SUPPORT, OUR EXPERTISE AND THE SURE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU WILL PREVAIL.

ON BEHALF OF OUR 1.1 MILLION MEMBERS AND 200,000 AUXILIARY MEMBERS, THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR SACRIFICES MADE ON BEHALF OF THIS NATION.

LET'S GIVE THEM A HAND

(APPLAUSE)

JESSE BROWN: AREN'T THEY WONDERFUL!

BEFORE I INTRODUCE OUR NEXT SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE DAV'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHARLES E. "BUTCH" JOECKEL, JR. FOR A FEW REMARKS.

BUTCH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S OPERATIONS. THIS INCLUDES GETTING THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE PROGRAMS.

JESSE BROWN: He is a highly decorated Marine Corps veteran who lost both legs in Vietnam and the driving force behind the DAV's 1.1 million members. Please welcome our National Adjutant Butch Joeckel.

ADJUTANT: (Remarks of Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., DAV National Adjutant)

JESSE BROWN: At this time, it is my privilege to introduce the national commander of the DAV. Cleveland Jordan is a Vietnam era disabled veteran who served with the 101st Airborne Division. Following his election as DAV National Commander in New Orleans earlier this year, Cleve took a sabbatical from his job as head of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the government of the District of Columbia. Please join me in welcoming a man who has spent most of his adult life serving the needs of his fellow veterans, DAV National Commander Cleve Jordan.

COMMANDER: As National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, I am fortunate to travel throughout the country, meeting hundreds of disabled veterans and their families from all walks of life.

COMMANDER: THEY ARE AS DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER AS ALL OF YOU ARE. BUT THEY SHARE ONE IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC.

EACH OF THEM HAS A DEEP AND ABIDING FAITH IN THIS NATION. FROM THAT FLOWS A COMMITMENT THAT LED THEM TO THE BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WARS I AND II, THE KOREAN AND VIETNAM WARS.

THAT FAITH -- IN THE GREATNESS AND THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA -- LED THEM TO GO IN HARM'S WAY WHEN DUTY CALLED. AND IT IS WHAT SUSTAINS EACH OF THEM TODAY.

I MENTION THE FAITH OF DISABLED VETERANS FOR GOOD REASON THIS EVENING. I AM HONORED TO WELCOME DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES FROM PEACE-LOVING NATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, AND OUR NATION'S LEADERS IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE HALLS OF CONGRESS.

A NATION IS ULTIMATELY MEASURED BY THE DEGREE OF SACRIFICE HER CITIZENS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE. TONIGHT WE AGAIN SEE -- IN OUR GUESTS FROM WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER -- THAT THE MEASURE OF THIS NATION IS GREAT. THAT THE FAITH OF THIS NATION'S NEWEST GROUP OF DISABLED VETERANS IS STRONG.

COMMANDER: THOSE OF US IN THIS ROOM KNOW THAT NOTIONS LIKE DUTY AND HONOR ARE TANGIBLE NOTIONS, NOT ABSTRACT CONCEPTS.

THIS EVENING WE RECOGNIZE THIS COMMITMENT TO DUTY SHOWN BY THE VETERANS OF OPERATION DESERT STORM, AND WE SALUTE THE HONORABLE MANNER IN WHICH THEY'VE DISCHARGED THAT DUTY.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE MEN AND WOMEN BEFORE ME THIS EVENING SERVE AS A REMINDER OF HOW TRULY GREAT THE PRICE OF FREEDOM CAN BE ... AND OF HOW TRULY WONDERFUL ARE THE AMERICANS WHO STEP FORWARD TO PAY THAT PRICE.

THANK YOU ALL AND WELCOME TO THE DAV.

(PRESENTATION OF DAV PLAQUES -- TO OPERATION DESERT STORM VETERANS BY NATIONAL COMMANDER JORDAN AND NATIONAL ADJUTANT JOECKEL)

JESSE BROWN: We have a diplomatic corps present tonight from various embassies and I would like to recognize those countries at this time.

Belgium, the United Kingdom, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Italy and Japan.

(APPLAUSE)

JESSE BROWN: Also present tonight are the Ambassadors from Kuwait and the People's Republic of Bangladesh. At this time please welcome them both as they say a few remarks.

(APPLAUSE)

AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT: (Remarks -- Shaikh Saud Nasir Al-Sabah, Ambassador of Kuwait)

JESSE BROWN: And now the Ambassador of Bangladesh, A.H.S. Ataul Karim.

(APPLAUSE)

AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH (Remarks -- A.H.S. Ataul Karim, Ambassador of Bangladesh)

JESSE BROWN: AND NOW HONORABLE DENNIS DECONCINI OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE IS HERE TO SAY A FEW WORDS.

(APPLAUSE)

DECONCINI: (REMARKS OF DENNIS DECONCINI)

JESSE BROWN: ALSO HERE TONIGHT IN HONOR OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS, ARE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING CONGRESSMEN BREWSTER, HAMMERSCHMIDT, SOLOMON, BURTON, EDWARDS AND HOLMES-NORTON.

(APPLAUSE)

JESSE BROWN: PLEASE GIVE A WARM WELCOME FOR A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF THE DAV'S, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, HONORABLE G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY.

(APPLAUSE)

MONTGOMERY: (REMARKS OF SONNY MONTGOMERY)

(REMARKS -- EDWARD J. DERWINSKI, SECRETARY OF U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS)

(REMARKS -- (SENIOR MILITARY PERSONNEL))

JESSE BROWN: REV. CLEVELAND, WILL YOU PLEASE GIVE US THE BENEDICTION.

(BENEDICTION)

(END OF PROGRAM)

(PARENTHESES INFORMATION (*) IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION WITH THE PARTIES INVOLVED.)

(DICK CHENEY, SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, WILL ARRIVE, SPEAK AND DEPART PRIOR TO THE PROGRAM.)

5830 A

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 8, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN
IN OPERATION DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD

Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheatre
Arlington, Virginia

9:38 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: We meet today to remember the men and women who gave their lives to their nation and to the idea of freedom during Operation Desert Storm.

All across our land people celebrate our victory in that war and there's a new and wonderful feeling in America. Later today -- they're already started -- crowds will gather to watch troops march triumphantly from Washington to the Pentagon in a grand parade. But war also deserves quiet, sober remembrance. And here in this quiet place we can offer humble homage to young people who last summer answered their country's call and never returned.

I think we all admire this place. Its sloping hills and grasses and trees, no hipe; heard a bird sing a minute ago. We confront mysteries here. We celebrate the fact that each person we commemorate today gave up life for principles larger than each of us. Principles that at the same time form the muscle and strength of our national heart.

Dwight Eisenhower once spoke of the most ennobling virtures of man: faith, courage, fortitude and sacrifice. He knew that America grew out of brave men's dreams of a commonwealth of freedom, of virtue. He knew that America endures because it dares to defend that dream. That dream links the fields of Flanders and the cliffs of Normandy, Korea's snow-covered uplands and the rice paddies of the Mekong. It's lived in the last year on barren desert flats, on sea-tossed ships, in jets streaking miles above hostile terrain. It lives because we dared risk our most precious asset -- our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters, our husbands and wives -- the finest troops any country has ever had.

The heroes of Desert Storm and Desert Shield came from all across this country -- towns of Mississippi, tenements of New York, the plains of America's giant sprawling checkerboard that is our country. They were rural and urban; they were native; they were foreign-born; black and white, red and brown; privileged and poor. And they were our best.

Faraway they battled the inner enemy of fear and won. And then they set an embattled nation free. And they went to the Gulf not because it was the expedient way, but because it was the American way. Through their sacrifice, as they caused brutal aggression to fall, they renewed our faith in ourselves.

From the time Operation Desert Shield began, a sacred bond grew up between Americans here at home and those that were serving in the Gulf. Just think of the yellow ribbons that joined this nation's hands and souls. Think of how the American family has perhaps never been more united. We prayed for the heroes of the Gulf and for the unsung heros -- the military families. There have been no parades for them, nor will they be immortalized in statues or monuments. And yet, in little kindnesses and deeds they reached out to each other, neighbor to neighbor, often stranger to stranger. They gave love without strings. In essence they gave brotherhood.

Each of you helped make the Persian Gulf war an historic war. Spouses, children, parents, friends, all showing how, as Woodrow Wilson said, "War is a dramatic symbol of a thousand forms of duty." The enemies of peace, the brutal aggressors could not match the combined prayers of 250 million Americans. And the collective courage of half a million troops who knew that aggression must not stand.

Today we commemorate not only history, but sacrifice and bravery. So let me close with a story of how a woman, Debbie Wyatt, returned from naval duty in the Gulf. As her three young children leaped into her arms crying and hugging her, a reporter asked her if she'd do it again. And she replied simply, "I'd go back tomorrow if my country called." I don't know how anyone can fail to tremble in joy and admiration and awe upon hearing her reply. Answering the call made others free, and answering the call has kept us free.

Today we hope that this time was the last time. That we stand prepared to respond again should there ever be a next time. Our goal is real peace -- the triumph of freedom, not merely the absence of war. Our means is the courage and character of the American people.

So let us remember the heroes of the Gulf, those with us and those who gave their life -- as the Sergeant so beautifully sang, the last full measure of devotion -- so that mankind will say, just as they honored America, we honor them with the lives we lead.

God bless them and may God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END 9:45 A.M. EDT

Q. Impressed, Mr. President? Impressed with these——

The President. Very moving. Very moving.

General Noriega of Panama

Q. Mr. President, is there a lot of movement to get Noriega? There seems to be a lot of talk in Panama today that you're close.

The President. I told you to stay tuned, that we're working the problem. If we have something to announce, well, we'll announce it. But we're——

Q. It sounds like you're pretty close.

Q. ——tell these young men anything about Noriega today, though, can you?

The President. Well, we can tell them that he's not out threatening the lives of Americans, and that's a good message for them. I wish all of you could have heard the spirit of these kids when they were talking. You get the feel of their patriotism and their courage. I'll tell you, it was very, very moving for me and for Barbara.

Q. Was it rough, also, sir? You seem——

The President. I'm not too good at that kind of thing. But, yes, because you identify with these families. This little girl there, I mean——

Mrs. Bush. Tell them about the boy with the flag.

The President. You tell them.

Mrs. Bush. No, I can't.

Q. Tell us, sir.

Q. The Attorney General of Panama says if you would like the Vatican to release Noriega to them and they will file charges——

The President. Well, as I told you yesterday, there's a lot going on and discussions about what'll take place. It doesn't help you all for me just to speculate on this. But we want him brought to justice. It's only fair and right for these kids lying here that that happens, and I'm determined to see that that happens. So, we'll keep working the problem. But I can't help you, because it's just a lot of diplomatic effort going on.

But I'm here, year-end, to salute these courageous men and to tell them, as best I could, how proud we are of them and to say that, in a military sense, everything I've heard is that the operation, though some were desperately hurt and some regrettably killed, was a superb operation. And there should be no second-guessing. And the beautiful thing about this visit is I get strength from them about no second-guessing. They're gutsy, courageous young men, and I just wish you could have heard every single conversation.

Q. Anything about the boy with the flag?

The President. Thank you all. Happy New Year to all of you. Barbara can tell you.

Q. Mrs. Bush, could you?

Mrs. Bush. Let me just tell you. He thanked George and gave him a little American flag. And he said, "This is from all the men in Panama, and I want you to have this from them. And we thank you for sending us." He's a paraplegic.

Q. From this incident?

Mrs. Bush. Right there. He's so sweet. But I mean, he met him. He wasn't—you can't fake that.

Q. Thank you, Mrs. Bush.

The President. You have a Happy New Year.

Note: The President spoke at 12:30 p.m. in the Beach Pavilion at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston. In his opening remarks, he participated in the filming of a home video for Pvt. Scott Tout's family. Later, he referred to 8-year-old Noella Almeida, who was visiting her father at the hospital. Prior to visiting the medical center at Fort Sam Houston, the President attended church services at the Kelly Air Force Base chapel and visited the wounded at Wilford Hall Hospital at Lackland Air Force Base.

Points of Light Recognition Program

The President named the following individuals and institutions as exemplars of his commitment to making community service central to the life and work of every American. The daily recognition program is intended as a national tribute of the highest order to every single American who makes a difference in the life of someone in need.

Presented by

D. A. V.

A powerful + lasting bond of Fellowship joins all of us who were wounded, injured or otherwise disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the U.S. of A.

Cherishing the ties that draw us together, the 1.2 million members of the D. A. V wish to recognize

---

whose sacrifices for our nation during the war in the Persian Gulf has earned the gratitude of all Americans.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM
Operation Desert Storm Veterans' Recognition

6:45 p.m. Walk-in music performed by the U.S. Navy Band

6:59 p.m. Presentation of colors by the joint services color guard, Military District of Washington

7:00 p.m. National Anthem

7:05 p.m. Invocation
Colors are retired by color guard

Introductions -- Jesse Brown, Executive Director of the DAV's Washington Service and Legislative Headquarters and Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Greetings -- Cleveland Jordan
DAV National Commander
Charles E. Joeckel, Jr.
DAV National Adjutant

Presentation of DAV Plaques -- to Operation Desert Storm veterans by National Commander Jordan and National Adjutant Joeckel

Remarks -- (Senior member of the diplomatic corps present) and;

Remarks -- Shaikh Saud Nasir Al-Sabah, Ambassador of Kuwait

Deconcini Bill Brewst
Simpson
Montgomery Solomon
Wylie
Burton

Remarks -- (Members of Congress)

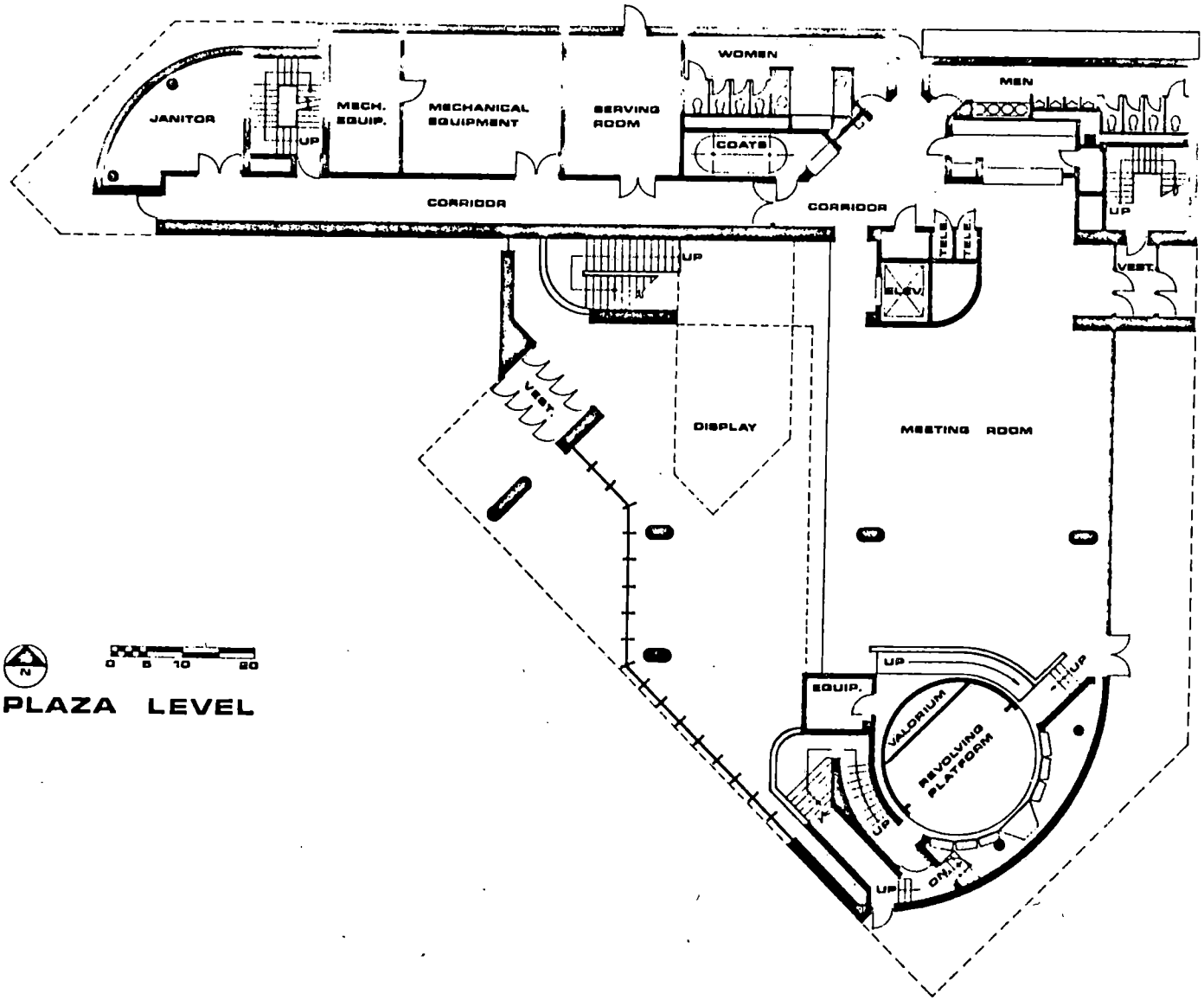
Remarks -- Edward J. Derwinski, Secretary of U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Remarks -- (Senior military personnel)
POTUS
Benediction

End of Program

Parentheses information (*) is tentatively scheduled, subject to confirmation with the parties involved.

Dick Cheney, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense, will arrive, speak and depart prior to the program.


JANITOR
UP
MECH. EQUIP.
MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
SERVING ROOM
WOMEN
COATS
MEN
CORRIDOR
CORRIDOR
UP
TELE
TELE
ELEV.
VEST.
UP
VEST.
DISPLAY
MEETING ROOM
UP
EQUIP.
UP
VALORIUM
REVOLVING PLATFORM
UP
UP
DN.
0 5 10 20

PLAZA LEVEL

HE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AND DAV AUXILIARY

DAV MAGAZINE

April 1991



WELCOME HOME

in this issue . . .

DAV MAGAZINE

The official voice of the Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary

☐ **Joseph E. Andry, National Commander** ☐ **Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant and Publisher** ☐ **Jerry Atchison, National Director of Communications** ☐ **Gary J. Logan, Editor** ☐ **James A. Chaney, Production Coordinator** ☐ **Ashley McGinnis, Administrative Assistant**

DAV Commander's Viewpoint . . . Welcome Home	1
From the Executive Director . . . To Shoulder the Burden	2
Congress OK's Desert Storm Vets Authorization Bill	3
DAV Goes To Court On Behalf Of Incompetent Veterans	3
Persian Gulf Troops Return Home to Hero's Welcome	4-5
In Memoriam...	8-10
DAV Charitable Service Trust Supports First Swing Program	13
DAV Midwinter Conference	14-20
The Auxiliary view . . . A New Birth of American Patriotism	21
Department & Chapter News	22-23
Loud'n Clear	24
Chaplain's Corner	25
5th National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	26-27
Membership Standings	28
Reunions, Inquiries	29-31

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"Welcome Home" but "Is All Well?" *DAV Magazine* this month welcomes home the returning heroes of the Persian Gulf War, but questions the benefits, jobs and health care they are returning to. In his column on the opposite page, National Commander Joseph E. Andry joins in the "Welcome Home," but notes the diminishment of VA programs over the last ten years. And in his column on page 2, Executive Director Jesse Brown questions whether the fiscal 1992 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs will translate into a "Welcome Home" for returning Gulf veterans. The issues are further explored on pages 4-7.

As always, freedom has its price. "In Memoriam..." starts on page 8. And with all the euphoria surrounding the return of Gulf veterans, Auxiliary Commander Myrtice Vinson, on page 21, envisions a rebirth of patriotism that isn't likely to fade.

"Fighting Mad" might be the best way to describe Commander Andry and DAV's response to a law restricting benefits for veterans who become "incompetent" and unable to handle their own finances. Also on page 3, highlights of legislation now on the President's desk that will affect Persian Gulf War veterans' benefits, including education and home loan benefits.

This year's Mid-Winter Conference certainly took place at a time when veterans are getting attention. DAV members nationwide took advantage of the Conference to cite their concerns to their Congressional representatives. They also joined hundreds of disabled veterans who filled a Capitol Hill chamber to hear Commander Andry's legislative address to Congress.

Challenging physical disabilities is part of the DAV spirit. That was the theme of both this year's Winter Sports Clinic and the National Amputee Golf Association's First Swing program. See inside.

Volume 33, Issue 4 DAV Magazine (ISSN 0885-6400). **Editorial Office:** DAV Magazine, 807 Maine Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024. Published and circulated monthly by the Disabled American Veterans, a Congressionally-chartered, non-profit organization. Available on recording for the blind and those with physical handicaps that preclude reading printed material. Subscription rate, $4.00 per year. Second class postage paid at Newport, Ky., and at additional mailing offices. Printed in U.S.A. **Change of address:** When ordering change of address, send former as well as new address, including zip code number, to: DAV Magazine, DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-5550. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to DAV Magazine, DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-5550.



Welcome Home

Joseph E. Andry, National Commander

America has discovered how good it feels to say "welcome home" to her soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines; to say welcome home without apologies because the welcome didn't come late; to say welcome home with unabashed pride in a job well done.

Right now, people can't do enough for the veterans of Operation Desert Storm. That's as it should be. Patriotism has returned to fashion with a vengeance.

Even big business has joined the parade, although whether out of a sense of patriotism or profits is anyone's guess. But that's alright too. If being patriotic is good for business, then that's fine by me.

But I also know that euphoria is a tough emotion to sustain. One columnist recently predicted that America will face a return to the boring business of dealing with domestic problems, growing joblessness and a deepening recession—none of which magically went away during the war in the Gulf.

As America again turns her attention to the problems at home, it is my hope that they bring to the task a new awareness of how truly important the sacrifices and service of our citizen-soldiers are.

As you'll read throughout this issue of the magazine, that awareness—on a national basis—is more important than ever before. The national agenda since the end of World War II has been marked by a steadily declining federal commitment to those veterans who most need and deserve America's support: wartime disabled veterans, their spouses and children.

But that declining commitment has been also felt by all categories of veterans, all eligible recipients of VA programs and services. From the VA home loan program to vocational rehabilitation activities, the VA has been scaled back in spite of the growing need, and VA programs trimmed in spite of the increased demand.

Prior to the war in the Persian Gulf, the vast majority of Americans erroneously believed veterans continued to receive a generous share of the federal budget to meet their needs. Since the war ended, and with many Americans scrutinizing just what is available for vets for the first time, that belief has changed.

Typically, I'm asked by a member of the media how America can justify total support for the fighting man on the battlefield, while begrudging him the continuing support he needs as a result of those battles.

How, indeed?

This month we examine how greatly diminished are the VA programs available for Operation Desert Storm veterans from those once furnished to veterans of Vietnam, Korea and World War II.

The facts—distressing as they are—truly do speak for themselves, even though VA Secretary Edward Derwinski traveled to Capitol Hill recently and accused us of being "great gripers,"...who only "feel better telling their members how bad we are instead of giving us credit for what we are doing."

We regret the secretary dismisses the increasingly unmet health care needs of a growing population of elderly, indigent and progressively sicker veterans as merely "gripes." But that's a Washington attitude we believe an increasingly aware segment of the American public is beginning to reject as an unsuitable expression of this nation's commitment to her veterans.

Today I know you can't walk or drive anywhere without seeing a yellow ribbon. They are on homes and trees. They're wrapped around entire skyscrapers in Texas and worn proudly on lapels in the North and the South. They're an example of national unity for America's veterans, an expression of support for her defenders.

The marquees of movies and churches echo that support. Schools and buses and billboards all proclaim that America supports her troops.

Right now in Washington, legislators are puzzling over how to respond to this unnerving steamroller of patriotic support. Some will try to throw a lot of rhetoric and very little action at it. That will neither satisfy most Americans nor do justice by the veterans of Operation Desert Storm.

Some members of Congress will recognize that the American people have spoken, and that what they want is a comprehensive system of quality health care and responsive programs of rehabilitation and support for America's veterans. What they want is a Department of Veterans Affairs that is meeting veterans' needs at home, just as surely as the Department of Defense met their needs on the battlefield.

"I was a GI myself," VA Secretary Derwinski told a House Budget Committee hearing recently. "I was not bright enough to be an officer. But I was a GI and GI's are great gripers. So when you come home and you join the Legion or the VFW or DAV or whatever else you join, you keep griping."

America's deeply felt expressions of welcome for her newest generation of veterans is not griping. The American people have made it clear they'll do much more than gripe if they don't see a strong demonstration of support come from the Congress. The American people would have no use for Secretary Derwinski's flippant dismissal of discussion on veterans' issues.

In the days ahead this nation's agenda will be shaped by the vigor of America's welcome home to her sons and daughters. And so it always should be.

From the Executive Director . . .

To Shoulder the Burden



Jesse Brown, Executive Director, National Service & Legislative Headquarters, 807 Maine Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024 Phone 202-554-3501

During the month of March, as growing numbers of Operation Desert Storm veterans began arriving home, both the House and Senate passed broad-based veteran benefit bills that include a variety of measures.

Individual members of Congress rushed to firmly put themselves on the record supporting these veterans.

The House passed a $1.1 billion measure that includes various pay increases for active duty military, education grants and other allowances. A trimmed-down Senate version came in at $500 million for a five-year package of benefits targeted almost exclusively for veterans of the Persian Gulf War.

In passing a less-expensive package, Senate leaders say they have obtained Administration support for their measure.

Some members in the House, in the meantime, have challenged the funding plan for their version, maintaining that the non-emergency portions of the bill must be offset by an equal amount of increased taxes or spending cuts.

In both instances, public perceptions are that the Congress is acting swiftly and generously in responding to the needs of this newest generation of veterans.

But that euphoria was nowhere evident during a recent markup of the VA's budget during a hearing of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Some Congressmen know funding for veterans' programs faces a stiff uphill battle.

"I'm just not pleased," said Congressman Douglas Applegate (D-Ohio). "I'm just not pleased that we are recommending an additional 167 employees [for the Veterans Benefits Administration]. There is a terrible shortfall in the adjudication division of the VBA. At the present time it takes about 150 days. With the President's budget, it's going to increase to about 180 days. We're going to get bogged down terribly."

Applegate's displeasure with the fiscal year 1992 VA budget was shared by his colleagues. "This is totally inadequate in terms of where we're going," said Congressman Lane Evans (D-Ill.). "Sure there's strong support for veterans' programs now. But if you talk to veterans' organizations or the people that have been working at the grass roots, most of them feel that we're already behind about $2 billion."

The VA's funding problems are bipartisan concerns. During that same budget hearing, the ranking minority member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Congressman Bob Stump (R-Ariz.), said the FY '92 funding package puts things "back into a declining situation as far as veterans' benefits...This will probably meet at least a minimum of our needs for '92 for medical health care, but it certainly isn't going to do anything as far as our backlog of medical equipment and other areas."

So there's the well-known efforts of Congress to respond to the needs of Operation Desert Storm veterans, and the not-so-well-known struggle to come up with funding for the universe of military veterans served by the federal government.

A real challenge lies in finding the funds necessary to meet all veterans' needs. Congress recognizes that you can't add new benefits without doing anything to speed up the delivery of existing benefits, or maintaining their integrity as viable programs. And the law no longer permits Congress to spend money they don't have or won't raise.

It's important to recall that the United States put up the money, up front, when our military was called to war. We invested our technology and made sacrifices in terms of lives lost and injured.

In the process, an international coalition pledged to support our efforts. Now it's time for those who made those pledges of support to pay up. Japan, for example, pledged $9 billion. At this writing, the United States has not received any of the money. Germany pledged $5.5 billion, with $2.1 billion received. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia each pledged $13.5 billion. $1 billion has been received from Kuwait and $4.3 billion from Saudi Arabia.

The countries in the coalition are the ones that are going to benefit as a result of the United States' military efforts. In Kuwait, they're now going to enjoy the fruits of freedom and hopefully the advantages of democracy. Japan—a country that produces little oil—will now have access restored to its primary source of oil.

President Bush referred to the Americans involved in Operation Desert Storm as engaged in "the hard work of freedom." They emerged from that hard work victorious. But not without sacrifices. And not without loss.

From that must come the realization—once again—that freedom is not free. As a nation we are obligated to see the real needs of our citizen-soldiers are addressed. At the same time, as a member of a coalition of nations committed to freedom, that family of countries has incurred an equal debt to American service men and women.

Recently I learned that the VA cemetery in Riverside, Calif., had headstones that were in deplorable condition—including some that were broken or toppled over. There's little money, it seems, to maintain a final, respectful resting place for a U.S. military person. That single image, to my

(Continued on page 10)

Congress OK's, Sends To President, Desert Storm Vets Authorization Bill

Congress has approved and sent to the President a Persian Gulf benefits package for returning veterans of that war that contains a variety of new or upgraded federal benefits.

The "Persian Gulf War Veterans' Benefits Act of 1991" is a compromise agreement that, among other things, designates members of Operation Desert Storm as "wartime " veterans. Such a designation, sought by the DAV, makes active duty personnel and members of the National Guard and Reserve eligible for a full range of benefits and services.

The bill, S. 725, sets August 2, 1990, as the beginning of the Persian Gulf War period for purposes of VA pension eligibility and other wartime-related benefits. Other provisions include:

- guaranteed home loan eligibility for Persian Gulf War veterans with at least 90 days of service;
- strengthened reservists' reemployment rights;
- access to readjustment counseling and limited dental treatment;
- increased life insurance coverage, from $50,000 to $100,000; and
- boosted GI Bill education benefits for active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel for at least two years beginning October 1, 1991.

"Passage of this measure sends an important signal that Congress accepts its responsibility in providing for the needs of our Persian War veterans."

DAV National Commander Joseph Andry praised Congress' speedy action in passing the measure, but cautioned against thinking the job is done. "Passage of this bill sends an important signal that Congress accepts its responsibility in providing for the needs of our Persian War veterans," he said. "But they must also think about what those needs are and how they are met six months and six years down the road. No gesture, no matter how grand, is going to provide for the prosthetic device or ongoing medical care that some of our disabled veterans from this war will require."

Andry's sentiments were echoed by others in both the House and the Senate. Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said the measure, "is a significant step toward ensuring that the nation honors its commitments to these brave men and women." But Cranston also said the bill, "doesn't meet all of their and other veterans' needs, nor does it cure many of the Department of Veterans Affairs most pressing problems."

Cranston's counterpart in the House, Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.) called the measure "a fair response to the hardship, sacrifice and resounding victory of our Armed Forces. The passage of these measures to assist our returning active and reserve personnel is a fitting and significant way to say 'Thank you for your service and sacrifice and for a magnificent victory."

DAV Goes To Court On Behalf Of Incompetent Veterans

"It's unconstitutional, blatantly discriminatory and plainly unfair. Under this statute you could have the service-connected compensation benefits terminated for a 100-percent disabled veteran who returns from 'Operation Desert Storm' in the Persian Gulf. Some 'Welcome Home' statement that would be."

That was the reaction of National Commander Joseph E. Andry to a new law that suspends VA compensation benefits for some veterans who become "mentally incompetent"—unable to handle their own financial affairs—when their estates reach a certain level. Because the law affects "those most unable to care for themselves," Andry said, the DAV filed a class action federal lawsuit on Feb. 27 against the Department of Veterans Affairs. The suit was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

The subject of the DAV court challenge is a provision of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA), which suspends compensation for an incompetent veteran—who has neither a spouse, dependent child or dependent parent—when his or her estate reaches a value of $25,000. Under the new law, compensation benefits would not be resumed until the veteran's estate is reduced to less than $10,000.

While OBRA was restricting benefits for incompetent vets, it took action to add new safeguards for Social Security incompetents.

According to the VA, the intent of the law is to prevent distant relatives from inheriting incompetent veterans' estates. "Even if you accept the legitimacy of that rationalization, and we do not, OBRA prevents the most immediate of family members and blood relations—parents, children and siblings—from inheriting the estates of these veterans," Andry said.

"No matter how you look at it, this is a blatant act of discrimination against the most vulnerable category of disabled veterans," Andry said. He went on to underscore this point, stating, "Social Security recipients who are incompetent have fiduciaries receive all of their benefits. As a matter of fact, while OBRA was restricting benefits for incompetent veterans, it took action to add new safeguards for Social Security incompetents to ensure that they receive all benefits due."

Andry concluded that he believes the DAV legal action will prove successful: "The law will be struck down as unconstitutional, and the benefits withheld from this class of incompetent veterans will be reinstated."

DAV is seeking an expedited hearing, and hopes for a decision within one year.

Persian Gulf Troops Return Home To

HERO'S WELCOME

Fourth-of-July style celebrations signal joy and relief over successful liberation of Kuwait. Costs of war and status of veterans' benefits and programs receive closer attention in Washington, D.C.

It was March but it seemed like the Fourth of July. March was the month U.S. troops from the Persian Gulf War started to return to a "hero's welcome" in hometowns and military bases across America. In Fayetteville, North Carolina, for example, more than 35,000 people, some dressed in red, white and blue and chanting "U.S.A., U.S.A.," welcomed soldiers returning to Ft. Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. At Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, D.C., some 8,000 to 10,000 cheering citizens greeted America's 21 former prisoners of war from the Gulf, including two women. And residents of other communities near military installations welcomed "Operation Desert Storm" veterans home with parades made up of bouquets of red, white and blue flowers, cheerleaders, dance troupes, fire trucks, high school brass bands, and of course, American flags and the ever-present yellow ribbons.

If some communities had not already held their hero's homecoming, they were planning it. Oceanside, California, for instance, was gearing up for a "beach party" for Marines returning to Camp Pendleton from the Gulf. Parades were also being planned for the Air Force's First Tactical Fighter Wing, enroute home to Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, and for personnel aboard the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy, heading for its home port, Norfolk, Virginia.

By early March, the first wave of 5,188 returning troops had arrived home. Defense Secretary Richard B. Cheney said the withdrawal would continue at the rate of about 5,000 soldiers a day, bringing almost everyone home by July 4, the day President Bush has designated as a "day of celebration for our returning troops." The "Fourth," however, had already arrived for America's new generation of veterans, and deservedly so. "Operation Desert Storm" troops had defeated the Iraqi army in Kuwait and liberated that country for its people.

But the fight for freedom was not without its costs. At last count, 306 Americans had died in the Persian Gulf War, including 114 killed in action (see "In Memoriam," p. 8). Also, 330 personnel had been wounded in action. In early March military planes were arriving at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., with 50 to 80 wounded soldiers each day, many with multiple shrapnel wounds and broken bones. Many were flown to hospitals near their homes for treatment. Others were being sent to Army, Navy and Air Force hospitals for medical evaluations.

Returning home with the troops are concerns and questions about the support Persian Gulf War veterans will receive after the national euphoria and parades disappear. What kind of health-care treatment will they receive? What kind of veterans' benefits and compensation will they be entitled to? What will the government offer to them in the form of education and employment programs? What kind of vocational-rehabilitation outlets will they have? Will federal programs and the Department of Veterans Affairs be able to meet the needs of the returning Persian Gulf War veteran?

The good news is that the all-volunteer "Desert Storm" force is better educated and older than any before. The average age was 27, and 90 percent graduated from high school. Many will return to the job market with an advantage over veterans from previous wars. Also, there has been some immediate positive news from the American public, including offers of college scholarships and jobs for "Desert Storm" veterans. One job recruiter noted that "Action in the Persian Gulf is going to look good on a resume. They have demonstrated that they can take the pressure, and employers like that."

Another positive response is the recent House approval of federal legislation addressing some of these veterans' needs. Indeed, lawmakers in the nation's capitol are taking a closer look at, and in some cases acting on, legislative programs that will benefit veterans. But it appears that much more must be done for the government to meet its obligation to its veterans, especially considering the proposed budgets for the VA and the Department of Labor (DOL).

"Like all Americans, we're proud to welcome these brave service men and women home. But we also know because of our own experiences that the war is not yet over for them," said Jesse Brown, DAV Executive Director of the Washington, D.C., office. "For many young veterans there will be battles ahead not only in rehabilitating from their injuries, illnesses and wounds, but also in readjusting to our way of life. When I look at the steady erosion of veterans' benefits and programs over the past 10 years, as well as the current budget request for the VA and DOL by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), I wonder how the needs of these Persian Gulf War veterans will be met," he added.

Brown explained that although OMB has proposed a nearly $1 billion increase for the VA's medical programs next fiscal year, 88 percent of that increase will be absorbed by existing payroll and inflation. By the estimates of the DAV and three other veterans' organizations, the budget for VA medical programs is short almost $2 billion.

"Under this budget, many veterans will continue to be denied medical care and subject to means tests and long delays in treatment," said Brown. He added, "The decade-long problem of broken and outdated medical equipment, insufficient numbers of qualified VA health-care providers, and overworked staffs, will continue."

Brown noted that Persian Gulf veterans will also encounter travel problems because the VA budget calls for beneficiary travel limited to veterans in rural areas and those receiving treatment for service-connected disabilities. He added that veterans rated

less than 50 percent service-connected disabled will have to pay a copayment for medical care. Also, Persian Gulf veterans will not benefit from VA medical and prosthetic research because the budget for that program will receive no increase, but result in a loss of 348 full-time employees.

"Unfortunately, these and other VA health-care problems, such as restrictive or denied medications and prescriptions, inequities in access to care and denial of elective surgeries await the veteran of the Persian Gulf War," Brown said.

Acquiring VA benefits and services, like obtaining health care, may also be no easy task. Brown explained that although there's a proposed increase for non-medical VA programs, it will be absorbed by the costs of implementing the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. That act includes provisions that will limit the benefits of certain incompetent veterans who can't handle their own financial affairs due to a disability or disease (see "DAV Goes To Court On Behalf Of Incompetent Veterans," p. 3).

"Under this law," said Brown, "a 100 percent disabled Persian Gulf veteran who loses mental capacity due to a shrapnel injury to the head, for example, will have his disability compensation terminated soon after one year."

Also, OMB's budget calls for 33 new employees to administer veterans' benefits and claims. However, this level is 267 employees short of the 1990 level. "The VA will not have sufficient personnel to process veterans' claims. If 'Desert Storm' vets are treated like other veterans, almost a third of them will not have their claims decided within six months. About 20 percent of them will not even be able to reach a VA counselor," said Brown.

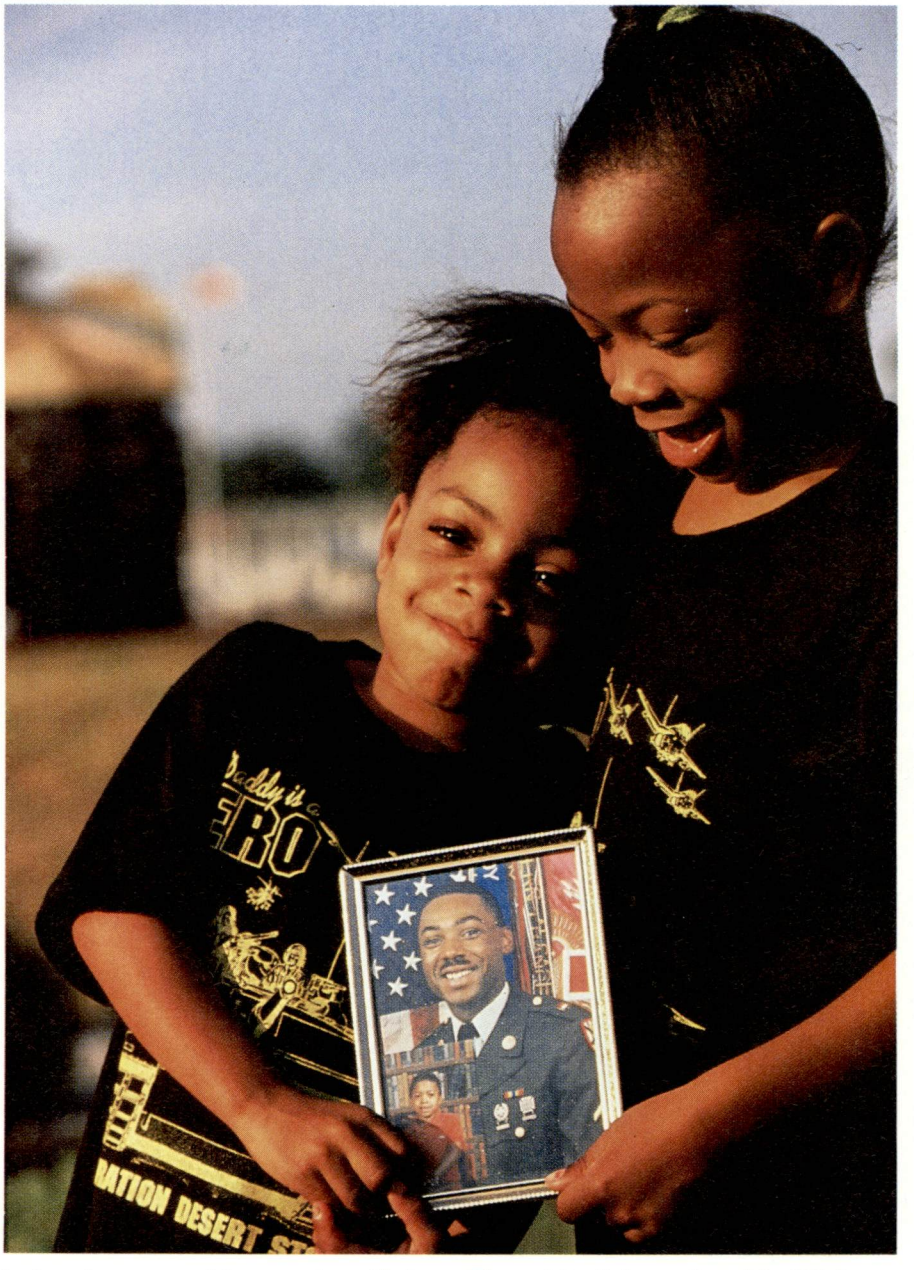
Persian Gulf War veterans will be seeking jobs, too. But they will not obtain them easily under OMB's proposed cut of $40 million from the Department of Labor's budget for veteran job counselors. Under the request, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program positions will drop from the current authorization of 1,885 to 438 next year.

Also, if the VA budget, as is, passes through Congress, Persian Gulf veterans and their families will not qualify for disability and death pension eligibility if they served less than 180 days of wartime service. And if they plan to make use of the VA home loan guaranty program more than once, they will have to pay a 2.5 percent fee and a 10 percent downpayment.

Brown acknowledged the funding problems in restoring these programs to an adequate level, but also noted National Commander Joseph Andry's suggestion of tapping the $50 billion in pledges to the U.S. from noncombatant "Desert Storm" allies. "Just $2 billion of that would go a long way toward filling the hole in VA medical programs. We strongly urge the President and Congress to seriously consider this recommendation," said Brown.

Brown added that another answer is the DAV and its membership. "We're working in Washington to urge lawmakers to adequately care for veterans. With so many competing interests in Washington, D.C., it's up to us to push them toward the right interests," said Brown.

"We—all of us—have to let our Congressional representatives and the President know of our concern. Now, more than ever, is the time for the American public to demand adequate care for our nation's warriors. Now is the time to demand that care of our nation's veterans will not be a mirage," Brown added.



The spirit of the nationwide "Welcome Home" celebration is shown in the faces of two youngsters awaiting the return of their fathers at Hunter Air Force Base in Georgia.

Medal Awarded To Gulf Troops

U.S. Armed Forces personnel who served in the Persian Gulf will be awarded the "Southwest Asia Service Medal," as established by President Bush.

Although a termination date for eligibility for the award has not yet been announced, veterans who served in the Gulf region since August 2, 1990 are eligible. The award may also be awarded posthumously.

The Secretary of Defense will prescribe uniform regulations regarding the award and wearing of the Southwest Asia Service Medal.



"Desert Storm" Troops Return To Stormy Employment Market

As veterans of the Persian Gulf War were returning home, a number of legislative proposals affecting their future, including their employment future, were being introduced and voted on in Congress. Indeed, as "Johnny Comes Marching Home," Washington is clearly taking a timely and greater interest in job opportunities and job protection for veterans.

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee member Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), for example, said he "remains keenly interested in the efforts, or lack thereof, being made to provide job training and job opportunities to veterans. I'm sure we all agree that this is the time to renew our pledge to the nation's veterans, and make the changes and come up with the resources that are needed to fulfill the VA's vital mission."

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), has made a number of legislative proposals that would benefit Persian Gulf veterans, including a bill that would make unemployment compensation for military personnel leaving the service equal to that of civilians, and another that would waive income limitations for disabled beneficiaries when Desert Storm benefits increase their income. And Sen. David L. Boren (D-Okla.) has introduced a bill that would provide relief to farmers and small businessmen who served as Reservists and were called to active duty. The "Military Reservists Small Business Relief Act" would allow Reservist-owned small businesses to defer payments on Small Business Administration loans for up to six months after they return. Currently, those businesses are allowed reduced loan payments, but no grace period. The bill also provides counseling services to spouses of Reservists who are running the business.

A comprehensive veterans' package, HR 908, introduced by Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.), Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, makes all veterans who served during the Persian Gulf War eligible for veterans' preference in federal jobs.

Also, President Bush, recognizing the personal sacrifices Reservists made to support "Operation Desert Storm," has issued directives to federal agencies regarding Reservists job rights. Reservists and members of the Air and Army National Guard returning to federal employment will be restored to the jobs they left. Also, those returning to federal civilian employment will be allowed five days of excused absence, and those who qualify for retirement may do so without returning to their civilian employment. In a White House memo, the President also said that he is directing the Office of Personnel Management to ensure that federal civilian employment opportunities are made available "to the greatest extent possible" to regular troops returning from the Gulf, and particularly "those who have become disabled as a result of their military service."



Drach

Although DAV National Employment Director Ronald W. Drach said he "appreciates" the fresh concern for veterans' jobs, he questions their impact because of the high number of Persian Gulf vets returning home, including some 200,000 who are expected to be discharged immediately. Drach noted that DoD is projecting 700,000 separations from active duty over the next six months. He added that since July 1990, the number of unemployed in the U.S. has risen by 1.4 million. The unemployment rate, coupled with the influx of returning veterans, Drach said, spells a greatly diminished job market for veterans.

"We're pleased to see Congress and the Administration taking positive positions, but all veterans, not just those returning home, are seeing far fewer job opportunities. Also, the existing federal job programs, in some cases, have been poorly implemented," Drach said. "Of course, we hope this new emphasis will result in substantive improvements in employment opportunities for veterans in the work force."

The federally funded job programs Drach referred to include the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) and the Local Veterans Employment Representative program, both of which face cuts for 1992. DVOP positions, Drach said, will drop from 1,885 authorized this year to 438 next year under the proposed federal budget. The LVER program will drop from $80 million in funding to $74 million.

DOL Job Hotline

DOL has announced a toll-free hotline on job rights for returning Reservists. Callers dialing 1-800-4422-VET will receive information on their rights under the Veterans Reemployment Rights Act. They will also be given the telephone number of their state Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) office.

"As those called up for the Persian Gulf conflict begin coming home, our attention will turn from the war to their reentry into civilian life. That return includes resumption of their jobs and careers," said Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin.

The Veterans Reemployment Rights Act, based on the so-called "escalator principle," allows veterans to step back into their jobs. If layoffs occurred during their absence, however, they may not be entitled to their old job. But they would accrue seniority for recall and be eligible for unemployment benefits.

Women Are Veterans, Too

The first woman taken prisoner during the Persian Gulf War was called a hero "as brave as Sylvester Stallone and as beautiful as Brooke Shields" by her Iraqi captors. The woman soldier, the first American female prisoner of war since World War II, had also been wounded with a bullet through her upper arm and shrapnel in her lower arm.

The experience of Army Spec. 4 Melissa Rathbun-Nealy illustrates the role women played in the Persian Gulf War—a role riskier than that in other conflicts. "Desert Storm" women, which made up six percent or 32,240 of the 537,000 troops in the Gulf, piloted troop and supply transport aircraft, helped operate the Patriot anti-missile system and mobile communications networks, worked as aircraft, tank and truck mechanics, and as military police guarding Iraqi prisoners. And although women soldiers are banned from front-line fighting, during Operation Desert Storm many served at advance supply bases close to the front.

Like their male counterparts, they also suffered losses. Spec. 4s Christine Mayers, 22, and Beverly Clark, 23, and Pvt. Adrienne Mitchell, 20, died when an Iraqi Scud missile hit their barracks in Saudi Arabia. Also, Maj. Marie Rossi, an Army pilot from New Jersey, was killed when her helicopter crashed near a base camp.

Many of those who survived, like their male counterparts, may return home with future health-care needs from the VA hospital system. Is the system prepared to meet those needs?

Following the early 1980s and some criticism that the VA system was an "exclusively male" system and that it did not have the professionals and technology to care for women veterans, there have been some positive signs. Following a General Accounting Office survey of VA facilities in 1981 to determine whether female veterans had equal access to VA health care, the VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans was formed. The Committee immediately began national research efforts to uncover problems relating to women in the system.

Among other achievements, the Advisory Committee in 1984 appointed women veteran coordinators, or "ombudsmen," at all VA facilities. The Advisory Committee's 1986 report concluded that the VA had "shown remarkable alacrity in changing policies, attitudes and behaviors" toward women throughout the system.

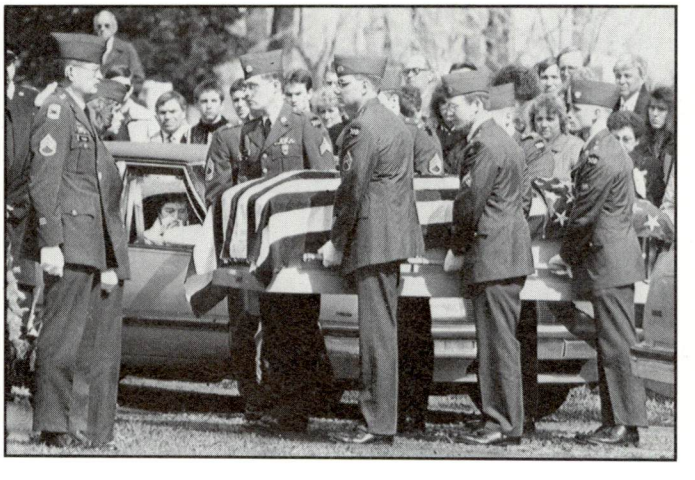
For example, the VA has established the Women's Preventive Medicine Clinic in Minneapolis, Minn., a state which has 18,200 women veterans. Over 500 women are enrolled in the clinic, which offers breast cancer screening with the first on-site mamography unit in the VA system, colorectal cancer screening, osteoporosis prevention counseling, identification of health risk factors such as smoking and alcohol consumption, and other preventive medicine services.

Also, a number of VA "Well Woman Clinics" have been established at VA medical centers across the country. DAV National Service Officer Silva E. Short, in St. Petersburg, Fla., says that before the "Well Woman Clinic" at Bay Pines, Fla., was established, "Most of the female veterans felt the VA health-care system was for men and did not feel comfortable using the system. Now, all that has changed." Still, Silva adds that more women veteran coordinators are needed.

How well is the entire VA health-care system equipped and staffed to meet the needs of female veterans?

The answer to that question will be revealed in a forthcoming *DAV Magazine* article on the issue.





Melissa Rathbun-Nealy (above), America's first female POW since World War II, is welcomed home by family and friends. Below, Army Spc. Beverly Clark, one of 13 Army Reservists from Pennsylvania who were killed in Saudi Arabia, is carried by a military honor guard in Bethel.

IN MEMORIAM...

As we move forward in our efforts to serve the living—the veterans and family members of Operation Desert Storm—we do so mindful of the obligations we have toward those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and to their survivors. The members of the DAV salute the following military members who died in Operation Desert Storm...


Andy Alaniz


Frank C. Allen

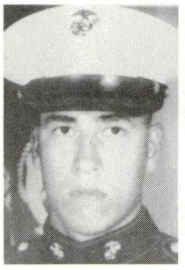

Tony Applegate

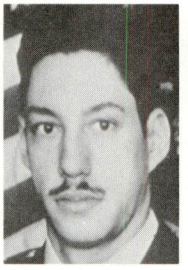

Steven Atherton

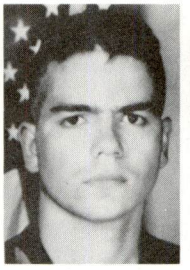

Stanley Bartusiak


Cindy Beaudoin


Lee A. Belas


Stephen Bentzlin

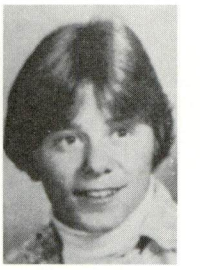

John A. Boliver

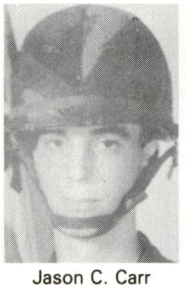

J. Bongiorni


John T. Boxler


R. Brilinski Jr.

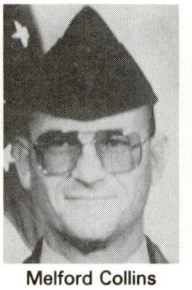

Tommy Butler

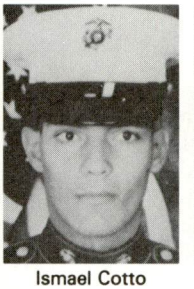

William T. Butts

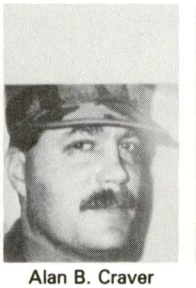

Jason C. Carr


Clarence Cash

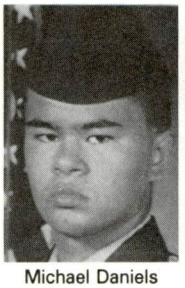

Beverly S. Clark

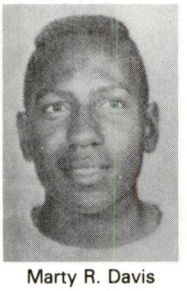

Melford Collins


Ismael Cotto

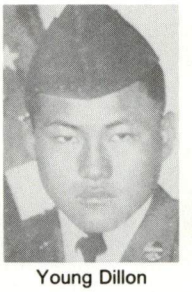

Alan B. Craver

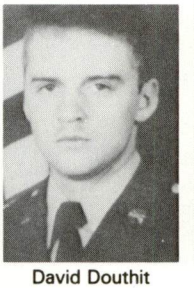

David Crumby Jr.

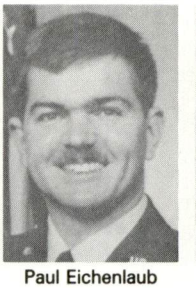

Michael Daniels


Marty R. Davis


Luis Delgado

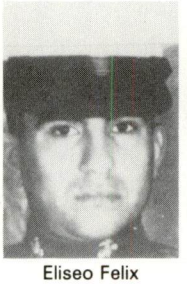

Young Dillon

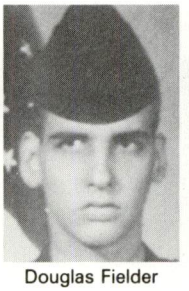

David Douthit

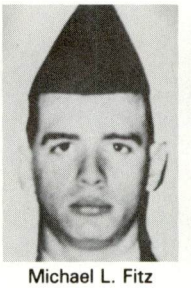

Paul Eichenlaub


Mario Fajardo


Steven Farnen

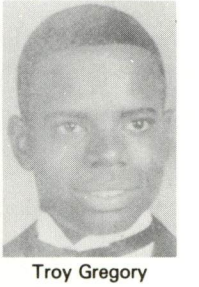

Eliseo Felix


Douglas Fielder


Michael L. Fitz


Michael Garrett


Kenneth Gentry

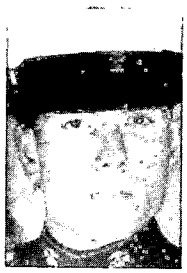

Troy Gregory


J. Hawthorne

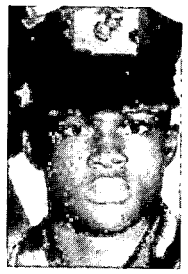

Duane Hollen Jr.


Aaron Howard


John W. Hutto


Thomas Jenkins


Glen D. Jones


Phillip Jones


Jonathan Kamm


Frank Keough


Anthony Kidd


Jerry L. King

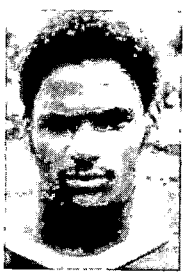

David Kramer


Edwin B. Kutz


Brian L. Lane


M. Linderman


J. Lumpkins


A. Madison

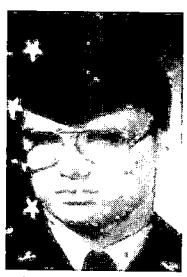

Steven Mason


Christine Mayes

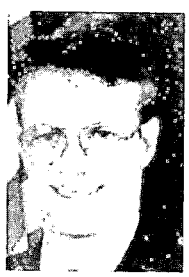

James McCoy


J. Middleton


James Miller Jr.


Michael W. Mills


A. Mitchell

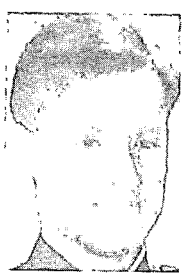

Phillip Mobley


Garett Mongrella


C. Montalvo

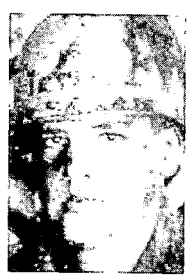

J. Murray


Cheryl O'Brien


Patrick Olson

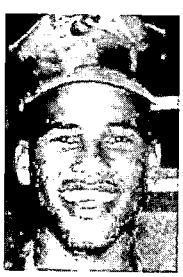

P. Ortiz


Aaron A. Pack


William Palmer


Kenneth Perry


Terry Plunk


Christian Porter


Dodge R. Powell

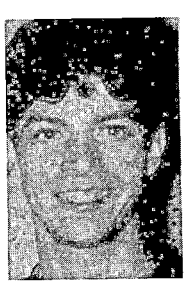

R. Randazzo


R. Rennison


S. Schroeder

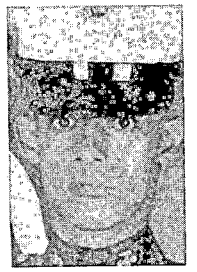

Brian P. Scott

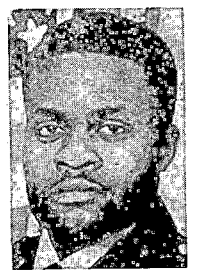

Timothy Shaw


Stephen Siko


Brian Simpson

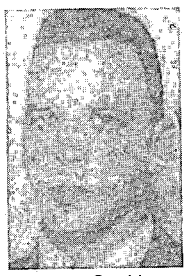

Russell G. Smith


David T. Snyder


C. Stephens

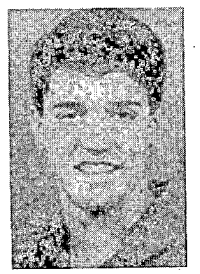

D. Stephenson


Thomas Stone


William Strehlow

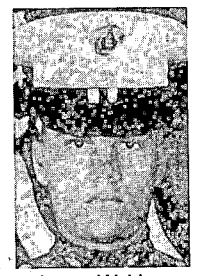

Robert Talley

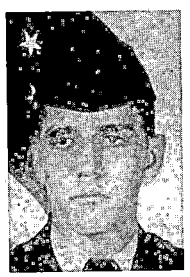

James D. Tatum

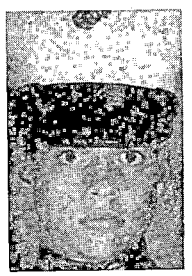

D. Tillar


Roger Valentine


Robert C. Wade


James Waldron


Frank J. Walls


Daniel Walker


James Wilbourn


J. Williams


Corey L. Winkle


H. Witzke III


R. Wolverton


James E. Worthy


Thomas Zeugner


Douglas L. Bradt

Otto F. Clark
R. Delagneau
Roy Damian Jr.

Photos Unavailable

Robert Dwyer
Phillip Garvey
Robert Godfrey

Photos Unavailable

Michael Harris Jr.
Timothy Hill
Scott J. Lindsey

Photos Unavailable

Nels A. Moller
David G. Plasch
Hal H. Reichle

Photos Unavailable

From the Executive Director . . .

(Continued from page 2)
mind, captures the essence of what we're saying here.

The VA has been quick to state they will treat the claims of Operation Desert Storm veterans on a priority basis. That's as it should be. But what about six months from now, after initial care has been provided? Should they too suffer the six-month wait and longer for new or reopened claims that other veterans face? Do they now join the ranks of disabled veterans who *routinely* wait months for an outpatient appointment, and hours in the clinic once the appointment is made? Is it good enough for Operation Desert Storm veterans who require longterm care to treat them in understaffed hospitals using outdated procedures or equipment in disrepair?

The hard work of freedom comes with a steep price tag. And the Congress should not hesitate in presenting a bill for services rendered to those lands that have benefited so greatly from our leadership.

In the conduct of the war, we invested billions, we made significant sacrifices and we were ultimately victorious. And yet there are continuing costs to pay for that victory. The warriors themselves must not bear the cost. Our nation alone should not foot the bill.

The world needs to be reminded that "the hard work of freedom" comes with a steep price tag. And the Congress should not hesitate in presenting a bill for services rendered to those lands that have benefited so greatly from our leadership.

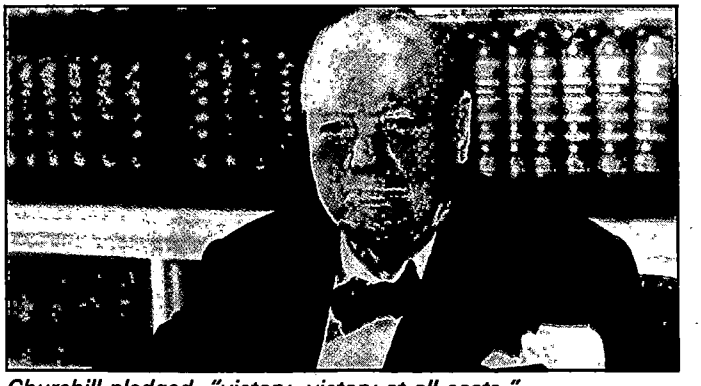


Spring of 1940 ...

NAZIS BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF NORWAY, CHURCHILL COMES TO POWER

Hitler wanted Swedish iron ore for his war machine, a base for his submarines and surface raiders, along with control of the entire coast of Norway. The Allies were determined that he wouldn't get it. Britain and France told Norway they would fight to deprive Germany of those Norwegian resources.

At sea, British ships began mining operations up and down the Norwegian coast. Using the foggy weather as camouflage, Germany started sending its surface fleet to intercept the Allies' ships. Once the British discovered the German ships, British destroyers led a surprise attack against the Germans, inflicting significant damage during one of the early confrontations along the coast at Narvik. Later on, however, the German High Command had an advantage in being able to read more than 30 percent of the British naval signals.



Churchill pledged, "victory, victory at all costs."

On land, British Expeditionary Forces were dropped off at the port of Rosyth. On the ground, the two sides were fairly evenly matched with the Germans having 136 divisions and the Allies, 149. The German Panzer divisions began to move south and west into Holland and Belgium. While the battle raged along the coast, the French began to mobilize along the Somme River in France in an attempt to hold the Germans back.

The Germans were stronger in the air with over 3,000 combat planes to the Allies' 2,000. The German Luftwaffe dropped artillery, while transport planes dropped troops. As the fighting grew more intense, more planes were added to the British Royal Air Force. In Germany, Goering was anxious to turn his Luftwaffe loose on the Allies.

The British captured a German Enigma machine and were able to decode nearly all of the German Air Force and some of the Army messages. Although a major intelligence coup, the transmissions were nearly useless due to the overwhelming volume and the task of unscrambling the obscure German references. And the British could not get messages to the front quickly enough for the information to be used effectively.

Hitler moved steadily on. The French worried that he was advancing on Paris and moved their forces back. The British were convinced that he planned an assault on England and started evacuating the British Expeditionary Forces (BEF) from the European continent to protect the Home Front.

Fearing the worst, the Norwegian government and Royal Family left before the Nazis marched through Oslo. Vidkun Quisling, who would later be shot for criminal collaboration with the Germans, was installed to lead a puppet government.

Britain's House of Commons was in turmoil over the conduct of the war, with Prime Minister Chamberlain the focus of their displeasure. Although he tried to get the Labour and Liberal parties together in the war-making process, the Labour Party refused to support him and believed Chamberlain was responsible for Britain's lack of preparedness. Chamberlain had no choice but to resign. Winston Churchill, fully supported by the Labour Party, became Prime Minister, as well as taking over the duties as Minister of Defense. As he took office, he said, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." Churchill was the boost Britain needed. He immediately set to work organizing the war effort and building Britain's confidence. He saw Britain's goal for the war as "victory, victory at all costs."

Churchill began to cultivate a friendship with President Roosevelt as a prelude to pressuring the United States' into its involvement in the war. He asked Roosevelt for all the old destroyers, aircraft and other arms the United States could spare.

Arthur Purvis, Churchill's head of the Anglo-French purchasing mission in Washington, D.C., reported that of 100 fighter planes being built in the United States, Britain could purchase 81; and of the 524 aircraft on order, Britain could have 324.

Roosevelt, himself, also proposed a plan to get even more aircraft to Britain by suggesting a way around a provision in the Neutrality Act. To circumvent the law, American aircraft were flown to the American side of the Canadian border, "pushed" across and flown to Newfoundland, where they were put aboard ship for Britain. In addition, Roosevelt had his own plans to expand the military and asked Congress to authorize production of 50,000 military planes per year and $900 million to finance it.

As Churchill was taking office, the mighty German war machine inexorably drove further into Europe. On May 10th, German planes took off for Allied positions north of France. Nazi ground troops broke over the German border into Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. Confusion and panic swept the Allies, lessening their effectiveness. Hitler's grand scheme to overpower and control the Western Front was accomplished in half the time predicted by Allied strategists. Belgium, Holland, and Norway fell.

As May came to a close, the port of Dunkirk was the scene of full-scale evacuation of Allied Forces.

Allied Forces, led by the Americans, would not regain their foothold on the continent until D-Day—some four years in the future.

KNOW YOUR BENEFITS

From the National Service Department.

Operation Desert Storm Procedures

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has initiated special guidelines to deal with casualties of Operation Desert Storm. The guidelines cover:

Obtaining benefits claims from service members, veterans and survivors; establishing an Operation Desert Storm Team at each VA regional office; establishing Centralized Processing Centers for initial disability claims; handling and adjudicating disability and death claims; and providing any additional services required.

According to DAV National Service Director Arthur H. Wilson, the VA is placing a top priority on assisting veterans returning from the Persian Gulf and their families.

Casualties from Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm will receive expedited service from the VA, as will the survivors of deceased service members.

The VA will contact service members located in military hospitals awaiting final discharge to provide claims assistance and information on all VA benefits. It is important to remember that the casualty need not be combat related.

In addition to processing claims for disability or death benefits, the VA is establishing special procedures for handling Home Loan Guaranty applications, Specially Adapted Housing grants, and vocational rehabilitation benefits. The VA will also assist with claims for Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI).

The VA has indicated the claim will be hand-carried through the adjudication process and will be overseen by a special Desert Storm Team Coordinator. The Coordinator will work as a liaison with VA medical facilities and other divisions within the local VA regional office.

The service member will be notified by the VA when the claim has been received and explain that the claim cannot be finalized until the service member is discharged from military service. If a veteran is hospitalized at a military hospital or VA medical center when the original claim is filed, it will be rated, and the award will be processed at one of eight VA Centralized Processing Centers: Eastern Region (Philadelphia and Roanoke), Southern Region (St. Petersburg and Winston-Salem), Central Region (Chicago and St. Paul) and the Western Region (Los Angeles and Phoenix).

When the initial claim is completed, it will be transferred to the VA regional office nearest the veteran's home of record. In the event death occurred in service, the regional office will have jurisdiction where the surviving spouse, if any, resides.

The goal of the VA is to ensure that benefits are awarded within 30 days from the date of receipt of claim.

Wilson is pleased to see the VA take such an aggressive role in helping disabled veterans coming home from the Persian Gulf War. However, he also reminded the VA that DAV National Service Officers are available to assist veterans and their families in applying for VA benefits. NSOs have also taken steps to inform their local military and VA hospitals of the full range of DAV services.

****

CORRECTION

In the March 1991 "Know Your Benefits" column, an editorial error was made in the last paragraph under the section regarding adaptive equipment. It should have read: "adaptive equipment will not be provided for more than two automobiles at any one time during any four-year period, except, when due to circumstances beyond the control of the eligible person, one of the automobiles which had adaptive equipment installed during the four-year period is no longer available for the person's use."

Downey Bill Would Boost Volunteer Mileage Deductions

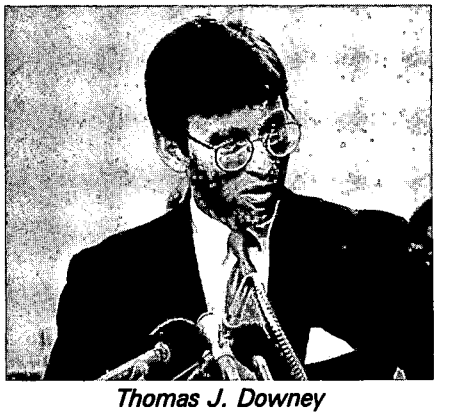
Citing the increased out-of-pocket expenses that more and more volunteers are having to pay, Congressman Thomas J. Downey (D-N.Y.), has introduced a bill that would raise the charitable deduction to 16 cents per mile for use of a passenger automobile in providing volunteer services. The current deduction is 12 cents per mile.

The measure immediately drew strong support from DAV officials, who praised Downey's bill for providing "federal recognition of the growing role volunteers are playing in America."

DAV Director of Voluntary Services Bruce Nitsche, noting the more than 12 million miles DAV volunteer drivers are logging annually—with many of those miles being run up on personal vehicles—said the Downey bill will give voluntarism a big boost. "Many of our most dedicated volunteers are retirees who live on fixed incomes," Nitsche said. "Inflation and the fluctuating costs of gasoline have forced some to restrict their volunteer driving efforts. I believe this simple act will prompt many DAV volunteers in our DAV Transportation Program to increase their use of personal vehicles in transporting veterans to and from VA medical facilities, and will encourage others to join the volunteer driving effort."

In announcing the bill, Downey noted that many of these volunteers do not receive any charitable deduction for the value of their contributed services, so increasing the standard mileage deduction is an important way to support the services they provide. "I have seen countless examples of social service programs for older Americans which could not function without the voluntary support of senior citizens. I can assure you that these volunteers are not in it for the money. They give freely of their time. It seems only fair that they are compensated for the wear and tear on their vehicles."

Downey, who chairs the subcommittee on Human Services of the Select Committee on Aging, held a hearing earlier this year on transportation services for the elderly. "In the course of that hearing it became abundantly clear that transportation is a vital link to assure that people receive services to which they are entitled," he said. "This bill is a step in the right direction."



Thomas J. Downey



Dave Fowler, PGA Professional and Vietnam veteran, instructs therapists from the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., VA Medical Center, while Tom Quinn, 1st Swing Coordinator, waits his turn. The first swing program is designed to prepare physical therapists to teach physically challenged individuals basic golf skills.

DAV Charitable Service Trust Supports First Swing Program

The DAV's Charitable Service Trust recently donated $20,000 to the National Amputee Golf Association's (NAGA) First Swing Program. First Swing is designed to introduce and prepare recreational and physical therapists to teach physically challenged individuals basic adapted golf skills. The Trust has provided grants to the First Swing program to help them bring the program to disabled veterans at VA hospitals and rehabilitation centers.

William McCartin, Chairman of the Trust, says the First Swing program "provides excellent physical therapy. It opens or reopens a recreational outlet that many of these veterans thought would remain permanently closed to them. And it helps to build a new level of confidence that's so essential to seriously disabled veterans in all areas of their lives."

According to Bob Wilson, Executive Director of NAGA, the First Swing curriculum combines classroom and hands-on teaching methods. Following the training, therapists are able to individualize instruction and tailor an adapted golf program to incorporate into their hospital or rehabilitation center's programs.

What is learned in the First Swing program is immediately put into practice at Learn to Golf Clinics. Once the therapists learn how to teach adapted golf skills, attendees to the clinics are taught to apply the techniques to suit their individual disability. In 1989, Tom Quinn, First Swing Coordinator, said that the program was a positive experience to teach therapists and assist them in gaining the confidence necessary to be able to use golf in the rehabilitation process. "The reactions by the physically challenged participants after hitting their first golf shot was just great. It really made me feel good," he said.

First Swing is just one of the programs the Trust supports. The Trust is designed to fill the gap between what veterans need and what government can provide. Donations to the Trust can be made through the the Combined Federal Campaign, United Way, state employee workplace campaigns or employment matching grant programs. The Trust also makes grants available to support such activities as:

- programs that provide shelter and medical treatment for homeless vets;
- programs that help disabled vets who are having trouble in the employment market;
- purchasing prosthetic and assistive devices for veterans who have lost arms, legs, or other body parts; and
- recreational and athletic programs like First Swing.

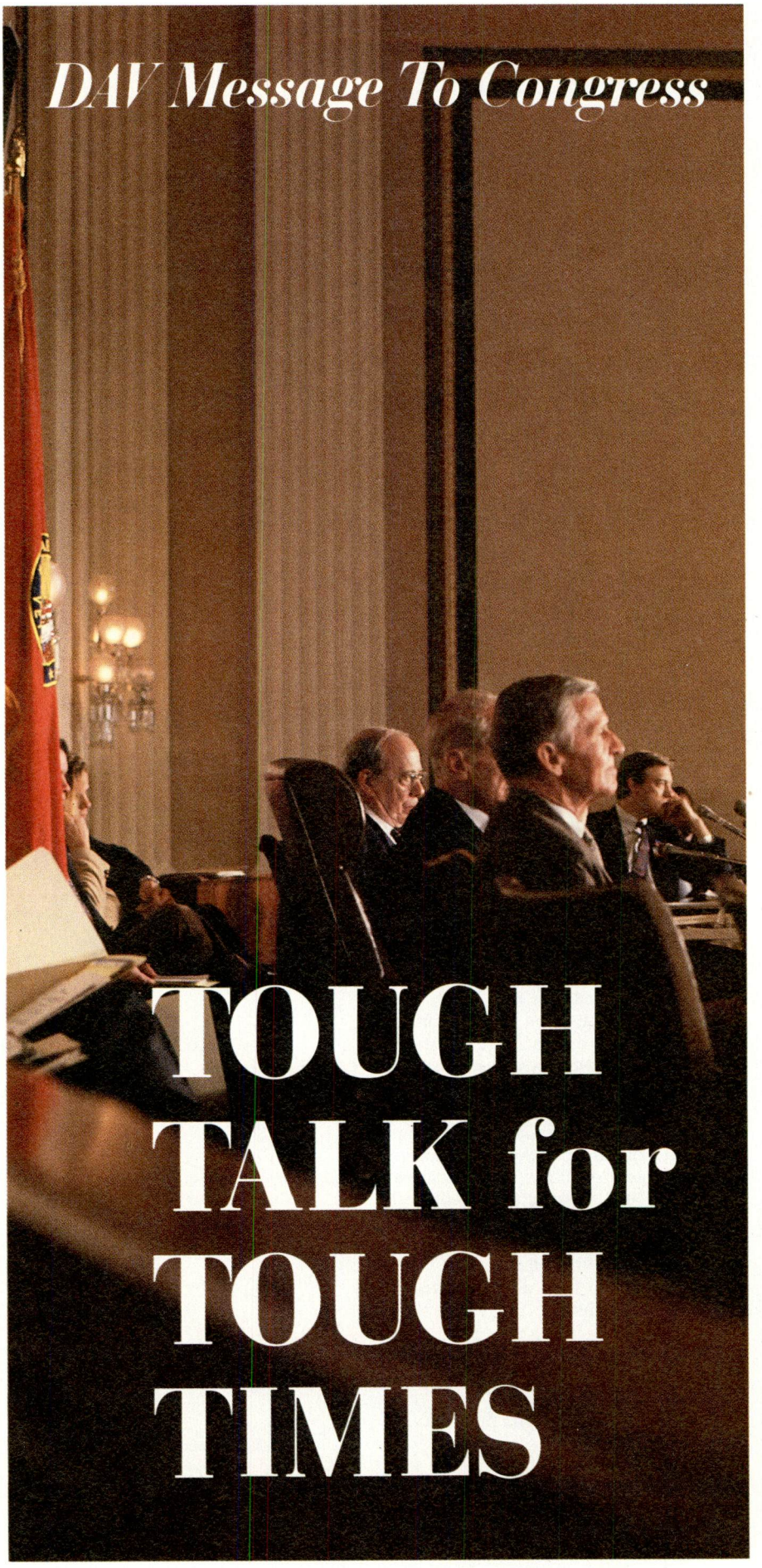
For more information about the First Swing program and Learn to Golf Clinics, call toll-free, (except N.H.) 1-800-633-6242; in New Hampshire call, (603) 673-1135.

1991 First Swing Seminars

DATE	PLACE	HOST
May 3	Baltimore, MD Montabello Rehab. Hospital	Susan Polsky (301) 554-5409
May 6	Charlottesville, VA Pen Park G.C.	Bill Herron (804) 977-0615
May 10	Salem, VA Salem, VA Medical Center	Mike Skidmore (703) 857-7177
May 17	Dallas, TX Presbyterian Hospital	Judi Seeba (214) 696-7193
May 20	Austin, TX Austin Pros. Center Inc.	Laura Moore (512) 389-3210
June 3	Ridgewood, NJ Millers Pharmacy	Barbara Carr (201) 891-3333
June 10	St. Louis, MO St. Louis Society for Crippled Children	Scott Maurer (314) 961-3434
June 27	Malvern, PA Bryn Mawr Rehab. Hospital	Dee Dee Tester (215) 251-5598
July 12	Pittsburgh, PA D.T. Watson Rehab. Hospital	Mark Kulzer (412) 741-9500
July 17	Marshall Creek, PA Ceasar's Pocono Palace	Dave Fowler (717) 588-6692
July 21	Philadelphia, PA Ambler Stroke Club/VNA Abington Memorial Hospital	John Itak (215) 576-4349
Aug. 15	Lansing, MI ARM	Elaine South (313) 661-9410
Oct. 2	Bedford, MA Bedford VA Medical Center	Joe Dooley (617) 275-7500, x. 333
Oct. 7	East Meadow, NY OTT Physical Therapy	Gary Corso (516) 735-1018

1991 Learn to Golf Clinics

DATE	PLACE	HOST
May 4	Baltimore, MD Montabello Rehab. Hospital	Susan Polsky (301) 554-5409
May 7	Charlottesville, VA Pen Park G.C.	Bill Herron (804) 977-0615
May 11	Salem, VA Salem, VA Medical Center	Mike Skidmore (703) 857-7177
May 18	Dallas, TX Presbyterian Hospital	Judi Seeba (214) 696-7193
May 18	Allentown, PA Good Shepard Rehab. Hospital	Laird MacCubbin (215) 776-3167
May 21	Austin, TX Austin Pros. Center Inc.	Laura Moore (512) 389-3210
June 4	Ridgewood, NJ Millers Pharmacy	Barbara Carr (201) 891-3333
June 11	St. Louis, MO St. Louis Society for Crippled Children	Scott Maurer (314) 961-3434
June 15	Shawnee, PA Shawnee Inn G.C.	Bob Buck (215) 867-9295
June 27	Malvern, PA Bryn Mawr Rehab. Hospital	Dee Dee Tester (215) 251-5598
July 13	Pittsburgh, PA D.T. Watson Rehab. Hospital	Mark Kulzer (412) 741-9500
July 17	Marshall Creek, PA Ceasar's Pocono Palace	Dave Fowler (717) 588-6692
July 21	Philadelphia, PA Ambler Stroke Club/VNA Abington Memorial Hospital	John Itak (215) 576-4349
Aug. 9	Windham, NY Windham C.C.	Bob Fromme (518) 734-4411
Aug. 16	Lansing, MI ARM	Elaine South (313) 661-9410
Sep. 13	Amherst, NH Poneman Driving Range	Bob Wilson (603) 673-1135
Sep. 30	Bethlehem, PA Saucon Valley C.C.	Bob Buck (215) 867-9295
Oct. 2	Bedford, MA Bedford VA Medical Center	Joe Dooley (617) 275-7500, x. 333
Oct. 8	East Meadow, NY OTT Physical Therapy	Gary Corso (516) 735-1018
Oct. 11	Manorville, NY Swan Lake, G.C.	Tom Quinn (516) 653-4226



DAV Message To Congress

TOUGH TALK for TOUGH TIMES

"It was an excellent, very tough speech, and every member of this Committee will take your words seriously," said Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), reacting to an address on disabled veterans' needs by DAV National Commander Joseph E. Andry to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in late February. "We hear a lot of testimony in our Committee hearings," Smith added, "but some word have more weight than others. Hearing you today, I can assure you we'll give a tremendous amount of weight to the words and recommendations you have provided to this Committee."

Smith's words were echoed by other Committee members in the ornate, brightly lit House chamber, which was also brightened by the overflowing crowd of DAV delegates holding American flags and bearing their maroon, white and blue DAV caps. Nearly 500 DAV and Auxiliary delegates came from across the country to attend the DAV's annual Midwinter Conference in Washington, D.C., and to hear the National Commander's annual legislative address. They were not disappointed as Andry confidently, at times angrily, asserted the sacrifices veterans have made and the nation's responsibility to make veterans a budget priority and adequately care for them. A thunderous, rising applause and jubilant flag waving filled the chamber following Andry's statement that "if we can even now talk of a post-war rebuilding of Iraq, then we can darn well make them keep some promises to our own veterans."

MEMBERS' REMARKS

The hearing began with Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.), Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, citing the attendance of Andry, National Adjutant Charles E. "Butch" Joeckel, Jr., former National Commander Oliver Meadows, and Auxiliary Commander Myrtice Vinson, among others, at his state's DAV Department Convention earlier this year. Montgomery also recognized DAV members from Mississippi, and said, "The DAV does its work well and we appreciate all that you do."

Rep. Montgomery noted DAV's recent testimony on the fiscal 1992 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also acknowledged the value of the Independent Budget, composed by the DAV and three other veterans' service organizations. "We really have come to rely on the Independent Budget that the DAV helps put together. We can compare the Independent Budget with the OMB (Office of Management and Budget) budget, and get a better look at what's happening with budget matters," said Montgomery.

Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii), said he was "delighted" in joining the Commit-

(Continued on page 16)

In a lighter moment, National Commander Andry, right, applauds remarks made during the DAV's appearance before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. Congressman Tim Penny (D-Minn.), below, said to Vietnam veteran Andry, "It's one thing for you and my brother to serve in a war that did not have popular support here at home, and worse for them to return home to hassels and delays in the system. We owe this particular group of veterans better than that."











Above, among those in the audience listening to Cdr. Andry's remarks were, from left, wife Julie, Diane Norris, Auxiliary Adjutant Maria Tedrow and Auxiliary National Commander Myrtice Johnson. Congressman Chet Edwards (D-Texas), above at right, said, "I hope America will never ask our young soldiers, men and women alike, to fight for America in time of war and then turn its back on them in time of peace." Below, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt (R-Ark.), also praised DAV efforts to ensure quality health care is available for disabled veterans. The long-time veterans' advocate was succeeded on the committee by Bob Stump (R-Ariz.) as ranking minority member.

"It's a shame that this country has to be reminded by the death and personal suffering of our men and women in uniform in the Persian Gulf. When we send our men and women to war we spare no expense to train them, to equip them, to give them the capability to achieve military success. Certainly, we should spare no expense, nor energy, nor in any way reduce that commitment when they return home."

—Congressman Thomas Ridge

Veterans' Concerns Addressed by Delegates at Midwinter Conference

Using the DAV's Midwinter Conference in Washington, D.C., as a forum, DAV and Auxiliary members from across the country cited several pressing concerns of disabled veterans. The concerns ranged from proposed VA health care cutbacks to the elimination of burial benefits and beneficiary travel—issues that they said they would take to Capitol Hill and their respective Congressional representatives during the annual conference.

Rodger Bollinger, Department of Pennsylvania Chaplain, came to talk with his representatives about increased funding for VA hospitals. "I hope we don't promise to rebuild Iraq, when the Oakland VA hospital needs more help and a new parking lot," he said.

Harry Bullen, Jr., from the Department of Maryland, said he was also concerned about shortages in the VA health care system. Funding for the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home has declined, he said. He added that VA hospitals may not have the resources to care for wounded veterans returning from the Middle East.

Russ Spalding, Past State Commander of Michigan, said he was troubled by delays in compensation for disabled veterans. "The increase in compensation for veterans is just as important as other federal programs. It's all right to reduce things because of the federal deficit, but not for those who need it most," said Spalding.

Spalding's wife, Johann, a member of Unit 20 in Michigan, said she came to the Conference to keep up on the issues affecting disabled veterans. As the wife of a disabled veteran, she's especially concerned about the elimination of burial benefits.

Hospital shortages were of major concern to several DAV members. Forrest Kidwell, Past State Commander of Florida, said a doctor at the Bay Pines VA hospital told him he had an average of 42 patients a day. "That's just too many," said Kidwell. And James Collins, Department of Tennessee Judge Advocate, said that although Tennessee just opened a 556 bed VA hospital in Mountain Home, the hospital had lost 54 staff "Reservists" to the Gulf War.

In Arizona, Herman Harrison, NEC for the 18th District, said that Arizona urgently needs a nursing home due to the influx of older veterans to the Sunbelt. "We've got over 400,000 older vets to take care of," he said.

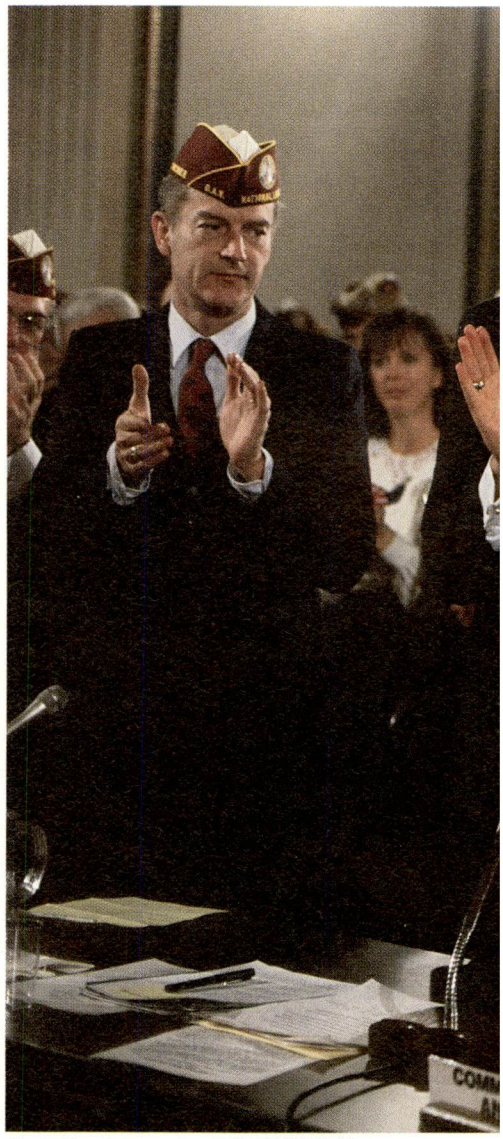
Eddie Tamanaha, Past State Commander of Hawaii, noted that Hawaii desperately needs its own VA medical center. It's scheduled to open in 1997, but "We'll all be dead and gone by then," he said.

Along with the concerns, there were some bright spots noted by DAVers from Florida. Joan Cook, Auxiliary Commander in Florida, said she finds the Midwinter Conference and talks with legislators informative. "Veterans used to be more apathetic, but it's changing. And more younger people are becoming aware," she said.

Cook's husband, Thomas, NEC for the 7th District, echoed her remarks. "Politicians are starting to wake up, too. And more females are becoming aware and more involved." he said.

Some DAV and Auxiliary members said their legislators were very receptive to their concerns. James Collins said he's always had a good personal relationship with his representatives. "Things are pretty good in Tennessee at the moment. I guess we just elected the right people." And some said that patriotism in America will certainly help veterans get what they need. Forrest Kidwell said patriotism is high in Florida. "You can't buy flags in my area, they're all gone," he said.

Charles Cunningham, Past State Commander from Louisiana, summed up what Midwinter is all about. He says when he phones his representatives, "they know they've been called. And 99 percent of the time, they do exactly what disabled vets need them to do."



Standing to applaud Cdr' Andry's remarks are, from left, DAV National Legislative Director John F. Heilman, Congressman Bob McEwen (D-Ohio), who introduced Andry to the committees, and DAV National Adjutant Charles E. Joeckel, Jr.

(Continued from page 14)

tee in welcoming National Commander Andry. On behalf of Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Akaka recognized DAV's California delegation, including former National Adjutant Dale Adams. Akaka also noted the "excellent work" of DAV's national staff, including National Adjutant Joeckel and Executive Director of the Washington Office, Jesse Brown. "I look forward to continuing and strengthening our efforts to ensure that veterans, particularly service-connected veterans, are accorded the full benefits and services they have earned," said Akaka. "The war in the Middle East has placed increased pressures on an already overburdened Department of Veterans Affairs. And it is now absolutely vital that the VA be afforded a realistic budget for Fiscal Year 1992. In this year's bud-



Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.), chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, presided at the joint hearing.

get request, many important needs are not dealt with adequately," Akaka added, noting such issues as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and cuts in VA staffing, medical research, and the National Cemetery System. "Although we must exercise prudence and restraint in making our recommendations, we must also follow a reasonable sense of priorities and treat veterans fairly, particularly service-connected veterans," he concluded to the applause of DAV members in the chamber.

Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), commended Andry for his "very able leadership and service" for disabled American veterans. Wearing his DAV hat and noting that he is proud to be a life member, Thurmond recognized DAV members from South Carolina at the hearing. Thurmond also stressed the sacrifices of veterans and the nation's responsibility to care for them: "It is the highest obligation of American citizenship to defend our nation in time of need. This obligation creates an equal responsibility on the part of our nation to care for the men and women who have worn the uniform."

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Penn.), noted veterans' sacrifices in very real terms, citing the Pennsylvania Reservists who were killed when a Scud missile hit their barracks during the waning hours of the Persian Gulf War. He also acknowledged the "tremendous importance" of the DAV in illuminating the needs of disabled veterans nationwide. He added that he's personally concerned about disabled veterans, since his father was disabled as a World War I soldier in Europe who "carried shrapnel in his leg till his dying day." Specter concluded that veterans' legislation "that should have been passed last year and the year before will have to be addressed this year."

Welcoming the National Commander, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) said she believes in taking care of veterans. "I will be in the forefront of any action we can take to ensure that we right the wrong of the past and increase the budget and take care of those items that were dropped out before," she said, referring to the Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) that was killed during the last session.

Also welcoming the Commander and DAV members in the hall was Rep. Jill

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)
Long (D-Ind.), who is not a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, but said she was "honored to be in the presence of you who gave such a commitment and continue to provide service to your country."

Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-N.J.), noted that the New Jersey DAV delegation, like other DAV delegations, "distinguishes itself during times of need," referring to the Department's volunteer work during the Persian Gulf War. "One thing comes through loud and clear," he added. "This group of people needs to have its country's support in whatever means possible in medical requirements and emotional counseling."

Rep. Ben Jones (D-Georgia), thanked DAV members at the hearing "on behalf of all Georgians for what you do in advocating for veterans." Jones also noted the presence of Georgian Myrtice Vinson, DAV Auxiliary Commander.

Rep. Craig T. James (R-Fla.), stressed the Sunshine State's large veterans' population and the "very special problems" that accompany it. "If we as Americans cannot at the very minimum provide the best medical care in this nation to those who return injured or disabled as a result of their service to this country, that is simply inexcusable."

Rep. Pete Peterson (D-Fla.), a life member of Chapter 22, also noted that Florida is an area that needs "more and more focus" because of its large veterans' population. "They have served their country well, and I'm very pleased to call myself a member," he said.

Rep. Dick Nichols (R-Kan.), who recently toured VA medical centers in Wichita and Topeka, said he is "very much concerned that proper medical care be available for you." He added, "What gratitude it was for me to tour my district and see the yellow ribbons, the flags, finally the patriotism that has been so long overdue."

New member of Congress Rep. Bill Brewster (D-Okla.) noted his work with the DAV at the state level in Oklahoma, and recognized DAV Oklahomans, including National Chaplain Rev. Oscar I. Wilkie.

Another new member, Rep. Chet Edwards (D-Tex.), said he was "honored to be in the same room with so many Americans who continue to speak out for veterans' needs in time of peace and who have fought for America as veterans." Edwards noted that he had recently toured three VA hospitals in his district, which he described as a "stark reminder that the sacrifices our veterans make do not stop with the signing of a cease fire agreement." He added, "I hope America will never ask our young soldiers, men and women alike, to fight for America in time of war and then turn its back on them in time of peace."

Rep. Thomas Ridge (R-Penn.), agreed:

(Continued on page 24)



Pennsylvania Dept. "Fighting Mad"

Following the lead of National Commander Joseph E. Andry, DAV Chapters and Departments nationwide are assertively advocating disabled veterans' interests and pushing hard for legislative reforms to meet veterans' needs. Certainly, the Department of Pennsylvania and its 55,554 members is no exception.

Whether conducting voter-registration drives, busing 300 members to Washington, D.C., to hear the National Commander's address, battling the Governor's threats to close the state veterans' home, or informing Pennsylvania state legislators of veterans' concerns, the Pennsylvania Department can be found on the frontlines fighting for veterans.

While in Washington at the Midwinter Conference, Pennsylvania Department Adjutant Joseph Maldet aired some of the concerns of his state's DAV delegation, and how they are countering them. Two key issues include VA hospital staffs "stripped" by the Persian Gulf Reserve callups, and inadequate transportation for veterans to VA hospitals, which he said contributed to the deaths of two Pennsylvania veterans.

More doctors and nurses are urgently needed at Pennsylvania VA hospitals, Maldet said. He noted that the nurse "pay-locality" bill that goes into effect this month will help VA hospitals compete with private hospitals for qualified nurses, but added that many civilian hospitals will raise nurses' salaries beyond VA hospital budgets. "How are you going to hire if the budget doesn't allow you to?"

While in Washington, Maldet and other members of the Pennsylvania delegation met with an aide to Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Penn.) to discuss the transportation and staffing problems, as well as parking, appointment delays and eligibility for care.

Maldet concluded that lawmakers are now more receptive to veterans' concerns in the wake of the Persian Gulf War. Disabled veterans, he added, should capitalize on that timely concern by government, which often hasn't been there in the past. "We've got to strike while the iron is hot. We've got to get the issues out while we have a sympathetic ear to hear them. We've got to make sure we can meet the needs of both the returning veterans and those already in the system."



Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter, above, during the National Commander's appearance before the joint session of the two committees, knows members of the Pennsylvania delegation of the DAV speak their minds on the issues.



Members of the delegation, above, with National Auxiliary 1st Jr. Vice Cdr. Barbara Maldet out front, load up for the trip to Capitol Hill. Below, members of the delegation—which included Past Dept. Cdr. John Peluse, Past Dept. Cdr. Michael Godich, Dept. Chaplain Robert Bollinger, Dept. Adjutant Joseph Maldet, Dept. Legislative Chairman Donald Graffius and Dept. Cdr. James Brown—meet with Scott M. Waitlevertch, (in shirt sleeves), a legislative assistant to Senator Specter.



At right, Jesse Brown, Executive Director of the DAV's Washington Headquarters, and Commanders and Adjutants' (C&A) Association President Richard E. Bamberger, field questions during a C&A session during the midwinter gathering. Below, Florida disabled veterans add the personal touch to their lobbying efforts during a visit with Congressman Earl Hutto (D-Fla.) left. Shown in the Congressman's Capitol Hill Office are, from left, Harry McDonald, Department Judge Advocate; Jimmy Meeks, Department Senior Vice Commander and Al Linden, Department Adjutant and Past National Commander.







Above, DAV Auxiliary National Commander Myrtice R. Vinson addresses members of the C&A during one of their business sessions. At left, New Hampshire DAVers showing off the custom paint job on their van are Department Commander Joseph "Pete" Letourneau, Hospital Service Coordinator Felix Young and Department Senior Vice Commander Aldo Grass. The van was a familiar sight on Capitol Hill as the New Hampshire delegation made the rounds of Congressional offices.



The Auxiliary view . . .



A New Birth of American Patriotism

Myrtice R. Vinson
DAV National Auxiliary Commander
3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Ky. 41076

Wasn't it encouraging to watch the American people draw together during the Persian Gulf War?

Decades have passed since we've seen such spirit of patriotism! Our nation's citizens have once again shown the remarkable unity they can achieve when they believe a cause is just.

It was truly inspiring, over the past several months, to see so many flags flying in front of people's homes. Everywhere we looked, there were yellow ribbons, Desert Storm lapel pins, and other symbols of support for the men and women of our armed forces.

As young children wrote letters to the troops in the Gulf, we saw our schools building patriotism with a vigor unseen for many years. And I'm so proud of the support groups our Auxiliary units created for the families of American forces in the war zone.

As Operation Desert Shield evolved into Operation Desert Storm, there was no "Silent Majority." During this war, the majority was vocal — very vocal — making its feelings known in no uncertain terms. And that majority was overwhelming.

Perhaps some of this unity grew out of our government's approach to the war. This time, there was a clear pursuit of victory, unlike anything we've seen since World War II. We didn't see that commitment in our government's handling of the Korean War, and it was surely absent during Vietnam.

I take my greatest hope, however, from America's heartfelt response to the men and women who were asked to fight the war in the Persian Gulf. They were openly and honestly seen as heroes and heroines.

People felt a clear awareness that there was something shoddy about the way our nation treated those who fought the war in Vietnam. Out of that awareness grew a steadfast will that it would not happen again. Everyone seemed to feel that determination, even those who opposed the war itself.

There's plenty of reason to expect this commitment to Persian Gulf vets to last for a while. In fact, I feel great hope that our nation will come to a new sense of its obligation to all veterans.

In saying this, I'm aware of the historical trends that have followed each of our country's wars. I know the American people tend to forget their debt to vets as the memory of war fades.

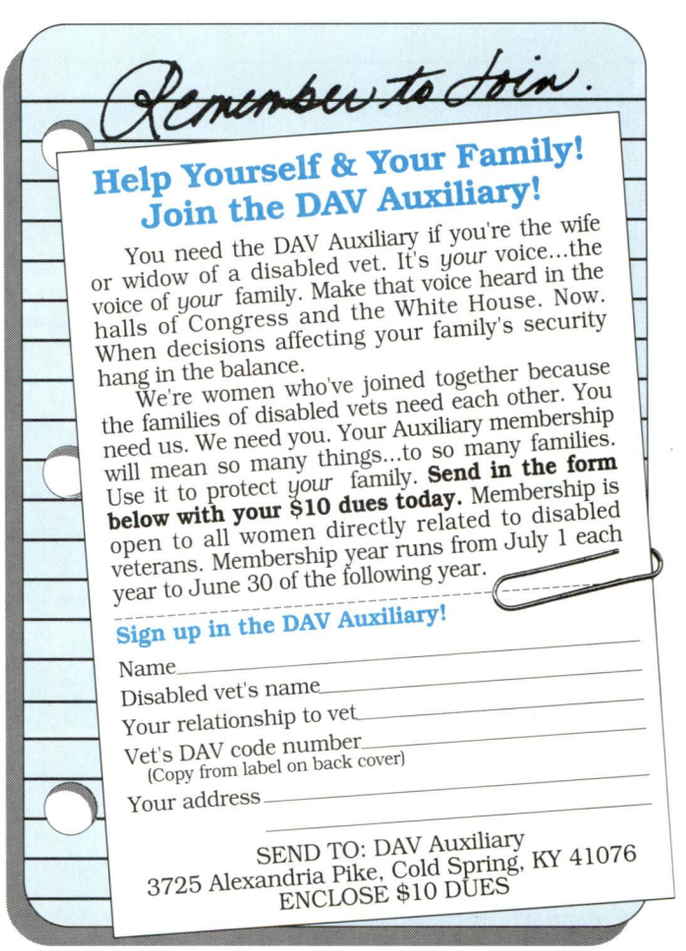
The persistence of that pattern is a fact. Yet I believe we could be witnessing the birth of an even larger historical movement, a new growth of confidence and pride in America — in short, a new patriotism that could last for decades and more.

I say that out of a conviction that there's something very genuine about the renewal of patriotic fervor that came with the Persian Gulf War...something solid...something that will last if it's nurtured.

Gone is the bitter aftertaste of social division that haunted our national character in the years since Vietnam. Gone is the feeling that we lack resolve as a nation.

It is true that issues of foreign and military policy remain outside the DAV Auxiliary's scope of involvement. Following the lead of the DAV, we stick closely to those issues that involve programs for veterans and their families. Yet we cannot ignore the impact of the Persian Gulf War on our society. America has regained confidence in its leadership on the world scene. The United States has regained its position of moral authority in the community of nations.

I believe that we in the Auxiliary can help preserve the new sense of pride that's swelling the hearts of people throughout our country. After all, we too have a certain authority, based on the sacrifices our own families have seen. Through our Americanism programs, let us use that authority to help our nation's people continue to hold the torch of patriotism aloft.



Eisenhower Center, is establishing a record of the common soldier, sailor or airman. He is also planning to publish a book commemorating the 50th Anniversary called, *Voices of D-Day*.

Veterans wishing to contribute their experiences may contact Ambrose at: The Eisenhower Center, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, La. 70148.

Chapter 28 Honored by Tampa VA Medical Center...

Members from Chapter 28, Lakeland, Fla., were recently presented a commendation from the staff of the Tampa VA Medical Center for their participation in the transportation program. According to Tampa VA officials, Chapter 28 has played a big role in getting patients to and from the hospital in Tampa—having rolled up an impressive number of miles travelled and patients transported. Pictured at the recent recognition ceremony are, from left, Chapter Treasurer Malcolm Cooley, Associate Hospital Director Peter P. Henry, Chapter Commander Ed A. Rust, Chapter Service Officer Richard Giese, and Dick Burgess one of the Chapter's volunteer van drivers.



Indiana Chapter Honors Heroic Nurse

Members of Chapter 27 in Lafayette, Ind., recently re-dedicated their Chapter in honor of Mary Therese Klinker. Capt. Klinker, an Air Force flight nurse, was



loud 'n clear

DAV Magazine welcomes letters from its readers. However, due to the large volume of mail received each month, it is impossible for each letter to be acknowledged. Space limitations permit us to publish only a small number of letters in the "Loud 'n Clear" section and all such letters may be abridged. Letters requesting assistance in obtaining veterans' benefits are referred to the DAV Service Department in Washington, D.C., for necessary action. DAV Magazine, 807 Maine Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

Nothing But Praise

Sir: I read with much interest, and total agreement, your March 1991 article "No Excuses." You said it all, and in the kind of language everyone can understand, especially the part about money for the war, but none for the warrior. That's the way it's been since World War I when the veterans had to almost wage a war on the Capitol in order to get a meager pension. Now, with a $2 billion shortage for the VA what are we going to tell the returning disabled vets from the Persian Gulf War? It's going to be embarrassing to have to tell them that the Administration has nothing for them but praise.—**Boyce Palmer, Lafayette, Ga.**

Stand Together

Sir: We are all veterans, no one conflict was any more important than another. We, as DAV members, need to stand together and let our legislators know what is needed for disabled veterans and establish some common goals. Freedom has a price, and we as DAV members have paid our dues. Let us welcome home the brave men and women who have shared that experience with us. This is the time to show we know how to receive the returning military. This return home will break down the barrier built by public sentiment after Korea and Vietnam. "A house divided against itself will not stand." Let us stand and fight for the care and well-being of all veterans, widows and dependents. This is what the DAV is all about.—**John J. Mechtel, Hampton, Va.**

The Price Paid

Sir: I got so tired of seeing all the protestors against the War in the Gulf and of hearing people say what they would do to keep from serving their country. We are a very fortunate country, and it's only because of what we've done and what we're doing now. There seems to always be a price paid for everything and "peace" is no different. Everyone has a right to their opinion, but if all the time and energy spent in protesting would be put to use instead to volunteer to help the servicemen and women and families at VA hospitals, they would be better off. We should love our country and the men and women who have fought and are fighting now to keep us free.—**Roy Smith, Grantville, Ga.**

Proud of the DAV

Sir: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the DAV for their outstanding efforts in planning to meet the medical and related problems associated with Desert Storm. Fortunately, the crisis passed without the contemplated volume of wounded and disabled becoming a reality. However, it was very satisfying to know that the DAV was ready and acted without hesitation, taking the lead in the effort to support our troops.—**Daniel Livingston, Cocoa Beach, Fla.**

Setting the Record Straight

Sir: Several disabled veterans in my district were confused by your February 1991 column listing 275 cosponsors of the clean COLA bill. They thought that because I was not listed as a cosponsor, I had not supported the bill. I would like to point out that I did in fact vote for the COLA bill, H.R. 3. The bill was placed on the legislative "fast track" and brought to the House floor under a suspension of the rules. Since the House vote on January 23rd, the clean COLA bill has passed the Senate and been signed into law by the President. I am proud to have voted for the clean COLA bill. I am proud to have voted for the Agent Orange Act of 1991. And I am proud of my continued support for America's veterans.—**Rep. Charles Taylor (R-N.C.), Washington, D.C.**

Understanding COLA Rates

Sir: Thank you for the clear and understandable graphic in the March 1991 issue (p. 3) concerning the COLA for compensation and DIC rates. This is the first time I've seen such a presentation of this information in the last ten years of my subscription to *DAV Magazine*. Great job. Thanks again.—**Maria G. Grispino, Dublin, Ohio.**

DAV MIDWINTER MEETINGS

(Continued from page 18)

"It's a shame that this country has to be reminded by the death and personal suffering of our men and women in uniform in the Persian Gulf." He added, "When we send our men and women to war we spare no expense to train them, to equip them, to give them the capability to achieve military success. Certainly, we should spare no expense, nor energy, nor in any way reduce that commitment when they return home. We should spare no expense to give them the kind of treatment, medical and psychological and whatever else they need."

A YOUNG LIFE CHANGED

Following the welcoming remarks by Committee members, Andry was introduced by Rep. Bob McEwen (R-Ohio), who noted that disabled veterans are on the "very highest rung" of America's veterans. He added, "Nothing is more important to the soul of America than remembering, honoring and caring for those who gave of themselves so that we might be free and enjoy peace and liberty."

Summarizing Andry's rise to DAV National Commander, Rep. McEwen said, "His young life was forever changed by a Vietcong booby trap that cost him his left leg and his right eye and riddled the rest of his body with shrapnel. He left the Army with a Purple Heart and a new life. Although he was forced to put aside his childhood dream of representing our flag as an Olympic long-distance runner, he refocused his energies on a new goal—disabled veterans. If only more Americans could take up this goal."

Citing Andry's employment achievements on behalf of disabled veterans, McEwen said Andry "brings a wealth of experience and dedicated service before this Committee. I consider each of us fortunate that the Committee has the opportunity to hear his recommendations for fiscal year 1992." McEwen concluded, "There is no greater honor than to present to this committee the National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Commander Joe Andry."

After a standing ovation, Andry introduced DAV and DAV Auxiliary officers, as well as his wife Julie and stepdaughter Barbie. Then, before he began his official legislative address, he noted a matter of great concern to the DAV—the proposed rules of practice and procedure for the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals (see p. 3). Andry said the rules would "seriously disadvantage" nonlawyer practitioners, such as those provided by the DAV. "Contrary to the clear intent Congress had in crafting a court that would fully embrace veterans' representatives to its bar as equals, the proposed rules would place veterans' advocates in a subservient, demeaning role and impair their ability to represent veteran cli-

(Continued on page 27)

chaplain's corner . . .

A Wonderful Way to Look at Life

One of the amazing revelations that comes to those who commit themselves to God is the discovery that God is a God of wonderful surprises.

When we take God seriously, He always goes beyond our expectations. No matter how great the obstacles or how big the problems, God is more than equal in strength and support.

Many times the greatest surprises come to those who least expect them. A good example is the story of Joseph and his brothers in the Old Testament.

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and wanted to get rid of him. One day when they had a good opportunity, they hurled him into a deep pit and were going to leave him there to die.

They changed their minds when they saw a caravan approaching and decided to sell him into slavery. They thought this was the end, but years later in the midst of a great famine, Joseph's brothers were seeking food in the court of the Egyptian pharaoh when they recognized their brother against whom they had performed this evil act.

Joseph spoke to his astonished brothers, "do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here...for God sent me before you to preserve life."

What a wonderful way to look at life! What a way to trust God! The brothers meant evil, but God meant good.

How often would this happen to us if we would allow it? In the midst of our greatest disappointment, God appears to change the case completely.

It is my prayer that your disappointments in life will be few. But when they do come, you will be able to entrust them to Almighty God and trust in His mighty power to bring out the most possible good.

Rev. Oscar Wilkie
National Chaplain

Correction

In a model program of service to the families of disabled veterans, DAV Auxiliary Unit 11 in Las Vegas, Nev., has hosted a series of roundtable discussions for women in their community on such topics as "Problems of Living with a Disabled Person," and "Wills and Trusts." In November's issue, an initial report received by *DAV Magazine* attributed this program to another Auxiliary unit. The magazine regrets the error.



Family Room Renovations...

The ladies of Auxiliary Unit 11 in Iron Mountain, Mich., recently donated $200 to the Iron Mountain VA Medical Center. The hospital's family waiting room is being modernized and renovated for the comfort of families visiting seriously ill patients. VAVS Representative and Auxiliary member Janet Olsen encouraged members of her Unit to help out with the project. Presenting the check are, from left, Olsen, VA Director of Voluntary Services Jeanne Wetzel, and VAVS Deputy Representative Beatrice Walz.



A grateful Mrs. Tobin, center, is shown with Don Hoppe, left, and Chapter 48 Commander Steve Hatt.

Memories Stolen, Memories Returned

Don Hoppe, a member of Chapter 48 in Santa Rosa, Calif., returned some special memories. At the end of January, several American flags flying from homes in Santa Rosa were stolen. Among the missing flags was the one belonging to Jane Tobin, a widow of a U.S. Army veteran.

Mrs. Tobin's flag was the one that had covered her husband's coffin. The loss was especially wrenching because not only is she the widow of Howard Tobin, a World War II veteran, but she is also the mother of two sons who served in Vietnam. "I don't understand it," Tobin said when she discovered the flag missing only two hours after her son had hung it from the top of her garage. "It meant a lot to me."

Mrs. Tobin's neighbor, Don Hoppe, also a World War II veteran, went from house to house knocking on doors to ask if the neighbors knew anything about the flag. He explained how important it was to her to have it returned. "I told 'em all how I'd like to get it back to her, no questions asked," he said.

Soon after, an anonymous caller told him to look on his porch. The flag was there in a bag. "I couldn't believe it," Mrs. Tobin said. "Don Hoppe came to the door and said, 'Look in the bag.' I just cried."

Mrs. Tobin bought a smaller flag to display instead.



Sit-skiiers are towed up the mountain behind a snowcat. Many of the participants enjoyed skiing for the first time in their lives.

5TH NATIONAL VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

More than 180 participants from 29 states call their five days at the Powderhorn Ski Resort "real freedom."

Frank Gallo of Miles, Inc., one of the clinic's corporate sponsors, is shown with veteran participant John Roberts of San Diego. (Photos by Robert Turtil.)



Excellent ski conditions at the Powderhorn Ski Resort, ideal weather and hundreds of enthusiastic participants and volunteers all combined to make the 5th National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic one of the best ever, according to clinic organizers.

This year more than 180 participants from VA medical facilities in 29 states traveled to this ski area outside Grand Junction, Colo., for five days of skiing, snowmobiling and a host of other indoor and outdoor activities.

The clinic, again cosponsored this year by the DAV and the VA, included about 50 certified ski instructors for the disabled and many volunteers from area veterans and auxiliary units.

The opportunity to ski for the first time was the big attraction for many of the clinic's participants. The results were well worth the effort. "It's a euphoric feeling stemming from a sense of accomplishment that carries over into everyday activities, and helps transform huge challenges into personal conquests," said Ken Force of Garden Grove, Calif.

For one wheelchair-bound veteran it was "exhilerating to come gliding down the hills of snow with the wind in may face," said Rusty Bettcher of Dubuque, Iowa, "and a great feeling to do something without the aid of my chair."

The philosophy behind the clinic—an opportunity for disabled vets to test their skills in previously untested areas—was a winner. "The clinic has made me feel like I can at least try anything, and made me proud to be a Vietnam vet once again," said Ernest Catuna of Simi Valley, Calif.

"It's the best psychotherapy there is," said Glen Rogers of Nampa, Idaho, "It's just good for the soul."

This year's clinic also featured celebrity visits that many enjoyed. Bill Demby, an accomplished amputee skiier who's best known for a series of commercials he made playing basketball on his artificial limbs, was a hit with participants and volunteers alike and was the principle speaker at the closing ceremonies. Kevin Dobson, a star of the television series "Knots Landing" also visited the Grand Junction VA medical center and was keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies.

While skiing presented new opportunities for many disabled veterans, other sports activities were also offered. These included wheelchair basketball, scuba diving , wheelchair self-defense and trap shooting. In addition, many of the clinic participants traveled to nearby Aspen, Colo., where they enjoyed meeting the world-class, ablebodied skiers who were

in town for the World Cup Races.

One of the newest generation of disabled veterans, Carlos Moleda, at right, is a paraplegic who was wounded during the U.S. invasion of Panama.

Moleda, a U.S. Navy Seal, credits his physical training as the reason he was able to survive being shot in the back and left leg. "We did the hardest training in the American military—swimming and running."

During the clinic Moleda took additional skiing lessons, and helped out his fellow veterans with their scuba lessons, something he knows a lot about with his training as a Seal.

Other veterans shared Moleda's enthusiasm for the freedom that the clinic spotlighted this year. "It makes the disabled veteran community feel a part of the mainstream of the population. It makes you feel that there is no such thing as limitations."

For Guy Lounsbury of Aurora, Colo., the clinic was "the opportunity to participate in an activity that I once enjoyed, but figured was not available to me because of my disabilities."

The rewards, though, were not limited to the ski slopes or athletic arenas. "It's given us the opportunity to share with other veterans a common experience," said Paul Stempel of San Diego, Calif., "and with those who see us comes the knowledge that physical disabilities is not synonymous with limits."

"It's the best psychotherapy there is," said Glen Rogers of Nampa, Idaho. "It's just good for the soul."

Carlos Moleda



For Chris Young, a member of the U.S. Disabled Ski Team, the clinic meant much more. "I've been very fortunate since my first year at the Clinic, and I'm here now to give something back to my fellow veterans."

Others admitted they felt some fear at coming to the clinic and trying something they'd never tried before. "I cried before I came here," said Hope Cooper of San Antonio, Texas, "I was terrified. But if I can do something like this—something that I've never done before—I know I can live life. It opens up a world of opportunities."

DAV National Director of Voluntary Services Bruce G. Nitsche said plans are already well underway for next year's clinic. "We've received considerable interest in hosting the activities from a variety of major ski resorts," he said. "And we are particularly pleased at the response the program has received from potential corporate sponsors."

Yet the memories of this year's clinic are not likely to fade soon for many of the participants.

"Freedom," said disabled vet Ken Dibble of Neosho, Wisc. "I learned the word here."

DAV MIDWINTER MEETINGS

(Continued from page 24)

ents," Andry added.

Beginning his address, Andry noted that for the fifth time in seven decades America was engaged in a major conflict, placing her sons and daughters in harm's way. Regardless of when and where those conflicts took place, Andry said, veterans shared common experiences. "In combat, we shared and witnessed both the terrible and the wonderful...fear and pain, the death of a friend; and acts of great compassion and love and the making of lasting friendships. And when our wars were over, there was the sheer relief of survival and the joy of returning home."

Since his own return from Vietnam, Andry said, veterans' benefits have "waxed and waned," subject to economies and competing interests. He noted a serious decline in benefits during the past decade, and spoke of the responsibility of veterans' advocates and Congressional representatives to "set things right."

Specifically, Andry cited the $621 million reduction in VA benefits as part of the federal budget agreement last fall. That reduction will grow to over $3.6 billion in five years, he added.

"Does anyone think that these decisions, arrived at in the eleventh hour of a behind-closed-doors deficit reduction process, could have stood the light of day and been accepted by the American people?" asked Andry. "I don't think so, not for a second," he added.

Andry noted that disabled veterans are willing to do their share to reduce the budget deficit, but added that they are being singled out. He noted that as payments to some 4,100 incompetent veterans were being reduced, the same budget added reforms to ensure that 3.3 million incompetent Social Security recipients received all their entitlements.

"Veterans and their programs, without question, were unfairly singled out by this Reconciliation Act. There was no uniform standard applied and we see no rational basis that can explain a public policy of such blatant discrimination."

Andry also noted that the current VA budget for fiscal 1992 includes cuts in beneficiary travel and medical research, and reductions in vocational rehabilitation eligibility and disabled veterans' employment counselors.

"After making the agonizing decision to engage in war, if we can find the wherewithal to marshal our resources and pursue it to its conclusion, then we can and should match that same level of commitment to pay for war's continuing cost," Andry said.

Where would the money come from?, Andry asked. He noted the $50 billion pledged by Desert Storm allies, some of which could be used to care for disabled veterans. Andry also suggested a meeting with the President, Committee members and veterans' groups. "Putting our case on the table before the President, and in a fashion that draws public attention, is absolutely essential," he said.

"But what of the lesson on how we treat our veterans once they return home? I hope with all my heart and soul that we will learn this one also."

Following Andry's address, Rep. Bob Stump (R-Ariz.) told the National Commander that he would not have problems with the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, but with the House and Senate Budget Committees.

"What we need is your individual help. We will add money to this bill (fiscal '92 budget measure) but before we get through here we're going to need your help."

Rep. Timothy Penny (D-Minn.), whose brother served in Vietnam, agreed with Andry that veterans need more government support when they return home. "It's one thing for you and my brother to serve in a war that did not have popular support here at home, and worse for them to return home to hassels and delays in the system. We owe this particular group of veterans better than that. We need to put emphasis on better staffing, VA benefits, and health care," said Penny, who also urged veterans' groups meet with the President to discuss these concerns. "That's precisely the way to bring the nation's attention to this issue. The sooner the better."

membership standings

Disabled American Veterans as of March 9, 1991

Stdg.	State	— Membership — Popula.	Goal	———Percent Of——— Goal	Renewal	Life
DIVISION I—(More than 35,000 Members)						
1	California	103,631	100,867	102.74	79.82	71.46
2	Florida	81,262	79,668	102.00	87.06	77.94
3	Michigan	50,633	49,786	101.70	87.55	79.87
4	Texas	71,887	70,740	101.62	83.79	74.87
5	Ohio	57,853	56,968	101.52	85.48	81.88
6	New York	85,040	83,901	101.36	86.13	79.02
7	Pennsylvania	59,528	59,194	100.56	90.01	70.86
8	Massachusetts	52,313	52,265	100.09	91.41	77.70
DIVISION II—(18,000 to 34,999 Members)						
1	Indiana	22,895	22,197	103.14	88.98	76.19
2	Oklahoma	20,865	20,503	101.77	83.67	73.11
3	Alabama	19,149	18,901	101.31	81.79	73.66
4	Washington	21,769	21,509	101.21	82.88	81.58
5	N. Carolina	29,433	29,097	101.15	84.21	74.76
6	Georgia	21,897	21,693	100.94	81.20	71.97
7	Tennessee	18,298	18,137	100.89	82.94	69.25
8	Illinois	30,034	29,805	100.77	86.32	72.01
9	Virginia	26,501	26,324	100.67	84.22	71.88
10	Minnesota	19,877	19,744	100.67	88.12	79.31
11	Wisconsin	20,352	20,219	100.66	89.29	77.97
12	New Jersey	34,722	34,544	100.52	85.68	73.42
13	Missouri	22,443	22,330	100.51	87.79	72.31
14	Kentucky	25,466	25,344	100.48	84.82	78.53
15	Arizona	19,224	19,139	100.44	86.01	81.14
16	Maryland	20,362	20,322	100.20	79.27	77.66
DIVISION III—(10,000 to 17,999 Members)						
1	Connecticut	15,338	14,943	102.64	87.28	73.54
2	Louisiana	14,065	13,900	101.19	84.63	65.42
3	Mississippi	11,187	11,076	101.00	82.96	69.03
4	Arkansas	15,148	15,029	100.79	84.33	77.11
5	W. Virginia	12,027	11,934	100.78	84.61	74.96
6	S. Carolina	13,535	13,472	100.47	84.97	74.54
7	Oregon	10,937	10,893	100.40	85.55	77.84
8	Colorado	17,802	17,739	100.36	86.29	87.25
9	New Mexico	11,682	11,651	100.27	85.76	83.65
10	Iowa	10,812	10,789	100.21	87.55	76.12
DIVISION IV—(5,000 to 9,999 Members)						
1	Puerto Rico	8,648	8,525	101.44	76.79	79.98
2	Nevada	5,279	5,205	101.42	87.53	79.69
3	Maine	7,351	7,268	101.14	87.46	77.81
4	Utah	6,234	6,176	100.94	87.28	80.37
5	Kansas	9,984	9,924	100.60	89.82	73.07
6	Idaho	5,546	5,522	100.43	88.36	84.89
7	Rhode Island	6,994	6,976	100.26	87.74	72.83
8	New Hampshire	6,875	6,857	100.26	91.23	70.66
9	Nebraska	8,359	8,340	100.23	90.11	78.80
DIVISION V—(Less than 5,000 Members)						
1	Wash., D.C.	3,953	3,784	104.47	80.23	83.41
2	Alaska	1,492	1,450	102.90	89.74	85.99
3	Delaware	3,556	3,457	102.86	97.01	81.50
4	Hawaii	4,210	4,154	101.35	82.05	85.82
5	Vermont	3,159	3,123	101.15	89.63	74.23
6	Wyoming	2,323	2,303	100.87	86.94	81.40
7	North Dakota	4,351	4,318	100.76	87.29	89.98
8	Montana	4,943	4,919	100.49	88.26	83.31
9	South Dakota	4,771	4,757	100.29	83.73	86.73

DAV NATIONAL TOTAL, 1,173,940

DAV NATIONAL GOAL, 1,159,680

DAV Auxiliary As of February 28, 1991

Department	Quota	Members
Alabama	2,460	2,159
Alaska	91	90
Arizona	4,912	4,591
Arkansas	2,593	2,260
California	11,140	9,742
Colorado	2,922	2,672
Connecticut	1,217	1,082
Delaware	431	408
Wash., D.C.	382	353
Florida	15,134	13,918
Georgia	3,289	3,001
Hawaii	210	183
Idaho	982	896
Illinois	3,270	3,055
Indiana	4,373	3,957
Iowa	1,492	1,327
Kansas	1,384	1,270
Kentucky	3,816	3,744
Louisiana	1,872	1,651
Maine	1,079	969
Maryland	2,427	2,252
Mass.	7,169	6,633
Michigan	9,056	8,298
Minnesota	2,444	2,678
Mississippi	1,668	1,349
Missouri	3,323	3,137
Montana	845	785
Nebraska	1,768	1,676
Nevada	647	598
New Hamp.	1,066	977
New Jersey	3,356	3,080
New Mexico	1,988	1,719
New York	6,048	5,293
N. Carolina	4,276	3,710
N. Dakota	1,145	1,106
Ohio	7,663	6,957
Oklahoma	3,037	2,622
Oregon	1,813	2,026
Penn.	4,965	5,094
Philippines	134	128
Puerto Rico	765	497
Rhode Is.	698	609
S. Carolina	2,188	2,140
S. Dakota	1,158	1,108
Tennessee	2,062	1,934
Texas	10,425	9,528
Utah	1,045	871
Vermont	640	513
Virginia	3,298	2,982
Washington	3,280	3,002
W. Virginia	1,580	1,509
Wisconsin	3,811	3,789
Wyoming	246	227
At Large	79,324	62,506
Auxiliary Nat. Totals	**238,425**	**208,599**

reunions...

Because of the increasing number of requests and the space limitations of our magazine, we must limit publication of unit reunions to one time only. Send such notices at least three months in advance. Mail to: Reunions, DAV Magazine, 807 Maine Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024. Thank you ... the Editors.

ARMY

2th AND 7th DIV. (All Korean DMZ, Vietnam)—Planning reunion. Contact Tom Murray, Jr., P.O. Box 6864, Mobile, Ala. 36660, phone (205) 432-3040.

CO. K, 338th INF., 3rd BN. (WWII)—Planning reunion. Contact George Perigin, Rt. 2, Box 67, Greenfield, Mo. 65661.

OCS CLASS 23 TIS JUNE 20, 1942—Planning 50th Anniversary reunion. John P.Gardner, Jr., 105 Richards Dr., Roseville, Calif. 95678, phone (916) 786-3703.

873 ENGR. AV. BN. AND 882nd AIRBORNE ENGR. (WWII)—Planning reunion. Contact Thomas L. Passons, 638 Cassell Ave., Barbertson, Ohio 44203-3408, phone (216) 753-1863.

1st CAV., 1st BN., 30th ARTILLERY (Vietnam)—Planning reunion. Contact George Anderson, 2114 Johnstown Rd., Huntington, W.Va., 25701, phone (304) 529-1395; or Ron Kephart, phone (503) 746-2129.

14th ARMORED DIV., NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER—May, 1991, New Hartford, N.Y. Contact Howard J. Prentice, 250 Chesterton Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14626, phone (716) 225-2718.

CO. A, 17th ARMORED ENGR. BN. AND 2nd ARMORED DIV.—May 2-5, 1991, Holiday Inn Downtown-Riverfront, St. Louis, Mo. Contact William Curtis, 110 S. Revena, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103; or Eddie Wagner, 24 Harvey Lane, Lake Ronkonkoma, N.Y. 11779.

608th T.D. BN.—May 3, 1991, Ole Zim's Wagonshed, Fremont, Ohio. Contact Bernie Haas, 729 Nickel St., Fremont, Ohio 43420.

128th AAA GUN BN. (WWII)-May 15-19, 1991, Palm Beach, Fla. Contact Charles DeCoff, 919 Cochran Dr., Lake Worth, Fla. 33461, phone (407) 585-4818.

287th F.A. OBSERVATION BN.—May 17-19, 1991, Wilson World Hotel, Morgantown, Pa. Contact A.T. Adams, 52 Richard Lee Lane, Phoenixville, Pa. 19460, phone (215) 933-0605.

CO. I, 337th INF., 95th DIV.—May 17-19, 1991, Campbell House Inn, Lexington, Ky. Contact Dr. Stephen J. Bodnar, 408 Nimitz St., Fredericksburg, Texas 78624, phone (512) 997-4917.

150th ENGR. COMBAT BN.—May 17-19, 1991, Sheraton Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Contact Philip Dobruck, 873 Windsor Ave., Windsor, Conn. 06095.

144th INF.—May 17-19, 1991, Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott, Irving, Texas. Contact Wally Wilkes, 1420 Wreyhill Dr., Hurst, Texas 76053-3840.

24th INF. DIV. (Sugamo Prison, Korea)—May 17-22, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Robert N. Shively, Sr., 6259 Sard St., Alta Loma, Calif. 91701, phone (714) 987-8810.

F TROOP, 17th CAV., 196th LIGHT INF. BRIG.—May 21-24, 1991, Midway Motor Lodge, 5105 S. Howell Ave., Milawukee, Wisc. Contact Richard J. Krueger, 130 Meadowview St., Neenah, Wisc. 54956.

199th LIGHT INF. BRIG. (Vietnam)—May 24-27, 1991. Contact Peter C. Joannides, c/o Redcatcher, P.O. Box 199, McLean, Va. 22101, phone (703) 448-0199.

CO. I, 331st INF., 83rd INF. DIV. (WWII)—June 1991. Contact Mrs. Hall Chapman, Rt. 4, Box 136, Taylorsville, N.C. 28681, phone (704) 632-2795; or Willard Cornelius, P.O. Box 45, Williamsburg, Ky. 40769, phone (606) 549-0760.

385th AAA AW BN. (WWII)—June 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Douglass C. Cochran, 420 Belvedere Rd., Hagerstown, Md. 21740, phone (301) 733-6312.

CO. H, 161st INF., 25th DIV. (WWII)—June 1, 1991, Yakima, Wash. Contact Jim Wood, 5901 Barge, Apt. #1, Yakima, Wash. 98908.

23rd AMERICAL DIV. FIELD ARTILLERY (WWII, Korea, Vietnam)—June 6-9, 1991, Hyannis, Mass. Contact E.R. Horton, Rt. 1, Box 854, Timberlake, N.C. 27583.

112th COMBAT ENGR.—June 8, 1991, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact J.M. Houghtlin, 14530 Mission Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44135, phone (296) 251-9545.

CO. K, 38th INF., 2nd INDIANHEAD DIV.—June 12-16, 1991, Branson, Mo. Contact Dick Smith, 3286 C.R. 29, Burgoon, Ohio 43407, phone (419) 986-5870.

29th DIV. EX-POWs—June 13-15, 1991, Quality Hotel, Covington, Ky. Contact George Smith, 2412 Griswold Ct., New Port Richey, Fla. 34655, phone (813) 372-8752.

226th AAA S/L BN., HQ BATTERY—June 19-21, 1991, Knoxville, Tenn. Contact French C. Hurst, Rt. 6, Box 50, Tazewell, Tenn. 37879, phone (615) 626-3980.

460th AAA—June 25-26, 1990, Super 8 Motel, Milwaukee, Wisc. Contact Erwin "Bud" Bessler, 3315 E. Allerton, Cudahy, Wisc. 53110.

93rd ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BN. (93rd AFA Bn.)—June 26-30, 1991, Howard Johnson Lodge, Rockford, Ill. Contact Curtis Fetrow, 1401 Labelle Ave., Rockford, Ill. 61103, phone (815) 964-3197.

66th INF. DIV. (PVO)—June 27-30, 1991, Marriott Marina Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Contact Bob Hesse, 26 E. Curtis St., Linden, N.J. 07036, phone (201) 381-4216.

1st CAV. DIV. ASSOC.—July 4-7, 1991, Fort Hood, Texas. Contact 1st Cav. Div. Assoc., 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, Texas 76522-1799, phone (817) 547-6537.

551st PARACHUTE INF. BN. (WWII)—July 8-14, 1991, Embassy Suites Hotel, Tulsa, Okla. Contact Fred C. Hilgardner, 6907 NW 79th St., Kansas City, Mo. 64152, phone (816) 741-2616.

75th INF. DIV. (WWII)—July 11-13, 1991, Red Lion Inn, Belleview, Wash. Contact James E. Warmouth, 6545 West 11th St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46214, phone (317) 241-3730.

630th AAA BN. (WWII)—July 11-13, 1991, Holiday Inn, Spring Lake, Mich. Contact Budd J. Swainston, 769 Center St., Muskegon, Mich. 49442, phone (616) 773-3640.

9th INF. REGIMENT, MANCHU ASSOC.—July 17-20, 1991, Omaha, Neb. Contact Ray Tarabusi, 19 Waterford Dr., Englewood, Fla. 34223, phone (813) 475-6063.

CO. A, 50th ENGR.—July 18-20, 1991, Norfolk, Neb. Contact Edward H. Grone, 1021 First Ave., Wayne, Neb. 68787, phone (402) 375-2947.

CO. B, 9th AIB, 6th ARMORED DIV.—July 26-28, 1991, Jeffersonville, Ind. Contact Ed Clark, 14667, Tuller Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48238, phone (313) 862-6780.

314th INF. ASSOC. AND 79th RECON. TROOP (WWII)—July 26-28, 1991, Baltimore, Md. Contact Richard Yates, 6626 Monroe Ave., Sykesville, Md. 21784.

CO. C, 202nd COMBAT ENGR.—July 26-28, 1991. Contact Robert Herzog, 3 Beverly Place, Florence, Ky. 41042.

166th ENGR. COMBAT BN. (Europe, WWII)—July 27, 1991, Holiday Inn, 800 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, R.I. Contact Vincent Ricci, 89 Marlow St., Cranston, R.I. 92920, phone (401) 942-6489.

YOKOHAMA ENGINEER DEPOT 8056 AU, APO 503, SAGAMI, JAPAN—July 27-28, 1991. Contact Walter Williams, RD 2, Box 154, Lawrenceville, Pa. 16929, phone (717) 827-2773.

5th US INF. REGIMENT—July 28, 1991, Portland, Maine. Contact Conrad Vaillancourt, P.O. Box 5052, Station A, Portland, Maine 04101.

CO. B, 179th INF., 45th DIV. (WWII)—Aug. 1991. Contact Charles Johnson, 3501 30th St., Tulsa, Okla. 74114, phone (918) 747-6804.

17th AIRBORNE DIV. ASSOC. (WWII)—Aug. 1-4, 1991, Marriott Pavilion, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Edward J. Siergiej, 62 Forty Acre Mountain Rd., Danbury, Conn. 06811, phone (203) 748-3958.

246th SIGNAL OPERATIONS CO. (WWII)—Aug. 2-3, 1991, Chattanooga, Tenn. Contact Johnnie Huggins, 30031 SW 169th Ave., Homestead, Fla. 33030, phone (305) 247-0150.

556th ORD. H.M. CO. (TK) (WWII)—Aug. 2-4, 1991, McCoys Motor Lodge, Ripley, W.Va. Contact Miss Pat Deever, 3614 Cyress St., Parkersburg, W.Va. 26101, phone (304) 485-5730.

279th COMBAT ENGR. BN. (WWII)—Aug. 8-10, 1991. Contact Charles McCullough, 2033 Blairmont Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15241, phone (412) 833-2785.

107th AAA, BATTERY B ASSOC.—Aug. 9-10, 1991, Clinton, S.C. Contact Boyd W. Holtzclaw, 411 N. Broad St., Clinton, S.C. 29325, phone (803) 833-1069.

720th MILITARY POLICE BN.—Aug. 9-11, 1991, Salinas, Calif. Contact Joseph Selovich, 1909 35th St., Kenosha, Wisc. 53140, phone (414) 654-0517.

20th COMBAT ENGR. ASSOC., 20th and 1340th Bn./1171st Group HQ (WWII)—Aug. 9-11, 1991, Timonium, Md. Contact Fred Miller, 33 Dawley Rd., Westminster, Mass. 01473, phone (508) 874-5606.

OTTER AND CARIBOU ASSOC.—Aug. 15-18, 1991, Bally's Hotel, Reno, Nev. Contact Bill Hooks, P.O. 6091, Columbus, Ga. 31907-0073, phone (404) 324-1596.

CO. E, 329th INF.—Aug. 16-17, 1991, Holiday Inn North, Lexington, Ky. Contact William Ledger, RR 4, Box 114, Morgantown, Ind. 46160, phone (812) 988-2562.

10th ENGR., 3rd INF. DIV.—Aug. 21-25, 1991, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Contact Andy Sporleder, 4745 Lake Rd., Box 614, Wilson, N.Y. 14172, phone (716) 751-9924.

84th INF. DIV., THE RAILSPLITTERS SOCIETY—Aug. 22-25, 1991, Red Lion Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, Calif. Contact Harry A. Ward, P.O. Box 1524, Englewood, Fla. 34295-1524.

3rd GENERAL HOSPITAL (WWII)—Aug. 22-25, 1991, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Ky. Contact Harold M. "Sarge" Hammon, 6112

Harwood Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40222, phone (502) 426-4930; or Jay Seals, 209 Stewart Ave., Rossville, Ill. 60963, phone (217) 748-6718.

BLACKHORSE TROOPERS, 11th ACR AND DETACHMENTS (Vietnam, Aug. 1966-Aug. 1967)—Aug. 24-26, 1991, Alexandria, Va. Contact Gil Ferrey, phone (415) 477-9211; or Jim Embrey, phone (502) 737-8671; or Bill Abbey, phone (919) 766-5857.

3rd INF. DIV.—Aug. 25-28, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Stanley R. Smith, 163 Lymanm St., Westboro, Mass. 01581, phone (508) 366-7029; or Vester Thacker, Sr., 436 Mt. Bethel Rd., Sunset, S.C. 29685, phone (803) 868-4321.

740th TANK BN. (WWII)—Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1991, Oklahoma City, Okla. Contact Harry F. Miller, 2150 6th Avenue, N., #102, Seattle, Wash. 98108, phone (206) 283-8591.

CO. H, 45th INF. DIV., 279th INF.—Aug. 30-31, 1991, Sapulpa, Okla. Contact John Morris, P.O. Box 577, Sapulpa, Okla 74066, phone (918) 224-0234; or Frank Gibbs, phone (918) 224-7371.

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOC., 5307th, 475th INF. AND SUPPORT GROUPS—Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1991, El Paso, Texas. Contact Raymond V. Lyons, 11244 North 33rd St., Phoenix, Ariz. 85038-2723.

CO. B, 634th T.D. BN.—Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1991, Boone, Iowa. Contact Mike Piper, 1717 Country Club Place, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158.

435th AAA BN. AND 473rd INF. ASSOC.—Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1991, Howard Johnson Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact Morris Clements, Rt. 2, Box 54B, Spring Grove, Va. 23881.

315th INF. REGIMENT ASSOC. (WWII)—Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1991, Bordeaux Holiday Inn, Fayetteville, N.C. Contact Francis G. Oczky, 144 North 6th St., New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11040, phone (516) 352-7554.

32nd DIV.—Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 1991. Contact Theron Rose, 1025 Merritt St., NE, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49507.

NAVY

USS FLOYD B. PARKS (DD-844)—Planning reunion. Contact James P. Robbins, P.O. Box 61, Twain, Calif. 95984.

USS CRITTENDEN (APA-77)—Planning reunion. Contact Ed Langlois, P.O. Box 161-DTS, Portland, Maine 04112, phone (207) 773-7670.

N.T.S. Co. 4125, Bainbridge, Md. and L.I.O.N. 3-6 (1943)—Planning reunion. Contact Harry Sturges, 528 Ball St., New Smyrna Beach, Fla. 32168, phone (904) 428-2026.

USS P.G.M. 22—Planning reunion. Contact Lester Winoker, 1717 Grandview Rd., Bedford, Va. 24523, phone (703) 586-2456.

LST 709 (1944-46)—Planning reunion. Contact J.P. Martin, 913 Eldorado Dr., Birmingham, Ala. 35235, phone (205) 853-1080.

FASRON 113, NAS Cubi Point—Planning reunion. Contact Robert J. Borecky Velotta, 4106 Dartford Rd., Euclid, Ohio 44121, phone (216) 692-3104.

USS ELDEN (DE-264)—Planning reunion. Contact Doug Leach, 131 Harpeth Trace Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37221.

USS LST 1108 (WWII)—Planning reunion. Contact Dick Moses, 3083 Glenfinnan, Memphis, Tenn. 38128, phone (901) 353-1216.

USS BARRY (APD-29)—Planning reunion. Contact John S. Stout, 12219 Stout, Detroit, Mich. 48228, phone (313) 835-0792.

VT-22, NAS KINGSVILLE, TEXAS (1967-70)—Planning reunion. Contact Galen A. Wiser, 920 Sherman St., Wayne, Neb. 68787, phone (402) 375-4855.

USS MILLICOMA (AO-73)—May 1991, Oklahoma City, Okla. Contact Fred Fletch, 924 Brinham, Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43204

USS ACHERNAR (AKA-53)—May 15-19, 1991, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Carol Preston, 1491 Longbrook Dr., Cullman, Ala. 35055, phone (205) 734-9394.

USS COMPTON (DD-705)—May 17-19, 1991, Viking Hotel, Newport, R.I. Contact Edward P. Foley, Jr., 19 Elizabeth St., Bordentown, N.J. 08505.

USS XANTHUS (AR-19) (WWII)—May 18-19, 1991, Mobile, Ala. Contact Dan Strickland, 8 Arden Rd., Montgomery, Ala. 36109, phone (205) 244-7800.

USS POPE (225) and USS PERCH (176)—May 21-23, 1991, Grass Valley, Calif. Contact Don (Big Mat) Mathews, 574 Bellarie Dr., Venice, Fla. 34293, phone (813) 493-8123.

USS BATAAN (CVL-29) and ALL AIR GROUPS—May 22-26, 1991, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Sando Cosenza, 507 Carsonia Ave., Reading, Pa. 19606, phone (215) 779-7175.

USS INTREPID, F-DIV. (WWII, 1943-46)—May 24-26, 1991, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas. Contact Minor J. Barton, 946 Elizabeth Dr., Santa Clara, Calif. 95050, phone (408) 243-4377.

79th SEABEES (WWII)—June 10-12, 1991, Holiday Hotel/Casino, Reno, Nev. Contact W.G. Lindroff, 5104 Lowen Ave., Bakersfield, Calif. 93309, phone (805) 831-6621.

USS RINEHART (DE-196)—June 14-15, 1991, Ithaca, N.Y. Contact Bob Biase, 73 North Main St., Homer, N.Y. 13077, phone (607) 749-2057.

USS ANCON (AGC-4)—June 14-16, 1991, Sands Hotel, Reno, Nev. Contact Al Klepps, 72 Sierra Shadows Ave., Reno, Nev. 89506, phone (702) 677-0759.

USS LST 683 (WWII)—June 18-20, 1991, Cape Cod, Mass. Contact Robert Lawler, 6 Curlew St., W. Roxbury, Mass. 02132, phone (617) 327-6791.

USS ARCHERFISH (SS-311) (Sept. 1957-Dec. 1959)—July 4-7, 1991, Chicago, Ill. Contact John (Rod) Puhr, 10341 Keaton, Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453, phone (312) 425-1046.

USS BELLE GROVE (LSD-2)—July 8-13, 1991, Columbus, Ohio. Contact Del Catron, 14732 Van Buren St., Midway City, Calif. 92655, phone (714) 897-1787.

USS ASHLAND (LSD-1 and LSD-48)—July 10-13, 1991, Slidell, La. Contact Milt Ferguson, 1540 East Moore Rd., Hillsdale, Mich. 49242, phone (517) 437-7205; or Raymond Colvin, 45 Stearns Ave., Brockton, Mass. 02402, phone (508) 588-4745.

USS WAINWRIGHT (DLG-28) (Vietnam Veterans and Plankowners)—July 17-20, 1991, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact J.C. Carlson, 325 W. 19th St., Holland, Mich. 49423.

USS MCGOWAN (DD-678) (WWII)—July 19-20, 1991, Best Western Motor Inn, Bowling Green, Ky. Contact Earl McCune, 60005 Myrtle Rd., South Bend, Ind. 46614, telephone (219) 233-7006.

USS VULCAN (AR-5)—July 27, 1991, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact 50th Anniversary Committee, FPO New York, New York, N.Y. 09548-2545.

AVIATIONS BOATSWAIN'S MATES ASSOC.—July 30-Aug. 3, 1991, Marina Hotel at St. Johns Place, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Wally Lemmon, phone (904) 272-4681; or Jake Kollarki, phone (904) 772-3315/3655; or Mike Orski, phone (904) 241-6023/6104.

USS THOMAS J. GARY (DE/DER-326)—Aug. 1991, Mobile, Ala. and Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Ron Day, Rt. 1, Box 82, Heuvelton, N.Y. 13654, phone (315) 344-8823.

USS TRITON (SSN-586)—Aug. 2-4, 1991, Groton, Conn. Contact Ralph A. Kennedy, 89 Laurelwood Rd., Groton, Conn. 06340, phone (203) 445-6567.

USS TRENTON (CL-11)—Aug. 6-8, 1991, Olympia/Tumwater, Wash. Contact John Copeland, P.O. Box 893, Yelm, Wash. 98597, phone (206) 458-7220; or Jay Balfour, P.O. Box 84122, Vancouver, Wash. 98684-0122, phone (206) 254-4439.

USS VINCENNES ASSOC.—Aug. 6-10, 1991, Vincennes, Ind. Contact Bob Illig, 4868 Old Cliffs Rd., San Diego, Calif. 92120.

110th SEABEE BN.—Aug. 7-11, 1991, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact James Groome, 3301 Altamont Dr., Wilmington, Del. 19810, phone (302) 478-1078.

USS TOPEKA (CL-67) (1944-1949)—Aug. 8-10, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact James W. Wilson, 1022 W. Abbott, Muncie, Ind. 47303, phone (317) 288-3949.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8)—Aug. 15-19, 1991, Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, Calif. Contact D.E. Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita, Calif. 91902, phone (619) 267-3123.

WWII BLACK NAVY VETERANS OF GREAT LAKES—Aug. 15-17, 1991, Palmer House, Chicago, Ill. Contact LeRoy Colston, II, P.O. Box 497033, Chicago, Ill. 60649, phone (312) 363-0971.

SERVPAC SERVICE CRAFT UNIT 4—Aug. 15-17, 1991, Sands Hotel, Reno, Nev. Contact James A. Pressley, 1318 Washington, Fredonia, Kan. 66736, phone (316) 378-2647.

USS BOXER (CV/CVA/CVS-21, LPH-4), ALL FORMER SHIPMATES, CARRIER AIR GROUPS, U.S. MARINES—Aug. 22-24, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact Hank Wilson, 1751 Evergreen Ct., Derby, Kan. 67037, phone (316) 788-4560.

USS BUNKER HILL (CV-17)—Aug. 22-25, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Jack Balas, 109 Trailwood Dr., Euless, Texas 76039, phone (817) 571-7935.

USS PRESIDENT JACKSON (APA-18), USS PRESIDENT ADAMS (APA-19), USS PRESIDENT HAYES (APA-20), AND USS CRESCENT CITY (APA-21)—Aug. 22-26, 1991, Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, La. Contact Bill Lindner, P.O. Box 4006, Virginia Beach, Va. 23454, phone (804) 340-8551.

ARGUS UNIT #18—Aug. 23-25, 1991, Spokane, Wash. Contact Lloyd P. Madison, 7117 Mahr Ct., Spokane, Wash. 99208, phone (509) 466-1200.

USS OTTER (DE-210)—Aug. 25-29, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Bill Nielson, 600 Greenwood Dr., Jupiter, Fla. 33458, phone (407) 744-4716.

USS MARSH (DE-699)—Aug. 25-29, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact John F. Cullinan, 2920 Karen Dr., Chesapeake Beach, Md. 20732, phone (301) 257-6322.

USS SPANGENBERG (DE-223)—Aug. 27, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Lawrence Dente, 25 Renwick Ave., Staten Island, N.Y. 10301, phone (718) 442-7692.

USS MINDANAO (ARG-3) (South Pacific)—Aug. 28-30, 1991, Philadelphia, Pa. Contact Melvin Swiger, 2333 Valentine Blvd., NE, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49505.

USS ESSEX (CV/CVA/CVS-9)—Aug. 28-31, 1991, Portland, Ore. Contact Bob Morgan, 6361 SW 106th Place, Ocala, Fla. 32676; or Edwin D. Jeffreys, 5240 NW Highway 99, Corvallis, Ore. 97330.

USS JOYCE (DE-317, DER-317)—Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 1991, Landmark Hotel, Metairie, La. Contact Joe Helminger, 1513 Huron Ave., Metairie, La. 70005, phone (504) 831-1454.

USS CHAUMONT (AP-5)—Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1991, Ramada Inn Broadview Place, Wichita, Kan. Contact David Buchanan, 906 Hillsboro Rd., Franklin, Tenn. 37064, phone (615) 794-6160.

USS HENDERSON (AP-1)—Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1991, Ramada Inn Broadview Place, Wichita, Kan. Contact Bill Molen, Box 602, Milan, Ill. 61264.

USS SAUFLEY (DD-465)—Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 1991, Bloomington, Minn. Contact Charles McLellan, 29089 Brozie Rd., Danbury, Wisc. 54830, phone (715) 259-7492.

USS SALT LAKE CITY (CA-25)—Sept. 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Myron Varland, 458 Argos Circle, Watsonville, Calif. 95076.

USS AMSTERDAM (CL-101)—Sept. 1991, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Larry H. Eckard, P.O. Box 5145, Hickory, N.C. 28603, phone (704) 256-6274.

USS LCI(G) 580—Sept. 1991, Greenville, S.C. Contact Ken WEber, 2411 E. Sunset Lane, Lindenhurst, Ill 60046, phone (708) 356-5827; or John L. Ward, P.O. Box 53, Union, S.C. 29379, phon e(803) 427-9862.

USS CHILULA (ATF-153)—Sept. 1991, Winston-Salem, N.C. Contact Charles J. Buice, 1401 Leheigh Ct., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27013, phone (919) 725-5694.

USS CONNER (DD-582)—Sept. 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Emil Lorenc, 8335 Loretto Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152.

USS GEN. S.D. STURGIS (AP-137)—Sept. 1991, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact Dick Benz, 483 Clarice Dr., Memphis Tenn. 38109, phone (901) 398-2976.

USS LCS(L) 33—Sept. 1991, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Chuck leonard, 1819 S. G Street, Richmond, Ind. 47374, phone (317) 962-3328.

USS LCS(L) 15—Sept. 1991, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Harold J. Kaup, 289 41st St., NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402, phone (319) 363-1708.

USS HOPPING (DE-155, APD-51)—Oct. 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Charles J. Buice, 1401 Leheigh Ct., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27013, phone (919) 725-5694.

AIR FORCE

CAM RANH BAY AIR BASE, 483rd SECURITY POLICE, K-9 DIV. (1970-71)—Planning reunion. Contact Steve Janke, 739 Hill St., Carlstadt, N.J. 07072, phone (201) 507-9038.

7/1 ACS (BLACKHAWKS) VINH LONG RVN (1968-72)—Planning reunion. Contact Paul Hanson, 8301 N. 103rd Ave., #29, Peoria, Ariz. 85345, phone (602) 974-3569.

491st BOMB GROUP, 8th AIR FORCE (WWII)—Planning reunion. Contact Bill Koon, 4243 Heidelberg, St. Louis, Mo. 63123, phone (314) 638-1983.

325th FIGHTER GROUP "CHECKERTAIL CLAN" (WWII)—May 2-5, 1991, Holiday Inn River Walk North, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Dan Penrod, 69 Keswick Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15202, phone (412) 766-6190; or John L. Gaston, 1402 Mears Dr., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80915, phone (719) 596-5556.

584th BOMB SQD., 394th BOMB GROUP (WWII)—May 3-5, 1991, Nokomis, Fla. Contact June Kotarski, 3217 Faronia St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15204, phone (412) 921-7004.

314th FIGHTER SQD. (WWII)—May 17-18, 1991, Harrisburg East Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, Pa. Contact Harry Steffy, 32 West Main, Adamstown, Pa. 19501.

363rd FIGHTER GROUP—June 4-6, 1991, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Fred Munder 4326 Osceola, St. Louis, Mo 63116, phone (314) 481-2653.

901st ENG., 8th AIR FORCE, HQ CO.—July 1991, Chicago, Ill. Contact Chester Rogers or Evelyn Golon, 8537 S. Marquette Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60617.

3rd STRATEGIC AIR DEPOT, WATTON ENGLAND, 8th AIR FORCE—July 24-27, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact W.S. Noble, 7266 Goodwood Ave., Baton Rouge, La. 70806, phone (504) 925-8454.

13th BOMB SQD. (Korea)—Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 1991, St. Paul, Minn. Contact A.E. Scholz, W71N918 Harrison Ct. 101, Cedarburg, Wisc. 53012, phone (414) 377-6770.

304th FIGHTER SQD., PINELLAS AIR BASE (WWII)—Sept. 1991, Arlington, Va. Contact Charles W. Aikman, 1415 Nabors Lane, Odessa, Texas 79761, phone (915) 362-1619.

63rd TROOP CARRIER SQD., 403rd TROOP CARRIER GROUP, 13th AIR FORCE—Sept. 1-4, 1991, Edgewater Hotel, 2411 Alaskan Way, Seattle, Wash. Contact Aron J. Tobiska, 31 S. Holland St., Lakewood, Colo. 80226, phone (303) 237-8995.

855th AVN. ENGRS. (WWII)-Sept. 5-8, 1991, Drury Lodge, Cape Girardeau, Mo. Contact Richard T. Rollins, Rt. 1, Box 98, Cairo, Ill. 62914.

33rd AIR DEPOT GROUP—Sept. 13-15, 1991, Ft. Mitchell, Ky. Contact Herbert L. Cooper, 643 Reynosa Ct., Berea, Ohio 44017, phone (216) 234-9007; or Robert W. Gochoel, 10280 Pendery Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, phone (513) 891-7742.

460th FIGHTER SQD.—Sept. 13-15, 1991, Denver, Colo. Contact Lloyd Cuneo, 10600 West 38th Ave., #303, Wheat Ridge, Colo. 80033.

43rd SERVICE SQD., 5th AIR FORCE (WWII)—Sept. 18-20, 1991. Contact Elvis F. Stitch, 300 Amherst Place, Lompoc, Calif. 93436, phone (805) 735-1451.

390th SERVICE SQD., 74th SERVICE GROUP, 9th AIR FORCE—Sept. 19-21, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Glenn Bock, P.O. Box 11, Sherman, N.Y. 14781, phone (716) 761-6587.

33rd AIR DIVISION—Sept. 19-22, 1991, Holiday Inn, Mid West City, Okla. Contact Nester E. Cole, 2732 Warwick Dr., Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48304, phone (313) 338-1551.

376th HEAVY BOMBARDMENT GROUP VETERANS ASSOC.—Sept. 19-24, 1991, Doubletree Hotel, Tucson, Ariz. Contact Joe Lynn, Rt. 1, Box 89, Stonington, Ill. 62567, phone (217) 325-3327.

342nd SERVICE SQD.—Sept. 25-27, 1991, Batavia, N.Y. Contact Charles Brunhoelzl, 204 Cooper St., Courtdale, Pa. 18704, phone (717) 287-1608.

100th BOMB GROUP—Sept. 25-29, 1991, Clarion Hotel, St. Louis, Mo. Contact E.A. Cassimatis, 151 Executive Estates, Creve Coeur, Mo. 63141, phone (314) 432-3420.

679th, 703rd, 1022nd 1536th, 1537th, and 1539 ORDNANCE COMPANIES (AVN.), 5th AIR FORCE (WWII)—Sept. 26-28, 1991, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact Nate C. Frankel, 1609 Almara Circle, Louisville, Ky. 40205, phone (502) 459-1051.

1st STRATEGIC AIR DEPOT ASSOC. (Honington-Troston, ENgland 1942-46)—Sept. 26-29, 1991, Phoenix, Ariz. Contact Warren L. Stanley, 3207 Myles Court, #3, San Jose, Calif. 95117.

34th BOMB GROUP, 8th AIR FORCE—Sept. 26-29, 1991, Louisville, Ky. Contact Ray L. Summa, 2910 Bittersweet Lane, Anderson, Ind. 46011, phone (317) 644-6027.

440th TROOP CARRIER GROUP HQ AND ALL SQDS.—Sept. 26-29, 1991, Fountain Plaza Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Contact William D. Gable, 417 Hideaway Lane Central, Lindale, Texas, 75711, phone (214) 882-3236.

MARINES

"K"/4/12, 3rd MARINE DIV. (Vietnam, 1965-69)—Planning reunion. Contact Doug "Doc" Wean, 1 South 175 Winthrop Lane, Villa Park, Ill. 60181, phone (708) 629-3216.

USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42), MARINE DET. (1945-77)—Planning reunion. Contact Larry Stuckey, 10,000 Oaks Lane, Seminole, Fla. 34642, phone (813) 392-3063.

VMA 3rd MARINE SCOUTING AQUADRON—June 21-23, 1991, Noah's Ark, Best Western, St. Charles, Mo. Contact Leon "Bud" Ledson, 2921 Greenon, Tallahassee, Fla. 32304, phone (904) 575-6659.

"I" CO. 3rd BN., 9th MARINES (Vietnam, 1967-68)—July 3-7, 1991, Orlando, Fla. Contact James K. Lockwood, 3469 Rubio Lane, Yuma, Ariz. 85365.

MARINE KORVETS (G-3-I, Korea)—July 8-18, 1991, Inchon, Seoul Panmunjon, Horseshoe Ridge, Punch Bowl, Korea. Contact G.G. Pendas, 26 Ferman St., Albany, N.Y. 12205-4705, phone (518) 456-1318.

VMF-311 (WWII)—July 10-14, 1991, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Contact Paul Goldberg, 627 Wayland Rd., Plymouth Meeting, Pa. 19462.

3rd PLATOON, D/1/9 (Redwood Delta Three, Vietnam, Jun. 16, 1965- Feb. 17, 1966)—Aug. 4, 1991, San Diego, Calif. Contact Ron Flesch, 1888 Nirvana Ave., Chula Vista, Calif. 92011, phone (619) 421-6601 days, (619) 695-3403, nights.

FORCE RECON ASSOC.—Aug. 7-11, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact G.F. Marte, 3784-B Mission Ave., Oceanside, Calif. 92054, phone (619) 439-6888.

FORGOTTEN BATTALION (3rd Bn, 10th REg. 2nd Mar. Div. and 2nd 155mm How. Bn.)—Aug. 14-19, 1991, Four Season Inn. Albuquerque, N.M. Contact H.F. Maciolek, 6705 San Luis Obispo, NE, Albquerque, N.M. 87109.

CO. B, III AMPHIBIOUS CORPS SIGNAL BN. (WWII)-Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Hank Roback, 164 Riverside Dr., Utica, N.Y. 13502.

GEORGE COMPANY, 3rd BN., 1st MARINES (Korea)—Sept. 12-15, 1991, Savannah, Ga. Contact A. Harrell Roberts, 3 Hughes Ave., Savannah, Ga. 31406-2337, phone (912) 354-0185.

USS. GEN. WILLIAM MITCHELL (AP-114), USS GEN. GEORGE M. RANDALL (AP-115), USS GEN. W.H. GORDON (AP-117) MARINE DET.—Sept. 12-15, 1991, Clarion Hotel, New Orleans, La. Contact Harry Parker, Box 732, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561, phone (914) 255-5703.

"F" CO., 23rd REGT., 4th MARINE DIV. (WWII)—Sept. 25-27, 1991, Shoney's Inn, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Bob Jeter, 2408 Pafford Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37206, phone (615) 228-6557.

VMF-115 (WWII AND CHINA)—Sept. 26-28, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Becky Trout, 9020 Capital of Texas Highway, North, Suite 240, Austin, Texas 78759, phone 800-527-3039 (outside of Texas).

CHINA MARINES ASSOC.—Sept. 27-30, 1991, St. Louis, Mo. Contact John P. Brown, 10231 Tanner Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63136.

ALL SERVICES

WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE—June 22-26, 1991, Cherry Hill Inn, Cherry Hill, N.J. Contact Barbara Schroeder, 1400 S. Joyce St., #C-301, Arlington, Va. 22202, phone (703) 920-4799.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOC. (Vietnam 1961-75)—July 4-7, 1991, John Ascuga's Nugget Hotel and Casino, Reno, Nev. Contact Jack T. Glennon, 7 West 7th St., Suite 1940, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, phone (513) 721-8472.

ALL AMERICAN VETERANS REUNION—July 12-14, 1991, Ross County Fairgrounds, Chillicothe, Ohio. Contact John W. Newton, 3481 Good Hope-New Holland Rd., New Holland, Ohio 43145, phone (614) 335-6147.

AMPUTEES OF WWII, MCCLOSKEY GENERAL HOSPITAL—Aug. 9-11, 1991, Louisville, Ky. Contact Orville Martin, 2510 Hayward Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40242, phone (502) 426-1529.

COCONUT HEADS AND GOONEY HENS, CHRISTMAS ISLAND TASK FORCES, (WWII, Christmas Island, Central Pacific, APO 915)—Sept. 1991, Cleveland, Ohio. Ernest Garrels, 402 Linn St., Benson, Ill 61516, phone (309) 394-2273.

RETURN TO CHINA, VETERANS AND FAMILIES—Sept. 1991. Contact Warren H. Wiedhahn, 144 Maple Ave., East, Vienna, Va. 22180-5746.

KOREAN VETERANS EXPOSED TO CARBONTETRACHLORIDE—Sept. 3-5, 1991, Cragun's Pine Beach Conference Center, Brainerd, Minn. Contact Thomas R. Louden, 410 South 6th St., Brainerd, Minn. 56401.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA VETERANS ASSOC. (Pearl Harbor Anniversary)—Sept. 3-8, 1991, Holiday Inn, International Drive, Orlando, Fla. Contact Lowell G. Simpson, 1469 Magellan Circle, Orlando, FLa. 32808, phone (407) 298-4580.

USS MOUNT MCKINLEY ASSOC.—Sept. 5-8, 1991, Minneapolis, Minn. Contact Donald W. Shreeves, 315 West Main St., Princeton, Mo. 64673, phone (816) 748-3871.

VETS OF MOROCCO (1942-90)—Sept. 27-30, 1991, Orlando, Fla. Contact W.T. Bennett, 1622 El Tair Trail, Clearwater, Fla. 34625, phone (803) 796-8807.

inquiries...

This column is devoted to all personal inquiries submitted by DAV members and other interested persons. Your request will be processed through various computer lists in an effort to find the person you are attempting to locate. Requests to locate persons to Substantiate a Claim will be published if all computer attempts have failed. Thank you . . . the Editors.

To Substantiate Claims . . .

USS MIDWAY (CVA-41) 1953, coming back to stateside from Korea, hit by typhoon and transport ship was split in half—Darrel E. Noyes, 116 NE 8th St., Little Falls, Minn. 56345, needs to hear from someone who was with him one deck below flight deck and remembers him going through porthole after being hit by a wave, was paralyzed, put on stretcher, and sent to sick bay.

35th ENGR. BN. (R.V.N. 1968)—Patrick Spence, 552 Columbus Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13210, needs to hear from some who remembers being with him on a 2-1/2 ton truck returning from hospital and PX that ran over a log, causing him to fall off.

34th INFANTRY, ITALY, WWII—John Wm. Pepitone, 12 West Windsor Parkway, Oceanside, N.Y. 11572, needs to hear from anyone remembering him being treated for gunshot wound in leg and having typhoid fever in the hospital in Italy; and treated for sinus in Rhodes General Hospital in Utica, N.Y. in 1946.

More VAVS Appointments Announced

DAV National Director of Voluntary Services Bruce G. Nitsche has announced more VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) appointments. The appointments include one new VAVS state chairperson, two new VAVS representatives, and four new VAVS deputies.

The new state chairperson is Lewis G. Winegardner of Illinois. The three recertified chairpersons are: Milton Weber Farmer, California, Samuel Booher, Kentucky, and William H. Hopkins, Montana.

The two new representatives are James L. Robinson, Lexington VA Medical Center, Kentucky, and Fred R. Corrigan, Hot Springs VA Medical Center, South Dakota. Recertified representatives at VA medical centers include: Charles J. Framiglio, Palo Alto, Calif.; Fred J. Iverson, San Diego, Calif.; Wallace W. Morgan, Brentwood, Calif.; George O. Poston, Fort Harrison, Mont.; Eugene L. Hilton, Lincoln, Neb.; and Thomas John Wojiechowski, Brooklyn, N.Y. At the Los Angeles, Calif., VA Outpatient Clinic, A. David Biatch was also recertified.

The four new deputies are: James T. Nash, Reno, Nev.; Albert R. Yenkala, Butler, Pa.; and Adolph Estes Denson and William R. Green, in American Lake, Wash. Recertified deputies, at California VA Medical Centers, are: Robert G. Chamberjian, Lawrence G. Estavan and John I. Shannon in Palo Alto; and Don I. Comoe and Harry Benjamin Holzheimer in Brentwood.

Recertified deputies at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Florida are: Ernest H. Pellerin and Peter Wubs. At the Augusta, Georgia, VA Medical Center are: Jimmie B. Frazier and Joseph J. Johnson. Other recertified deputies include: Arthur J. Wheeldon, Marion, Ind.; and Lee White, Iowa City, Iowa. At the Leavenworth, Kan., VA Medical Center are: Thomas L. Bonville, Jr., Ralph D. Jacks and Darrell D. Morton.

Also in Kansas, at the Topeka VA Medical Center, are recertified deputies Harold B. Howell and Elmer E. Spillman. In Kentucky, other recertified deputies are: Phil Collins, Henry M. Culver and Edward H. Johnson at the Louisville VA Medical Center. At the Jackson, Miss., VA Medical Center are: C. Charles Lauderdale and Martin V. Shows. Donald E. Landers, Anthony William Lass and Leroy E. Slade are recertified at the Lincoln, Neb., VA Medical Center. John C. Elton has been recertified at the Reno, Nev., VA Medical Center.

Recertified deputies in New York are: Joseph Anastasio, Lawrence John D'Angelo and Peter Leone in Brooklyn; Frank Fantanza and Peter J. Sweltz in Canandaigua; and John B. Chomiuk, Fred Rubner and Abe Wolkofsky in the Bronx. At the Cleveland, Ohio, VA Medical Center are: Hill Baylor and Mike Forkapa. At Oregon VA Medical Centers are recertified deputies: Jackson Douthit, Vernon Jaeger and Richard P. Lucht in Portland; Sherman L. Kiser and Orval L. Phillipi in Roseburg; and Herbert W. Haar at Camp White.

In Pennsylvania, recertified deputies are: Charles R. Dick and Glenn C. Hetrick in Altoona; and Mike Sirianni and Harvey A. Wonder in Coatesville. Edward Caruso, Antonio Pellegrini and Walter Vincent Rebello have been recertified as deputies at the Providence, R.I., VA Medical Center. Recertified deputies in Charleston, S.C., are: Marvin Cross and John A. Green Jr. In Texas recertified deputies are: Jasper P. Chancey and George W. Daugherty in San Antonio; and Stafford J. Garrett in Waco.

At the White River Junction, Vt., VA Medical Center, recertified deputies include: Gordon Garrison, Harry Genovesi and Clarence W. Remington. At the American Lake VA Medical Center in Washington, George W. Harding has been recertified. James Newton Clayton has been recertified at the Martinsburg, W.Va., Medical Center. In Wisconsin, Ralph L. Hason has been recertified at the Madison VA Medical Center; and John W. Ferries has been recertified at the Sheridan, Wyo., VA Medical Center.

recruiting awards . . .

The following DAV members have been recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in membership recruitment during the 1990-91 membership year.

(as of February 28, 1991)

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S TEAM
(More than 100 New Members)

Garold K. Bertrand, Jr., Kenneth P. Hale, William E. Leach, Jr., - Mo. 1, Vincent P. Reed, Jr., - N.H. 1, Prospero Sodano - N.Y. 118, James C. Ebele, Gregory A. Seurer - N.D. 1, Irving Meadow - Pa. 6, David R. Gray - Tenn. 65, William R. Musgrave - Tenn. 116, Joseph Croney - Texas 1, John D. Delbridge, Roy Dodd, Norman B. Hansen, Richard L. Richards, Robert H. Whitmore, Jr. - Texas 9, Anthony Baskerville - Texas 183, Larry C. Geddie, Dennis E. Self - Texas 194, James T. Ruppenthal - Texas 195.

FRANCIS J. BEATON AWARD
50 to 100 New Members

Alfred J. Skarda - Ark. 7, Raymond E. Lawhorn - Ill. 103, Alexander Giles - Md. 17, Eric D. Berryman - Mich. 121, William B. Beachum, Jr., John H. Bickerton, William E. Leach, Jr., John L. Maki - Mo. 1, Richard L. Rohr - Nev. 11, Joseph Letourneau - N.H. 4, John J. Regan - N.Y. 76, William F. Gibney - N.Y. 126, Arnond R. McIntosh - N.C. 57, James C. Ebele - N.D. 1, James E. Uckele - Pa. 25, George T. Watkins - S.C. 4, Lawrence W. Bouska - S.D. 1, Harvey V. Milliken - Tenn. 3, John W. Kessinger - Tenn. 8, David R. Gray - Tenn. 65, Joseph Croney - Texas 1, John D. Delbridge, Roy Dodd, Norman B. Hansen, Richard L. Richards, Robert H. Whitmore, Jr. - Texas 9, Leslie A. James - Texas 37, Roman C. Osuna - Texas 80, Anthony Baskerville - Texas 183, Larry C. Geddie, Dennie E. Self - Texas 194, James T. Ruppenthal - Texas 195.

GOLD STAR
25 to 49 New Members

James A. Hughes - Ala. 11, Norman G. Brown - Ariz. 20, J.C. Anderson - Colo. 9, John F. Goepper - Fla. 23, Marion L. Hurley - Fla. 127, Jackie D. Hanshew - Ga. 1, Stanley F. Wasserman - Ill. 43, Robert Winterstien - Iowa 20, William H. Green, Jr. - Mass. 25, Larry M. Endicott, Jess B. Stagner, Jr. Edward L. Wallace - Mo. 1, Felix Young - N.H. 4. Kenneth Grunewalt - N.J. 21, Nicholas Cachianes - N.Y. 76, Lawrence O. Cratch, Jr. - N.C. 48, Harold H. Mueller, Terrence F. Rehder - N.D. 1, James E. Uckele - Pa. 25, Budd L. Pederson - Pa. 64, Marvin Silver - Pa. 96, Eugene A. Murphy - S.D. 1, Harvey V. Milliken - Tenn. 3, John W. Kessinger - Tenn. 8, Bruce D. Gillikin - Texas 5, John D. Delbridge, Roy Dodd, Norman B. Hansen, Richard L. Richards - Texas 9, Robert E. Kennedy - Texas 165, Anthony Baskerville - Texas 183, Larry C. Geddie, Dennis E. Self - Texas 194, James T. Ruppenthal - Texas 195, John J. Mechtel - Va. 21, Ronald E. Sulcer - Wash. 2, Ronald F. Ampe - Wash. 5, George A. Hayden, Jr. - Wash. 35, Norman F. Gaede - Wis. 27.

SILVER STAR
10 to 24 New Members

Lewis O. Wood - Ala. 22, Fred J. Baker - Ala. 25, Matthew D. Carden - Ala. 76, Cecil W. Johnson - Ariz. 10, Dale Q. Pearson, Edward C. Thomas, Sr. - Calif. 2, Lloyd L. Whaley - Calif. 70, Gordon W. Clark - Calif. 91, Gail I. Hudson - Calif. 95, Leroyce Fink - Colo. 14, Annette Propati - Colo. 18, Steve R. Adame - Color. 24, Robert E. Hunter - Fla. 1, Gerald S. Klein - Fla. 13, James R. McVicar - Fla. 23, Thelma Hollingsworth - Ga. 4, William L. Coward, Sr. - Ga. 27, Margaret A. Grinnell - Idaho 17, Barbara E. Langston - Idaho 23, Willis S. Miller - Ind. 17, James H. Morris, Jr. Ind. 99, James M. Jones - Ky. 3, William M. Brown - Ky. 25, Phil C. Collins - Ky. 137, James A. Jefferson - La. 33, Dominic C. Spada - Mass. 6, John F. Regan - Mass. 114, June C. Buttermore, Terry A. Jacamel - Mich. 2, Raymond Callaway - Mich. 40, Claude F. Gill - Miss. 15, Larry M. Endicott, Jess B. Stagner, Jr., Edward L. Wallace - Mo. 1, Allan J. Sandus, Sr. - Mo. 4, Louis B. Washington - N.J. 3, James M. Waters - N.J. 27, Ronald E. McCarthy - N.M. 3, Vern A. Cole - N.M. 32, Nicholas Cachianes, Corbit A. Ray - N.Y. 76, Pasquale Scalise - N.Y. 82, Arnold H. Canipe, N.C. 10, Mark R. Clary - N.C. 16, Harold H. Mueller, Terrence R. Rehder - N.D. 1, Ralph B. Lawson - Okla. 88, Robert W. Johnson, Ore. 17, James E. Uckele, Pa. 25, Thomas W. Gehret - Pa. 34, Rancis H. Zeigler - Pa. 111, Arthur L. Reed - R.I. 7, Ronald L. Voegeli - S.C. 12, Kenneth B. Howle, Jr. - S.C. 72, Elmer E. Roderick - Texas 1, Donald W. Phillips - Texas 3, John D. Delbridge, Roy Dodd, Norman B. Hansen, Richard L. Richards - Texas 9, Marsha K. Crawford, Leo Glenski, Thomas R. McFarland, Richard C. Trudeau - Texas 118, Dennis F. Self - Texas 194, Frank L. Morris, Wisc. 1, Selgundo Bonilla - P.R. 5.

BRONZE STAR
5 to 9 New Members

Merrill C. Smith - Ala. 7, Robert E. Chason - Ala. 93, Edward K. Ryan, Sr., Jerilyn D. Soileau - Ariz. 2, Shirley Kosisky - Ariz. 8, Henry C. Puryear - Ariz. 28, Dale Q. Pearson - Calif. 2, Howard Sites - Calif. 7, Larry A. Polzin - Calif. 73, Pearce E. Larson - Calif. 74, Gordon W. Clark, Calif. 91, Jimmy L. Day - Colo. 6, William A. Paris, John Wiedeman - Colo. 8, Leroyce Fink - Colo. 14, John A. Itzo - Conn. 5, Lloyd A. Smith - Conn. 17, George J. Passwater - Fla. 75, David E. McCord, Jr. - Fla. 91, Thomas Warren, Jr. - Fla. 94, Maynard Dannenberger - Fla. 103, Eugene W. Hecox - Fla. 108, Carl F. Roy - Fla. 136, Robert G. Hiett, Sr. - Idaho 1, Harold L. Weise - Idaho 17, Fred A. Sutton - Ind. 9, John Houston, Gary M. Whitehead - Ind. 15, Earl V. Oaks - Ind. 19, Glen E. Vogel, Sr. - Ind. 45, FLoyd W. Neessen - Iowa 11, Colon J. Busby - Iowa 60, Samuel A. Williams, Kan. 1, Harold E. Warner - Ky. 94, Earl L. Ferguson, John E. Horn - Ky. 136, Phil C. Collins - KY 137, Earl Stickell - La. 17, Theodore T. Tibbetts - Maine 1, William B. Curtis - Mass 7, Gerard A. Bussiere - Mass. 50, Charles L. Snow, Jr. - Mass 71, Harrison R. Lewis - Mass. 115, John R. Kozikowski - Mich. 25, Thomas E. Tucker - Mich. 89, Warren Toney - Mich. 126, Ronald R. Schrieber - Mich. 135, Billie A. Hitt - Miss. 26, Larry Mason - Miss 38, Jess B. Stagner, Jr., Edward L. Wallace - Mo. 1, Lavern R. Smejdir - Neb. 7, William R. Williams - Neb. 11, Thomas J. Turner - Nev. 7, William H. Morris - Nev. 34, William C. Stroman, James M. Waters - N.J. 27, Vito Ognibene - N.J. 32, James A. Murphy - N.J. 41, Benito Carrion - N.M. 3, Reuben G. Misquez - N.M. 14, Marvin L. Triggs, Jr. - N.Y. 8, Edward J. Kerr - N.Y. 18, Nicholas Cachianes, N.Y. 76, Samuel Sabino - N.Y. 82, William J. Schilt - N.Y. 143, Julius A. Sanna - N.Y 185, Joseph P. Tolar - N.C. 20, Jean D. Cormier - N.C. 45, Wallace E. Tyson - N.C. 46, John E. Shuck - N.C. 93, Terrence F. Rehder - N.D. 1, Harold W. James - Ohio 6, Samuel D. McKibben - Ohio 24, Danny Parke - Ohio 32, Harlan F. Plummer - Ohio 71, James E. Bracy - Okla. 32, James H. Davis - Ore. 11, Alfred Fabie - Pa. 5, Francis D. Phillips - Pa. 7, Thomas W. Gehret - Pa. 34, Joseph E. Barwick - S.C. 5, Marvin F. Cross, Clarence B. Mitchell - S.C. 30, Prince Tucker, Jr. - S.C. 55, Willie M. Grooms - S.C. 72, Deane G. Curry - S.D. 3, Reva W. Minnick - Tenn. 38, Samuel S. Arnold - Tenn. 43, Claude R. Burpee, Sr. - Tenn. 76, Walter L. Minton - Tenn. 94, Elmer E. Roderick - Texas 1, Johnd D. Dlebridge, Roy Dodd - Texas 9, Ralph Snyder - Texas 29, Kenneth G. Harper - Texas 85, Marsha K. Crawford, Leo Glenski, Thomas R. McFarland, Richard C. Trudeau - Texas 118, Jerry O. Sexton - Texas 160, Elijah C. Perdue, Sr. Va. 8, Howard D. King - Va. 56, Ashel L. Newell - Wash. 6, Terrence R. Moore, Robert L. Potter - Wash. 45, James G. Sneed - W.V. 31, Larry L. Reed - W.V. 36, Segundo Bonilla - P.R. 5

TAPS TAPES ARE AVAILABLE

DAV groups needing Taps recordings for memorial services and military funerals can obtain cassettee tapes from DAVer George Gregory of Pontiac, Mich.

There is no charge for the tapes, although contributions are welcome to help defray the costs of duplicating and mailing.

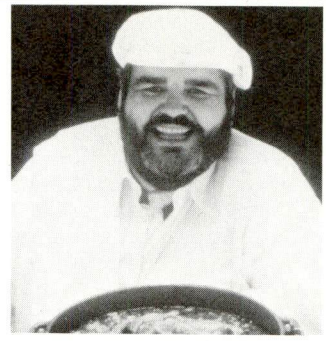
Write: George Gregory, 2985 Nightingale, Rochester Hills, Mich. 48309.

IT'S A CAJUN AND CREOLE CONVENTION!

New Orleans, Louisiana—home to so many good things spelled creole and cajun—will be home as well for the 70th Annual National Convention of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary, July 27 to August 1, 1991.

It's a special land on the Mississippi River delta that mixes the old world with the new, and the cultures of France with the musical samplings of downhome blues and uptown jazz.

When you come to New Orleans, bring your appetite and be prepared to learn a whole new vocabulary of foods that are uniquely Louisiana. From spicy andouille sausage and sweet beignet pastries for breakfast to dinners of crawfish, gumbo and dirty rice, the range of dishes is exotic and

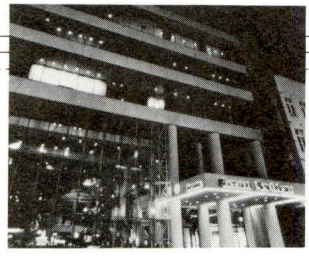


apparently endless.

The 1991 National Convention at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel puts delegates at the doorstep of the famous French Quarter and a short stroll from the sites and shops along the Mississippi River. And whether it's a ride on a paddle wheeled river boat or a john boat journey through the swamps, the port city of New Orleans offers something for everyone.



This year, too, it's gotten particularly easy to travel to our national convention city, thanks to special DAV National Convention fares with Delta Airlines. DAV and DAV Auxiliary delegates to New Orleans this year can take advantage of Delta's 45 percent discount off the unrestricted Coach fare. This special discount is based on Delta's published Coach round-trip fares within the United States and Puerto Rico. Additionally, Delta offers a 5 percent discount on any of their other published fares for travel to New



Reservation Form

Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary National Convention
July 27 to August 1, 1991
New Orleans, Louisiana

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone ( ) _____ Sharing with _____
Date Arriving _____ Time (am/pm) _____ Date Departing _____
Airline _____ Flight No. _____
I will guarantee my reservation by:
☐ Advance Deposit ☐ VISA ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ Diners Club

Card Number: _____
Guest Room Requests: ☐ King Bed ☐ Double/Double

Signature: _____

NOTE: All rates quoted are subject to 11 percent state and local taxes. Additionally, a $3 per room, per night hotel occupancy tax applies at the Sheraton New Orleans and $2 at the Hotel Inter-Continental, and is subject to change without notice. Please return reservation no later than June 27, 1991, to insure confirmed room reservation. All reservations are confirmed on a first come first serve basis. A deposit of $75 (per room), payable to the Sheraton New Orleans or Hotel Inter-Continental New Orleans, must accompany this reservation request, or confirm your reservation with a major credit card. **Changes or cancellations must be made directly with the hotel.** The confirming hotel is responsible for any room deposit refunds on cancellations. Failure to cancel your reservation within 48 hours of arrival will result in the loss of your cash deposit or charge to individual credit card accounts.

Mail to:

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
500 Canal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
(504) 525-2500

☐ Single $66 ☐ Double $66

Main House Suites:
☐ 1-Bedroom $175
☐ 2-Bedroom $245
Executive Level Suites:
☐ 1-Bedroom $260

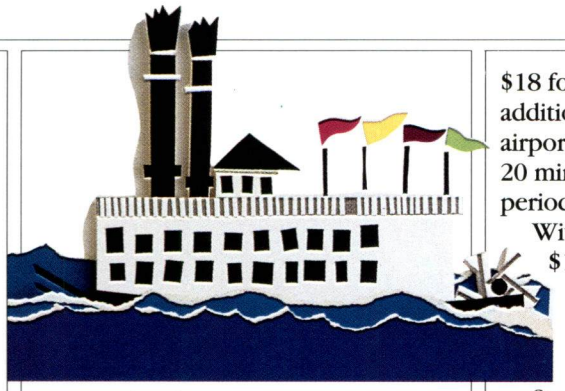
Hotel Inter-Continental New Orleans
444 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
(504) 525-5566

☐ Single $61
☐ Double $61
☐ Triple (3 person) $67

Suites:
☐ 1-Bedroom From: $200
☐ 2-Bedroom From: $300

☐ Confined to Wheelchair
☐ Visually Impaired
☐ Leg Amputee

THE 70th NATIONAL DAV AND AUXILIARY



Orleans for the National Convention.

Departures to New Orleans must be between July 23 and August 4, 1991. Seven days advance reservations and ticketing are required. Certain travel restrictions may apply and seats are limited.

Cosmopolitan Travel, the DAV's official travel agency, will confirm your air travel at the lowest rate available. For reservations and information, call Cosmopolitan Travel toll free at 1-800-541-1332 between 10 am and 9 pm Eastern Standard Time. Be sure to refer to file number D0089 when making your reservations.

Finding Your Way Around New Orleans

New Orleans is an easy city in which to get around. During the day you can walk to almost any destination in the Central Business District or in the lively French Quarter. But, as in most large cities, it's advisable to take a cab or other form of public transportation after dark.

Fares for taxicab rides from the airport to downtown New Orleans are $18 for up to three people, $6 for each additional passenger. The ride from the airport to downtown takes about 15 to 20 minutes except during peak traffic periods.

Within the city cab drivers charge $1 per mile with a $1.10 drop charge. Each additional passenger costs 25 cents.

Special Rates from Hertz

Special car rental rates are available from the Hertz Corporation for attendees of the Disabled American Veterans 70th National Convention. These special rates are available during the convention and for one week before and one week after after the convention.

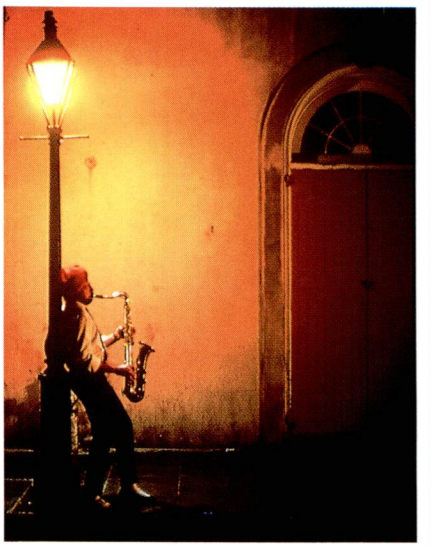
Advance reservations are your best bet and can easily be made by calling the Hertz toll-free convention number 1-800-654-2240. Be sure to tell the reservation agent you will be attending the DAV National Convention in New Orleans and refer to file number CV7727 when making your reservation.

A publication with the wheel -chair tourist in mind, ***Rollin' By The River*** is available as a guide to wheelchair accessible facilities for dining and entertainment, as well as wheelchair transportation. Copies of ***Rollin' By The River*** are available from:

Advocacy Center for the Elderly and Disabled
210 O'Keefe Avenue,
Suite 700
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-522-2337

Copies may be picked up in person for $1 each or send a check or money order for $2.25 per copy to the above address.





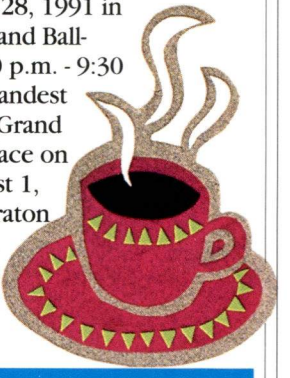
For additional information about getting around New Orleans during the DAV National Convention contact the: Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission
1520 Sugar Bowl Drive
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
or telephone 504-566-5011.

Tickets, Tickets, Tickets

Don't miss out on two of the most popular gala events of each year's National Convention, the National Commander's Reception and Grand Ball.

Delegates and guests attending these activities will be required to purchase a ticket that will be collected upon entering each of the events. Tickets for both events can be purchased at the DAV Information Booth in meeting room Bayside A & B on the fourth floor level of the Convention Hotel (Sheraton New Orleans). Tickets sales begin Friday, July 26, 1991, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tickets are $2.50 per event, per person. Children under 18 will be admitted free.

The always popular National Commander's Reception is scheduled for Sunday, July 28, 1991 in the Sheraton Grand Ballroom, from 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., and the grandest of them all, the Grand Ball, will take place on Thursday, August 1, 1991 in the Sheraton Grand Ballroom from 7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



Show your Colors

Beautiful, Full-Size Flags

Big 3′ x 5′ American and DAV flags are made in the U.S.A. of Nyl-Glo for long, colorful life. Poles not included. (Sorry, no chapter or unit lettering on DAV flags.)



3′ x 5′ U.S. flag $20
3′ x 5′ DAV flag $28



Accessories for wall mount of one 3′ x 5′ flag $4 each



Honor Your Fallen Comrades

U.S. Grave Marker Flag $3.50
Honor America's fallen defenders by marking their graves with this 8″ x 12″ U.S. flag. Made of rayon in the U.S.A.

DAV Grave Marker Flag $5.50
The DAV grave marker flag is the perfect commemoration for members who have passed away. 8″ x 12″. Made of rayon in the U.S.A.

DAV Emblem Grave Marker $8
Adding the DAV emblem to either flag above adds a significant touch to your remembrance of departed members. Posts of grave marker flags fit into these American made plastic emblems as shown.



U.S. Flag Patch–Just $2
Just the right touch when you want to wear your patriotism on your sleeve…or other appropriate clothing articles. This 2″ x 3″ American Flag patch is made of polyester & rayon in the U.S.A.



Deluxe Flag Desk Set –Only $10.50
An attractive yet inexpensive addition to your desk or mantle, this set includes the American and DAV flags mounted on a gold finished stand. Each 4″ x 6″ flag is made of rayon in the U.S.A.

ORDER FORM

			Quantity	
45024	3′ x 5′ U.S. flag	$20.00	_____	$_____
45025	3′ x 5′ DAV flag	$28.00	_____	$_____
45026	Wall Mount Accessories	$ 4.00	_____	$_____
45005	Deluxe Flag Desk Set	$10.50	_____	$_____
45003	U.S. Grave Marker Flag	$ 3.50	_____	$_____
45029	DAV Grave Marker Flag	$ 5.50	_____	$_____
49009	DAV Emblem Grave Marker	$ 8.00	_____	$_____
44213	Flag Patch	$ 2.00	_____	$_____
			Total enclosed	$_____

☐ Check here to receive the DAV's latest catalog of fraternal items.

All prices include shipping & handling.

MAIL TO: Supply Department
Disabled American Veterans
P.O. Box 14301
Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301

SHIP TO:

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____
City State

_____
Zip

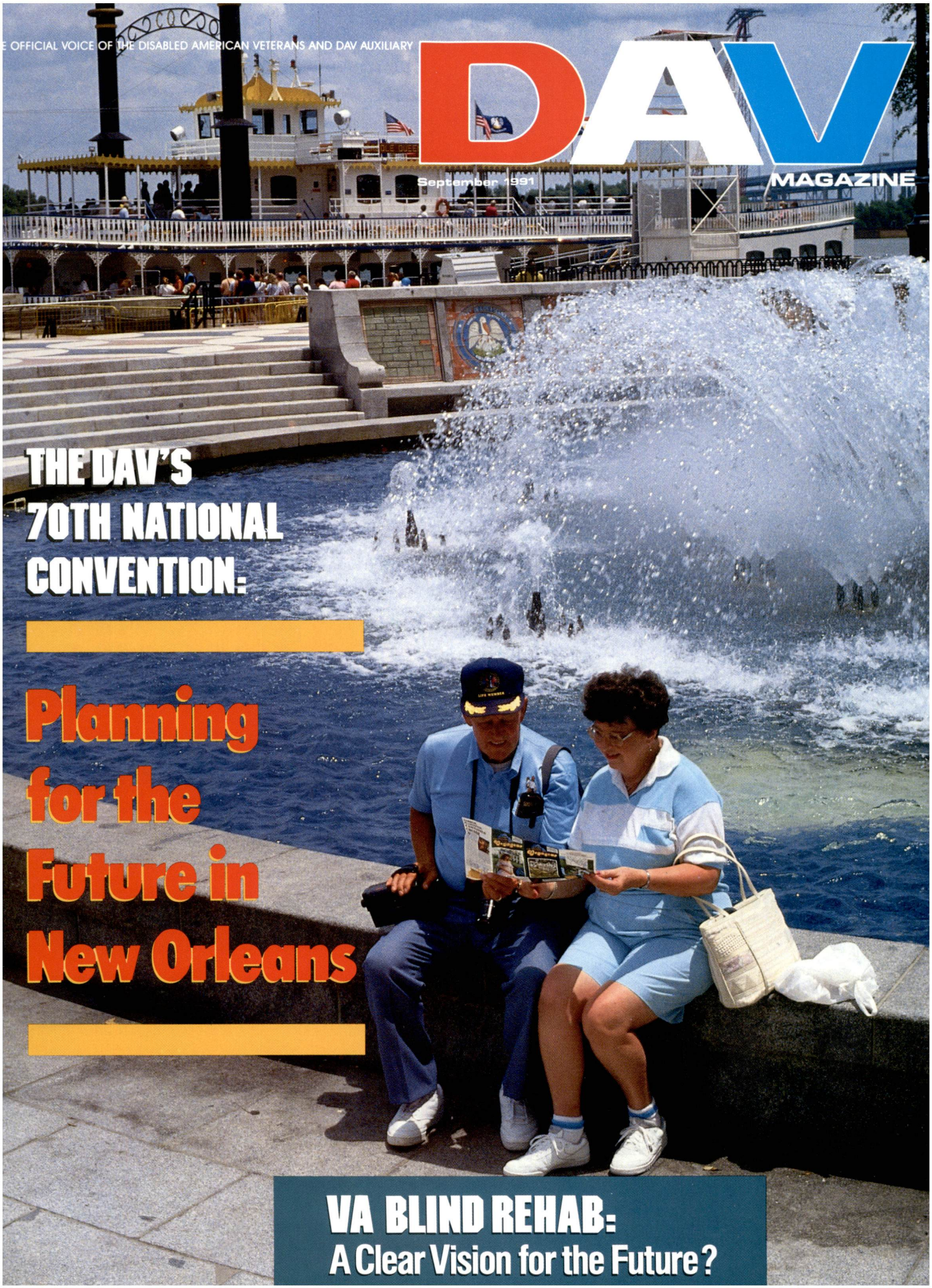
Check or Money Order Only

Please allow three to four weeks for delivery.

E OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AND DAV AUXILIARY

DAV MAGAZINE

September 1991



THE DAV'S 70TH NATIONAL CONVENTION:

Planning for the Future in New Orleans

VA BLIND REHAB: A Clear Vision for the Future?

in this issue . . .

DAV MAGAZINE

The official voice of the Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary

☐ **Cleveland Jordan, National Commander** ☐ **Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant and Publisher** ☐ **Jerry Atchison, National Director of Communications** ☐ **Gary J. Logan, Editor** ☐ **James A. Chaney, Production Coordinator** ☐ **David W. Givans, Staff Writer** ☐ **Ashley A. McGinnis, Administrative Assistant**

DAV Commander's Viewpoint ... An Incredible Journey	1
From the Executive Director ... When Johnny Comes Marching Home	2
DAV POW/MIA Advisory Committee Slated	3
VA Blind Rehabilitation Programs Examined	4-7
DAV and TAP Take Norfolk	8-9
SPECIAL SECTION	
70TH NATIONAL CONVENTION	
DAV & DAV AUXILIARY	
Supporting Troops & Working for Veterans	**10-25**
The Auxiliary view ... A Rallying Cry	27
Membership Standings	28
DAV Charitable Service Trust	29
Loud'n Clear	30
Reunions, Inquiries	30-32

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The 70th National Convention of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary was, by all accounts, a complete success this year. New Orleans served up heaping portions of creole cooking and southern hospitality to the more than 2,000 delegates and guests who descended upon the Crescent City last month.

Our expanded full-color coverage of the convention begins on page 10 and runs through page 25. As you'll discover, the sights and sounds of the DAV's national convention this year included a moving tribute to those who served in World War II on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the start of that war, adoption of important resolutions that will guide the organization in the coming year, and the election of national officers led by Cleveland Jordan of Washington, D.C., as the new national commander.

This month DAV Magazine scrutinizes the VA's Blind Rehabilitation Service. As you'll read beginning on page 4, visually impaired veterans seeking assistance from the VA are in for a mixed bag of programs and services. Most of the program elements work well. The problem lies with getting into the blind rehab program in the first place, with waits of from six months to over two years not uncommon. That offers scant satisfaction to the more than 1,200 veterans on the waiting list for the VA's blind rehab program.

The DAV has opened a National Service Office at the Naval Base in Norfolk, Va., and, as you'll read beginning on page 8, the Navy's darn glad we're there. With more than 2,500 military men and women transitioning back to civilian life from Norfolk-area commands, there's a lot of help the DAV can offer.

Volume 33, Issue 9 DAV Magazine (ISSN 0885-6400). **Editorial Office:** DAV Magazine, 807 Maine Ave., SW., Washington, D.C. 20024. Telephone (202) 554-3501 (voice and TDD). Published and circulated monthly by the Disabled American Veterans, a Congressionally-chartered, non-profit organization. Available on recording for the blind and those with physical handicaps that preclude reading printed material. Subscription rate, $4.00 per year. Second class postage paid at Newport, Ky., and at additional mailing offices. Printed in U.S.A. **Change of address**: When ordering change of address, send former as well as new address, including zip code number, to: DAV Magazine, DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-5550. **Postmaster**: Send address changes to DAV Magazine, DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-5550.



An Incredible Journey

Cleveland Jordan, National Commander

Upon his election as DAV National Commander, Cleveland Jordan delivered the following acceptance speech to the delegates of the 70th National Convention of the DAV. For more National Convention highlights, see the full-color coverage beginning on page 10. —The Editors.

I am deeply grateful for the support you have shown me. And I welcome this great opportunity for service.

I am humbled by the challenges that lie ahead. But I am also gratified by the sure knowledge that I can count on each of you to rise with me to meet those challenges.

Mark Twain once said that work consists of whatever a body is *obliged* to do, while play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do.

We are certainly obliged to carry out the mandates of this great organization. And to the nation we have served proudly as citizen soldiers.

But there's one obligation I have—that each of you have—that I don't think any of us will ever consider to be work.

Those are the obligations we have to each other. We are first and foremost members of a common fraternity of people who don't view service as work, but as opportunity. Who don't confront problems, but overcome challenges.

We are men and women joined in service to our fellow disabled veterans and their families.

But it is an obligation we joyfully embrace and eagerly seek to discharge.

But we are also mindful of how important our service can be. Access to quality VA health care for wartime disabled veterans is truly in jeopardy.

The overwhelming majority of veterans—those who served during World War II—have just begun to turn to the VA for the care that they need.

They've discovered an important safety net has been pulled out from underneath them. They're facing, for the first time in many of their lives, an uncertain future that offers no guarantee of access to health care resources.

Many of our members—many of you here in this room today—have already suffered at the hands of a VA hospital system that can't provide minimum levels of acceptable care.

Many of you have received decades of care for your service-connected disabilities at VA hospitals. For the most part, it's been decades of top-notch care, delivered by compassionate and professional VA staff.

But you've watched the quality of that care erode. You've watched its availability diminish. And you've watched dedicated, highly-motivated staff grow frustrated and frazzled.

Importantly, you've done much more than just watch as all this has come to pass.

Many of you have directly lobbied the Congress, writing and calling the offices of your elected representatives.

Others of you have pitched in to make things better at your local VA medical facility. You've volunteered your time, talent and resources. You've stepped in to truly make a difference in the kinds of care our veteran patients are receiving.

You've relieved overworked health care professionals of much paperwork and bureaucracy, so that they can do what they do best—heal the sickest and neediest of our citizens.

And you've taken the DAV's story—a story of selfless sacrifice and dedication —into your local communities. You've reminded your friends and neighbors of the service performed by this nation's citizens in uniform.

By your own presence, you've underscored the sacrifice so many are called upon to make, and how necessary are the continuing costs of war.

I know that while I'm in Washington, I'll hear many of the same excuses so many of you have already heard.

Many of you here today have set the standard for perseverance that I shall pursue in Washington.

I shall speak up — and keep speaking up — so long as disabled veterans are denied access to quality health care, so long as our families' well-being is in jeopardy, so long as there are any members of Congress who would turn their back on us and our families. This morning, I view myself as setting forth on an incredible journey. Fortunately, I know I will have a lot of help from my family and friends along the way.

I look to my family for their love and their strength. I look to our National line officers and staff for their wise counsel and advice.

Most importantly, though, I look to each of you, and to our fellow members of the DAV, for a continuing sense of commitment and advocacy.

I am mindful of the legacy of service I inherit. I pledge my utmost to continue that legacy, and to serve as best I am able.

When Johnny Comes Marching Home



Jesse Brown, Executive Director, National Service & Legislative Headquarters, 807 Maine Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024

Following is the text of Executive Director Brown's report to the delegates of the 70th National Convention of the DAV. —The Editors.

Someone once remarked that "It Is Well That War Is So Terrible—Otherwise, We Would Grow Too Fond Of It."

Much has been written over the past six months on the glories of wars well fought and the proud victories we have so stunningly won.

We have welcomed home our heroes, the men and women of Operation Desert Storm, with a show of national support not seen since the end of World War II.

Patriotism, national unity and profound pride in our sons and daughters—all these feelings have enjoyed a comeback.

Our battlefield technology was tested, for the first time in many instances, in actual combat and it passed the test with flying colors.

Some questioned the training our volunteer forces received, or the quality of the men and women in uniform. Those questions have been more than satisfactorily answered. They are the best—highly motivated, well trained and committed to freedom.

From all this euphoria, however, must come a few words of caution. Today, without detracting from the pride we all feel in the accomplishments of our military in Iraq and Kuwait, I want us to consider one more point: Let's not win a war, only to lose the peace.

Right now, that's my greatest fear. America's defenders could end up being losers unless real changes are made. And real promises from a grateful nation are kept. At the height of the war in the Middle East, the President spoke most eloquently about the hard work of freedom. He said, "We are Americans and we have a unique responsibility to do the hard work of freedom. The conviction and courage we see in the Persian Gulf today is simply the American character in action and it is the same spirit that gives us the power and the potential to meet our toughest challenges at home. We are resolute and resourceful. If we can confront evil for the sake of good in a land so far away then surely we can make this land all that it should be."

Well, the war is over and Johnny and Jane have come home victorious.

Now, it is time to make this land all that it should be by honoring the commitment to those who have done the hard work of freedom.

Sadly, this is not the case. In fact, we are receiving signals that suggest that there will be a lack of commitment to those who have done the hard work of freedom.

When we speak out on the issues, instead of hearing out our concerns or addressing the needs of America's veterans, we receive threatening phone calls from Congressmen and Senators, irate that they are being criticized for their actions.

If that is the road they wish to take—then, so be it.

Our motives are honorable and noble. We believe that the nation gains when public policy issues are debated in good faith and in open forum. We will not be silent nor intimidated. But, we will continue to take the high ground in the debate about what is best for veterans who have done the hard work of freedom.

We believe this kind of behavior is an excuse not to address the issues. It will not satisfy most Americans nor do justice to veterans of past wars or Operation Desert Storm.

Given the sacrifices that disabled veterans have made defending the nation's principles, we have a moral obligation to speak out against inequities and unfair public policies, and we will do so.

You who have done the hard work of freedom must fight to regain health, reshape lives shattered by disability, learn new trades or professions and make that transition from military to civilian life.

We know from past experiences, the road to full rehabilitation is a difficult one. Therefore, we will continue to speak out:

- When veterans are dying in VA Hospitals in Albuquerque, Cleveland, Long Beach, Poplar Bluff, and North Chicago, because of incompetent medical care;
- When the VA comes up short more than $700 million in 1991 and $1.7 billion for FY 1992;
- When service-connected veterans lose $620 million in benefits while other programs are being enhanced;
- When our beneficiary travel is eliminated and sick veterans are unable to get to VA medical facilities for treatment;

(Continued on page 26)

National Commander Cleveland Jordan Will Appoint Special Advisory Commitee on the POW/MIA Issue

Armed with a mandate from the delegates at the 70th National Convention, National Commander Cleveland Jordan will appoint a special DAV Advisory Committee to monitor the government's handling of the POW/MIA issue.

"The Committee will monitor this important issue, act as a liaison with other public and private entities similarly involved, and generally ensure that our organization is informed and in the best position to make appropriate POW/MIA policy decisions," Jordan said.

In an interview with the *Washington Times* (Aug. 14, 1991) shortly after his election, Jordan said the DAV "is lobbying for the Department of Defense to do more on this issue. We hear different stories from different people on MIAs...but we think it's time for the Pentagon to move away from its World War II attitude of 'out of sight, out of mind.'"

Convention delegates also approved related resolutions calling for:

- President Bush to appoint a Special Presidential Commission on POW/MIAs;
- the immediate release of all American POW/MIAs from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War;
- the full disclosure of the government's handling of the POW/MIA issue; and
- the U.S. government not to establish normalized economic and diplomatic relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SVR) until the SVR provides the U.S. government with the fullest possible accounting of American POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War.

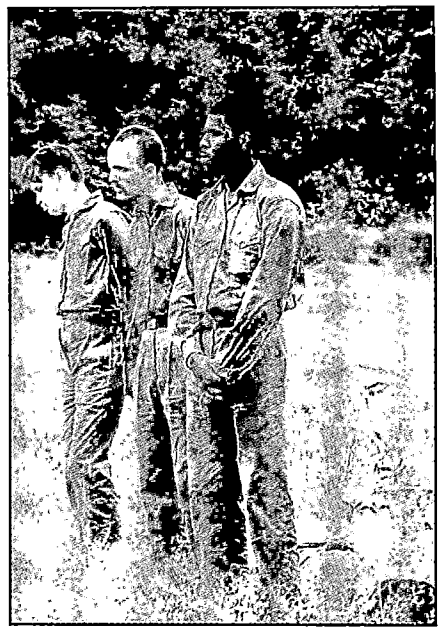
Early this fall, the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics and International Operations will conduct hearings aimed at trying to settle all the unresolved questions related to the POW/MIA issue and the Vietnam War.

"The best way to resolve the POW/MIA issue is to bring the process into the light of day," said Sen. Hank Brown (R-Colo.), ranking minority member of the subcommittee. "While we cannot promise all the questions can be answered, I can assure you all the questions will be asked."

The newly-created Senate Select Committee on POW/MIAs, of which Brown is a member, is also slated to hold hearings on this matter later this fall.

DAV Magazine plans continuing coverage of the POW/MIA issue as new events warrant.

The Committee will "ensure that our organization is informed and in the best position to make appropriate POW/MIA policy decisions."



U.S. Army prisoners of war held by the Viet Cong are released in 1970.

Comprehensive Veterans Legislation Signed Into Law by President Bush

President Bush has signed into law the Veterans Benefits Programs Improvements Act of 1991. The Act, which was introduced by Rep. Doug Applegate (D-Ohio) as H.R. 1047 in February, makes a number of improvements in veterans' compensation, pension, life insurance, health-care, and facilities management programs.

"It's encouraging to see Congress and the President acting so quickly on this important piece of legislation," said DAV National Legislative Director John F. Heilman. "We're also pleased that the Act contains a number of provisions that the DAV has worked hard to get through Congress."

The key provisions of the Act, which was signed by the President on August 14, will —

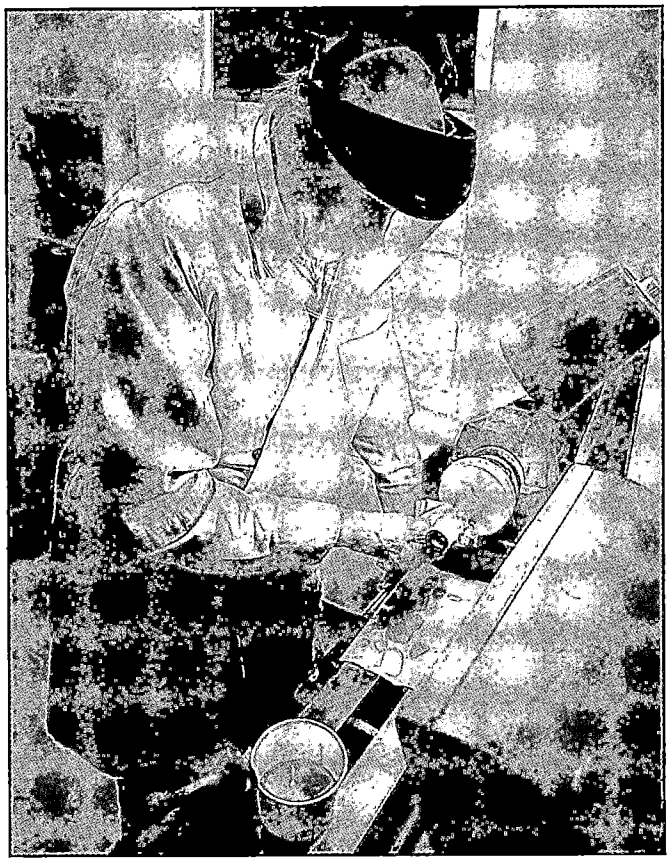
- provide that no readjustment in the schedule of rating disabilities shall cause a veterans' disability rating in effect on the effective date of the readjustment to be reduced unless an actual improvement in the veteran's disability is shown to have occurred. This provision would be effective with regard to changes in rating schedules that shall take effect after the date of enactment of this Act;
- provide that, for purposes of the atomic veterans' presumptions, the presumptive period for leukemia shall be the 40-year period beginning on the last date on which the veteran participated onsite in a radiation-risk activity. The Act also expands eligibility for certain presumptions applicable in cases of ionizing radiation to include members of the Reserve and National Guard who may have participated in atomic weapons testing;
- extend the time period for applying for Service-Disabled Life Insurance from one to two years after granting of service-connected disability benefits;
- restore eligibility for burial and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits in the case of certain remarried spouses and dependent children who were eligible for such benefits on Oct. 31, 1990 (whose marital or dependent status has remained unchanged) but who had not filed claims prior to the effective dates of Section 8004 of Public Law 101-508, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990; and
- provide that the VA Secretary may accept gifts, devises, and bequests for use in carrying out all laws administered by the Secretary to enhance the Secretary's ability to provide services or benefits.

Sometimes what you don't see is what you get, especially in the case of the VA's Blind Rehabilitation Service. What blinded veterans are receiving from the VA, the DAV recently learned, is an innovative reorientation program to life in a non-visual world. What the DAV also found, however, is that the program is not reaching enough veterans' eyes.



Hines Blind Center Instructor Harvey Lauer teaches veteran Barbara Jo Montague how to use Braille technology.

Long Waits and Staff Reductions Blur Vision of VA Blind Rehabilitation



Blind Center clients like Bud Klostermann use the wood shop not to become woodworkers but to learn how to rely on other senses to compensate for their vision loss.

Imagine turning at a street corner one day and running smack into the side of a building. Or walking along a sidewalk and falling down because you didn't see the curb dropoff. Or worse, imagine reaching for the thermostat in your living room one afternoon and a dark curtain falls in front of you. You recoil in shock with the realization that you're totally blind.

These are some of the experiences of the 98,000 veterans nationwide who have been diagnosed by the Department of Veterans Affairs as legally blind. Many of them, since 1948, have been going to the VA to find out what's wrong with their vision and what they can do about it. And many of them — 725 last year — have successfully gone through the VA's Blind Rehabilitation program to learn how to live independently in a non-visual world. Many of them, however, have waited up to 2 1/2 years to get into a program because of underfunding and understaffing of VA blind centers. And many veterans have been turned away, left to look for rehabilitation in a private-sector system that some observers say pales next to VA Blind Rehabilitation.

Talk to an observer of VA blind rehab or an advocate of blinded veterans and you will hear glowing reports of effective, innovative programs and enthusiastic, professional staff under VA Blind Rehabilitation. But you will also hear about staff recruitment and retention problems in the past, the shortage of beds, the 1,200 blinded veterans nationwide who are waiting to be admitted to a VA blind center or clinic, the lack of follow-up once they get out, and the need for outpatient care and more research into blind treatment and rehabilitation.

The consequences of the problems are magnified for the veteran suffering from a deteriorating eye disease who needs prompt treatment and rehabilitation. "The first thing that hits my mind is that a number of these people could have been detected with some pathology and treated," says David W. Gorman, DAV Assistant National Legislative Director for Medical Affairs.

The increasing number of older veterans and the increasing incidence of age-related visual impairments also factor into the need for accessible VA blind care. About 25 percent of legally blinded veterans are between the ages of 20 and 54, almost 50 percent between 55 and 75, and about 30 percent over age 75. Those over 75, says the VA, will increase some 140 percent between 1990 and 2005.

"We're seeing a greater incidence of blindness. The 'baby boomers' are here," says Gala Brooks, a Supervisor at the Hines VA Blind Center outside Chicago, Ill. "Vets over 60 will triple over the next 11 years," adds Hines VA Medical Center Associate Director Jim Jones, who acknowledges the cutbacks in VA blind rehab personnel and programs in recent years and the resulting waiting lists.

VA headquarters' staff in Washington, D.C., are also acknowledging and addressing the problems, say insiders who sense a turnaround in VA Blind Rehabilitation as a priority. The program has been allocated 35.5 additional full-time employees under Fiscal Year 1992 funding, and additional beds are planned for some VA blind centers — including 20 beds at the VA's West Haven, Conn., Blind Center. Also, there have been unconfirmed reports that the VA will soon add a new blind center to the current five centers and three clinics under its Blind Rehabilitation program. (In addition to Hines and West Haven, there are VA blind centers at VA hospitals in Palo Alto, Calif., Waco, Texas, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.)

"I'm sad to say it (understaffing) was happening. Over a period of years these positions have been eroded away by hospital cuts," says Don E. Garner, Director of the VA Blind Rehabilitation Service. "But I'm happy to say we've remedied the problem. As of last week we were given the positions."

Adds Jay Whitehead, Director of the Hines Blind Center: "The VA has admitted to the problem, and the problem is we've got more blind people now than we can deal with. And we're going to have more." He adds, "We're going to need more centers, more clinics, and we have to do some innovative things in outpatient care. We also have to look closely at technology."

Whitehead referred to a July 1991 VA Program Planning Circular in which the VA notes the need for shortening waiting periods and adding more blind rehab beds. Other needs acknowledged by the Circular include implementing outpatient blind rehab in nursing homes, and adding blind rehabilitation specialists to VISTs (Visual Impairment Service Teams) to ensure that blinded veterans receive some blind rehabilitation, rather than only diagnosis and screening through VISTs. Currently, some 97 VISTs in VA hospitals across the country assess veterans' vision and rehabilitation needs, and refer eligible veterans to VA blind centers. VIST reviews consist of complete eye, physical, audio, and psychosocial evaluations.

While the DAV's Gorman says he is optimistic about the VA's recognition of blind rehab needs, he stresses that "tangible" — not transparent — improvements must be made. He notes, for example, that the 35.5 "new" positions for the Blind Rehabilitation Service are, in fact, not new but restored from earlier cuts.

"I don't buy the argument that they were given 35 positions. They've got to get back to where they were before they lost them and use that as a starting point," says Gorman. He adds, however, that after visiting the Edward Hines, Jr., VA Medical Center's Blind Center, he's confident that staff are doing the best they can with the available resources.

Blind veterans are referred to Hines by VISTs in 15 states, principally in the Midwest. Like clients at other blind rehab facilities, Hines' clients are mostly older veterans with age-related vision problems. Last year, the average age of the 150 blind veterans who went through Hines was 60. Also, Hines' typical client has some residual vision and is suffering a gradual, rather than an immediate, loss of vision.

To be eligible, veterans must be eligible for VA hospitalization. The average length of stay at the Hines Blind Center, a residential program, is nine weeks, down from the 18-week program during the Vietnam era. Could the VA shorten the program, retain it's effectiveness and get more veterans through it to cut down on the waiting list? "We might be able to shorten it by two weeks if we had full staff," says Garner.



Orientation and Mobility Training is an essential component of Hines' blind rehabilitation program. Above, the Center's Scott Smith instructs veteran Charles Coleman on cane techniques.



"The ultimate goal of the Center," says Director Jay Whitehead, "is to get the veterans to use what vision they have and their other senses, such as hearing, to allow them to live independently."

"VA blind rehab does a wonderful job, you can't get this type of service anywhere else. But you can't tell a blinded veteran we'll treat you in two years. You've got to take care of him today."

As in other VA blind centers, the admitting waiting list is long at Hines — a minimum of six months.

"A lot of guys I've talked to can't wait to get in here. They're sitting by the phone, knowing that it's a six- or seven-month wait," says Barbara Hunt of the Center's Activities in Daily Living program.

Like other VA blind centers, the core program at Hines is made up of five programs — Communications, Daily Living, Low Vision, Manual Skills, and Orientation and Mobility. And like other VA blind centers, the goal at Hines is to help the visually impaired veteran to rely on his other senses, such as hearing and tactile senses or touch, so he may more effectively live an independent life without vision.

In Hines' Manual Skills program, for example, blind veterans work on wood projects and lawn mower engines not to become woodworkers and mechanics, but to build their non-visual senses. Says Chuck Brancheau, a Manual Skills instructor, "The focus is on senses — such as tactile perception, bimanual coordination and hearing — not on making a lamp or candlestick holder."

In Hines' Low Vision program, blind veterans learn how to use their remaining vision more effectively. "We train them to see eccentrically and how to use optical or electronic devices," says Paul LaRosa, Supervisor of the Center's Low Vision section.

Responding to reports of long waits for eye examinations and eyeglasses in the VA system, LaRosa says he has experienced little or no problems getting optical aides to blind rehab clients. "They usually get them four to six weeks after discharge. I might get two calls a year about not receiving optical aides on time."

According to the VA's Prosthetics Advisory Committee, the VA provides 115,000 pairs of eyeglasses and 4,000 low-vision aides to veterans each year. But a survey of 125 VA medical centers in October 1990 revealed that the average time to receive an eye exam and eyeglasses was 102 days, ranging from 18 to 357 days. A survey of private providers showed an average time of nine days.

"It takes 72 days on the average just to secure an appointment for an eye examination in VA and 30 days more to secure eyeglasses," reported the Advisory Committee in July this year. An acceptable time, it added, is three weeks.

Hines' Activities in Daily Living program orients veterans to daily living skills in a non-visual world. "We work with them so they can function on their own, tell money, tell time, organize their personal belongings, sew, make their beds," says Supervisor Barbara Hunt.

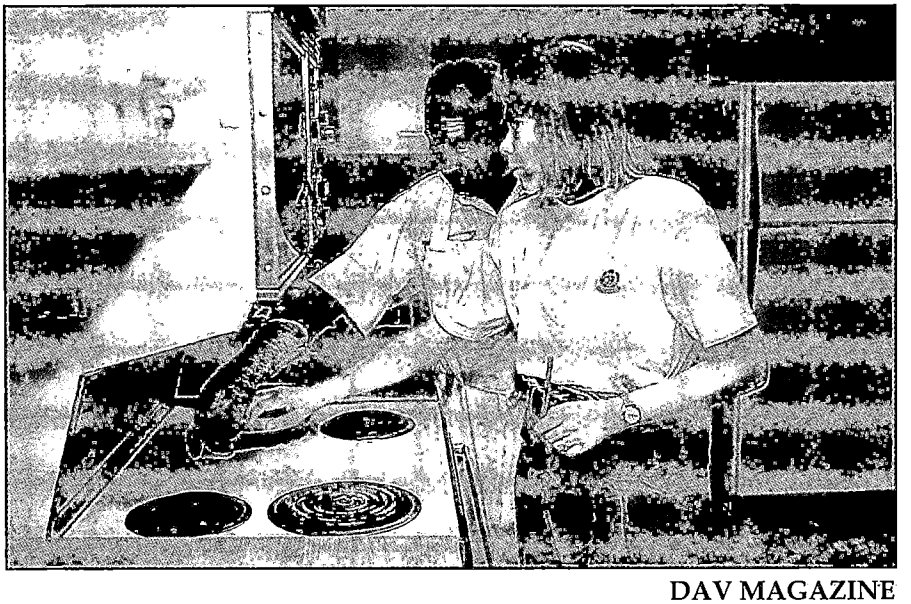
Among other functions, Hines' Communications section trains blind veterans how to use computers and become VA programmers. The program works, says Supervisor Len Mowinski, but he adds that it's limited by staff. There's currently an eight-month wait to get into the computer program.

The Center's Orientation and Mobility section focuses on transportation skills, especially cane training, for blind veterans. Supervisor Gala Brooks and her staff assess the client's mobility needs and tailor an individualized daily program to meet those needs. On average, a veteran will receive 75 hours of mobility training through the program.

Hines also runs a family program to orient the blinded veteran's family to blind rehab and the veteran's needs when he returns home. "We tell the family they can't be overprotective. We spend a lot of money training them, then the family dwarfs our effort. We tell the family, here's what you can do to support his independence," says Whitehead.

Much of the success of Hines, adds Whitehead, lies in its 30-person staff, which includes a social worker, psycholo-

Instructor Kathy Smith teaches safe cooking skills to Doy Warden, a DAV member and visually impaired veteran.



gist and part-time optometrist. Whitehead characterizes staff members as dedicated, innovative and goal-oriented. "We probably have 60 or 70 long and short-term goals, and we hold people to them."

While the structure of Hines' program is basic to other VA Blind Centers, Hines does offer some unique programs, partly due to the resourcefulness of its staff. For example, Hines recently developed a motivational program designed to help blind veterans cope with their disability.

"It's an aggressive, skills-based program using videos, workbooks and group discussions to bring about changes in the veteran's life," says Whitehead. "If you're disabled, one of the things you have to deal with is that victim complex. This program takes it around and says you are accountable, not for your disability but your life under your disability," he adds.



Recreation programs such as golf help rehabilitate the visually impaired veteran. Above, Hines Blind Center Instructor Kelly Bowen works with veteran Albert Henning as he addresses the ball.

Still, there are challenges ahead for blind rehab, conclude Hines' staff. Hunt notes the need for follow-up, particularly for older veterans living alone. "They may have to have a state rehabilitation teacher come in and label a stove for them, or an Orientation and Mobility instructor orient them to a new home." She adds, "The VA is not in a position right now to do that outreach. The only thing we can do is hook them up with state agencies, but they don't have the funding. The waiting list may be six to eight months for assistance or supportive services."

Follow-up and outpatient blind-rehab care may be the biggest needs facing VA blind centers. "That's probably the weakest link in the whole process," says Whitehead.

Whitehead notes that the VA is considering placing specialists with multiple blind rehab skills, such as mobility and low vision, into Visual Impairment Service Teams. "Let them work with people before they get to blind rehab, after they leave the program, and with those who may not have to come to blind rehab if they receive enough training in their home area."

Brooks says she'd like to see at least one more staff member to allow her office to do mobility training on an outpatient basis. "I'd like to try mobility training on an outpatient basis — visiting a client one or two months after he goes home. Sometimes they get home and something stumps them and they lose a little confidence. We need follow-up."

The future of the blind rehab profession is another concern, says Brooks, who notes that only 13 schools nationwide provide blind rehab training. "The VA would be wonderful as advocates for recruiting staff into this field by providing money for education and university programs."

The VA is already addressing such problems, says Whitehead, referring to the VA's July Planning Circular and staff restorations. "The VA has already taken the biggest commitment by recognizing that we have something on the horizon that's a problem. If we can't take care of the people we have, it's going to get worse."

Concludes Gorman: "VA blind rehab does a wonderful job, you can't get this type of service anywhere else. But you can't tell a blinded veteran we'll treat you in two years. You've got to take care of him today."



Instructor Emery Whitlow trains Blind Center client Bill Harwood on the typewriter.





Top, National Service Officer Dwight Marshall presents the DAV's Transition Assistance Program to a standing-room-only class of sailors, Marines and Coast Guard personnel. Bottom, back at the new DAV National Service Office on the Norfolk Naval Base, Marshall reviews a transitioning Navy officer's Service Medical Record.

DAV's Norfolk Commitment Is Smoothing the Transition

These days, one of the toughest tickets to get in the Norfolk, Va., area is for a seat at the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) at the Naval Base there.

"We tell people to go ahead and come on a stand-by basis anyway," said Lt. Jackie Smith of the Navy Family Services Center, who administers the program for the base. "We're allowed to book only 125 students for each class, but right now we've got 132 in there. We just don't turn them away."

One first class boatswain's mate was worried his command wouldn't let him attend the four-day TAP session. "Do something," the petty officer told Smith, "Call my command and let them know I really need to come."

Smith made the call and the sailor made the class.

It's one more example of how important the military has come to view transition assistance for military men and women returning to civilian life. And it underscores the establishment of a DAV National Service Office on the naval base, as well as the organization's participation in the twice-monthly TAP sessions.

The DAV office, which opened this summer, has already felt the brunt of a pace that's seen more than 2,500 people a year go through TAP. For those being discharged after their first term in service, retirees with 20 and 30 years of service, officers and enlisted — TAP is offering something important to each of them.

For the DAV, it's an important opportunity to provide many of the services it offers best. Dwight Marshall, the DAV National Service Officer assigned to the Norfolk office, explained: "Many of those going through TAP aren't aware of the importance of a Service Medical Record review, for example. And the military isn't set up to review those records with an eye toward identifying a potential claim for a service-connected condition.

"Rather, the emphasis in the military — unless there's a clear indication of a disqualifying disability — is to find them healthy enough for reenlistment or discharge."

Lt. Smith also praised the DAV's one-on-one approach toward assisting the individual leaving the service. "The service the DAV is offering is great," she said. "The opportunity to talk with someone who's been there (a service-connected disabled veteran) is very strong. So when we put up the DAV sign-up sheet — with

25 spaces for appointments — it fills up in 10 minutes and we've got to put another one up."

Smith agreed that the DAV's review of service medical records was an important help to folks, but said the potential help the organization can offer far exceeds that single act. "By throwing their full support behind the creation of a new DAV office at Norfolk Naval Base, the DAV is demonstrating it is a service-oriented organization that has come to a location where a large percentage of people truly need their help," she said. "For many attending TAP they face a situation where they're going from the top of the military ladder to the bottom of the civilian world ladder. The DAV's helping to make the transition easier."

While not everyone who leaves the service slides down the career ladder, many find they need extra help to ensure the slide is, at least, minimized. TAP offers a mixture of services designed to do just that. "How-to" sessions — such as interviewing techniques, writing resumes and proper dress — mix with lectures from federal and private sector personnel specialists who assist people seeking employment.

The Navy's Smith said many participants in TAP didn't realize how much work was involved in finding a good job until they'd taken the program. "Many thought it would be easy. They say I've been doing carpentry for all my life so I can just sell myself as a carpenter. Sometimes that's true. But you don't realize how many other carpenters there are out there. You have to shine pretty bright to get yourself seen, no matter how good a carpenter you might be. TAP is one way we help put the shine on a good product."

The TAP program in Norfolk — and the DAV's involvement with it there — is receiving close scrutiny in Washington by both DoD and Labor Department officials, as well as the DAV.

DAV officials from both the National Service and Employment Departments are engaged in developing a package of transition services that includes such things as employment information and developing job-finding skills.

According to DAV National Employment Director Ronald W. Drach, the DAV program includes "a series of booklets on such subjects as resume writing, job search techniques and employer research for transitioning personnel." He added, "We know the demand for these kinds of resources exist nationwide and we're moving to see that they're met."

DAV National Service Director Arthur H. Wilson echoed that sentiment, and said the success of the DAV's initial involvement in Norfolk was no surprise. "In polling our National Service Offices around the country, we discovered many of them have been informally offering these kind of transition assistance activities for many years. Others, such as those found in California particularly, have had a long and productive relationship with local military activities in providing ongoing assistance in the form of counseling and Service Medical Record review."

"...they're glad we came to town. And the DAV is happy to be there."

Programs such as TAP were mandated by federal law in 1989. The Norfolk program follows successful Navy pilot projects in California and at other locations. The DAV's Wilson said the immediate success of the DAV in Norfolk reflects both the need for such services as those offered by the DAV, and the strong backing of the Navy. "Presently there are almost a half-million people in the Tidewater area of Norfolk whose lives are directly tied to the military presence there. They have already told us they're glad we came to town. And the DAV is happy to be there."

The Navy is glad the DAV came onboard as well. "The Navy truly wants to keep a good name for itself," Lt. Smith said. "The Navy is saying, with TAP, that we want to help you one more time, even though you're getting out. Maybe you'll have something good to say about the Navy to others who might be thinking about joining. We're taking care of our people, and the DAV is helping us get the job done."

DAV Seeks Injunction Against VA On Behalf of Incompetent Vets

The DAV moved for a preliminary injunction against the federal government's withholding of disability compensation to service-connected and combat disabled mentally incompetent veterans.

The DAV filed the request in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. If allowed, the injunction will restore benefits to some 14,000 mentally incompetent veterans.

The organization seeks the restoration of disability payments to those mentally incompetent veterans whose estates exceed $25,000.

The DAV charges that by withholding compensation, the federal government is violating the constitutional rights of these mentally incompetent veterans to equal protection and due process of law under the Fifth Amendment. Further, these incompetent veterans will suffer irreparable harm because they face the loss of fiduciaries who handle their financial and personal arrangements for daily living; disruption of their financial affairs to the point where some could face institutionalization and emotional distress to those who are at particular risk of additional mental harm.

The DAV action comes in the wake of a federal law passed last year that placed a cap on the estates of service-connected disabled veterans who are found mentally incompetent. The law directs that the VA stop such payments to incompetent veterans who have no dependents when the veteran's estate exceeds $25,000, and to restore such payments only after the veteran's estate has dropped to $10,000.

The DAV filed an initial class-action suit on behalf of incompetent vets earlier this year. According to DAV National Commander Cleveland Jordan, the DAV's request for an injunction against the government now comes because, "we are convinced that immediate and irreparable harm is being done to this class of defenseless veterans."

"There is no acceptable reason why a combat disabled veteran who has lost an arm or a leg should suffer the loss of his compensation," the DAV National Commander said. "As a nation, we have a sad legacy of discrimination against our mentally ill citizens. This law — and the tragic consequences of its implementation — is but one more example of that discrimination," Jordan said. "They truly are being treated as second-class citizens by the government. Our effort lies with the courts and the hope that the judicial system will restore to this nation's mentally incompetent veterans their rights to first-class citizenship."

Supporting Troops & Working for Veterans Mark 70th National Convention of the DAV

The 70th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary opened with a patriotic, nostalgic flare. Red, white and blue bunting, American and DAV flags, and World War II posters urging readers to "Buy War Bonds" and "Keep That Hat on High" lined the stage and walls of the Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, the convention site this year. Many of the nearly 2,000 delegates and their guests at this year's Convention filled the ballroom and rose often to the military marches played by the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing Band and such "Forties'" hits as "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy From Company B" sung by "The Step Sisters." And the delegates stood up in unison and joined raised hands as Marine soloist Corporal Mike Scott sang "God Bless the U.S.A." before a backdrop of slides of the Persian Gulf War.

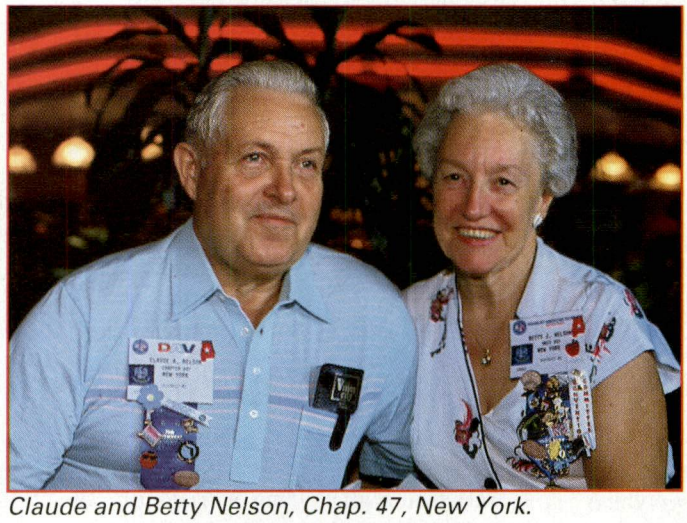
"You could feel the patriotic spirit all around you," said outgoing DAV National Commander Joseph E. Andry. He added, "It was truly a moving tribute to our troops, our organization, and our country."

But conducting business, as well as celebrating America, was on the DAV's National Convention agenda. And part of that business was the election of Cleveland Jordan from Washington, D.C., as DAV's National Commander for 1991-92, and a slate of national line officers who will help lead the DAV in its 71st year as the nation's largest organization representing wartime disabled veterans. Also highlighting the week were District, Executive and Finance Committee meetings, employment awards, seminars on such issues as veterans compensation and benefits, education, employment and legislation, and addresses by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Edward Derwinski, and DAV Executive Director Jesse Brown. Following is a review of this year's convention.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Following registration and District meetings on Saturday, July 27, the Convention opened on Sunday with its Memorial Service program. Led by Vernon V. Cardosi, DAV Past National Commander, and Shelia C. Allred, Auxiliary Past National Commander, the Memorial Service was a poignant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by service men and women in war.

"It was very close to my heart since my husband, who had served for 30 years in the Navy, died in 1976," said Gayle Flewwellin, a member of Auxiliary Unit 109 in Titusville, Fla.



Claude and Betty Nelson, Chap. 47, New York.

The Service was also marked by the Memorial Address by Rev. Oscar I. Wilkie, DAV National Chaplain, the Memorial Prayer by Margaret Hass, Auxiliary National Chaplain, and renditions of "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "God Bless America" by the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing Band and its soloist, Corporal Scott.

ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

The Joint Opening Session, which followed the Memorial Service, was highlighted by the report of Joseph E. Andry, DAV National Commander for 1990-91. Several strong ovations interrupted Andry as he addressed inadequate health care at VA hospitals in Cleveland and Chicago (see *DAV Magazine*, November 1990, p. 7 and May 1991, p. 2). Andry said: "The VA may rest assured that you and I and every veteran who suffered and bled for this great nation will continue to cry out for humane treatment. We will continue to fight for those benefits with our blood, sweat and tears."

Andry also noted the erosion of veterans' benefits and federal funding for veterans' programs. "There's some misguided priorities here. We can build the most sophisticated tank and missile in the world, no matter what the cost. We can send men into space and safely bring them back, no matter the cost," Andry said. He added, "Congress can do all of these things — including building a museum for Lawrence Welk — but they can't come up with the money for the prosthetic leg I need to dance to Welk's music."

The National Commander for the past year also discussed the "unfair" prescription copayment requirement for veterans, the need for veterans to register to vote, and the DAV's push for a full accounting of prisoners of war and missing in action from Southeast Asia. "Almost two decades after the end of the war in Vietnam, the American people still wait. Those people — and particularly the families of those POWs and MIAs — have waited long enough."

Andry also acknowledged the hard work of the VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services) hospital and transportation volunteers, National Service Officers, DAV National Headquarters' staff, and DAV's overall willingness to "pitch in and get it done." He then reflected on his own goals and accomplishments for the DAV, noting the support he received from DAVers nationwide. He concluded to a standing ovation, "I owe each and every one of you so very much. It is a debt I can never repay, but I will continue to try to repay you for the rest of my life."

Following Andry's introduction of DAV Officers, Myrtice R. Vinson, DAV Auxiliary National Commander for 1990-91, gave her final report. Echoing Andry's concerns about VA health care and the prescription copayment requirement, she said, "The sagging state of the VA medical system is perhaps the single most pressing issue in America for many women in the DAV Auxiliary." She added, "Can you imagine the rage of a woman who has waited for hours to get a prescription for the veteran she loves, only to be asked for

$2 as payment for that privilege? Can you imagine the distress of a woman whose husband was facing surgery at a VA hospital the day the news about North Chicago broke into the national media?"

Vinson also noted the aging of World War II and Korean War veterans and their increasing reliance on the VA medical system. "These veterans need the VA. And with most Vietnam veterans now in their forties, another whole generation is already feeling the impact of aging on their disabilities," she said.

The outgoing Auxiliary Commander closed by acknowledging the work of the Auxiliary in aiding families of disabled veterans and Gulf War service men and women. "There's so much more I could tell you about the Auxiliary. I could explain our new service programs we're mounting for the families of disabled veterans. I could explain what we've done for armed forces families during the Gulf War, and what we hope to continue doing," Vinson said. She concluded, "There is so much to say as the Auxiliary faces the spirited challenge of a new and dynamic future. Yet there will be other times and other women to tell this exciting story as it unfolds."

CONVENTION
New Orleans
REPORT



HONORING DAV SUPPORTERS

After Commander Vinson introduced the Auxiliary National Officers, presentations were made to the DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, George H. Seal Memorial Award recipients, and Membership Award winners, among other honorees.

Dan Muldoon, the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, who was featured in the July 1991 issue of *DAV Magazine*, was cited for his dedication to veterans' work since he was seriously wounded in Vietnam on Mother's Day, 1970. Despite his doctors' pessimistic prognosis for recovery, he was able to rehabilitate himself. He also achieved Bachelor's and Master's degrees in business administration and counseling, respectively, and began work as a veterans counselor. He is currently veterans affairs officer for Fort Wayne, Ind. In accepting the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year award he noted that Congressional representatives "have voted themselves pay raises, but have not adequately compensated 100 percent disabled veterans."

The George H. Seal Memorial Trophy winners were Cecil "Red" Johnson of DAV Chapter 10 in Kingman, Ariz., and Lisa Moller, a member of Auxiliary Unit 109 in Jamaica, N.Y. The award is presented annually to a DAV and a DAV Auxiliary member who have volunteered an extraordinary amount of their time to volunteer work for veterans.

Despite two hip replacement surgeries, a heart attack and knee surgery, Johnson volunteers up to 12 hours a day, six days a week transporting veterans to and from VA hospitals in Arizona. Moller volunteers at



the St. Albans Extended Care Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she helps residents at the Center's 50-bed homeless veterans domiciliary.

In presenting the award, 1990-91 National Commander Andry said Johnson and Moller "typify the excellent quality of care, the unswerving dedication, and the very best in personal commitment that DAV volunteers give our nation's hospitalized veterans."

The DAV's top Membership Award went to Delbert Nelson, a retired Minneapolis businessman, who was again named "Recruiter of the Year." Bringing another 624 new members into the organization, Nelson was presented the award for the fourth consecutive year.

The USO (United Service Organizations) was the recipient of the DAV's second annual "Helping Hand Award" for its participation in "Operation Open Arms," which coordinates visits by entertainment and sports figures to hospitalized veterans. Accepting the award from National Commander Andry, USO President Chapman Cox said, "The launching of 'Operation Open Arms' has been very fulfilling. The program is a great way for USO staff and celebrity volunteers to remember and honor all hospitalized veterans, which we feel is very important."

Other awards went to Charlie Brown of Missoula, Mont., who was named top Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialist for 1991; Lawrence J. Haas of Vineland, N.J., as top Local Veterans Employment Representative for 1991; All Veterans Auto Parts of Phoenix, Ariz., as Outstanding Small Employer of the Year; and Consolidated Services of Smithville, Tenn., as Large Employer of the Year.

FOCUSING ON VETERANS' NEEDS

The highlights of Monday's session included the report of Jesse Brown, Executive Director of DAV's Washington, D.C., office. In his address (see "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," p. 2) Brown focused on the need for immediate action to improve the quality of VA health care. He cited instances of poor care at Albuquerque, Cleveland, and North Chicago VA hospitals, among others; VA budget cuts; the continuing erosion of benefits for service-connected veterans; long waits for adjudication of compensation claims and Vocational Rehabilitation counseling; and Congress' rejection of a COLA bill last year which resulted in a delayed COLA for 1991.

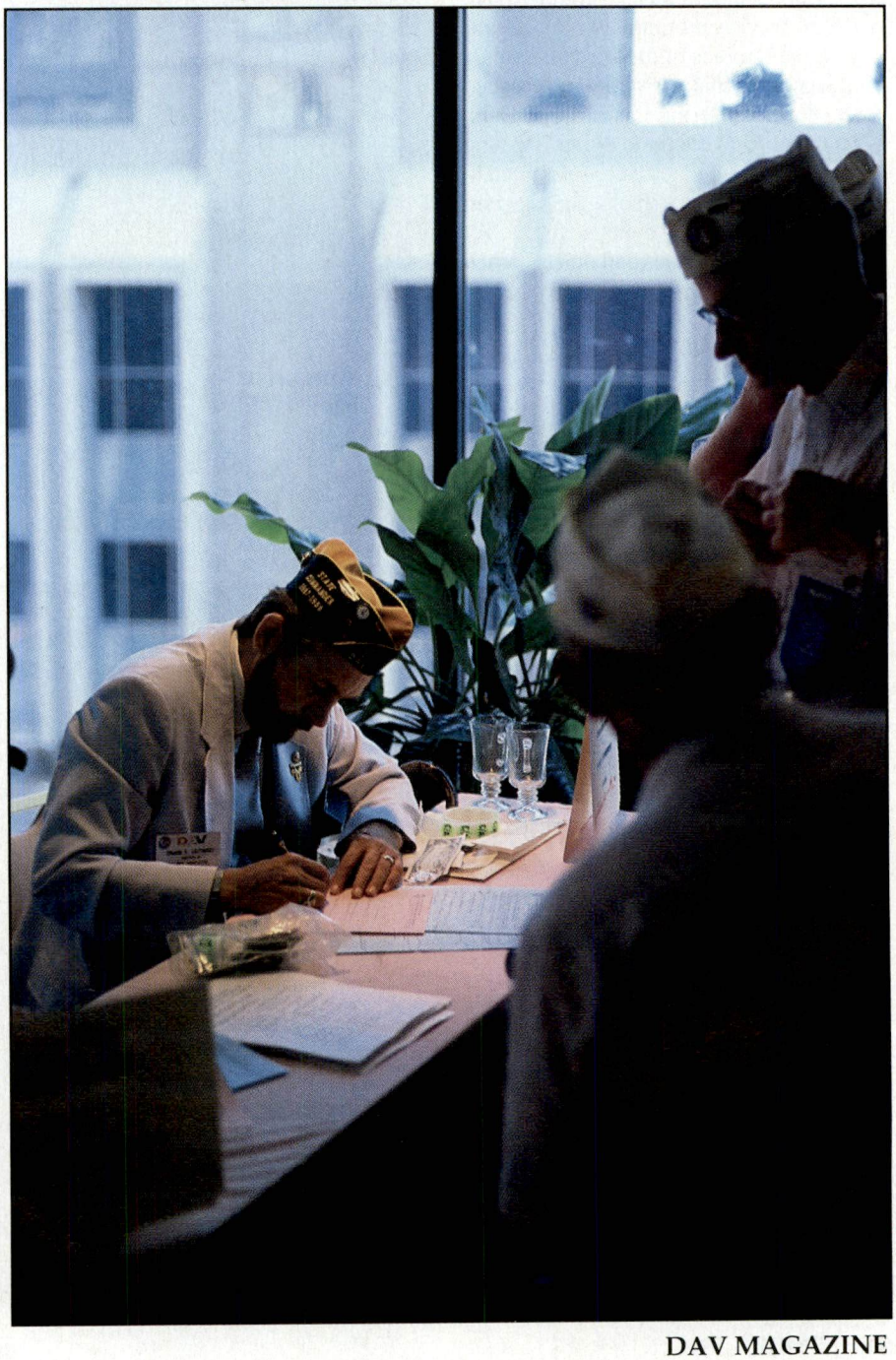
With such concerns, Brown said, the DAV "will not be silent nor intimidated. We will continue to take the high ground in the debate about what is best for veterans who have done the hard work of freedom."

In an earlier address by VA Secretary Derwinski cited the work of the VA's Commission on the Future Structure of Veterans Health Care and other VA projects. Secretary Derwinski said, "The VA 'Mission Commission,' chaired by your own Oliver Meadows (a former DAV National Commander), is due to make its final report in early October. From its report, we want to see that the VA is properly positioned for the future." He added, "One of the clear realities that we must face is that we are working with a shrinking veterans population that is rapidly getting older."

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

As in past years, National Convention seminars continued to be very popular with the delegates, judging from attendance and delegate comments. Tillman Rutledge of Chapter 5 in San Antonio, Texas, said he found the Voluntary Services Seminar useful in providing pointers on how to get more volunteers. "We're competing for volunteers with other organizations. Also, we're opening up a spinal cord injury clinic at the Audie Murphy VA hospital, and we'll need more volunteers there."

Commanders and Adjutants Association members register.



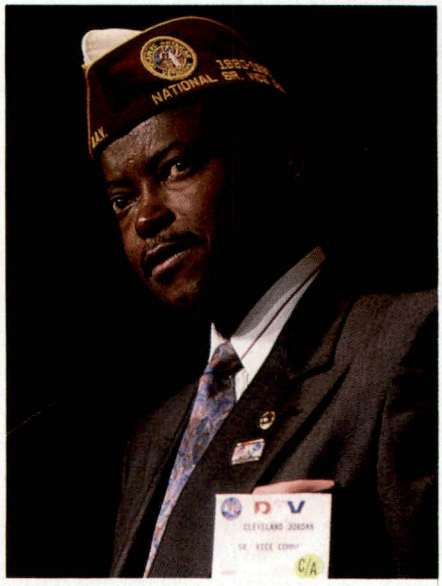
Lester Wayne Otts of Chapter 1 in Phoenix, Ariz., said he found the Service and Legislative Seminar "very informative." He added that the seminar gave him "the opportunity to ask questions of those who can best benefit us."

Answering those questions at the Service and Legislative Seminar, the most-widely attended seminar, was a panel of Congressional and VA veterans' issues specialists. Representing Congress were Chief Counsel/Staff Director of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Ed Scott; Minority Counsel/Staff Director of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Tom Roberts; Counsel for the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance John Brizzi; and House Veterans' Affairs Committee Minority Professional Staff Member Tina Alvarado. VA representatives included Chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) Charles Craigin; Chief Benefits Director D'Wayne Gray; Deputy General Counsel Robert Coy; and Associate Chief Medical Director for External Relations Joseph Gray.

Responding to several questions from DAV National Service Officer Roy Spicer of Roanoke, Va., concerning judicial reform, Coy said it is not the "VA's intention to delay justice or claims, but our system has been overwhelmed with cases and we're still trying to catch up," especially at the Court of Veterans Appeals (COVA). Craigin added that the BVA is making a major effort to see that current BVA and COVA decisions reach VA field offices quicker so claims adjudicators have current information on which to base their decisions.

D'Wayne Gray told the audience that his office and veterans in general "owe the

CONVENTION
New Orleans
REPORT



Senior Vice Cdr. Cleveland Jordan addresses the delegates.

Two District 5 members discuss the issues prior to the Saturday morning meetings.



DAV a great debt, because if it weren't for the DAV's National Service Officers I'd have to go to Congress and OMB [Office of Management and Budget] to get more help." Joseph Gray said the VA is conducting a major review of programs the system offers women's veterans and is instituting a new "total quality management program" throughout the Veterans Health Administration.

Alvarado said the House Veterans' Affairs Committee this session reported out more legislation than any other committee. She also updated delegates on the new Physicians and Nurses Pay bills. "We now have separate pay scales for each of the VA's 172 medical centers and these pay bills required an infusion of $11 million," said Alvarado, who is also a Navy Reserve nurse. "We're doing everything we can to get and keep quality medical professionals in the VA system."

CONVENTION
New Orleans
REPORT

Executive Director Jesse Brown gives his annual report to the delegates at the Monday morning business session.



"Will you join us—for their sake now—in speaking out? Will you join us in telling the Congress and the Administration they're not doing their duty by disabled veterans?"

On the incompetent veterans issue, Scott said Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, was against the Budget Committee's decision to allow the VA to stop paying incompetent veterans their earned benefits once their estates exceeded $25,000. Brizzi added that the House Veterans' Affairs Committee currently has no intention of extending this measure past the current sunset date of September 30, 1992.

Roberts, who joined the other Congressional panelists in praising DAV's legislative effectiveness, said the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold several more hearings on the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on Gulf War veterans and their families. He also said that Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), ranking minority member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, was a co-sponsor of legislation (which was passed by the Senate after the Convention) calling for the establishment of a Senate Select Committee to look into the government's handling of the POW/MIA matter.

At the National Amputation Seminar, VA Chief of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Fred Downs announced the formation of a new VA Prosthetics Advisory Committee. He explained how a more sophisticated system of "centralized funding" will provide more money for much-needed prosthetic devices throughout the VA system, and discussed the VA's plan to open 47 additional prosthetics and sensory aids service centers at VA medical centers during the next three years.

During the Hospital Service Coordinators (HSC) Training Seminar, attendees were updated by the VA's Director of Administrative Services Alline Norman on changes in the CHAMPVA program and the VA's Automated Medical Information Exchange program. HSCs also took part in an organizational sensitivity program designed to help them better serve hospitalized, disabled patients. The program was presented by Charles Lang, III, who first instituted this program at the VA Medical Center in Dublin, Ga.

At the Voluntary Services Seminar, delegates listened to Larry N. Long, Director of the VA's Recreation Service, and Edward F. Rose, Director of VA Voluntary Service, discuss their programs. Long cited such veterans' recreational programs as therapeutic horseback riding and the Golden Age Games, which is co-sponsored by the DAV. "By hosting this national program, the VA hopes the event will enhance an awareness of healthy benefits of sports for all Americans," said Long.





Rose noted that the 87,000 volunteers at VA hospitals nationwide provide "the best publicity" for the VA health-care system. He added that VA's voluntary force is expanding, up 17,000 volunteers in the last 12 years, representing 58 organizations.

During the question and answer period of the seminar, delegates noted the need for funds at the local level to defray transportation costs for sporting events for the disabled. Long answered that local veterans service groups have funded the costs of travel to and from event sites, and that the VA has picked up the costs at the site itself. Other volunteers in the audience voiced concerns about transportation for ambulatory care patients.

The Employment Seminar addressed such issues as veterans' re-employment rights, funding for veterans' jobs and vocational rehabilitation programs, and federal employment for disabled veterans.

Thomas E. Collins, III, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training Service, noted the "mutual goals" of the Labor Department and the DAV in ensuring that "the returning veteran gets a good job and is placed back into the mainstream of society." He stressed the importance of transition assistance programs as the military downsizes and more veterans compete for fewer jobs.

Dennis R. Wyant, Director of the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Service, noted VA's elimination of 10 percent disabled veterans from its vocational rehabilitation program, and said "20-percenters" may also be cut through legislation. "You may see a bill cutting 20 percent disabled veterans," he said.

"Many of these people have socioeconomic problems as well as disabilities, and an inability to hold a job," he added. "A very significant number of tens and twenties benefit from vocational rehabilitation."

Top, National Cdr. Joseph Andry listens attentively to Auxiliary National Cdr. Myrtice Vinson, below, as she speaks to the delegates.

Leon J. Bechet, Director of Veterans Affairs for the Small Business Administration, which recommends federal policies for small business, noted that "veterans are shortchanged if they're not given the opportunity to go into business." He added, "There is little we can do without your support, you telling government what you need."

The Chaplains' Seminar, hosted by DAV National Chaplain Rev. Oscar Wilkie and DAV Auxiliary Chaplain Margaret Hass, was held on July 31 and featured a panel of New Orleans clergymen who regularly visited VA medical centers. The panelists, who offered advice on how chapter chaplains could best carry out their duties, agreed that "just being there for the patients and respecting their wishes" were key components of the chaplain's job as "spiritual physicians." Chapter chaplains were also given pointers on the importance of ministering to peoples of all faiths and all cultures.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

The highlight of Thursday, the final session of the Convention, was the nomination, election and installation of DAV National Officers (see "DAV National Leaders, 1991-92," p. 22). Leading the lineup of National Officers is Cleveland Jordan, who has served as a National Vice Commander for the past four years.

In his acceptance speech, the Army veteran and Washington, D.C., resident discussed the government's obligation to those who serve in America's armed forces. He noted a VA health-care system in jeopardy, and an "uncertain future" for veterans' access to that care.

"Many of you have received decades of care for your service-connected disabilities at VA hospitals. For the most part, it's been decades of top-notch care, delivered by compassionate and professional VA staff," Jordan said. He added, "But you've watched the quality of that care erode. You've watched its availability diminish. And you've watched dedicated, highly-motivated staff grow frustrated and frazzled."

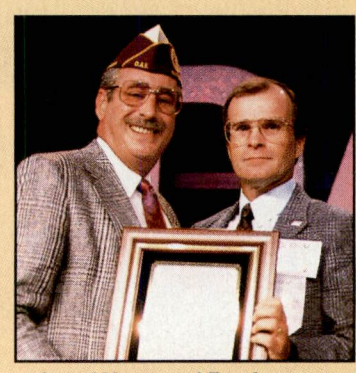
The new National Commander acknowledged the efforts of DAV volunteers, who "have stepped in to truly make a difference in the kind of care our veteran patients are receiving." And he concluded, to an enthusiastic endorsement from the full delegation, that he would do his part in pursuing an "incredible journey" on behalf of disabled veterans.

(Continued on page 17)

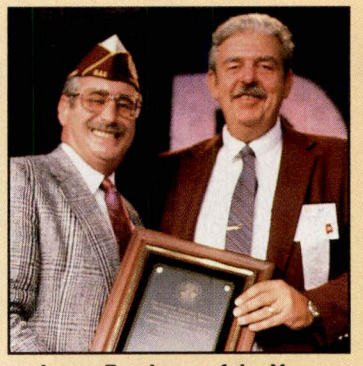
1991 Employment Award Winners



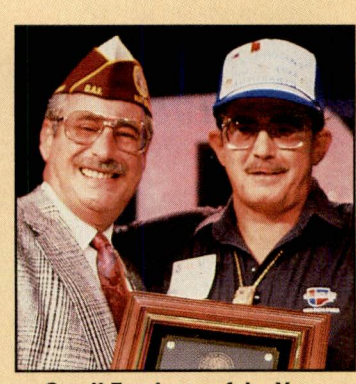
Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist
Charlie Brown, Missoula, Mont.



Local Veterans' Employment Representative
Lawrence J. Haas, Vineland, N.J.



Large Employer of the Year
Consolidated Services, Inc.
Smithville, Tenn.



Small Employer of the Year
All Veterans Auto Parts, Inc.
Phoenix, Ariz.

Key Resolutions Adopted By DAV

Concern for American POW/MIAs and a call for Congressional hearings into the matter of human experimentation headed the list of 153 resolutions adopted by delegates at DAV's 70th National Convention in New Orleans.

The POW/MIA resolutions called for the National Commander to appoint a DAV POW/MIA Advisory Committee; President Bush to apppoint a special Presidential Commission on POW/MIAs; the immediate release of all American POW/MIAs from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War; and the full disclosure of the government's handling of the POW/MIA issue. Delegates also urged the U.S. government not to establish normalized economic and diplomatic relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) until the SRV provides the U.S. government with the fullest possible accounting of American POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War.

The human experimentation resolution urges the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services to hold joint hearings to obtain complete and full disclosure relating to the use of Armed Forces personnel in human experimentation projects and calls for the government to make every effort to locate all individuals whose health may be at risk because of these human experiments.

Other key resolutions called for the elimination of the $2 co-payment required by the VA for prescriptions for veterans rated less than 50 percent service-connected; extension of service-connection for any disability as a result of exposure to Agent Orange; support of a more equitable Dependency and Indemnity Compensation formula for surviving spouses; and an end to discrimination in the payment of compensation to incompetent veterans.

WWI Balloonist Enjoys His First Big DAV Convention

Although he's been a member of the DAV since 1924, Dale Dickman, a 90-year-old veteran from Chapter 45 in San Luis Obispo, Calif., claims he's "always been too busy" to attend a DAV National Convention until this year in New Orleans.

"I've been to a number of California Department Conventions looking to meet other World War I veterans, but I've just been too busy to make it to a National Convention," said the former Army Air Corps balloonist and bi-plane pilot, who likely was the most senior DAV member at the Convention.



Ninety-year-old Dale Dickman, a World War I balloonist and bi-plane pilot, first joined the DAV in 1924 and is currently a member of Chapter 45 in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Dickman said he enjoyed his first National Convention and learned quite a bit, especially at the seminars. Of particular interest, Dickman said, was the Service and Legislative Seminar where he had the opportunity to hear House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee staff and VA officials address a broad range of questions on veterans' programs.

"I'm real sad about our political leaders and how they've neglected veterans in so many ways. My biggest concern is about how bad VA hospital care is," said the widower who lives with his one-eyed cat. "The VA's doctors just don't seem to care about us, and if it weren't for the good job the VA nurses do, we probably wouldn't get any decent care at all. That's why I try to stay out of hospitals as much as I can."

Dickman, whose son is an Air Force lieutenant colonel at Eglin AFB, Fla., was born in Defiance, Ohio, on March 16, 1901. Following his wartime duty, he moved back to Toledo, Ohio, where he did odd jobs and "sold airplane rides for five dollars a pop." When the "Great Crash of 1929" came, Dickman said he loaded all his belongings into his car and "filled up the tank with gas, which was two cents a gallon back then, and headed out to California on those old rip-rap roads. I just figured it would be easier to find a job and that things would be better out west."

He figured right, it seems, because he soon found work as a union steamfitter and during the next 40 years his work took him to Saudi Arabia, Guam and countless sites across the United States. "Once I got my 'Q' clearance to work at nuclear power plants, I never had to worry about finding work again," he said.

Retired for more than 20 years now, Dickman says he's in great physical shape and that his only restriction is being limited to driving during daylight hours because "it's a little harder to see at night than it used to be." He keeps himself busy traveling, being involved with the DAV, and fishing.

"Just recently, I hooked a real nice lake cod that weighed better than eight pounds and won me the jackpot in a fishing tournament," Dickman said. Then, with a devilish wink, he added, "I guess I ended up showing those young boys that I still know a thing or two about fishing."



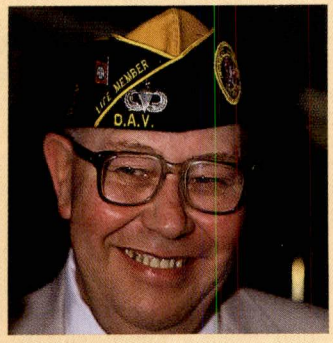
National Officers get into the patriotic spirit at the Joint Opening Session during the performance of "God Bless the USA."

CONVENTION New Orleans REPORT

(Continued from page 16)

"I shall speak up, and keep speaking up, so long as disabled veterans are denied access to quality health care, so long as our families' well-being is in jeopardy, so long as there are members of Congress who would turn their back on us and our families." He added, "As your new National Commander, I am mindful of the legacy of service I inherit. I pledge my utmost to

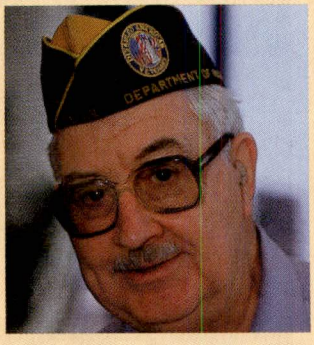
From the Convention Floor...



"I've been coming to national conventions since 1953 and I think the biggest issues confronting us are still quality VA health care and cuts in the VA's budget."
Donald Fischer, Adjt., Dept. of N.H.

"This is my first national convention and I'm trying to learn all I can from the seminars and the other delegates. It's pretty exciting and I've had a great time."
Polly Spicer, Cdr., Unit 19, Lima, Ohio

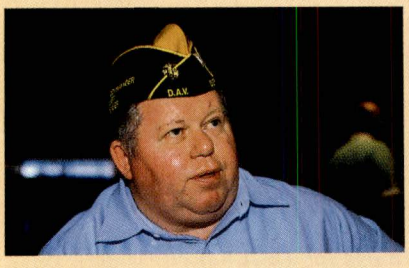




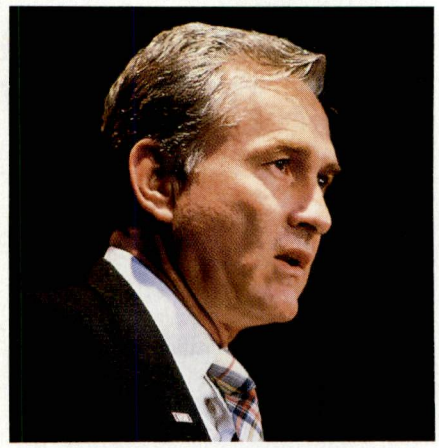
"This is my 15th national convention and I really like the direct contact with the other delegates. My wife and I also think it's important to get involved at all the committee meetings and seminars."
Russell Spalding, Delegate, Chap. 20, Adrian, Mich.

"I've been a DAV member for 34 years but this is my first national convention and it's been all I had hoped it would be. I guess my biggest worry is that the government isn't giving us what they promised and they seem to be trying to fizzle out the VA a little bit at a time."
John Guy, Delegate, Chap. 95, Opelika, Ala.





"I'm seriously disappointed that Congress hasn't treated veterans with honor and dignity. If it weren't for veterans, after all, we'd all be speaking a foreign language right now."
Charles Cunningham, Past Cdr., Dept. of La.



Above, Chapman Cox, President of the USO, accepts the DAV's "Helping Hand Award." Below, 1990-91 4th Jr. Vice Cdr. Joseph C. Zengerle snaps to attention as the Colors pass at the Joint Opening Session.



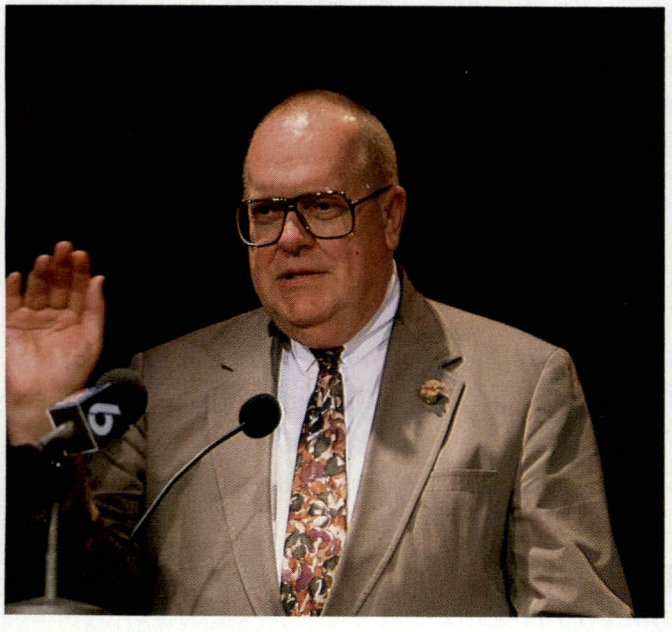


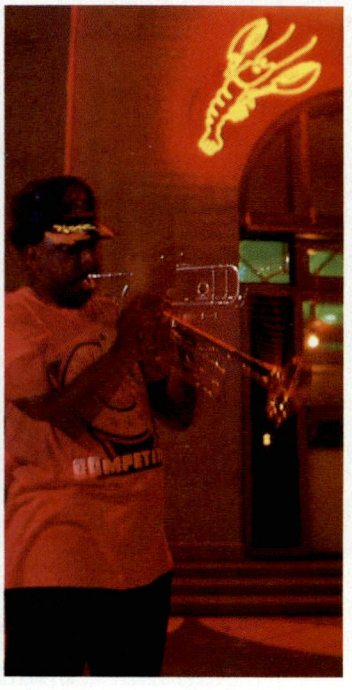


Left, Cpl. Mike Scott, USMC, inspires the delegates with his rendition of "God Bless the USA." Below, VA Secretary Edward Derwinski, center, accepts the DAV's donation to the National Cemetery System, flanked by National Cdr. Joseph E. Andry, left, and Executive Director Jesse Brown.









Center, left, National Cdr. Joseph E. Andry and wife, Julie, at the Joint Opening Session. Far left, VA Secretary Edward Derwinski addresses delegates at the Monday morning business session. Left, a local delegate swings with the spirit of New Orleans.



CLEVELAND JORDAN
National Commander 1991-1992
Disabled American Veterans

"TO SERVE AS BEST I AM ABLE"

When Cleveland Jordan was elected DAV National Commander at the 70th National Convention in New Orleans, one man's quest to serve others had come full circle.

Many National Commanders have been said to "pay their dues" on behalf of the organization, but few can match the breadth of DAV experience that the 50-year-old former paratrooper has amassed.

It's all been part of a commitment to serving his fellow veterans that the South Carolina native says stems from his own experiences as a disabled veteran.



National Commander Cleveland Jordan receives his pin.

Born in Darlington County, S.C., Jordan enlisted in the Army in 1959, serving with the 101st Airborne Division. During a live-fire training exercise at Ft. Campbell, Ky., he suffered serious gunshot wounds that hospitalized him for four months. He was discharged from the Army in 1963 because of his service-connected disability.

The National Commander's total commitment to serving veterans truly began in 1967. It was then that he enrolled at Catholic University under the National Service Officer Training Program. It was then, too, that he began his active involvement in the DAV as a life member of Chapter 9 in Washington, D.C.

After graduation, he worked as a DAV NSO in New York and the District of Columbia, until accepting a position as a Claims Representative with the D.C. government. He now heads the Office of Veterans Affairs in the District of Columbia Department of Human Services.

"I look to each of you for commitment and advocacy."

Through his continuing involvement with the DAV during this period, Jordan smoothly blended vocation with avocation, to the benefit of veterans nationwide. He served as commander of Chapter 9 in 1971-72, commander of the District of Columbia from 1972 to 1974, President of the Commanders & Adjutants' Association in 1974-75, and chairman of the DAV's 1984 National Convention in Washington, D.C. He served as a national vice commander for the past four years before donning the national commander's cap at the recently concluded national convention in New Orleans.

Jordan and his wife, Delores, live in Washington with their son, Carlton. He credits his family's support (more than a score of Jordan relatives journeyed to New Orleans to witness his election) and a deep faith in his fellow veterans as the forces that most affect his life.

"I look to my family for their love and their strength," Jordan told the delegates who elected him national commander. "I look to each of you , and to our fellow members of the DAV, for a continuing sense of commitment and advocacy. I am mindful of the legacy of service I inherit. I pledge my utmost to continue that legacy, and to serve as best I am able."

DAV National Leaders, 1991-92



DAV National Line Officers for the 1991-92 term include, from left, Sr. Vice Cdr. Joseph C. Zengerle, National Judge Advocate Stan Pealer, National Cdr. Cleveland Jordan, National Chaplain Rev. Oscar I. Wilkie, 1st Jr. Vice Cdr.. Parker B. Rice, 2nd Jr. Vice Cdr. Richard E. Marbes, 3rd Jr. Vice Cdr. Thomas A. McMasters, and 4th Jr. Vice Cdr. John W. Peluse.

National Officers

National Commander–Cleveland Jordan, 242 Emerson Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011

Senior Vice Commander–Joseph C. Zengerle, 1550 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005

1st Jr. Vice Commander–Parker B. Rice, 2560 Francisco Avenue, Santa Rosa, Calif. 95403

2nd Jr. Vice Commander–Richard E. Marbes, 1350 S. Clay Street, Green Bay, Wis. 54301

3rd Jr. Vice Commander–Thomas A. McMasters, 11965 Steven Drive, Sterling Heights, Mich. 48312

4th Jr. Vice Commander–John W. Peluse, 357 42nd Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15201

Judge Advocate–Stan Pealer, 3627 Kossuth Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63107

Chaplain–Rev. Oscar I. Wilkie, P.O. Box 70, Copan, Okla. 74022

Past National Commander–Joseph E. Andry, 141 Executive Court, Westerville, Ohio 43081

National Executive Committee

1st District–Edward J. Shifflett, 109 Edgehill Road, East Braintree, Mass. 02184. Alternate–Charles Snow, 144 High Street, Salisbury, Mass. 01952.

2nd District–Raymond S. Detor, Sr., 5903 Alban Court, Liverpool, N.Y. 13090. Alternate–Julius Wagman, 825 Evergreen Drive, West Hempstead, N.Y. 11552.

3rd District–Byron C. Adams, 1024 Sabattus Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240. Alternate–Robert P. Cromer, 26 Suburban Sq., S. Burlington, Vt. 05403.

4th District–William C. Meredith, 631 Roberta Avenue, Dover, Del. 19901. Alternate–Steven J. Stupak, 19 Taft Circle, Watertown, Conn. 06795.

5th District–George N. Ofiesh, 1609 Fourth Avenue, Arnold, Pa. 15068. Alternate–Joseph J. Baldwin, 16 Chestnut Avenue, Carbondale, Pa. 18407.

6th District–Thomas H. Bland, 2318 Braddish Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21216. Alternate–William Wiggins, 302 Starmont Drive, Danville, Va. 24540.

7th District–Marshall E. Voelz, 1977 Eustace Avenue, Deltona, Fla. 32725. Alternate–Jimmy Meeks, P.O. Box 240, Eaton Park, Fla. 33840.

8th District–Harry A. Dupre, Sr., 151 Louisa Blvd., Lafayette, La. 70506. Alternate–Paul P. Benoit, 603 Maryhill Road, Pineville, La. 71360.

9th District–Rogert D. Gist, 251 N. Main Street, Room 550, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. Alternate–Joseph P. Tolar, 1803 Bailiff Street, Greensboro, N.C. 27403.

10th District–John F. McCullough, 1211 Anzio Lane, Flint, Mich. 48507. Alternate–Roger L. Jansen, 4925 Butternut Drive, Holland, Mich. 49423.

11th District–Nicholas Marinelli, 306 Frazier Avenue, Bellaire, Ohio 43906. Alternate–J.D.C. Moore, 386 Fleming Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215.

12th District–Reba L. Eslinger, HSR 58, Box 249-A, Spooner, Wis. 54801. Alternate–Richard Wallace, P.O. Box 126, Ashland, Wis. 54806.

13th District–Gregory C. Reed, 1245 Terry Drive, Plainfield, Ind. 46168. Alternate–Alfred Riley, Route 1, Box 17, Lexington, Ind. 47138.

14th District–Gerald L. McIntyre, 209 Strand Avenue, Missoula, Mont. 59801. Alternate–John E. Sloan, 223 S. Montana, Helena, Mont. 59601.

15th District–William C. Slaughter, 8329 Jarboe, Kansas City, Mo. 64114. Alternate–Donald J. Gallagher, 101 Crestridge Drive, Bellevue, Neb. 68005.

16th District –Charles J. Framiglio, 4932 Alan Avenue, San Jose, Calif. 95214. Alternate–Henry Viellette, 17321 Parthenia Street, Northridge, Calif. 91325.

17th District–Rudolph R. Vargas, 780 East 85th Avenue, Denver, Colo. 80229. Alternate–Jerold E. Walker, 2213 Eagle Street, Aurora, Colo. 80011.

18th District–Hermon T. Harrison, 620 N. Meadows Drive, Chandler, Ariz. 85224. Alternate–Mario Cattani, 8940 W. Olive Avenue, Peoria, Ariz. 85345.

19th District–Richard P. Lucht, 691 West 13th Street, McMinnville, Ore. 97128. Alternate–John F. Manus, 815 S.W. 126th Avenue, Beaverton, Ore. 97005.

20th District–Richard L. Sarrazin, 7406 Stagecoach, San Antonio, Texas 78227. Alternate–Clyde Couch, Route 1, Box 669, Elm Mott, Texas 76640.

21st District–James D. Archer, 7825 West 28th, Little Rock, Ark. 72204. Alternate–Wayne L. Douglass, 212 Combs Street, Hot Springs, Ark. 71901.

National Finance Committee

Chairman–John F. McCullough, 1211 Anzio Lane, Flint, Mich. 48507

Members–Cleveland Jordan, 242 Emerson Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011; Edward J. Shifflett, 109 Edgehill Road, East Braintree, Mass. 02184; William C. Slaughter, 8329 Jarboe, Kansas City, Mo. 64114; Charles J. Framiglio, 4932 Alan Avenue, San Jose, Calif. 95214.

DAV Auxiliary Leaders, 1991-92

National Officers

National Commander–Claudia R. Roy, P.O. Box 79, West Chesterfield, N.H. 03466.

Senior Vice Commander–Barbara Maldet, P.O. Bix 8833, Camp Hill, Pa. 17001.

1st Jr. Vice Commander–Bonita Newell, 4855 Golden Court, Denver, Colo. 80212.

2nd Jr. Vice Commander–Barbara Hicks, 4535 B Kenfield Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224.

3rd Jr. Vice Commander–Jane Troutman, 33 Central Heights Drive, Concord, N.C. 38025.

4th Jr. Vice Commander–Margaret Hass, P.O. Box 204, Bowbells, N.D. 58721

Judge Advocate–Elizabeth Diestler, P.O. Box 2121, Waterloo, Iowa 50704.

Chaplain–Barbara Chumley, 451 N. Logsdon Parkway, Radcliff, Ky. 40160.

Past National Commander–Myrtice R. Vinson, 2729 Suwanee Avenue, Macon, Ga. 31204.

National Executive Committee

1st District–Jean E. Shifflett, 109 Edgehill Road, East Braintree, Mass. 02184. Alternate–Donna L. Horton, 3 Reading Terrace, Reading, Mass. 01867.

2nd District–Dorothy A. Bednarczyk, 142 Arlington Place, Depew, N.Y. 14043. Alternate–Stella Gnatek, 124 Floyd Avenue, Utica, N.Y. 13502.

3rd District–Claire Nadeau, P.O. Box 1181, Biddeford, Neb. 04005. Alternate–Beverly Cleveland, 9 Vine Street, Brattleboro, Vt. 05301.

4th District–Betty J. Meredith, 631 Roberta Avenue, Dover, Del. 19901. Alternate–Sophia M. Mate, 27 Cranbrook Road, Hamilton Square, N.J. 08690.

5th District–Sonia Baldwin, 16 Chestnut Avenue, Carbondale, Pa. 18407. Alternate–Carol McNeal, 413 Woodward Avenue, McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136.

6th District–Elizabeth Juba, Route 1, Box 35, Princeton, W.V. 24740. Alternate–Evelyn B. Dorsey, 1425 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

7th District–Joan V. Cook, 10792 64th Avenue No., Seminole, Fla. 34642. Alternate–Merallyn McDonald, R.R. 1, Box 303, Crestview, Fla. 32526.

8th District–Barbara Houser, P.O. Box 5652, Maryville, Tenn. 37802. Alternate–Margaret Brown, 914 Adams Drive, Shelbyville, Tenn. 37160.

9th District–Jean C. Carpenter, 1530 Cool Breeze Drive, West Columbia, S.C. 29169. Alternate–Edith Corley, Route 1, Box 88-C, Ridge Springs, S.C. 29129.

10th District–Leona Sharp, 25332 Franklin Terrace, S. Lyon, Mich. 28178. Alternate–Susan McAnany, 11268 Packard, Warren, Mich. 48089.

11th District–Edith Cottrill, 106 Orange Street, Urbana, Ohio 43078. Alternate–Maxine M. Thomas, 233 Eliza Street, Kenton, Ohio 43326.

12th District–Nancy Dunday, N. 7484 Edgewater Drive, Beaver Dam, Wis. 53915. Alternate–Barbar Przybylski, Route 1, Box 309A, Hancock, Wis. 54943

13th District–Ella M. Tyler, 4112 Ardmore Avenue, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46804. Alternate–Esther Houston, 25705 Lily Creek Drive, Elkhart, Ind. 45514.

14th District–Judy M. Steinhouse, 1481 1st Avenue, E, Dickinson, N.D. 58601. Alternate–Kathryn Kern, P.O. Box 637, Bismarck, N.D. 58501

15th District–Rose Mary Gallagher, 101 Crestridge Drive, Bellevue, Neb. 68005. Alternate–Judith A. McLaskey, 3130 33rd Avenue S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404.

16th District–Lillian Golino, 157 Lotus Court, Hercules, Calif. 94547. Alternate–Joan Turbeville, 23694 Gamma Street, Moreno Valley, Calif. 92388.

17th District–Olive R. Tomlin, R.R. 2, Box 112, Las Animas, Colo. 81064. Alternate–Judy K. Lovell, 1103 S. Lewiston Street, Aurora, Colo. 80017.

18th District–Evelynne Dunn, 1735 Castleberry Lane, Las Vegas, Nev. 89115. Alternate–Joanne Molen, HCR 28, Box 177, Las Vegas, Nev. 89124.

19th District–Nita Lucht, 691 West 13th Street, McMinnville, Ore. 97128. Alternate–Delene M. Rold, P.O. Box 217, Dallas, Ore. 97338.

20th District–Louise Rapisand, 8604 Shaver Drive, El Paso, Texas 79925. Alternate–Joyce Dye, 6109 Ed Coady Road, Ft. Worth, Texas 76134.

21st District–Gertrude Tidwell, Route 2, Box 2010, Atoka, Okla. 74525. Alternate–Jan Archer, 7825 West 28th, Little Rock, Ark. 72204.

National Finance Committee

Chairman–Evelynne Dunn, 1735 Castleberry Lane, Las Vegas, Nev. 89115

Members–Claudia R. Roy, P.O. Box 79, West Chesterfield, N.H. 03466; Elizabeth Juba, Route 1, Box 35, Princeton, W.V. 24740; Joan V. Cook, 10792 64th Avenue No., Seminole, Fla. 34642; Olive R. Tomlin, R.R. 2, Box 112, Las Animas, Colo. 81064.



DAV Auxiliary Line Officers for the 1991-92 term include, seated, National Cdr. Claudia R. Roy, and Sr. Vice Cdr. Barbara Maldet. Standing, from left, 1st Jr. Vice Cdr. Bonita Newell, National Judge Adovcate Elizabeth Diestler, 2nd Jr. Vice Cdr. Barbara Hicks, 3rd Jr. Vice Cdr. Jane Troutman, 4th Jr. Vice Cdr. Margaret Hass, and National Chaplain Barbara Chumley.



1990-91 DAV Auxiliary National Cdr. Myrtice Vinson, Senior Vice Cdr. Claudia R. Roy, and 1st Jr. Vice Cdr. Barbara Maldet get into the spirit of the Mardi Gras theme at the Forget-Me-Not Luncheon.

"WE CAN! TOGETHER!"

Auxiliary Convention Lays Groundwork for Progress in Services, Legislation, Membership

"We can!" exclaimed Claudia R. Roy right after she was elected to the highest office in DAV Auxiliary. "We can! Together!"

With those words, the Auxiliary's new National Commander announced the theme she selected for the year ahead — a theme that reflects the positive, can-do commitment her organization will need as it strives to live out the ambitious agenda established by the convention's delegates in New Orleans.

"By the word, 'We,' I mean the group of which each of us is a member," said Commander Roy. "With the term, 'Can,' I imply everything we can accomplish. And when I say, 'Together,' I mean we will reach our potential, working as a team with a fully integrated personality.

"We — our members, our officers, our staff, and our parent organization! Can — the ability to get the Auxiliary's job done — Together!"

The Auxiliary's new National Commander hails from West Chesterfield, N.H. Her husband, James E. Roy, was disabled while serving during the Korean War. Her father, Claude R. Gould of Keene, New Hampshire, was wounded in World War II combat.

Commander Roy served one year as commander and 12 years as adjutant of John Blake Auxiliary Unit #15 in Brattleboro, Vt. Her involvement in the Department of Vermont includes two years as commander and four years as adjutant. She also served as the Auxiliary's VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Representative at the VA Medical and Regional Office Center in White River Junction, Vt.

First elected to national office in the Auxiliary in 1985, Commander Roy chaired several national programs during the following years as she rose through the Auxiliary's command-level posts. These programs included Community Service, Americanism, Legislation, and Membership. In private life, she works as a buyer for J.E. Mann, Inc., in Brattleboro.

As the Auxiliary's convention progressed, one of the most frequently discussed issues was what outgoing National Commander Myrtice R. Vinson called "the sagging state of the VA medical system."

In her remarks at the convention's opening session, Commander Vinson described VA health care as "the single, most pressing issue in America for many women in the DAV Auxiliary...

"After all," she explained, "the veterans on the VA's hospital wards are our husbands, our fathers and mothers, our sons and daughters, members of our own families. The patients receiving care in our VA clinics and nursing homes are the people most dear to our hearts."

Calling for action, Commander Vinson said, "This is no time for America to turn its back on its commitment to provide our nation's veterans with top quality medical care... Yet, despite the serious needs faced by America's veterans, I'm discouraged by what I see happening today, even as the wounds of those injured in the Persian Gulf are still healing.

"The memory of America's most recent war is already beginning to fade, just like the yellow ribbons that decked our homes and businesses only a few months ago. When those ribbons lay torn and tattered on the trash heaps of America, what will happen to our nation's commitment to the men and women who served in the Middle East and in our country's other wars? I wonder. And I worry."

Membership was another major theme during the convention. The Auxiliary

stands on the verge of achieving quarter-million-member strength. As the women were reminded time and again during their week in New Orleans, their organization will move into a new dimension when that goal is reached.

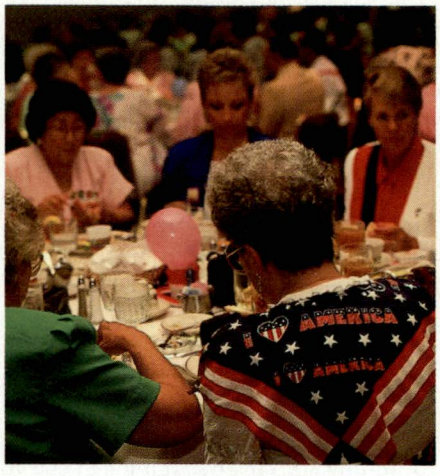
If the Auxiliary has attained great progress in membership growth, it has also broken new ground in services to veterans' families, Commander Vinson told the Auxiliary delegates on the convention's second day.

A year ago, she reported, "I called for a future that involves person-to-person contact with the women and families we serve...We've made real headway in providing Auxiliary service in such very personal ways. We've formed support groups for widows and other women who face crisis in other areas of their lives.

"Also, when war raged in the Persian Gulf, we provided a supportive environment that brought the families of our servicemen and women together, helping them to help one another. We're in the process of inventing new ways to assist the families of veterans in our hospitals. In units and departments, all across America, new ideas are bursting forth."

One of the convention's high points was presentation of the Past Commanders' Award for the Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year to Mary Wagner of Sanborn, N.D., a life member of Clarence "Tom" Lemley Unit 24. The list of Mrs. Wagner's activities, both in the Auxiliary and elsewhere in her community, is very long.

Her Auxiliary involvement alone includes helping elderly Auxiliary members who attend the state convention; working in a food program; presenting flags to schools, hospitals, churches and other community organizations; volunteering for several tasks at the North Dakota Veterans' Home and the VA hospital; and several other aspects of her Auxiliary unit's work.



1991-92 Auxiliary Chairwomen

Following are the national appointments for the DAV Auxiliary's 1991-92 year.

Americanism–Jane Troutman, 33 Central Heights Drive, Concord, N.C. 28025.

Community Service–Margaret E. Hass, P.O. Box 204, Bowbells, N.D. 58721.

History–Miriam Daley, 7 Gould Road, Arlington, Mass. 02174.

Junior Activities–Jan Archer, 7825 W. 28th Street, Little Rock, Ark. 72204.

VAVS–None appointed at this time.

Deputy VAVS–None appointed at this time.

National Sergeant-at-Arms–Beverly Cleveland, 9 Vine Street, Brattleboro, Vt. 05301.

Legislative–Barbara Hicks, 4535 B. Kenfield Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224.

Membership–Bonita Newell, 4855 Golden Court, Denver, Colo. 80212.

Education Loan Fund–Phyllis Greaney, 14 Pond Circle, Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130.

DAV Auxiliary Awards

Following are the awards presented to units, departments and individuals at the DAV Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans, La.

Americanism: Special Award–Alamo Unit 5, Texas; Group 1 (10-50 members)–Mountain Top Unit 29, Maryland; Group 2 (51-100 members)–Clarence Lemley Unit 24, North Dakota; Group 3 (101-200 members)–J.R. Graham Unit 26, Virginia; Group 4 (over 200 members)–Sonoma Unit 48, California.

Community Service: Group 1 (10-50 members)–Mountain Top Unit 29, Maryland; Group 2 (51-100 members)–Milbank Unit 19, South Dakota; Group 3 (101-200 members)–Las Vegas Unit 11, Nevada; Group 4 (over 200 members)–Sonoma Unit 48, California.

Department History Book: North Dakota.

Hospital: Group 1 (10-50 members)–Mountain Top Unit 29, Maryland; Group 2 (51-100 members)–Pearl Harbor Unit 15, Kansas; Group 3 (101-200 members)–Oakland Unit 7, California; Group 4 (over 200 members)–Altman-Ruoff-Osier Unit 6, Washington.

Junior Activities: Group 1 (10-50 members)–Smoky Mountain Unit 94, Tennessee; Group 2 (51-100 members)–Phoenix Unit 1, Arizona; Group 3 (101-200 members)–Elmer Pond Unit 1, Indiana. Junior Activities Book–Goshen Memorial Unit 15, Indiana.

National Miss Teenage (13-17): Jennifer Miller, New York Unit 47.

National Junior Miss (7-12): Dora Warner, Indiana Unit 23.

Legislative: Group 1 (10-50 members)–Gilbert Unit 33, Arizona; Group 2 (51-100 members)–Norristown Unit 25, Pennsylvania; Group 3 (101-200 members)–Francis J. Beaton Unit 1, North Dakota; Group 4 (over 200 members)–Tri City Unit 8, Arizona.

Membership: Group 1 (10-50 members)–Antigo Unit 23, Wisconsin; Group 2 (51-100 members)–TIE Glasgow Unit 20, Kentucky & Tewksbury Unit 110, Massachusetts; Group 3 (101-200 members)–London Unit 66, Kentucky; Group 4 (over 200 members)–Minneapolis Unit 1, Minnesota; Group 5 (new unit with most new members)–Beaufort Unit 12, South Carolina. Department Percentage Increase–Minnesota and Oregon. Department Numerical Increase–Pennsylvania.

Special Membership Award: Renee Jones, North Carolina Unit 18, first; Sue Ann Parke, Ohio Unit 43, second.

VAVS: Thelma Feighner (too far from VA Hospital)–Medina Unit 72, Ohio; Catherine Early (10-50)–Cecil County Unit 28, Maryland; Vi Hoffman (51-100 members)–Grants Pass Unit 11, Oregon; Bea Hogan (101-200)–Loveland Unit 32, Colorado; National Headquarters (over 200)–Phoenix Unit 1, Arizona.

Mae Holmes Award: Group 1 (10-50 members)–White City Unit 32, Oregon; Group 2 (51-100 members)–Byers Moorhead Glover Unit 18, North Carolina; Group 3 (101-200 members)–Biddeford Saco Unit 4, Maine; Group 4 (over 200 members)–Alamo Unit 5, Texas.

Past National Commanders' Outstanding Member Award: Mary Wagner, Clarence Lemley Unit 24, North Dakota.

(Continued from page 2)

• When veterans have to wait six months to have their compensation claims adjudicated and three months to see a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor; and

• When members of Congress give themselves a 25 percent raise, deny disabled veterans a timely COLA and spend $19 million studying the passing of gas by cows.

Take a little time and contact your congressional representatives. Let them know that VA health care is in a critical situation and veterans' benefits in general are being systematically eroded.

We in the DAV are driven by action and when you, the members are asked, you respond with unparalleled determination and knowledge of the issues. We are led in our determination and knowledge of the issues by our department directors whose accomplishments this past year are significant and deserve our gratitude.

The DAV continues to outpace all others in the delivery of service and success in obtaining benefits for disabled veterans and their families. Our highly trained National Service Officers (NSOs), under the capable leadership of Art Wilson, our National Service Director, and his staff, successfully represented over 214,000 veterans and obtained over $1.1 billion in retroactive payments and increased monthly benefits.

Each year, greater demands are placed on DAV for our services. We now have an impressive presence at the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals (COVA). Our Judicial Appeals Representatives represented approximately 41 percent of the claimants who were represented before the Court.

Our NSOs continue to provide desperately needed expert representation and assistance. This past year, they responded by locating and identifying incompetent veterans for DAV's class-action lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a provision in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA). When it was feared that there may be many casualties from Operation Desert Storm, our NSOs were there, contacting military hospitals to offer DAV services to the wounded and their families. Please share with me the pride we should all have in the work done by our NSOs and their quick response to issues that demand immediate attention.

You can also be extremely proud of our National Legislative staff, under the direction of Rick Heilman. This past year was a busy and difficult one for our legislative staff, with testimony before Congress on virtually every benefit program offered our veterans and their families. During the past year, Congress debated and passed such issues as: a 5.4-percent increase in service-connected disability and death compensation; The Agent Orange Act of 1991; amendments to the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act; and, amendments to Education, Employment and Training benefits.

Passage of these measures was not without controversy, such as, Congressional failure to approve a COLA prior to adjournment in October 1990 for no other reason other than stonewalling by Senate and House Agent Orange proponents.

Johnny–and certainly Jane, too, this time–have come marching home again. And they've heard so many wonderful and resounding hurrahs.

While Congress could not see its way clear to pass the increase in October, they managed to find time to enact OBRA, one of the most comprehensive attacks the DAV has ever seen on veterans' benefits. OBRA resulted in $620 million in cuts to benefits and services in Fiscal Year 1991, and $3.7 billion in cuts over the next five years. It affected the entitlements of beneficiaries to such programs as: nonservice-connected pension; Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC); medical care and medication; vocational rehabilitation; burial; and the list goes on. You can be sure, however, that we will be working hard to see that Congress finds ways to save money, but not at the expense of our nation's veterans.

In the area of employment benefits and opportunities for disabled veterans, the DAV is fortunate to have Ron Drach, our National Employment Director, and his staff. The DAV believes that employment is important to the rehabilitation of our nation's disabled veterans because it helps restore dignity and confidence in one's ability—despite injury or permanent disability. Ron continues to champion our cause of ensuring that employment laws are enforced or new laws enacted that help restore disabled veterans to the workforce as proud taxpaying Americans.

Our voluntary service program, under the direction of Bruce Nitsche and his staff, had a banner year. Our volunteers donated the equivalent of $27 million in estimated value of hours to the VAVS programs nationwide. In addition, more than $11.2 million in cash and other service-related programs were donated to VAVS. Furthermore, this past year, 40 more vans were donated to medical centers nationwide. To date, 216 vans have been donated, driven by 3,675 volunteer drivers.

I would also like to acknowledge the spirit of cooperation I have received from Steve Edmiston, as Director of Administration. Steve and members of his staff at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky have provided invaluable assistance and total support this past year of which we are all proud and grateful.

A special thanks to our Communications Staff headed by Jerry Atchison for their fine work on publishing a most informative and timely magazine; to Director of Administration, Walter Phillips for his coordination of the national convention; and to Robert Hincken, my Executive Assistant, for his invaluable advice and counsel. Last, but most importantly, to National Adjutant Charles E. "Butch" Joeckel for his inspirational leadership and direction of all our departments.

Our actions have and will always reflect the immortal words of Thomas Payne, who in 1776 said:

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis shrink from the service of his country. Be he that stands it now—deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Truer words were never spoken. And we will continue to remind the American public and the Congress of the consequences of war and the sacrifices made by veterans.

How does that old song go? "When Johnny comes marching home again, hurrah, hurrah...."

Johnny—and certainly Jane, too, this time—have come marching home again. Come marching home from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. And they've heard so many wonderful and resounding hurrahs.

And it is as it should be, for they've done their duty.

Will you join us—for their sake now—in speaking out? Will you join us in telling the Congress and the Administration they're not doing their duty by disabled veterans?

Will you—one more time—take up as your duty the fight to win fairness and justice for disabled veterans?

Together, I know we will be successful because each member of the DAV is like a drop of water. Each drop ultimately makes a big river. A river of life, a river that inspires mankind to be at its very best.

The Auxiliary view...



A Rallying Cry

Claudia R. Roy
DAV National Auxiliary Commander
3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Ky. 41076

"I am woman, hear me roar, in numbers too big to ignore." That's the first line of a song recorded by Helen Reddy, a song I recalled as I accepted the office of National Commander at the Auxiliary's National Convention in New Orleans last month.

There I extended those words as a rallying cry for the DAV Auxiliary. I want to hear our women roar during the year we're now beginning. I want to hear each woman singly and all of our women collectively...on the local, state and national level.

Let eligible members hear us, so they'll join. Let delinquent members hear us, so they'll return to our ranks. Let our families, friends, neighbors and co-workers hear us, so they'll understand who we are and what we do. Let our elected officials hear us, so they'll respect the DAV and Auxiliary message. Let our voices be heard all across this great country!

At our convention, we established some lofty goals, laying the groundwork to bring those goals to life over the coming year. I believe we'll attain those ambitious aims. Our ranks climbed to 246,000 before the membership year closed June 30. We can take pride in going far beyond our quota. But let's keep our eyes on the next milestone — a quarter of a million members. It's also important to maintain the splendid progress we've made in building the numbers and involvement of our junior members. These young girls are tomorrow's leaders.

On the legislative front, let's remember last autumn when Congress failed to pass a modest 5.4-percent cost-of-living increase in service-connected disability compensation. Our members responded in true Auxiliary fashion when Congress reconvened in January. Our legislators approved a compensation increase before the month was out, but not before our veterans and their families were treated to an unjust measure of anguish and frustration.

As we work to make sure this disgrace never repeats itself, we also seek new legislation. In particular, let's keep up the pressure to achieve one of the Auxiliary's highest priorities, finding a fair payment formula for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) which is paid to the surviving spouses of certain deceased veterans.

Thinking of the Auxiliary's service programs, I recall the news bulletins that flashed on our television screens at 6:45 p.m., Jan. 16. Operation Desert Shield suddenly became Desert Storm. True to the spirit of our members, the Auxiliary raced into action. We wrote letters and sent packages to military personnel in the Gulf. We set up groups that offered many kinds of support for the families of those men and women. First and foremost was the emotional support that's so crucial to families under stress.

Now that the guns are silent, we accept a new mission, making sure the American people don't become complacent. We must allow no one to forget the 46,500 Americans who remain in the Persian Gulf...the 168 who were killed...and the hundreds more who were wounded, many of whom still lay in military and VA hospitals. Our duty to Desert Storm veterans and their families has not ended. We must persist in our volunteer work on the hospital wards. And we must continue to help the families of these men and women.

We face so many challenges today...and so many more tomorrow. And I hope you will join me as the Auxiliary marches boldly into the adventure of its future.

Remember to Join.

Help Yourself & Your Family!
Join the DAV Auxiliary!

You need the DAV Auxiliary if you're the wife or widow of a disabled vet. It's *your* voice...the voice of *your* family. Make that voice heard in the halls of Congress and the White House. Now. When decisions affecting your family's security hang in the balance.

We're women who've joined together because the families of disabled vets need each other. You need us. We need you. Your Auxiliary membership will mean so many things...to so many families. Use it to protect *your* family. **Send in the form below with your $10 dues today.** Membership is open to all women directly related to disabled veterans. Membership year runs from July 1 each year to June 30 of the following year.

Sign up in the DAV Auxiliary!

Name_____
Disabled vet's name_____
Your relationship to vet_____
Vet's DAV code number_____
(Copy from label on back cover)
Your address_____

SEND TO: DAV Auxiliary
3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076
ENCLOSE $10 DUES

membership standings

Disabled American Veterans as of August 10, 1991

Stdg.	State	— Membership — Popula.	Goal	Percent Of Goal	Renewal	Life
DIVISION I — (More than 35,000 Members)						
1	Florida	78,802	82,359	95.68	80.33	82.02
2	Michigan	48,786	50,999	95.66	81.01	83.46
3	Ohio	56,155	58,836	95.44	81.01	84.63
4	Pennsylvania	57,185	60,328	94.79	81.21	75.82
5	New York	81,074	85,877	94.41	77.66	83.27
6	Massachusetts	49,671	52,790	94.09	81.97	81.17
7	Texas	68,688	74,018	92.80	77.33	78.79
8	New Jersey	32,508	35,157	92.47	79.97	77.97
9	California	95,628	104,934	91.13	75.10	76.89
DIVISION II — (18,000 to 34,999 Members)						
1	Indiana	23,740	23,601	100.59	82.52	77.58
2	Alabama	19,173	20,082	95.47	77.50	74.53
3	Kentucky	24,877	26,152	95.12	70.83	83.50
4	Washington	20,931	22,175	94.39	75.78	85.33
5	Maryland	19,588	20,933	93.57	82.09	81.12
6	Arizona	18,383	19,711	93.26	76.44	85.35
7	Colorado	17,488	18,804	93.00	77.48	90.11
8	Oklahoma	19,992	21,499	92.99	77.51	78.36
9	Missouri	21,346	23,065	92.55	81.63	76.79
10	Virginia	25,123	27,168	92.47	78.86	76.93
11	North Carolina	28,074	30,394	92.37	75.19	79.17
12	Wisconsin	19,235	20,864	92.19	77.86	82.12
13	Georgia	20,546	22,313	92.08	74.79	77.73
14	Tennessee	17,453	18,959	92.06	77.62	75.09
15	Illinois	28,542	31,045	91.94	78.28	77.25
16	Minnesota	19,152	20,873	91.75	76.67	82.95
DIVISION III — (10,000 to 17,999 Members)						
1	New Mexico	11,411	11,963	95.39	78.01	87.28
2	Arkansas	14,365	15,389	93.35	74.98	82.16
3	Connecticut	14,369	15,420	93.18	80.19	78.00
4	Kansas	9,432	10,148	92.94	79.83	77.84
5	West Virginia	11,290	12,171	92.76	75.08	80.23
6	South Carolina	12,986	14,125	91.94	76.95	79.67
7	Iowa	10,284	11,232	91.56	77.73	79.55
8	Oregon	10,282	11,237	91.50	77.88	81.86
9	Louisiana	13,093	14,326	91.39	77.38	71.47
10	Mississippi	10,434	11,526	90.53	74.94	74.62
DIVISION IV — (5,000 to 9,999 Members)						
1	Idaho	5,397	5,664	95.29	75.16	88.88
2	Nevada	5,111	5,387	94.88	74.70	84.19
3	Utah	5,953	6,318	94.22	78.43	83.79
4	Maine	7,065	7,507	94.11	78.30	82.43
5	Puerto Rico	8,153	8,781	92.85	66.36	85.58
6	Rhode Island	7,132	7,701	92.61	84.45	72.35
7	South Dakota	4,628	5,003	92.50	77.59	88.33
8	Nebraska	7,920	8,574	92.37	79.13	83.06
9	New Hampshire	6,611	7,172	92.18	82.76	73.83
10	Montana	4,674	5,086	91.90	72.49	86.99
DIVISION V — (Less than 5,000 Members)						
1	Hawaii	4,075	4,263	95.59	74.35	89.23
2	North Dakota	4,253	4,486	94.81	79.81	92.24
3	Wash., D.C.	3,786	4,055	93.37	80.87	86.08
4	Wyoming	2,206	2,363	93.36	72.11	85.86
5	Vermont	2,956	3,177	93.04	78.96	78.45
6	Delaware	3,482	3,766	92.46	64.05	85.27
7	Alaska	1,466	1,600	91.63	61.14	92.02

DAV NATIONAL TOTAL: 1,127,097

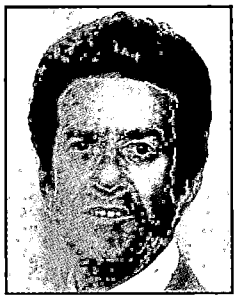
DAV NATIONAL GOAL: 1,203,573

DAV Auxiliary

As of July 31, 1991

Department	Quota	Members
Alabama	2,917	2,196
Alaska	108	84
Arizona	5,105	4,210
Arkansas	2,682	2,167
California	11,567	9,947
Colorado	3,042	2,365
Connecticut	1,246	1,027
Delaware	469	369
Wash., D.C.	385	335
Florida	15,673	12,985
Georgia	3,481	2,547
Hawaii	217	195
Idaho	1,034	875
Illinois	3,478	2,781
Indiana	4,787	3,459
Iowa	1,558	1,274
Kansas	1,483	1,280
Kentucky	4,306	3,068
Louisiana	1,964	1,468
Maine	1,107	889
Maryland	2,537	2,106
Mass.	7,775	5,775
Michigan	9,351	7,464
Minnesota	2,904	2,190
Mississippi	1,724	1,249
Missouri	3,516	2,841
Montana	886	676
Nebraska	1,874	1,476
Nevada	684	569
New Hampshire	1,106	792
New Jersey	3,496	2,815
New Mexico	2,051	1,673
New York	6,341	5,160
N. Carolina	4,526	3,168
N. Dakota	1,209	734
Ohio	8,025	6,620
Oklahoma	3,345	2,732
Oregon	2,149	1,697
Pennsylvania	5,697	4,382
Philippines	164	124
Puerto Rico	867	682
Rhode Island	718	594
S. Carolina	2,422	1,851
S. Dakota	1,208	883
Tennessee	2,241	1,739
Texas	10,858	8,880
Utah	1,075	807
Vermont	666	497
Virginia	3,411	2,763
Washington	3,483	2,872
W. Virginia	1,727	1,365
Wisconsin	4,077	3,028
Wyoming	270	216
At Large	78,046	50,311
Auxiliary Natl. Totals:	**247,021**	**184,109**

Retired NSO Heslin Dies



James W. Heslin, who served as assistant supervisor of the DAV National Service Office in San Diego until his recent retirement, has died. He was 61.

Heslin served almost 30 years in the Army with service during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. His duty assignments included the Adjutant General School and noncommissioned officer in charge of the Special Actions Branch, U. S. Army Recruiting Command.

He was employed by Manufacturers Hanover Trust in New York from his 1975 Army retirement until his employment with the DAV in 1980. He trained in the DAV's New York City National Service Office and served there until his promotion and transfer to San Diego as assistant supervisor in 1989. According to National Service Director Arthur H. Wilson, "Jim will be remembered for his genuine concern for veterans and their families, and his 'can do' attitude."

He is survived by his wife, Theresa, and two sons, John and Richard.

Federal Employees Urged to Support DAV Charitable Service Trust

As Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) drives begin to kick off across the country and around the world, National Commander Cleveland Jordan asked all DAV and Auxiliary members who work for the federal government to remember the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

"The Trust was set up to meet the requirements of those who want to support the DAV's mission but have specific giving needs," the Commander said. "Those who make charitable donations through the CFC are among these special contributors."

To designate the Trust for all or part of their generosity, federal workers are asked to use CFC Code #0227 on their pledge forms. They will also find the Trust listed under Independent Charities of America.

"The Trust was designed to supplement the work of the DAV," explained Trust Chairman William R. McCartin. "We've reached into several new areas of service for disabled veterans, supporting a variety of innovative programs.

"Trust-sponsored initiatives are finding exciting new ways to help blinded and amputee veterans, as well as homeless veterans who suffer psychological disabilities. We're giving disabled veterans a hand in the job market. We also support a number of recreational programs that lift the spirits of veterans, giving them confidence in facing life with disabilities."

"DAV and Auxiliary members, who work for the federal government, can help in another vital way," McCartin continued. "In addition to making CFC donations of their own, these members can encourage their co-workers to support the Trust's mission."

Brochures about the Trust are available from: DAV Charitable Service Trust, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. When requesting brochures, federal employees should indicate how many copies they wish to distribute to fellow workers.

recruiting awards...

The following DAV members have been recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in membership recruitment during the 1990-91 membership year.

(as of July 31, 1991)

National Commander's Team
Over 100 New Members

Billy R. Black, Charles W. Mills - Ala. 12, John A. Archer, Fred J. Baker - Ala. 25, Kenneth Wolfe - Ill. 42 Kenneth R. Morris, Gregory C. Reed - Ind. 3, Joseph S. Carroll - Ind. 52, William T. Caywood - Ind. 89

Francis J. Beaton Award
50 to 100 New Members

Billy R. Black, Charles W. Mills - Ala. 12, John A. Archer, Fred J. Baker - Ala. 25, Kenneth Wolfe - Ill. 42, Kenneth R. Morris, James S. Powers, Gregory C. Reed - Ind. 3, Glen E. Vogel, Sr. - Ind. 45, Joseph S. Carroll - Ind. 52, William T. Caywood - Ind. 89

Gold Star
25 to 49 New Members

Billy R. Black, Charles W. Mills - Ala. 12, John A. Archer, Fred J. Baker - Ala. 25, Kenneth Wolfe - Ill. 42, Kenneth R. Morris, James S. Powers, Gregory C. Reed - Ind. 3, Glen E. Vogel, Sr. - Ind. 45, Joseph S. Carroll - Ind. 52, William T. Caywood - Ind. 89, Delbert Nelson - Minn. 1, Thirsey M. Foster - Okla. 26

Silver Star
10 to 24 New Members

Billy R. Black, Charles W. Mills - Ala. 12, John A. Archer, Fred J. Baker - Ala. 25, Alfred J. Skarda - Ark. 7, Gordon D. Gram - Colo. 1, Samuel R. Pantalone - Conn. 16, Kenneth Wolfe - Ill. 42, Kenneth R. Morris, James S. Powers, Gregory C. Reed - Ind. 3, Glen E. Vogel, Sr. - Ind. 45, Joseph S. Carroll - Ind. 89, Kirby C. McCleese - Ky. 150, Cecil J. Wyatt - Maine 1, Raymond Lee Davis - Md. 21, Delbert Nelson - Minn. 1, William B. Beachum, Jr., Kenneth P. Hale, William E. Leach, Jr. - Mo. 1, James L. Wright - N.C. 18, James F. Smith - N.C. 46, Arnold R. McIntosh, Thomas A. Stone - N.C. 57, Estil E. Kirby, James A. Morse - Ohio 43, Thirsey M. Foster - Okla. 26, Marion D. Nesbitt - S.C. 28, John J. Malone - Texas 88, John F. Wood, Jr. - W.V. 2, Edward R. Lambert - FP 4

Bronze Star
5 to 9 New Members

Billy R. Black, Charles W. Mills - Ala. 12, Jack W. Revels - Ala. 24, John A. Archer, Fred J. Baker - Ala. 25, Carlos W. Davis - Ala. 51, Robert W. Ellis, Alfred J. Skarda - Ark. 7, Donald R. Cox - Ark. 57, David R. Clymer - Calif. 2, George A. Martin - Calif. 7, Alex C. Andres - Calif. 17, Gail I. Hudson - Calif. 95, Francesco E. D'Amato, Calif. 157, Gordon D. Gram - Colo. 1, William T. Donahue - Conn. 15, Samuel R. Pantalone - Conn. 16, Joseph A. Rice - D.C. 1, Robert A. Kunkel - Fla. 23, Paul P. Newton - Fla. 42, Arthur R. Cowan - Fla. 92, Kenneth Wolfe - Ill. 42, Stanley F. Wasserman - Ill. 43, Gary D. Trowbridge - Ill. 103, Thomas L. Jones, Kenneth R. Morris, James S. Powers, Gregory C. Reed - Ind. 3, Kenneth L. Ryba - Ind. 23, Glen E. Vogel, Sr. - Ind. 45, Joseph S. Carroll - Ind. 42, William T. Caywood - Ind. 89, Bob G. Pomeroy - Kan. 4, Kirby C. McCleese - Ky. 150, Gary P. Burns, Cecil J. Wyatt - Maine 1, Elmer Sewell, Paul L. Thompson - Md. 1, Raymond Lee Davis - Md. 21, Joseph R. Harold - Mass. 10, Stanley J. Hoy - Mass. 64, Stanley V. Embree, Jr., Robert C. Sinclair - Mass. 90, Delbert Nelson - Minn. 1, James B. Smithson - Miss. 6, William B. Beachum, Jr., John H. Bickerton, Larry M. Endicott, Kenneth P. Hale, William E. Leach, Jr., Jess B. Stagner, Jr. - Mo. 1, Russell J. Dann - Mo. 68, Thomas J. Turner - Nev. 7, Richard L. Rohr - Nev. 11, Ronald W. Reilly - N.H. 4, Joseph Kushner - N.J. 24, Herbert L. Johnson - N.J. 41, Ronald E. McCarty - N.M. 3, Jonnie C. Hernandez - NM 33, Barry C. Schechter - N.Y. 23, John J. Regan - N.Y. 76, William F. Gibney - N.Y 126, William R. Parker - N.Y. 153, Emmett E. Slake - N.C. 11, James L. Wright - N.C. 18, Charles Billings, Robert M. Taylor, Jr. - N.C. 27, James F. Smith - N.C. 46, Lawrence O. Cratch, Jr. - N.C. 48, Arnold R. McIntosh, Thomas A. Stone - N.C. 57, James C. Ebele, Gregory A. Seurer - N.D. 1, James M. Gray, Euell L. Smith - Ohio 42, Estil E. Kirby, James A. Morse, Danny Parke - Ohio 43, Joseph W. Jurcak - Ohio 49, Paul R. Kail - Ohio 97, George T. Gordon - Ohio 108, Paul A. DeMichael - Ohio 116, Calvin C. Murphy - Ohio 131, Thirsey M. Foster - Okla. 26, Paul Wise - Okla. 54, Jerry M. Cox - Okla. 57, James E. Turner - Pa. 14, Howard A. Jeffries - Pa. 53, Daniel D. Barry - Pa. 70, Thomas H. Whitlach, Jr. - Pa. 123, Daniel P. Stack - R.I. 17, Henry J. Gordon, George T. Watkins, - S.C. 4, Marion D. Nesbitt - S.C. 28, Kenneth B. Howle, Jr. James R. Lloyd - S.C. 72, Lawrence W. Bouska, Eugene A. Murphy - S.D. 1, Harvey V. Milliken - Tenn. 3, Bobby D. Cawood - Tenn. 6, David R. Gray - Tenn. 65, Leslie - A. James. - Texas 37, Roman C. Osuna - Texas 80, John J. Malone - Texas 88, Ronald J. Peterson - Texas 195, Donald M. Sampson - Texas 215, Roger A. Bourgery - Vt. 3, James K. Clem - Va. 3, John J. Mechtel - Va. 21, Shirley Jaynes - Wash. 5, Esther Westlake - Wash. 45, John F. Wood, Jr. - W.V. 2, Jack Day, Jr. - W.V. 54, Larry W. Hauger - Wis. 2, Norman F. Gaede - Wis. 27, Edward R. Lambert - FP 4, Pelagio A. Aquino - PI 25, William K. Hinters - HA 8

DAV Scholarship Applications Now Available for 1992

Applications for DAV scholarships for the Fall 1992 college term are now available from DAV National Headquarters.

The applications must be completed and returned to DAV National Headquarters by Nov. 15, 1991, according to DAV National Adjutant Charles E. Joeckel, Jr.

The DAV Scholarship Program is designed to help children of service-connected disabled veterans whose parents are unable to provide the cost of a college education. The parent need not be a DAV member.

To be eligible, a student must be a high school senior or a freshman, sophomore, or junior in good standing at an accredited U.S. college or university and taking undergraduate courses leading to a bachelor's degree. Students wishing to apply must take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Applications and a brochure about the program are available by writing to: DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301, Attn: Scholarship.



loud 'n clear

DAV Magazine welcomes letters from its readers. However, due to the large volume of mail received each month, it is impossible for each letter to be acknowledged. Space limitations permit us to publish only a small number of letters in the "Loud 'n Clear" section and all such letters may be abridged. Letters requesting assistance in obtaining veterans' benefits are referred to the DAV Service Department in Washington, D.C., for necessary action. DAV Magazine, 807 Maine Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

Scraps From the Table

Sir: Just recently the Senate slammed the door shut on veterans by defeating an amendment to next year's $2 billion space lab program that would have given back to veterans' programs $431 million of the billions of dollars taken away from veterans by OBRA of 1990. Yet this same Senate voted themselves a pay raise. How much longer are we veterans going to allow the officials we elect to throw us the scraps from the table, while they get the meat? The time for action has passed. If we as veterans do not unite and tell Congress "enough is enough," we will one day awaken to the reality that we have nothing left to give up.—**Bill Phelps, Beaver Dam, Ky.**

Conned Into Co-Payments

Sir: I think it is very disgraceful that the President, the Congress, and the VA have conned disabled veterans into paying for medicine when I, for instance, am barely getting by as it is. I notice that Congress doesn't want to give us a raise, but they give themselves a good raise. If I made half as much as they do, I'd gladly pay for my medicine. A few dollars don't mean much to those in Congress, but it could mean my medicine or eating to me.—**Earl C. Quillen, Toldeo, Ohio.**

Sir: I received a note from the VA with my prescription a couple of months ago saying I would be billed at a future date for my medication. When I asked the VA about it, the VA said I'd get a letter with more information. I'm still waiting. (Thanks to *DAV Magazine* for printing the co-payment information.) Since when did the VA become an HMO where patients pay co-payments for every service they receive? At this rate, that is what it soon will be.—**Gretchen Marie Elsner, Pomona, Calif.**

The Trouble With Women

Sir: If Commander Andry thinks that young women will have trouble with the VA, he is certainly correct (June 1991, p.1). My first trip to the VA hospital (20 years after discharge) was a shock. I had to undress in a broom closet. After several years of trying to get the help I needed for a service-connected disability, I finally gave up. Now I pay my own way and wonder what happened to the VA that was formed for the purpose of helping veterans.—**Mary E. Graydon, Atlanta, Ga.**

It Could Be Worse

Sir: While there is a great deal wrong with the VA medical system, we must not forget that there are still a great many caring people that are trying to work within the system to care for our nation's veterans. I would like to note that the staff, both paid and volunteer, at the Denver, Colo., VA Medical Center have done a wonderful job over the last ten years with limited funds. It is because of people like them that our VA medical system is not a real hell-hole that it could be. We should not forget to pat those VA employees and volunteers on the back who deserve it. As well as give a kick in the rear to those who deserve it for their action, or inaction, in serving our veterans.—**Leland W. Greb, Gunnison, Colo.**

reunions...

Because of the increasing number of requests and the space limitations of our magazine, we must limit publication of unit reunions to one time only. Send such notices at least three months in advance. Mail to: Reunions, DAV Magazine, 807 Maine Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024. Thank you ... the Editors.

ARMY

1246th COMBAT ENGINEER BN. (WWII)—Oct. 1991. Contact Tom Ryan, 1729 Highway 92, Delta, Colo. 81416.

6th FIELD ARTILLERY VETERANS ASSOC.—Oct. 1991, Hampton, Va. Contact Kenneth O. Happel, Rt. 3, Box 55, Blackstone, Va. 23824, phone (804) 292-4222.

135th and 1265th COMBAT ENGR. (WWII)—Oct. 1991, Williamsburg, Va. Contact George Mezzadra, 2321 Ellen Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21234, phone (301) 665-0604.

92nd SIGNAL BN.—Oct. 1991. Contact Larry Orechia, 2654 Arcade Rd., Norwalk, Ohio 44857, phone (419) 668-5464.

25th INF. DIV. ASSOC.—Oct. 1991, Hawaii. Contact Ian Ross, HHC 3rd Brigade, 25ID(L), Schofield Bks., Hawaii 96857-6032.

4611th and 4612th QM TRUCK CO. Hvy. (Philippines)—Oct. 1991, Lake Lure, N.C. Contact Larry H. Eckard, P.O. Box 5145, Hickory, N.C. 28603, phone (704) 256-6274.

100th HTS (Philippines)—Oct. 1991, Lake Lure, N.C. Contact Larry H. Eckard, P.O. Box 5145, Hickory, N.C. 28603, phone (704) 256-6274.

507th QM BN. (Philippines)—Oct. 1991, Lake Lure, N.C. Contact Larry H. Eckard, P.O. Box 5145, Hickory, N.C. 28603, phone (704) 256-6274.

1056th ENGR. PC&R GROUP (WWII)—Oct. 1991, Little Rock, Ark. Contact George Willis, 2221 Hot Springs Rd., Benton, Ark. 72015, phone (501) 778-3838.

CO. D, 185th INF. REG., 40th INF. DIV. (WWII)—Oct. 1-3, 1991, Lake Tahoe, Calif. Contact L.A. Wing, 3800 Lariat Dr., Shingle Springs, Calif. 95682, phone (916) 677-2911.

8th FA. BN., 25th DIV. (Korea, 1950-51)—Oct. 1-6, 1991, Hawaii. Contact Allen M. Smith, 3338 Dupont Ave., N., Minneapolis, Minn. 55412, phone (612) 529-4567.

161st AVIATION CO., 14th AVN. BN. (Vietnam)—Oct. 2-3, 1991, Rome, Ga. Contact Harvey York, 303 Walnut St., Cedartown, Ga. 30125, phone (404) 748-1510.

CO. D., 593rd AMPHIBS. EB&SR—Oct. 2-5, 1991, Sarasota, Fla. Contact Glenn D. Helm, 5634 Garden Lakes Dr., Bradenton, Fla. 34203.

25th FIELD ARTILLERY BN.—Oct. 2-6, 1991, Williamsburg, Va. Contact Frank Topper, 10 Jefferson St., Hanover, Pa. 17331.

19th TANK BN., 9th ARMORED DIV. (WWII)—Oct. 3-5, 1991, Kansas City, Kan. Contact Albert Hunzicker, 1525 N. 81st Terrace, Kansas City, Kan. 66112, phone (913) 334-3962.

62nd ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BN. (WWII)—Oct. 3-5, 1991, Fairborn, Ohio. Contact Jerry W. Eades, 2312 Skylark St. Arlington, Texas 76010, phone (817) 275-1556.

CO. A, 769th MP BN.—Oct. 3-5, 1991. Contact Lynn Harris, P.O. Box 648, Alturas, Calif. 96101, phone (916) 233-2970.

134th INF. (WWII)—Oct. 3-6, 1991, Topeka, Kan. Contact Jim Graff, RR 1, Middletown, IL 62666, phone (217) 445-2570.

854th ENGR. AVN. BN. (WWII)—Oct. 3-6, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact James E. Bethell, 6805 Galax Ct., Springfield, Va. 22151, phone (703) 256-2988.

709th TANK BN. (WWII)—Oct. 3-6, 1991, Lancaster, Pa. Contact Paul E. Claster, 35 Euclid Ave., Middletown, N.Y. 10940, phone (914) 343-4879.

35th INF. DIV.—Oct. 3-6, 1991, Little Rock, Ark. Contact Jack M. Sabata, 4311 Womack Dr., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80915, phone (719) 596-3369.

CO. L, 386th INF., 97th DIV. (WWII)—Oct. 3-6, 1991, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Harold Bartig, 147 S. 21st, La Cross, Wis. 54601, phone (608) 784-6410.

1st SIGNAL CO., 1st INF. DIV. (WWII)—Oct. 3-6, 1991, Louisville, Ky. Contact Roy Bell, 526 Patricia Ct., Odenton, Md. 21113, phone (301) 674-8892.

57th SIGNAL BN.—Oct. 3-6, 1991, Warwick, R.I. Contact John W. Trombi, 15 Peach Tree Lane, Coventry, R.I. 02816.

CO. F, 23rd INF., 2nd DIV. (WWII)—Oct. 3-6, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact John Rider, 784 Village Dr., York, Pa. 17404, phone (717) 848-5222.

285th ENGR. COMBAT BN.—Oct. 3-7, 1991, Williamsburg, Va. Contact William F. Nekervis, 4615 Hampshire Ct., Midland, Mich. 48640, phone (517) 839-9487.

7th FIELD ARTILLERY ASSOC.—Oct. 4-5, 1991, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact William R. Bateman, P.O. Box 2012, N. Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29598, phone (803) 272-8780.

820th TANK DESTROYER BN.—Oct. 4-5, 1991, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact George J. Verbeke, 16085 Veronica, East Detroit, Mich. 48021, phone (313) 779-8046.

455th AAA AW BN.—Oct. 4-5, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Richard Hollister, 3844 Faxon Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38122, phone (801) 323-5859.

34th AAA GROUP ASSOC.—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Evansville, Ind. Contact Mel Maidlow, 118 Seventh Ave., Bangor, Maine 04401.

80th GENERAL HOSPITAL, HQ. CO. (WWII)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Wayneville, N.C. Contact George Allred, P.O. Box 235, Bonlee, N.C. 27213, phone (919) 837-5883.

138th ENGR. COMBAT BN. (WWII)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Williamsburg, Va. Contact Charles E. Davis, 121 Park Ave., Brevard, N.C. 28712.

CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON FLA. MILITARY POLICE (WWII)—Oct. 4-5, 1991, Branson, Mo. Contact Ollie Galante, 43 Poole St., Woburn, Ma. 01801, phone (617) 933-4985.

U.S. HORSE CAVALRY ASSOC.—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Fort Riley/Junction City, Kan. Contact Patricia Bright, P.O. Box 2325, Fort Riley, Kan. 66442-0325, phone (913) 784-5797.

BTRY. B, 449th AAA AW BN.—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Rocky Hill, Conn. Contact John Markoya, 1083 Capitol Ave., Bridgeport, Conn. 06606.

CO. E, 3rd BN. 47th INF., 9th DIV. (RECON.)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Washington, D.C. Contact J.R. Johnson, 1139 Levy Rd., Paris, Ky. 40361, phone (606) 383-4433.

CO. M, 334th INF. REGT., 84th DIV.—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Rock Island, Ill. Contact John (Jock) R. Sutherland, 1509 21st Ave., Rock Island, Ill. 61201, phone (309) 786-5777.

STATION HOSPITAL, CAMP EDWARDS, MASS. (1940-46)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Falmouth, Mass. Contact Ludger Lussier, 125 Downing St., Fall River, Mass. 02723.

340th ENGR.—Oct. 4-6, 1991, San Diego, Calif. Contact T.M. Maxwell, Sr., Box 1246, Hilltop Lakes, Texas 77871.

501st SUPPLY & TRANSPORTATION (1960's)—Oct. 4-6, 1991. Contact Randall T. Cary, 218 March Rd., Greentop, Mo. 63546, phone (816) 949-2453.

165th INF. REGT., 27th INF. DIV.—Oct. 4-7, 1991, Lafayette, Ind. Contact T.J. McCullough, P.O. Box 5244, Kirtland AFB, N.M. 87185, phone (505) 265-0961.

550th AAA BN., 3rd ARMY—Oct. 5, 1991, Westfield, N.Y. Contact Vince Calarco, 112 E. Main, Westfield, N.Y. 14787, phone (716) 326-2320.

3/17 AIR CAVALRY—Oct. 5-6, 1991, Louisville, Ky. Contact Bobby Marcum, 835 Faulkner's Lane, Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330, phone (606) 236-8065.

593rd EB&SR CO. A—Oct. 6-8, 1991, Hampton, Va. Contact Bob Kerr, 6470 Bensch Rd., Alger, Mich. 47610, phone (517) 345-7424.

999th SIGNAL SERVICE CO. (Normandy, WWII)—Oct. 6-10, 1991, Orlando, Fla. Contact Gene Weaver, Rt. 1, Box 482, Lake Perry, Kan. 66070, phone (913) 484-2259.

757th TANK BN.—Oct. 7-9, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Donald M. Pascuzzo, 3035 Westwind Rd., Las Vegas, Nev. 89102, phone (702) 251-9786.

887th AIRBORNE ENGR.—Oct. 7-9, 1991, Memphis, Tenn. Contact Rev. Charlie Band, 1440 Richmond Ave., Holly Hill, Fla. 32117, phone (904) 253-7749.

CO. F, 389th INF., 98th DIV.—Oct. 7-11, 1991, Bushkill, Pa. Contact William G. Smith, 52 Palm Blvd., Madison, Ohio 44057-2728, phone (216) 428-5839.

19th COMBAT ENGR. REGT. (WWII)—Oct. 8-13, 1991, Monrovia, Calif. Contact Mahlon Campbell, 307 Rogers Rd., Norristown, Pa. 19403, phone (215) 539-9140.

797th AAA AW BN. (WWII)—Oct. 9-11, 1991, Riverside, Calif. Contact John J. Brorsen, 23820 Ironwood Ave., #133, Moreno Valley, Calif. 92557, phone (714) 924-4702.

3rd ARMORED AMPHIB. BN. and 6th AMPHIB. TRACTOR BN.—Oct. 9-12, 1991, Hilton Head, S.C. Contact Jim Miller, 1500 Hackberry Lane, T or C, N.M. 87901, phone (505) 894-2496.

109th INF. REGT., 28th INF. DIV.—Oct. 9-13, 1991, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Richard F. Leach, 11020 Highway 83, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80921, phone (719) 598-2940.

13th ARMORED DIV. ASSOC.—Oct. 10-12, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Miller M. Hanly, 3702 Penna Ave., Charleston, W.Va. 25302, phone (304) 343-8288.

13th COAST ARTILLERY—Oct. 10-12, 1991, Gulf Breeze, Fla. Contact Phil Stroupe, 5550 Knight Arnold, Memphis, Tenn. 38115.

SERVICE CO., 397th INF. REGT., 100th INF. DIV. (WWII)—Oct. 10-12, 1991, Memphis, Tenn. Contact Ervin Hollis, 2961 Hinton Rd., Clarksville, Tenn. 37043, phone (615) 362-3758.

CO. C, 143rd INF., 36th DIV.—Oct. 10-12, 1991, Hendersonville, N.C. Contact Jim and Betty Love, 711 Old Carriage Rd., Clover, S.C. 29710, phone (803) 222-4489.

531st ENGR. SHORE REGT. and 286th JASCO—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact Eugene T. Rader, 736 Homewood Ave., SE, Warren, Ohio 44484.

28th GENERAL HOSPITAL ASSOC.—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Galveston, Texas. Contact Floyd J. Friloux, Sr., Box 338, New Sarpy, La. 70078, phone (504) 764-6030.

945th FIELD ARTILLERY BN.—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Lawton, Okla. Contact George A. Buck, 726 50th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50312, phone (515) 255-4269.

CO. B, 9th INF., 2nd INF. DIV.—Oct. 11-12, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Oswald McKown, Box 54, Hooks, Texas 75561, phone (903) 547-6142.

ARMY RANGER ASSOC.—Oct. 11-13, 1991, Columbus, Ga. Contact Richards O. Stewart, Jr., P.O. Box 669, Columbus, Ga. 31902-0669.

16th GENERAL HOSPITAL (WWII)—Oct. 11-13, 1991, Atlanta, Ga. Contact Norman T. Climer, 2335 Echo Hills Circle, Atlanta, Ga. 30345, phone (404) 636-2912.

126th and 173rd FIELD ARTILLERY BN.—Oct. 12, 1991, Milwaukee, Wis. Contact Gertrude Kloth, P.O. Box 188, Medford, Wis. 54451, phone (715) 748-4843.

CO. F, 108th INF., 40th DIV.—Oct. 12, 1991, Medina, N.Y. Contact Robert Raymondjack, 2453 S. Lyndonville Rd., Lyndonville, N.Y. 14098, phone (716) 765-2323.

SUPREME HQ., ALLIED EXPED. FORCE and EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPS. ASSOC.—Oct. 12-13, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Alan F. Reeves, 2301 Broadway, San Francisco, Calif. 94115, phone (415) 921-8322.

35(C) BN. ENGR. (WWII)—Oct. 12-13, 1991. Contact Norval Cummings, Rt. 1, Seymour, Ind. 47274.

48th GENERAL HOSPITAL UNIT (WWII)—Oct. 14-17, 1991, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Contact F.R. Rogers, P.O. Box 288, Marshfield, Mass. 02050.

606th TANK DESTROYER BN.—Oct. 15-17, 1991, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Contact Arthur V. Hicks, P.O. Box 313, Ava, Mo. 65608.

CO. B, 310th INF. REGT., 78th LIGHTNING DIV.—Oct. 16-20, 1991, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Mark G. Hoffman, 1221 Brinkerton Rd., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

60th SIGNAL RADIO INTEL. CO./60th SIGNAL SVC. CO. (ASA)—Oct. 17-19, 1991, Scottsdale, Ariz. Contact Donald L. Woods, NE 263 Tahuya River Dr., Tahuya, Wash. 98588-9753, phone (206) 275-5304.

3094th REFRIGERATION CO.—Oct. 17-18, 1991, Hot Springs, Ark. Contact Frank Pounder, phone (501) 225-1424.

243rd PORT COMPANY (WWII)—Oct. 17-19, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact D. Melvin Jacobson, 103 Church St., North Warren, Pa. 16365, phone (814) 723-6278.

60th COMBAT ENGR. BN, 35th INF. DIV. (WWII)—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Kingston, N.Y. Contact Rudy Wells, RD 8, Box 133, 3 Benson Ct., Kingston, N.Y. 12401, phone (914) 338-9253.

348th STATION HOSPITAL (WWII)—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Charlotte, N.C. Contact Joe Zmudka, 8330 Kinmore St., Dearborn Heights, Mich. 48127, phone (313) 278-0913.

CO. F, 172nd INF. REGT., 43rd INF. DIV.—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Guntersville, Ala. Contact Leonard Hall, 10 Circle G., Orange, Texas 77630, phone (409) 883-8291.

97th GENERAL HOSPITAL—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Bernard Ripple, 10 Gamewell Garth, Baltimore, Md. 21236, phone (301) 931-1621.

CO. D, 682nd ENGR. BN., 47th INF. DIV.—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Canton, Ohio. Contact E. Korman, 106 W. Hendrick St., Beckley, W.Va. 25801, phone (304) 253-0757.

788th MP BN., CO. D (WWII)—Oct. 18-19, 1991, Jamesville, Wis. Contact Dino Micheletto, 7841 S. Kenneth Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60652, phone (312) 581-0339.

4th ARMORED DIV., DIXIE CHAPTER (WWII)—Oct. 18-19, 1991, Clearwater, Fla. Contact George Graber, 1539 Belleair Rd., Clearwater, Fla. 34616.

328th INF. COMBAT TEAM (WWII)—Oct. 18-20, 1991, Chicopee, Mass. Contact Bob V. Clapp, 208 Aspinwall Ave., Brookline, Mass. 02146, phone (617) 566-7147.

532nd AMPHIB., ENGR. BOAT & SHORE REGT.—Oct. 18-20, 1991, Branson, Mo. Contact Harry Moyer, 312 Pine St., Homerville, Ga. 31634, phone (912) 487-5624.

3rd ARMORED CAVALRY REGT. COMPANIES G, I, and HOWITZER (Basic Training, 1953, Fort Pickett, Va.)—Oct. 18-20, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact Robert S. Wilson, 3001 NC 57, Hillsborough, N.C. 27278, phone (919) 732-2056.

280th FIELD ARTILLERY BN. (WWII)—Oct. 18-20, 1991, San Francisco, Calif. Contact Joe Re, 2128 16th Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94116, phone (415) 564-2851.

405th AAA GUN BN.—Oct. 19, 1991, Roanoke, Va. Contact Warren E. Dillard, 2033 10th St., NW, Roanoke, Va. 24012, phone (703) 366-3676.

1284th ENGR. COMBAT BN. (WWII)—Oct. 19, 1991, Bordentown, N.J. Contact Emilio Tirado, RR 1, Box 37A, New Egypt, N.J. 08533, phone (609) 758-8331.

260th CA(AA) DCNG—Oct. 19, 1991, Andrews AFB, Md. Contact E.W. Brizwndine, 4806 Wynconda Rd., Rockville, Md. 20852, phone (301) 770-7876.

101st MEDICAL REGT. and 121st MED. BN. AMERICAL DIV. (WWII)—Oct. 20-23, 1991. Contact William L. Dunphy, 247 Willow St., West Roxbury, Mass. 02132, phone (617) 323-2007.

BTRY. B, 534th AAA AW BN.—Oct. 22-24, 1991, Branson, Mo. Contact Albert H. Fischer, 2440 Allan Dr., Florissant, Mo. 63033, phone (314) 837-4004.

CID AGENTS ASSOC.—Oct. 23-27, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Bruce Howell, 118 N. Cherry St., Olathe, Kan. 66061, phone (913) 782-3134.

2nd ARMORED DIV.—Oct. 23-27, 1991, Louisville, Ky. Contact Loren, 8053 Highpoint Blvd., Brooksville, Fla. 34613.

505th MILITARY POLICE—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Natick, Mass. Contact Vincent Petringa, 55 Bradshaw St., Medford, Mass. 02155-4846.

802nd T.D. BN.—Oct. 25-27, 1991, Daytona Beach, Fla. Contact T. McCutchon, 428 White Rd., Mineola, N.Y. 11501, phone (516) 747-4599.

124th CAVALRY ASSOC.—Oct. 25-27, 1991, Brownsville, Texas. Contact Emil E. Kovalcik, 4810 Knickerbocker, Houston, Texas. 77035, phone (713) 723-0370.

COMPANIES A and E, 1/502nd AIRBORNE INF., 101st AIRBORNE DIV. (1967-68, Vietnam) and HQ. BN., 94th FIELD ARTY. (1970-71, Vietnam)—Oct. 25-27, 1991, Denver, Colo. Contact Shannon Deerman, phone (303) 646-0441.

137th ORDNANCE CO. (HMFA)—Oct. 26-27, 1991, Savannah, Ga. Contact Ben Heaton, 221 Evelyn St., Marietta, Ga. 30060, phone (404) 427-1939.

NAVY

USS CHICKASAW (ATF-83)—Oct. 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Robert W. Hartley, P.O. Box 464, Wellington, Kan. 67152.

USS PHAON (ARB-3)—Oct. 1991, Ormond Beach, Fla. Contact Lee Kupferburg, 161 Willow Run, Ormond Beach, Fla. 32074, phone (904) 677-3992.

USS CANFIELD (DE-262)—Oct. 3-6, 1991, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact Dutch Detwiler, Sr., Box O, La Plata, Md. 20646, phone (301) 934-9167.

88th CONST. BN. (SEABEES)—Oct. 3-6, 1991, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Clem Hohnhorst, 1708 First Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45205, phone (513) 471-0694.

USS BERGALL (SS-320)—Oct. 4, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Carl Weber, 15 March St., Nashua, N.H. 03060, phone (603) 888-2675.

USS MICKA (DE-176)—Oct. 4-5, 1991, Springfield, Ill. Contact Franklin O. Bennett, 408 Jackson St., Washington, Ill. 61571, phone (309) 444-3365.

USS ACREE (DE-167)—Oct. 4-6, 1991. Contact Norman Richardson, 2704 Datura St., Sarasota, Fla. 34239, phone (813) 953-7669.

28th SPECIAL NAVAL CONST. BN. (SEABEES)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Dallas, Texas. Contact Jimmy Hopkins, 13776 Keno-Worden Rd., Klamath Falls, Ore. 97603, phone (503) 882-0897.

19th NCB (SEABEES)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Kiamesha Lake, N.Y. Contact H. McCallen, 97 L.P.C., Bronxville, N.Y. 10708.

USS ROE (DD-418)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Mystic, Conn. Contact Len Gordon, 241 Newman St., Metuchen, N.J. 08840, phone (908) 549-8664.

SQUADRONS VN-11, VN-12, VN-13, VN-14 and VN-15, NAS JACKSONVILLE (1941-44)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Gerald O. Lahay, 1493 Gladiolus Ave., Orange Park, Fla. 23451, phone (904) 264-6083.

USS STODDARD (DD-566)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact Pat Duncan, 2232 Glenco Terrace, Fort Worth, Texas 76110, phone (817) 923-9239.

USS CHARLES LAWRENCE (DE-53/APD-37)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact H.B. Cranford, 14547 Pebblewood Dr., North Potomac, Md. 20878-4313, phone (301) 762-3132.

COLORADO COLLEGE V-5/V-12 (NAVY AND MARINES)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Janet Karen, Colorado College, 14 East Cache La Poudre, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903, phone (719) 389-6775.

USS PURSUIT (AGS-17)—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact Frank Terne, 117 Princeton Rd., Somers Point, N.J. 08244, phone (609) 927-9431.

USS BENSON (DD-421)—Oct. 6-9, 1991, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Paul C. Yothers, 1301 Belle Dr., N. Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29582, phone (803) 272-2715.

USS AMYCUS (ARL-2)—Oct. 6-10, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact Wray A. White, 1427 Floribunda Ave., #201, Burlingame, Calif. 94010, phone (415) 348-2140.

USS GALVESTON (CLG-3), Oct. 6-10, 1991, Bahamas Reunion Cruise. Contact John Robertson, 6363 NW 6th Way, Suite 412, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla 33309, phone (800) 526-8550.

USS WALKE (DD-723)—Oct. 6-10, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Paul Bergeron, 963 D'Amato Dr., Covina, Calif. 91724, phone (818) 331-0256.

NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT #2 (WWII)—Oct. 7-9, 1991, Hot Springs, Ark. Contact Chuck Davison, 1122 Holmes Place, DeKalb, Ill. 60115, phone (815) 756-2618.

USS DRAYTON (DD_366)—Oct. 7-9, 1991. Contact Robert Foster, 619 N. Wheeler, Inverness, Fla. 32650, phone (904) 344-4464.

USS RADFORD (DD-446) (1942-44)—Oct. 8-10, 1991, Coshocton, Ohio. Contact Vane S. Scott, 132 W. Canal St., Newcomerstown, Ohio 43832, phone (614) 622-4447-work; (614) 498-8803-home.

USS STEVENS (DD-479) (WWII)—Oct. 8-10, 1991, Baton Rouge, La. Contact R.G. Bond, P.O. Box 25, Newark, Ohio 43055, phone (614) 345-1041.

USS BISCAYNE (AVP-11/AGC-18)—Oct. 8-11, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact William M. Lindsey, 510 Mountain Veiw, Lakeview, Ore. 97630, phone (503) 947-4801.

USS SABINE (AO-25)—Oct. 9-12, 1991, Sacramento, Calif. Contact Pete Tellers, 711 Southgate Rd., Sacramento, Calif. 95815, phone (916) 929-2848.

USS CONE (DD-866) (1945-82)—Oct. 9-12, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Roy M. Dozier, 1118 Madison St., Clarksville, Tenn. 37040, phone (615) 645-9937.

USS ALBANY (CA-123/CG-10)—Oct. 9-13, 1991, Cocoa Beach, Fla. Contact Allan Heide, 3269 Ewing Ave., N, Robbinsdale, Minn. 55422, phone (612) 521-2515.

USS GOSHEN (APA-108)—Oct. 9-13, 1991, Williamsburg, Va. Contact Pearl Davis, 1705 Garfield, Terre Haute, Ind. 47804, phone (812) 232-2127.

USS LEYTE (CV-23/CVA-32/CVS-32/AUT-32)—Oct. 10-12, 1991, Newport, R.I. Contact Edward C. Prunier, Rt. 1 Bay Path Rd., Box 457-A, Charlton, Mass. 01507, phone (508) 248-7265.

USS BEATTY (DD-756/DD-640)—Oct. 10-12, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact Andrew L. Johnson, 370 Furman Lane, Ladson, S.C. 29456, phone (803) 797-0441.

USS ALTAMAHA (CVE-18)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, San Diego, Calif. Contact Richard Cassell, 275 S. Worthington, #48, Spring Valley, Calif. 91977, phone (619) 267-3210.

SQUADRON VP-24, VA(HM)-13, VPHL-4, VPB-104—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Corpus Christi, Texas. Contact F.C. Kolda, 6938 Aswan Dr., Corpus Christi, Texas 78412, phone (512) 991-5703.

USS CANBERRA (CA-70/CAG-2)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact Paul D. McManuels, 317 Somerset Dr., Shermanstown, Pa. 17011, phone (717) 737-2516.

NATS Ferrying Wing, VRF-1, VRS-1 and ACU (1942-46)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact Will Carroll, 10715 Howerton Ave., Fairfax, Va. 22030, phone (703) 273-4194.

USS MORRIS (DD-417)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Pittsburg, Pa. Contact Tom Traweek, 100 E. Oceanview Ave., Suite 1003, Norfolk, Va. 23503, phone (804) 480-6647.

AROU 1 and 2 (WWII)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Valley Forge, Pa. Contact Rhesa Shaw, 101 Grove Street Extension, Sewickley, Pa. 15143, phone (412) 741-6228.

USS GRIDLEY (DD-380)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Francis Dermony, 5200 Paris Ave., New Orleans, La. 70122, phone (504) 283-5229.

CARRIER AIR GROUP THREE (1949-53)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Newport, R.I. Contact Dick Harris, 4 Burrows Dr., Rochester, N.Y. 14625, phone (716) 586-5871.

USS LST 279 (WWII, Korea)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Windsor Locks, Conn. Contact Edwin N. Lappen, 59 Brandywine Lane, Suffield, Conn. 06078, phone (203) 668-0036.

USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact Ronald Beck, 1995 E. Second St., Reno, Nev. 89502.

USS LSM 384/LSM GR 44—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Hyannis, Mass. Contact Paul Rendini, 48 Doonan St., Medford, Mass. 02155, phone (617) 395-5348.

USS FRED T. BERRY (DD/DDE-858)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact Denis Gordon, 319 East Main St., #L-7, Marlboro, Mass. 01752, phone (508) 485-7261.

USS KLEINSMITH (APD-134)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact F.E. (Mike) Johnson, 4868 Bonnie Branch Rd., Ellicott City, Md. 21043, phone (301) 744-5145.

USS COLONIAL (LSD-18)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Wichita, Kan. Contact Al Hybsha, P.O. Box 3272, Wichita, Kan. 67201, phone (316) 946-5864.

NAS NEW YORK—Oct. 10-14 1991, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Contact H.J. Marcus, P.O. Box 63-5141, Margate, Fla. 33063, phone (305) 473-8987.

USS INGERSOLL (DD-652)—Oct. 11-13, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Jerrell P. Childress, 3536 Blow Dr., Knoxville, Tenn. 37920, phone (615) 577-1463.

USS CORAL SEA (CV-43)—Oct. 11-13, 1991, Braintree, Mass. Contact Frank Cronin, 49 Newport Ave., Braintree, Mass. 02184, phone (617) 848-5038.

USS ROGERS (DD/DDR-876)—Oct. 11-13, 1991, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact George Eichenberg, 1157 East Miner Rd., Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124, phone (216) 442-5155.

USS ZELLARS (DD-777)—Oct. 11-13, 1991, South Padre Island, Texas. Contact Miles G. Wharfield, Rt. 2, Box 1258, LaFeria, Texas 78559, phone (512) 797-1355.

USS WILLIAM C. LAWE (DD-763)—Oct. 11-13, 1991, Fall River, Mass. Contact Owen O. Turner, 14 Gordon Terrace, Newton, Mass. 02158, phone (617) 969-8328.

USS ALNITAH (AK-127) (WWII)—Oct. 11-13, 1991. Contac Seay A. Sanders, 1325 St. Matthews Dr., Midwest City, Okla. 73110, phone (405) 732-5139.

USS HOLDER (DDE-819/DE-401)—Oct. 11-13, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact M. Bruce Rambo, 717 Canary Dr., Charleston, S.C. 29414-5454, phone (803) 556-0255.

USS LST 912—Oct. 11-13, 1991, Atlanta, Ga. Contact Charles L. Carnes, Chief Judge, State Court Bldg., Suite 216, Atlanta, Ga. 30303, phone (404) 730-4117.

NAS NOLA "LAKEFRONT"—Oct. 12, 1991. Contact E.M. St. Romain, 7511 Hansbrough Ave., New Orleans, La. 70127.

USS GEORGE (DE-697)—Oct. 12-13, 1991, Havana, Ill. Contact R.B. Hillyer, RR 2, Box 200, Havana, Ill 62644, phone (309) 543-4925.

USS LST 826 (1944-45)—Oct. 12-14, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Bill Hunter, P.O. Box 541, Wildwood, N.J. 08260, phone (609) 522-7440.

USS KALK (DD-611)—Oct. 12-15, 1991, Baton Rouge, La. Contact Ed Davis, 3625

Donaldson Dr., Baton Rouge, La. 70814, phone (504) 925-0304.

USS BALCH (DD-363) and USS PORTERFIELD (DD-682)—Oct. 12-18, 1991, Eureka, Calif. Contact Sam Thomas, 3571 Vista Grande, Shingle Springs, Calif. 95682.

NAVY ARMED GUARD VETERANS (WWII)—Oct. 13, 1991, San Francisco, Calif. Contact John Noyes, 4651 East 17th St., Tucson, Ariz. 85711, phone (602) 790-4229.

NAVY ARMED GUARD VETERANS (TIDEWATER CHAPTER)—Oct. 13-15, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact Robert Burrill, phone (804) 479-4608.

USS COLORADO ALUMNI ASSOC.—Oct. 13-17, 1991, Bahamas Reunion Cruise. Contact John Roberston, 6363 NW 6th Way, Suite 412, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33309, phone (800) 526-8550.

USS ALHENA (AKA-9)—Oct. 13-17, 1991, Bahamas Reunion Cruise. Contact John Roberston, 6363 NW 6th Way, Suite 412, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33309, phone (800) 526-8550.

USS BERMINGHAM (DE-530)—Oct. 15-17, 1991, Mystic, Conn. Contact Marty Conserva, 72 Wildrose Dr., Andover, Mass. 01810, phone (617) 470-1179.

USS HOUSTON (CA-30/CL-81)—Oct. 15-20, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact John Skarzenski, 4268 Palm Ave., #128, San Diego, Calif. 92154, phone (619) 690-5619.

USS LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD-729)—Oct. 16-20, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Glen Ingram, 203 Shadow Lane, Euless, Texas 76039, phone (817) 283-8294).

USS WILKES-BARRE (CL-103)—Oct. 17-19, 1991, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Gaylon (Pat) Patterson, 2642 Horseshoe Ridge, St. Charles, Mo. 63303, phone (314) 441-2863.

USS KADASHAN BAY (CVE-76) and SQUADRON VC-20—Oct. 17-19, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact Zachery Z. Zink, 602 Sunrise Dr., Clarkston, Wash. 99403, phone (509) 758-6253.

USS CALVERT (APA-32)—Oct. 17-19, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact John L. Cole, 506 Red Wing Ave., Kenyon, Minn. 55946, phone (507) 789-6344.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO NAVY ROTC CLASS, JUNE 1946—Oct. 17-19, 1991, Albuquerque, N.M. Contact Dick Primm, 3330 Knob Hill Court, Charlotte, N.C. 28210, phone (704) 553-0484.

USS WILKES (DD-441)—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Austin, Texas. Contact John R. Mercer, 2012 Dale Dr., Dupo, Ill. 62239-9717, phone (618) 286-4690.

MANICANI ISLAND ASSOC.—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact Ray Karl, 603 South Olds Blvd., Fairless Hills, Pa. 19030, phone (215) 945-3615.

USS BRAINE (DD-630)—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Baton Rouge, La. Contact Paul L. Conway, 41 Widgeon Place, St. Michaels, Md. 21663, phone (301) 745-3792.

USS RAMAPO (AO-12)—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Kansas City, Kan. Contact John J. Greenlee, 164 South 17 St., Kansas City, Kan. 66102, phone (913)-321-7467.

USS DAVIS (DD-395)—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact W.P. (Bill) Crewe, 961 Atlanta Circle, Seaford, Del. 19973, phone (302) 629-8668.

USS FREDERICK FUNSTON (APA-89)—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Williamsburg, Va. Contact Ted Thomas, 9745 Via Roma, Burbank, Calif. 91504, phone (818) 768-4852.

USS CABOT (CVL-28) (1943-57)—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Pensacola, Fla. Contact W.H. (Bill) Anderson, 430 Ft. Pickens, Pensacola, Fla. 32561, phone (904) 932-4151.

VP-VPB-122 PATROL BOMBING SQUADRON—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Chattanooga, Tenn. Contact John Chayka, P.O. Box 207, Bridgeport, Conn. 06601, phone (203) 366-0500.

VR-24 SQUADRON—Oct. 17-20, 1991, Hilton Head, S.C. Contact Pete Owen, 24633 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, Calif. 91302, phone (818) 348-4056.

USS ROCKY MOUNT (AGC-3)—Oct. 17-21, 1991, Omaha, Neb. Contact John E. Vreeland, 3710 Armstrong St., San Diego, Calif. 92111, phone (619) 277-0689.

USS MIAMI (CL-89)—Oct. 18-20, 1991, Miami Beach, Fla. Contact Betty Duff, 2200 Ocean Pines, Berlin, Md. 21811, phone (301) 641-8010.

USS BISMARCK SEA (CVE-95) and VC-86 SQUADRON—Oct. 19, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact jack Mal, 16750 Armstrong Woods Rd., Guerneville, Calif. 95446, phone (707) 869-3571.

USS GRIFFIN (AS-13)—Oct. 19-20, 1991. Contact Hugh Loveall, Rt. 1, Box 93, Arcadia, Mo. 63621.

USS PEIDMONT (AD-17)—Oct. 20-22, 1991. Contact John Geraghty, 181 Fox Glove Run, Toms River, N.J. 08755, phone (201) 341-0709.

USS PC 1130—Oct. 22-24, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Paul Emery, 2464 Clayward Dr., Burton, Mich. 48509, phone (313) 736-0812.

USS ST. LO (CVE-63) and VC-65 SQUADRON—Oct. 23-28, 1991, Seattle, Wash. Contact E.H. (Holly) Crawforth, 1910 Windsor Way, Reno, Nev. 89503, phone (702) 747-0884.

USS HOVEY (DMS-11/DD-208)—Oct. 23-27, 1991, San Francisco, Calif. Contact Dusty Hortman, 2827 Monarch St., San Diego, Calif. 92123, phone (619) 278-0965.

USS MEREDITH (DD-890)—Oct. 23-27, 1991, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact Joe Sufczynski, 812 Oakleigh Beach Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21222, phone (301) 477-5535.

SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA (Fla. Dept.)—Oct. 24-26, 1991, Springhill, Fla. Contact Wayne Snow, 1613 Larkin Rd., Springhill, Fla. 34608, phone (904) 686-2795.

USS GATLING (DD-671)—Oct. 24-26, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Ross P. Staples, 101 Norton Ave., Easton, Mass. 02375, phone (508) 238-3420.

NAVY COMMUNICATIONS UNIT #4 MARINES 2nd SEPARATE WIRE PATTON (Rendova-Munda, 1943-44)—Oct. 24-26, 1991, Seattle, Wash. Contact Edward R. Emanuel, 12629 54th Ave., NE, Marysville, Wash. 98270-9003, phone (206) 659-1345.

USS HILBERT (DE-742)—Oct/ 24-26, 1991, Long Beach, Calif. Contact Anne E. McCarthy, 26 Vernon St., Tewksbury, Mass. 01876, phone (508) 658-8894.

ANTISUBMARINE SQUARON NINE (VC-9) (WWII)—Oct. 24-26, 1991, Pensacola, Fla. Contact James W. Perkins, 10250 Valle Dr., Tampa, Fla. 33612, phone (813) 932-5172.

USS SHAMROCK BAY (CVE-84)—Oct. 24-26, 1991, Columbus, Ohio. Contact Fred H. Griggs, 1989 Dandy Rd., Dallas, Ga. 30132, phone (404) 445-4770.

USS EVERSOLE (DE-404)—Oct. 24-26, 1991, Orlando, Fla. Contact Walter Hendrickson, 99 Conover Ave., Nutley, N.J. 07110.

USS REID (DD-369)—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact W.J. (Bill) Alford, 4720 Estate Dr., Beaumont, Texas 77706.

USS FANSHAW BAY (CVE-70)—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Duane D. Iossi, 310 Edwards St., Ft. Collins, Colo. 80524, phone (303) 482-6237.

USS GRAYSON—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Baltimore, Md. Contact Harold R. Witmyer, 9017 Chesapeake Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21219, phone (301) 477-0288.

USS TAUSSIG (DD-746)—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Vincent Esposito, 7 Astronmy Lane, Levittown, N.Y. 11756, phone (516) 579-4449.

NATIONAL FLEET TUG SAILORS ASSOC.—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Santa Rosa, Calif. Contact George Kingston, 2148 Clubhouse Dr., Lillian, Ala. 36549, phone (205) 962-2171.

USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343)—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Jim Storms, 3029 Thrush Dr., Melbourne, Fla. 32935, phone (407) 254-9223.

USS BARNEY (DD-149)—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Jim Burke, 4 Overbrook Court, Ormond Beach, Fla. 32174-3923, phone (904) 673-3898.

NAVEL SECTION BASE (1942-44, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard)—Oct. 25-27, 1991, Morehead City, N.C. Contact Horace C. Morris, P.O. Box 898, Morehead City, N.C. 28557, phone (919) 726-2712.

USS RENSHAW (DD/DDE-499)—Oct. 25-27, 1991, Jersey City, N.J. Contact Harold Taylor, 190 Fairview Ave., Jersey City, N.J. 07304.

USS SUWANNEE (CVE-27)—Oct. 25, 1991, Bremerton, Wash. Contact Edward Reichenbach, 15022 47th Ave., E., Tacoma, Wash. 98446, phone (206) 537-3603.

USS HUDSON (DD-475)—Oct. 25-27, 1991, Boston, Mass. Contact Donald Morain, 4644 SE 19th, Del City, Okla. 73115, phone (405) 672-9240.

USS CONWAY (DD/DDE-507)—Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 1991, Savannah, Ga. Contact Coval K. Wild, 115 Vera St., Warwick, R.I. 02886, phone (401) 737-7786.

USS LAWS (DD-558)—Oct. 29-31, 1991, Treasure Island, Fla. Contact Dan Crum, Sr., 5300 18th St., No., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33714-2716, phone (813) 526-5773.

USS RANDOLPH (CV/CVA/CVS-15)—Oct. 29-Nov. 2, 1991, Indianapolis, Ind. Contact Walter T. Timmons, 785 Temple Ave., Orange City, Fla. 32763, phone (904) 775-3721.

USS SIERRA (AD-18)—Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Leo Bishop, 2508 Summerfield Dr., Sanford, N.C. 27330.

USS CHARLES CARROLL (APA-28)—Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact Milton C. Smith, 1818 Crescent Dr., St. Joseph, Mo. 64506, phone (816) 279-8728.

SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA ISLAND X6—Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1991, New Port Richey, Fla. Contact Fred Beake, 7,211 Edinburgh Way, Brooksville, Fla. 34643, phone (904) 596-1692.

USS BELL (DD-587)—Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 1991, Baton Rouge, La. Contact Ed Glenn, 1056 Gen. Geo. Patton Rd., Nashville, Tenn. 37221, phone (615) 646-3403.

AIR FORCE

314th BOMB WING ASSOC.—Oct. 2-5, 1991, Oklahoma City, Okla. Contact George E. Harrington, 3165 N. Atlantic Ave., #B409, Cocoa Beach, Fla. 32931, phone (407) 784-0342.

336th AIR SERVICE SQD., 5th ARMY AIR FORCE—Oct. 3-6, 1991, Pittsburgh, Pa. Contact Giles A. Lakeman, 555 Robert A. Taft Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45244, phone (513) 528-0618.

HOBB ARMY AIR BASE—Oct. 4-6, 1991, Hobbs, N.M. Contact HAAF Reunion Assoc., P.O. Box 84, Orting, Wash. 98360, phone (206) 893-2563.

100th AIR SERVICE SQD., 5th AIR FORCE—Oct. 6-8, 1991, Oshkosh, Wis. Contact Jim Bumgarner, 5124 Beech Dr., Indianapolis, Ind. 46254, phone (317) 291-1584.

LOX PLANT, MT. HOME AFB, IDAHO (1956-59)—Oct. 10, 1991, Phoenix, Ariz. Contact Billy L. Thompson, 4039 W. Palo Verde Dr., Phoenix, Ariz. 85019.

74th FIGHTER SQD., 23rd FG, 14th AIR FORCE (China, WWII)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. Contact Charlie Cook, 6305 N. Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577.

AIR COMMANDOS, 2nd and 3rd GROUPS (WWII)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact W. Robert Eason, 10031 Barnetts Ford Rd., Orange, Va. 22960, phone (703) 672-4074.

16th FIGHTER SQD., 51st FG, CATF, 14th AIR FORCE (China, WWII)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. Contact Bob Liles, 201 Manatee Rd., Winter Haven, Fla. 33884.

75th FIGHTER SQD., 23rd FG, CATF, 14th AIR FORCE (China, WWII)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. Contact Myron D. Levy, 11933, Claychester Dr., Des Peres, Mo. 63131.

76th FIGHTER SQD., 23rd FG, CATF, 14th AIR FORCE (China, WWII)—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. Contact William B. Evans, 1297 86th Terrace, N., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33701, phone (813) 576-3558.

45th AIR DEPOT GROUP—Oct. 10-13, 1991, Fayetteville, N.C. Contact Charles F. Guemelata, 119 Aigler Blvd., Bellevue, Ohio 44811, phone (419) 483-4371.

316th TROOP CARRIER SQD. (WWII)—Oct. 10-14, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Wally Crain, 314 Serenade, San Antonio, Texas 78216.

467th BOMB GROUP (Rockheath, England, 1944-45)—Oct. 12-16, 1991, Tucson, Ariz. Contact Ralph Elliott, 6000 W. Rafter Circle, Tucson, Ariz. 85713.

KINGMAN ARMY AIR FIELD—Oct. 15-17, 1991, Kingman, Ariz. Contact KAAF Reunion Committee, P.O. Box 1158, Kingman, Ariz. 86402, phone (800) 325-5223)

4th RECON BN.—Oct. 15-18, 1991, Laughlin, Nev. Contact Don Worrall, 715 N. 23rd St., Copperas Cove, Texas 76522, phone (817) 547-1691.

22nd BOMB SQD., 341st BOMB GROUP(M) (CBI, WWII)—Oct. 17-19, 1991, Kansas City, Mo. Contact Dave Hayward, 6552 Crista Palma Dr., Huntington Beach, Calif. 92647, phone (714) 842-8478.

17th BOMB GROUP ASSOC.—Oct. 17-19, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Vic Duvic, 1735 Wilhurst St., Jackson, Miss. 39211, phone (601) 362-3056.

27th BOMB GROUP (L) (WWII)—Oct. 17-19, 1991, Savannah, Ga. Contact Paul H. Lankford, 105 Hummingbird Dr., Maryville, Tenn. 37801, phone (615) 982-1189.

450th BOMB GROUP (WWII)—Oct. 17-20, 1991, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Doid K. Raab, 5695 Ireland Rd., NE, Lancaster, Ohio 43130, phone (614) 536-7635.

390th BOMB GROUP, 8th AIR FORCE (WWII)—Oct. 23-26, 1991, Tucson, Ariz. Contact Bob Waltz, phone (602) 996-5105; or Al Buehler, phone (602) 577-3909.

8th FIGHTER GROUP, 5th AIR FORCE (WWII)—Oct. 24-26, 1991, Tampa, Fla. Contact Bob (Spider) Davis, 8726 Elmwood Lane, Tampa, Fla. 33615, phone (813) 886-1396.

464th AIR SERVICE GROUP and 442nd TC GROUP (WWII)—Oct. 24-26, 1991, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Eldon R. Hoffeditz, 605 S. 20th St., Belleville, Ill. 62223, phone (618) 235-5089.

367th FIGHTER GROUP, 9th AIR FORCE (WWII)—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Memphis, Tenn. Contact Allen J. Diefendorf, 25985 Holly Vista, San Bernardino, Calif. 92404.

7th PHOTO RECON. GROUP (325th WING, MOUNT FARM & HIGH WYCOMBE, ENGLAND)—Oct. 24-27, 1991, Orlando, Fla. Contact George Lawson, 4390 14th St., NE, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33703, phone (813) 526-8480.

13th AIR SQD. ASSOC., 5th AIR FORCE (WWII)—Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 1991, Springfield, Mo. Contact Vernon J. Main, Jr., 1024 Harding Dr., New Orleans, La. 70119, phone (504) 488-4848.

LUKE FIELD, CLASS 41H—Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1991, Phoenix, Ariz. Contact Ray Tanner, 2143 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix, Ariz. 85015.

457th BOMB GROUP (WWII)—Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1991, Gulf Shores, Ala. Contact Homer Briggs, 811 NW B St., Bentonville, Ark. 72712, phone (505) 273-3908.

PILOT CLASS 43-E ASSOC.—Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 1991, Tucson, Ariz. Contact Don Conner, P.O. Box 14572, North Palm Beach, Fla. 33408-0572, phone (407) 622-6852.

MARINE CORPS

2nd AIRDROME, 17th AA BN. (1942-45)—Oct. 2-4, 1991, Milwaukee, Wis. Contact Lynn Hobson, Jr., 10214 Ney St., Houston, Texas 77034.

1st MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (Vietnam)—Oct. 11-14, 1991, San Diego, Calif. Contact Rob Waters, P.O. Box 7240, Freeport, N.Y. 11520, phone (718) 990-0741.

141-0 BAM (WWII)—Oct. 18-20, 1991, Atlantic City, N.J. Contact J.B. Kip, RFD 1, Dutchlane Rd., Freehold, N.J. 07728, phone (908) 462-5572.

inquiries...

This column is devoted to all personal inquiries submitted by DAV members and other interested persons. Your request will be processed through various computer lists in an effort to find the person you are attempting to locate. Requests to locate persons to Substantiate a Claim will be published if all computer attempts have failed. Thank you ... the Editors.

To Substantiate Claims...

32nd DIV., 126th INF., CO. A, (Sasebo, Oct. 1945)--Charlie F. Thompson, 7 Shelton Rd., Hampton, Va. 23663, needs to hear from anyone who was transferred Feb. 1946 to 579th MP BN. by way of Hiroshima to substantiate his claim for radiation exposure.

8th DIV., 28th INF., CO. K--Junior T.L. Rose, Star Route, Box 8, Graysville, Tenn. 37338, needs to hear from anyone who remembers him spending 32 days in U.S. Army hospital in Belgium, 1944, for back injury received in Colon, Germany.

Taps Tapes

DAV Chapters and veterans' groups needing "Taps" recordings for memorial services and military funerals can obtain cassette tapes from DAVer George Gregory of Pontiac, Mich.

Gregory has two such tapes available. One is the traditional Army bugler playing "Taps," and the other is a recording of the "Taps" and firing squad at the funeral of President John F. Kennedy. There is no specific charge for the tapes, although contributions are recommended to help pay for the costs of the tapes and mailing. Write: George Gregory, 2985 Nightingale, Rochester Hills, Mich. 48309.

DAV life membership means permanent might in the fight for your rights!



$20 DISCOUNT on DAV life membership!

YES! Count me in as a DAV life member today!

Breakdown on Life Membership Dues

	regular cost	*discount cost*
Age 40 and under . .	~~$150~~	#130
Age 41-60	~~$125~~	#105
Age 61-70	~~$100~~	#80
Age 71 and over . . .	~~$75~~	#55

Mail to:

Membership Department
Disabled American Veterans
P.O. Box 145550
Cincinnati, OH 45250-5550

_____
last name first name middle initial

_____
street address

_____
city state zip

_____
date of birth

_____
DAV membership number (it's above your name on the back cover)

military service from _____ to _____

___My check for my full life membership dues is enclosed.

___A partial payment of my life membership dues is enclosed. Bill me for the rest in quarterly installments over 3 years.

___No down payment sounds great. Bill me in quarterly installments over 3 years. **Offer for current DAV annual members only!**

Life membership sends a message to Congress, the White House, and the federal bureaucracy:

The organization that represents *you* is strong. And you build permanent DAV strength when you make a life-long commitment to membership.

Four out of every five DAV members have already bolstered DAV clout in Washington by signing up as life members.

Do you belong to that elite corps? If not, now's the time to add muscle to the DAV message by switching to life membership.

Do it right away, and you'll get a big *$20 discount!* That's a great offer but it won't last forever.

No down payment. Just fill out the form above and send it to the address indicated.

Under an *easy-payment plan,* you get three years to pay off your life membership dues. That makes your quarterly installments remarkably affordable.

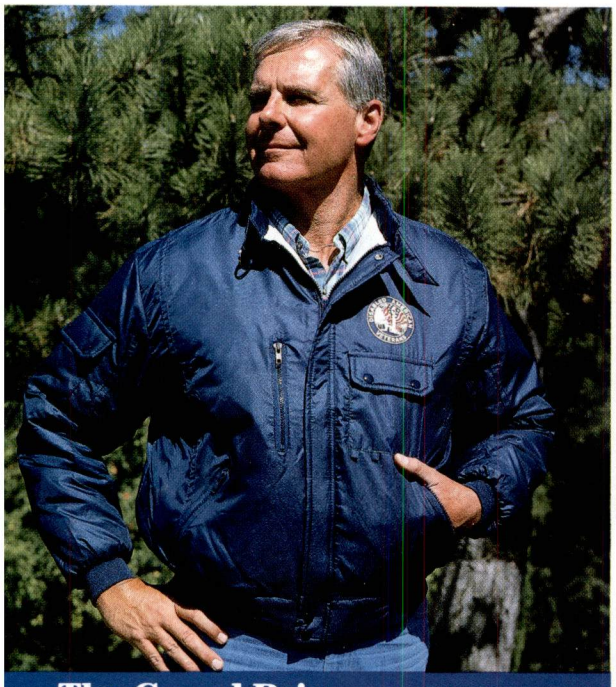
To see what we mean, check the life dues for a vet your age on the form above. Then, divide by twelve.

Once payments are completed, your DAV dues are paid for life.

More important, **you'll know you did your part to make DAV strength a lasting factor in the struggle to defend and improve the benefits you earned.**

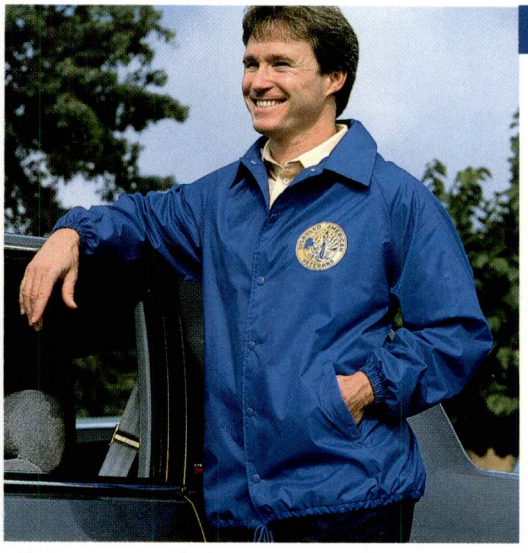
Stylish DAV jackets for your cool weather comfort

and the prices are right!



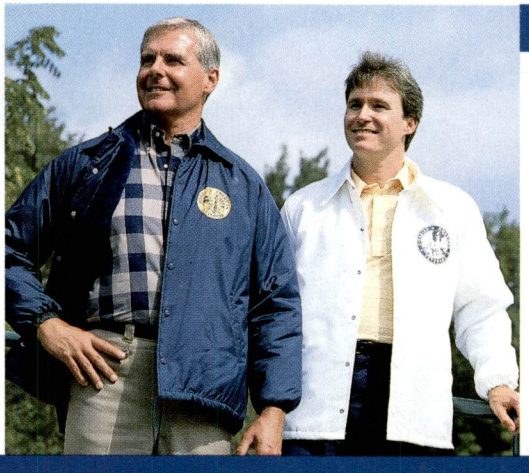
The Grand Prix

The newest addition to the DAV's jacket line! And the sharpest! The Grand Prix is made in the U.S.A. of nylon with quilt lining for winter wear. Snappy touches include stand-up collar, flap pockets on chest and sleeve, zipper closures with fly front, zipper pockets, knit cuffs and waistband, pitt pass loops on breast pocket. Navy blue only.



The Classic

For cooler days in spring and fall, the flannel-lined Classic is just the thing! Nylon shell, snap-button front, raglan sleeves, elastic cuffs, draw-string waist. Made in the U.S.A., it's fully washable. Royal blue only.



The Traditional

An all-time DAV favorite, the comfy pile-lined Traditional comes in blue or white! They're made of nylon in the U.S.A. for easy care—fully washable, no dry cleaning. Stylish slash pockets, snap button front, elastic cuffs and raglan sleeves.

ORDER FORM

Grand Prix

44159 — Small (34-36)	$42	quantity	$
44160 — Medium (38-40)	$42	quantity	$
44161 — Large (42-44)	$42	quantity	$
44162 — X-Large (46-48)	$42	quantity	$
44163 — XX-Large (50-52)	$42	quantity	$
44164 — XXX-Large (54-56)	$42	quantity	$
44165 — XXXX-Large (58-60)	$42	quantity	$

White Traditional

44065 — Small (34-36)	$30	quantity	$
44066 — Medium (38-40)	$30	quantity	$
44067 — Large (42-44)	$30	quantity	$
44068 — X-Large (46-48)	$30	quantity	$
44069 — XX-Large (50-52)	$30	quantity	$
44070 — XXX-Large (54-56)	$30	quantity	$
44071 — XXXX-Large (58-60)	$30	quantity	$

Blue Traditional

44072 — Small (34-36)	$30	quantity	$
44073 — Medium (38-40)	$30	quantity	$
44074 — Large (42-44)	$30	quantity	$
44075 — X-Large (46-48)	$30	quantity	$
44076 — XX-Large (50-52)	$30	quantity	$
44077 — XXX-Large (54-56)	$30	quantity	$
44078 — XXXX-Large (58-60)	$30	quantity	$

The Classic

44061 — Small (34-36)	$20	quantity	$
44062 — Medium (38-40)	$20	quantity	$
44063 — Large (42-44)	$20	quantity	$
44064 — X-Large (46-48)	$20	quantity	$
44143 — XX-Large (50-52)	$20	quantity	$
44144 — XXX-Large (54-56)	$20	quantity	$
44145 — XXXX-Large (58-60)	$20	quantity	$

Total Enclosed $ _____

Mail to: Supply Department
DAV National Headquarters
P.O. Box 14301
Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301

Check or money order only.

Please allow three to four weeks for delivery.

All prices include shipping and handling.

☐ Check here to receive the the DAV's latest catalog of fraternal items

Ship to:

name _____

street _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

Voluntary Services: "People Working With People"

DAV IN ACTION
Voluntary Services

The Voluntary Services Department is considered the "people department" by DAV staff. With such programs as the "Celebrity Visitation Program," the "DAV Transportation Program," the "Winter Sports Clinic" and the "Amputee Golf First Swing Program," the Voluntary Services Department puts people up front, relying more on people and their human qualities rather than on financial resources.

"What we do is fill a need that all the money in the world cannot fill. That's a need that's filled by people volunteering themselves to veterans," said Bruce Nitsche, Director of DAV Voluntary Services.

One need the Voluntary Services Department fills is transporting veterans to and from VA medical centers. Last year, DAV volunteer drivers put in almost 12.5 million miles, transporting over 262,000 veterans to and from VA hospitals.

"Those volunteers make it possible for many veterans to receive VA medical care. You can have the best doctors in the VA, but they can't help the veteran if he or she cannot get to the hospital to receive it. Also, our volunteers bring a touch of home to the hospitals," Nitsche said.

Nitsche noted that the DAV has provided more volunteers—8,387—and more volunteer visits—322,564—than any other veterans' service organization. He added that DAV and Auxiliary volunteers contributed over 2.3 million hours on the road and at VA hospitals in fiscal year 1990.

"We're looking at the equivalent of over 1,100 additional fulltime VA employees and a savings of about $30 million over the year," said Nitsche, referring to the cost-effectiveness of DAV voluteers. He added that the DAV, through Voluntary Services, has donated over 200 vans at a cost of over $3.25 million, to VA medical centers nationwide.

Another Voluntary Services program is the DAV's Celebrity Visitation Program. DAV sponsored celebrities who visit veterans in VA hospitals include actor Kevin Dobson, entertainer Ann Jillian, and Country Western artist Lee Greenwood. Sports figures participating in the program include National League Umpire Eddie Montague and American League Umpire Larry Barnett.

Expanding its celebrity-visitation efforts, the DAV and the USO have initiated a joint program called "Operation Open Arms," which features such celebrities as performing artists Randy Travis, Alan Jackson and Riders in the Sky.

"The purpose of the program is to raise the morale of veterans going through hospital treatment and rehabilitation," said Nitsche. He added, "These visits, by raising the veterans' spirits, actually enhance their healing process. Also, many people who have just become disabled may feel awkward about meeting new people. These celebrity visits help them break through that process. Also, through these celebrities we're saying we haven't forgotten about you."

In a related Voluntary Services program, the DAV with Warner Brothers has produced a veterans information tape. Included on the tape are selections by various Country Western artists, and information about DAV services. As part of the program, 200 Sony Walkmen have been donated to Persian Gulf War service men and women in military hospitals.

Other Voluntary Services "people" programs include its Winter Sports Clinic for



As part of the joint DAV-USO "Operation Open Arms" program, recording artists Alan Jackson (right) and Randy Travis (center) meet with a Persian Gulf War veteran at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

disabled veterans and its Amputee Golf Program. When asked the benefits of those programs to disabled veterans, Nitsche said: "It's more of an attitude that they're getting. Sports is a way of showing them that they can leap hurdles that they may have thought not possible. By jumping those hurdles they regain lost self-confidence and a renewed energy for life. They believe in themselves and reach for their full potential. The program also shows the public who a disabled veteran is. He or she may do things differently, but they do it."

Older veterans are also recipients of DAV Voluntary Services programs. The DAV's "Older Veterans Assistance Program," for example, helps older veterans continue living an independent lifestyle through DAV volunteers helping them shop or get to and from their physicians' offices and social appointments.

Deceased veterans and their families and friends are also concerns of the Voluntary Services Department. Through Departments and Chapters, National Commander Joseph Andry has asked DAV members across the country to help purchase needed equipment at national cemeteries (see "DAV Launches Twofold Effort To Restore National Cemeteries," p. 16). Chapters will receive lists of equipment needed by their nearest national cemetery.

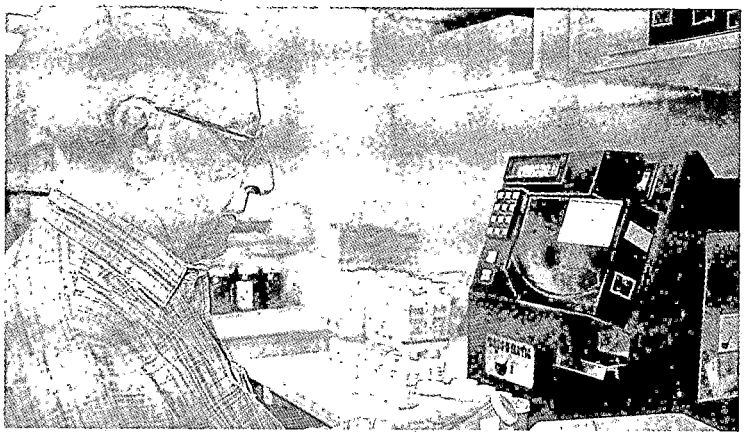
"We're hoping through our chapters' efforts that the Department of Veterans Affairs will be able to ensure veterans' survivors that their loved ones will rest in dignity," said Nitsche.

Such activities keep Voluntary Services Director Nitsche on the move. When not meeting with celebrity volunteers, Nitsche may be found with leaders of corporations like Sony, constantly striving to get more public and corporate awareness of DAV's Voluntary Services programs.

Commenting on the success of DAV volunteer programs, Nitsche concluded, "The growth has been phenomenal. We're the largest contributor of volunteers and volunteer hours to the VA's 172 hospitals around the country. We're not the biggest organization, but we have the biggest heart. Our volunteers, more than anyone else, recognize the sacrifices that veterans have made."

Below, the Sony Corporation donated 200 "Walkman" personal radio/casettes to the DAV Voluntary Services Department for distribution to and use by hospitalized Operation Desert Storm veterans. Innovative partnerships with both the private sector and other nonprofit groups has helped garner the DAV national recognition for its volunteer programs.





DAV volunteers perform a variety of tasks at VA medical facilities. In the photo at left is volunteer Robert Egloff, who serves at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minn. Below, helping a patient in a wheelchair are, from left, Burton J. Buck, a medical clerk and John Ashley, a radiology escort at the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.



DAV IN ACTION

Membership

A soldier wounded in the Persian Gulf War lays in a military hospital bed...lonely and worried...unable to predict what kind of life faces him now that he's a disabled veteran. As questions swirl through his mind, someone enters the room, introducing himself as a DAV National Service Officer (NSO).

Explaining that he's a disabled veteran himself, the NSO offers the young soldier any assistance he might need in obtaining VA disability compensation or other benefits he may have earned. He spells out how the DAV represents disabled veterans before Congress, the White House and the various agencies of the federal government.

Along the way, much of the uncertainty slips out of the wounded soldier's mind. Then the NSO offers the young soldier a free year of membership in the DAV, welcoming him into a fellowship through which disabled veterans extend the hand of hope to one another.

That scene has been repeated many times during the past several months—and is shown this month on the cover of the magazine—as DAV NSOs made contact with veterans disabled in the Gulf War. It was all part of the DAV's membership program which finds its focal point in the National Membership Department at DAV National Headquarters in Cincinnati.

"Most of the time, our work isn't as touching as that moment when someone from the DAV makes contact with a newly disabled veteran," said National Membership Director Charles D. Luttjohann. "But the same concern for our fellow veterans is the foundation of all the Membership Department's activities, even the most routine."

Luttjohann sees several reasons why the DAV needs the backing of a large, vocal and strong membership. However, he believes numerical strength is most important when the DAV represents disabled veterans before Congress, the White House and other elements of the federal government.

"Let's face it," he said, "Washington is a political city. And whenever you have politics, membership numbers influence the amount of attention any organization can demand.

"It's crucial to take that fact seriously in the environment we face in Washington today. The competition for federal dollars is fierce, and the number of organizations involved in that competition grows constantly.

"Many of our elected leaders will listen to the DAV based on the simple justice of our cause. For this reason, several have become champions of our cause. When we're dealing with many other members of Congress, though, it's not enough to hold the moral high ground.

"We often have to use our membership strength to pry open doors in our nation's capital. If we don't, we risk getting lost in the crowd of organizations struggling to get into the Congressional offices.

"Membership strength can be particularly important when we're trying to gain the attention of a Congressman or Senator who occupies a key position of power. These elected leaders have a constant stream of people knocking at their doors."

In its efforts to help the DAV build the necessary numerical strength, the National Membership Department provides a variety of services. Perhaps its most visible function involves membership mailings.

Luttjohann estimates that more than three quarters of the DAV's members originally signed up as the result of recruiting mailings from National Headquarters. With half of all eligible veterans already in the DAV's ranks, those mailings have obviously been successful.

More testimony to the effectiveness of DAV mailings comes from the fact that 80 percent of the DAV is made up of life members, most of whom made the life commitment as a result of letters from National Headquarters.



Membership man Delbert Nelson signs up still another new member.

Regardless of the DAV's successes, however, those eligible veterans who remain outside the DAV have become more and more resistant to mailed appeals as the years have gone by.

"We've been writing to many of those veterans for decades," Luttjohann explained, "and they still haven't signed up. Some of them will never respond to a letter, no matter how often we write. That's why we place so much emphasis on the personal recruiting efforts of individual members, DAV NSOs and hospital service coordinators (HSCs).

"Nothing does the recruiting job better than face-to-face contact. If that can't be done, a telephone call from a local DAV member can be almost as meaningful. That personal interaction tells the eligible veteran something important about how the DAV feels about him or her.

"It says we care about that veteran as an individual. It says that each veteran's membership is important to the DAV. Further, because this kind of contact takes place on the local level, it gives the prospective DAV member a point of contact with the organization, making him feel he's part of something that reaches into his or her own community."

That point of contact can be important when a veteran needs assistance from the DAV. Many chapters provide transportation to veterans who don't have a ride to VA facilities for treatment.

Many pitch in with a wide variety of services—including such things as food, housing and financial assistance—to less fortunate veterans and their families in the communities they serve. Those veterans and families might be facing homelessness, the aftermath of natural disasters, and other kinds of emergencies.

Several chapters support or operate programs that provide meals to elderly or indigent veterans. They also help veterans who are having trouble with the federal bureaucracy, getting them to a DAV NSO for assistance.

On an informal basis, some even help veterans find jobs. Also in an informal, but quite important way, Chapter activities bring together veterans who have similar problems and interests. Such interaction can prove essential in the readjustment of the veterans served by the DAV.

Because that personal contact is so important, the National Membership Department's staff devotes so much time to encouraging individual recruiting and other forms of DAV contact with veterans at the local level.

Luttjohann pointed out that any DAV or Auxiliary member can get involved in recruiting. They need only write to Membership Department, DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, OH 45250-5550.

"We'll send you everything you need to get started," Luttjohann promised. "We'll jump right on it, shipping you a package that includes brochures, application blanks, and a list of people in your neighborhood who are eligible for membership. You'll even get phone numbers when we have them on file."

As part of the DAV's drive to encourage individual activity, the Membership Department has mounted some large-scale recruiting drives. Right now, the organization is offering some very nice incentives to reward recruiting activities.

Awards include some fashionable clothing items, displaying the DAV emblem. The top award, given to anyone who recruits at least 50 members between July 1, 1990, and June 30, 1991, is a beautiful, gold-filled watch with the DAV emblem on the face.

Vocational Rehabilitation—Then and Now

The term "vocational rehabilitation" means training (including educational and vocational counseling, all appropriate individualized tutorial assistance, and other necessary incidental services) for the purpose of restoring employability, to the extent possible, because of a disability.

It is important to remember the Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle that this nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled. For this reason, the DAV is greatly concerned with the future of this invaluable VA program.

Modern vocational rehabilitation training can be traced to World War I with passage of Public Law 65-90. Of the 339,000 eligible veterans' applications received at that time, 179,000 veterans were placed in training. In 1930, the federal government consolidated several agencies dealing with veterans into the Veterans Administration, including vocational schools maintained by the Veterans Bureau. By 1943, $644 million had been disbursed for vocational rehabilitation.

Also in 1943, the passage of Public Law 16 of the 78th Congress provided additional vocational rehabilitation benefits. The purpose of the law, which has become the cornerstone of the definition of vocational rehabilitation for the VA, was to restore employability lost by virtue of a handicap due to service-connected disability.

Approximately 621,000 disabled veterans received vocational rehabilitation training after World War II. Extensions to Public Law 16 in 1950 provided vocational rehabilitation benefits to about 77,000 disabled veterans of the Korean War.

Vocational rehabilitation was modified again in 1962 by passage of Public Law 87-815. Peacetime veterans who served between World War II, Korea and after, were then able to receive vocational rehabilitation if their disability was rated at 30 percent or more. Approximately 26,000 disabled veterans received post-Korea vocational rehabilitation.

Vietnam veterans received benefits until December 1974 when Public Law 93-508 liberalized eligibility and vocational rehabilitation programs were updated again. This liberalization provided eligibility for vocational rehabilitation to certain disabled veterans with only a 10 percent or more service-connected disability. Approximately 209,000 disabled veterans utilized this program from 1974 to date. Further improvements were made by Public Law 96-466 which expanded benefits to include assistance in job placement and employment.

Then, after years of expansion of vocational rehabilitation entitlements, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 curtailed eligibility by increasing the percent of service-connected disability required. This means that over 870,000 potentially eligible service-connected disabled veterans will no longer be able to utilize this program. Additionally, the Administration's budget request for Fiscal Year 1992 would further restrict eligibility back to pre-1974 requirements.

Historically, it has been proven that vocational rehabilitation is a successful program by putting over 1.1 million veterans back to work.

Historically, it has been proven that vocational rehabilitation is a successful program by putting over 1.1 million veterans back to work. For instance, the findings of a study done by the VA in 1987 revealed the average annual salary of selected veterans prior to vocational rehabilitation was $2,687. After rehabilitation, their average annual earnings were $15,047, an increase of 560 percent.

In addition, the study found a direct monetary benefit to state and federal governments in the form of taxes paid by veterans. For instance:

- state tax revenues rose from over $375,000 to more than $2 million, an increase of 577 percent;
- Social Security taxes paid rose from over $485,000 to more than $2 million, an increase of 560 percent; and
- federal tax revenues rose from over $580,000 to more than $4 million, an increase of 707 percent.

Currently, veterans who served in the Armed Forces on or after September 16, 1940, or thereafter may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation if all of the following are met:

1. They suffered a service-connected disability in active service which entitles them to at least 20 percent disability compensation, or would, but for the receipt of retirement pay;
2. They were discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions; and
3. The VA determines that they need vocational rehabilitation to overcome their disabilities.

Disabled veterans must complete a rehabilitation program within 12 years from the date the VA notifies him or her of entitlement to compensation. *This period may be extended if a medical condition prevents the veteran from completing training or has a serious employment handicap.*

Rehabilitation services may continue for up to four years using full or part-time training or a combination of both. Eligible veterans may enroll in schools, train on-the-job, or enter other programs which combine school and job training. Following training, employment services are offered for up to 18 months.

While training and for two months after the veteran's employability is determined, each veteran will be paid a monthly subsistence allowance. In addition, the VA will assume the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment and other charges for training.

According to National Service Director Arthur H. Wilson, vocational rehabilitation is one of the single most beneficial entitlement programs the VA has. "It's been cost-effective and very successful," said Wilson. "It's unfortunate that the Budget Act has made eligibility more difficult. Therefore, we'll do what we can to convince the leaders on Capitol Hill to reconsider their decision to restrict eligibility requirements for vocational rehabilitation programs."

In the meantime, if you believe you may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation, you only need to contact the nearest DAV National Service Office for information and assistance.

(Continued from page 16)
meeting with OMB that national cemeteries were truly becoming a disgrace and creating a public relations nightmare for the VA and the Administration.

The Riverside situation, NCS officials said, occurred because the cemetery couldn't afford to repair the equipment used to prepare the earth properly following each interment. The situation was compounded by the fact that they had no money to fertilize, weed, water and generally maintain the gravesites.

To correct the problems at Riverside, the VA was forced to use $300,000 in emergency funding snared from other VA budget areas. The work, which is about 50 percent completed, began in late March. NCS officials say they will use any additional monies they receive to spruce up other national cemeteries in time for this year's Fourth of July Operation Desert Storm Homecoming celebrations.

DAV's Associate National Legislative Director Bruce Burgess, during April testimony concerning operation of the NCS before the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, told Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Harley Staggers (D-W.Va.) that members of the DAV had also seen the color photos of Riverside National Cemetery.

"Frankly, the color we see is *red*," Burgess said. "One cannot help but get angry gazing on the grassless cemetery that is pockmarked by small craters produced by shifting, sinking earth and maintenance vehicles, highlighted by grave markers that are all but disappearing into a chasm of red mud. These conditions are truly shameful."

Burgess also told the subcommittee that nationally from 1984 to 1992, interment and gravesite maintenance workloads will have increased by 36.1 percent and 24.8 percent respectively, while the number of wage grade employees required to handle this workload will have declined by 5.4 percent during the same period. Additionally, interments have already gone from 47,201 in 1984 to 61,372 last year and will rise to 64,000 next year followed by a rapid

(Continued on page 26)

Defense Department Briefs DAV on POW/MIA Full-Accounting Plan

The Department of Defense (DoD) recently detailed its role in a new State Department plan designed to provide a full accounting of all 2,282 American POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War by the end of 1993.

In a special briefing to DAV Executive Director Jesse Brown in early April, Rear Adm. Michael A. McDevitt, Director of East Asia and the Pacific Region for DoD, said that his office will closely monitor five key areas in the State Department's four-phase proposal to normalize diplomatic and economic relations with Vietnam. While there has been no significant change in U.S. policy, McDevitt explained to Brown that the latest State Department proposal provides a "road map" to execute existing policy while establishing specific criteria to gauge the Vietnamese government's progress in resolving the POW/MIA issue.

Under the terms of the State Department proposal, McDevitt said the Pentagon will closely monitor provisions that would:

- Require the Vietnamese government to immediately release information on Americans "last known to be alive" in the region.
- Allow the U.S. to establish a "permanent technical presence" in Vietnam as soon as practical. Working out of an office located in Vietnam, U.S. officials could personally verify live-sighting reports and conduct their own independent investigations of refugee reports with the full assistance of the Vietnamese government, McDevitt said. During this time, McDevitt said a delegation of DAV members would be permitted to visit Vietnam along with select business groups and others from veterans' service organizations (VSOs).
- Require the Vietnamese to turn over all remains of U.S. service men and women as soon as possible. McDevitt said the Vietnamese may have "warehoused" or preserved, rather than buried, the remains of some 200 to 500 Americans throughout the country.
- Ensure that the Vietnamese dedicate the necessary resources to get a full accounting of all American POW/MIAs within 24 months.
- Require the Vietnamese government to use its "good offices" to work with the existing Cambodian government, or a newly-elected Cambodian government, to help resolve the American POW/MIA issue in Cambodia as well.

"This is our best opportunity in 15 years to finally resolve the American POW/MIA issue because we now have economic leverage," McDevitt said.

When asked if his office believed any American POW/MIAs were still alive in Vietnam, McDevitt said he "hasn't seen any evidence of live Americans, but we can't entirely rule it out."

Brown told McDevitt that the DAV "has always shown a great deal of interest in the POW/MIA issue and it is our genuine hope that this deeply emotional chapter in our nation's history will soon come to a close."

Whether the plan goes into effect depends largely on how the Vietnamese government responds to the State Department's proposal. According to news reports, Vietnamese government officials said their April 9 meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon was constructive but they hoped for a quicker end to the strained relations that continue nearly 16 years after the end of the Vietnam War.

The State Department plan Solomon presented to the Vietnamese, news reports said, outlined these four phases:

- Phase One would begin with the signing of the U.N.-approved international agreement on Cambodia and would involve the start of formal U.S. discussions with Vietnam on normalization. Also in this phase, the U.S. would begin approving travel to Vietnam by business groups and VSOs like the DAV.
- Phase Two would start with a ceasefire in the civil war and the establishment of a U.N. transitional presence in Cambodia, then a partial lifting of the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam and more extensive lifting of the U.S. trade embargo against Cambodia. This phase would also require more accounting by Vietnam for U.S. personnel listed as missing-in-action in the Vietnam War—an effort that Vietnam has been pursuing, though at a far slower rate than the U.S. government desires.
- Phase Three would begin after the U.N. process in Cambodia has lasted at least six months and after all Vietnamese troops and advisers are out of Cambodia. This phase would establish U.S. and Vietnamese diplomatic offices in Washington and Hanoi, lift the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam, and ease U.S. opposition to World Bank and other international lending to Vietnam. This phase would also depend on further progress in MIA accounting.
- Phase Four would allow U.N.-supervised elections and the seating of a new National Assembly in Cambodia, U.S. support for loans from international banks, and full normalization of U.S. diplomatic and economic relations with Vietnam and Cambodia.

With crises being resolved in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, Brown said the United States should reestablish diplomatic and economic relations with Vietnam. He made it clear, however, that the "question of full accountability for all American POWs and MIAs must first be resolved."

The Auxiliary view . . .



Gold Stars and Mother's Day

Myrtice R. Vinson
DAV National Auxiliary Commander
3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Ky. 41076

When I was just a small child, the world exploded into global conflict. The newspapers and radio broadcasts were filled with news of fighting in Europe, the Pacific, and elsewhere.

World events were far beyond the understanding of my very young mind. Yet, as I grew up in wartime America, many impressions from the World War II era were planted in my memory with vivid clarity.

I would be a teenager — perhaps even a young adult — before I could fully understand some of those images from my childhood. But I'm convinced those mental pictures played a powerful role in forming my character.

One of those memories involves the placards I saw in the windows of several homes in my neighborhood during World War II, placards that soberly displayed one or more gold stars. My family had a special feeling about the people who lived inside those homes, a feeling that combined great respect with sadness and sympathy.

I was told that each gold star represented someone from that home who had died in the war, usually a son or a daughter. And I learned to include those people in my thoughts each night as I said my evening prayers.

As a little girl, I couldn't really comprehend the loss those families had endured. But later, during the Vietnam War, I came to know more than I wanted to know about the meaning of their pain. I'll never forget the day we got the news that my sister's son, Ralls, had been killed in combat. It was so terrible.

As May begins, I think about my sister's grief and the sorrow of so many other mothers who sent their children off to war, never to see them alive again. Such thoughts come to me this month because we observe two special traditions in May—Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

For me, there's a relationship between these two days. Few know more about sacrifice than a mother who has lost a son or daughter to war. Just think about the depth of tragedy in her life.

Here is a woman who was asked to wait quietly at home as the child she raised marched off to answer the call of our country. And she did wait. She waited until that horrible day when war snuffed out the young man or woman she had nurtured through all the joys and trials of childhood.

Many of us in the Auxiliary know the heartache of seeing loved ones come home from war with broken bodies or wounded minds. Each of us has had her own ordeal in living with the conditions that a veteran's disability has brought into our lives. Often that ordeal has been a very hard one.

Many of us, too, have watched our veterans die an early death due to disabilities suffered in our armed forces. No one can say that the members of the DAV Auxiliary don't know the meaning of pain.

Yet, how many of us can truly understand the loss undergone by the Gold Star Mothers in our ranks — the total loss of a life we brought into the world.

Such understanding was beyond me when I sat by the side of my sister during the days, weeks and months following the death of her son in Vietnam. Certainly I felt intense pain for my sister. I felt my own grief for my nephew. But Ralls wasn't my son. And, when I looked into my sister's eyes, I was simply bewildered.

I'm convinced, however, that my presence during that terrible time meant something to my sister. And what I did for her is something that we in the DAV Auxiliary often do for one another. I was simply present for her...just as Auxiliary women have been present for one another for seven decades now.

Here, I believe, is one of the keys to the meaning of membership in our organization. We have had more than a passing acquaintance with suffering. Each of us has gained something through that encounter with pain. We gained strength that helps us move forward in our lives. We've also gained experience that we can share with one another. Such sharing is the deepest gift we give to one another in the DAV Auxiliary.

Remember to Join.

Help Yourself & Your Family!
Join the DAV Auxiliary!

You need the DAV Auxiliary if you're the wife or widow of a disabled vet. It's *your* voice...the voice of *your* family. Make that voice heard in the halls of Congress and the White House. Now. When decisions affecting your family's security hang in the balance.

We're women who've joined together because the families of disabled vets need each other. You need us. We need you. Your Auxiliary membership will mean so many things...to so many families. Use it to protect *your* family. **Send in the form below with your $10 dues today.** Membership is open to all women directly related to disabled veterans. Membership year runs from July 1 each year to June 30 of the following year.

Sign up in the DAV Auxiliary!

Name_____
Disabled vet's name_____
Your relationship to vet_____
Vet's DAV code number_____
(Copy from label on back cover)
Your address_____

SEND TO: DAV Auxiliary
3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076
ENCLOSE $10 DUES

Planning To Attend National Convention? Do Yourself a Big Favor!

"We're doing everything we can to make the upcoming national convention a terrific experience in every way!" said DAV National Commander Joseph E. Andry. "But there's nothing terrific about the prospect of waiting in a long line at the convention registration desk.

"If you're planning to participate in this annual gathering of the forces at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, July 27 to Aug. 1, you can help keep the lines short. Just get properly signed credentials from your DAV chapter or Auxiliary unit well in advance of your departure so you'll have them in hand to present at the registration desk."

While everyone attending the convention is encouraged to get credential forms as soon as possible, DAV chapters and Auxiliary units must send in a list of delegates and alternates prior to a deadline of June 14.

DAV Auxiliary National Commander Myrtice R. Vinson pointed out that it's very easy for DAV and Auxiliary members to get credentials. "You need only tell your chapter or unit that you want to be elected as a convention delegate or alternate, and you'll get the form you need following the election.

"Nearly all DAV chapters and Auxiliary units are entitled to more convention delegates than they ever send, so it's very unlikely you'll encounter any problems. Even if all the delegate positions are filled, there will almost certainly be plenty of alternate slots."

Samples of DAV and Auxiliary credential forms are pictured on this page. The DAV uses yellow forms for delegates, orange for alternates. The Auxiliary uses white forms for delegates, pink for alternates. In order to be official, credential forms must be signed by the appropriate chapter or unit leaders.

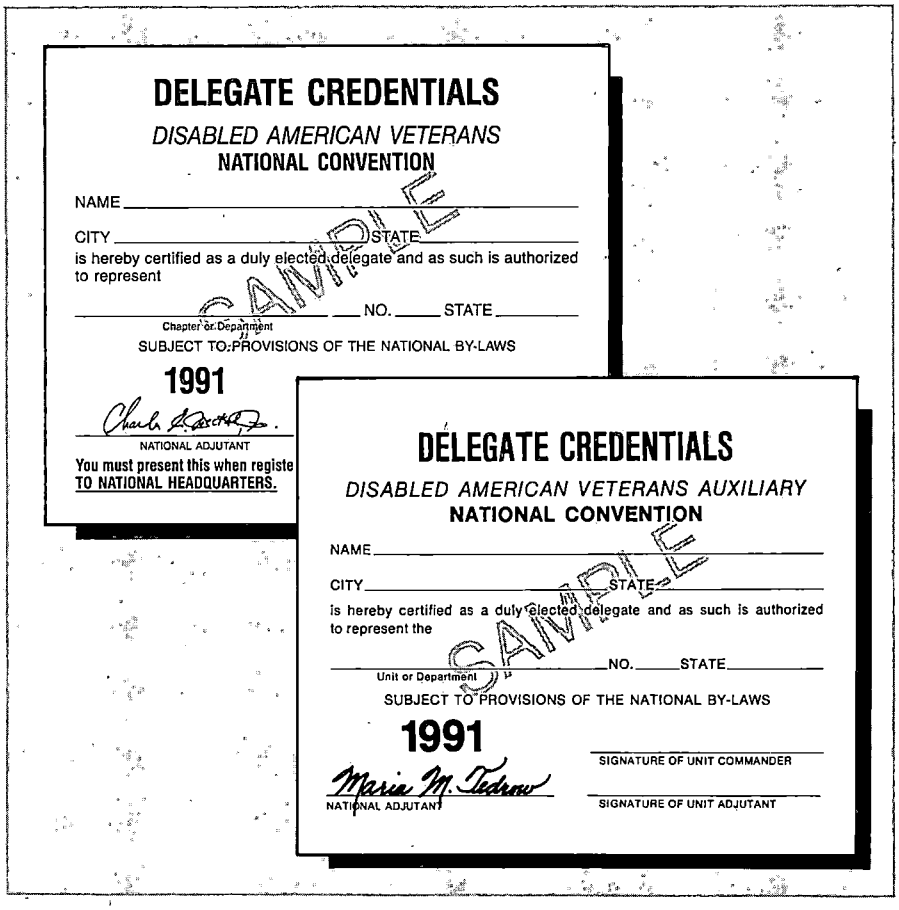
"When you turn in properly signed credentials at the convention registration desk, things go very smoothly," explained DAV National Membership Director Charles D. Luttjohann. "The registration process is over in almost no time. But, when someone shows up without proper credentials, the process unavoidably slows, causing delays for everyone.

"With proper credentials, you'll avoid the need to go through more than one line to straighten out any problems that might be involved. You'll also bypass any need to search the convention hotel, looking for a chapter or unit officer who can sign your credentials."

Remember, the credential forms shown on this page are not the same thing as the form found on page 32 of this magazine. That form is *only* for hotel reservations at the convention.

"You must get your credential form from your DAV chapter or Auxiliary unit," Commander Andry emphasized.

As this issue of *DAV Magazine* went into the mail, all the necessary forms and information on credentials were being sent to all departments, DAV chapters, and Auxiliary units. If they haven't arrived yet, they'll be there soon.



If you arrive at the national convention with proper credentials, like the samples pictured here, the process of convention registration will go smoothly. You can obtain credentials from your DAV chapter or Auxiliary unit.

"With proper credentials, you'll avoid the need to go through more than one line to straighten out any problems that might be involved."

Compliance with the credentialing process is a serious matter to the DAV and Auxiliary for a variety of reasons. While leaders of the two organizations want to spare members the boredom and frustration of long registration lines, convenience is only one factor. Commander Andry stated that other significant issues are involved—issues that every member should take to heart.

"The credentialing system is essential in our effort to make sure our members have a strong voice in all decisions made at the convention," he said.

"The national convention is the forum in which we define our organization's policies and objectives for the year ahead, and the final decisions are made by the votes of the elected delegates. In New Orleans, they'll also elect the men and women who will lead the two organizations through the 1991-92 year."

With such weighty matters at stake, it's vital to make sure convention delegates are selected according to the procedures laid out in the National Bylaws. The credentialing system is the organization's way of guaranteeing that this will be the case.

Everyone can then have confidence that the voice of the DAV's membership has been heard and heeded in all decisions.



Donation for Halfway House...

Members of John F. Kennedy Chapter 205 in Seaford, N.Y., recently donated $1,000 to the Suffolk County Halfway House. According to Chapter Commander Walter T. Israel, Robert A. Smith, Director of Alcohol Services at the Northport VA Medical Center, asked the chapter for "seed money" to get the Halfway House started. At the presentation are, left to right, Chapter Chaplain Sal Parisi, Israel, Chapter Treasurer Eugene Ecker, Smith, Chapter member Michael Wall and Chapter Senior Vice Commander James Giblin.



Successful OVAP Fund Raiser...

Members of Chapter and Unit 32 in Tulsa, Okla., raised money for their Older Veterans Assistance Program. Four Wal-Mart stores participated in donating a $100 gift certificate to be raffled off. Selling tickets at the Sand Springs Wal-Mart are, left to right, Dan Driscoll, Wal-Mart Store Manager Gary Reid, Jeannette Leach, Chapter Senior Vice Commander Calvin Leach, Bob Gray, Chapter Sergeant at Arms Thurman Campbell, and Chapter Commander Joe Mugg.



Teamwork Results in 2 Vans

Members of DAV Chapter 8 in Monroe, La., and 10 other veterans' organizations raised $20,000 to purchase two vans for the VA Medical Centers in Shreveport and Alexandria. Presenting one of the vans at the Shreveport dedication ceremony are, left to right, Rev. Willie Sumrall, State Adjutant Tillman Johnson, Transportation Coordinator Mae Sumrall, Hospital Service Coordinator James P. Dress, and VA Medical Center Director Robert Dawson.



Supporting Blind Rehab

DAV's Blind Veterans National Chapter in Binghampton, N.Y., recently made donations to VA Blind Rehabilitation Centers and Clinics in Hines, Ill., Birmingham, Ala.; West Haven, Conn.; Palo Alto, Calif.; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Waco, Texas; Tacoma, Wash.; and St. Albans in Brooklyn, N.Y. The donations came solely from personal contributions and a small percentage of the Chapter's Forget-Me-Not drives. DAV Auxiliary member and volunteer Connie Rohr is shown here presenting a $250 check to staff assistant to the director at St. Albans Phil Moschitta.

chaplain's corner . . .

A Mother's Love

The meanest and most selfish man on earth is the fellow who forgets a good mother. All your life she has loved and served you in the most unselfish manner known to man.

A mother will do more for a child and complain less than any other human being we know. You have always been sure of her interest in you; she is the one in all the world who took pains to understand you. It was she who watched your health, who gave you wise counsel touched with her own heart's love. It was a mother who lay awake until she knew you were in and asleep for the night. It was she who suffered most when you went wrong or got into trouble, and it was she who suffered for you, prayed for you, worked for you, dreamed and planned for you, loved you, believed in you and lived her life for you as no other person did.

Maybe she is old and feeble, she may even be a bit childish, but your thoughts and love will reach her better than anything in the world. Mothers do not want the money of rich, successful children; they wants bits of their hearts, thoughts and affections. Not the new generous check, but the old baby love. A rose that the child sends means more than a whole floral display of a flower shop.

The love of a mother comes only once into your life. When she is gone, nobody takes her place. Her love is unique. There is nothing quite like it. Her compassion and understanding are mystical and tender. In the rush of the world you may forget her. She lives in a lonely place with your picture on her table, some of your childhood articles where she can see them. She sings your praises to her neighbors, she prays for you night and day, and weeps and waits for the letter that is so short and uncertain. On this Mother's Day, it may pay to make less of business...and more of Mother!

Rev. Oscar I. Wilkie
National Chaplain



DAV Supporting Nurses...

Sixteen nurses from the Syracuse VA Medical Center were recently awarded $6,380 from a VA Nurses Scholarship Fund supported by local veterans' organizations, veterans and their families, and community and private organizations. Since the program began in 1987 with strong DAV backing, more than 100 VA nurses have received tuition support. Syracuse VA Medical Center officials say the program has been a primary reason many nurses choose the VA over other health facilities. Taking part in the recent ceremony are, standing, from left, Department of New York Past Commander Sam Danial, Mary Denely, RN, Sarah Barton, RN, Diane Cass, RN, Terry Lonczak, RN, Fred Galletti, RN, and Chapter 167 Past Commander Marius M. Magnarelli. Seated, from left are, Sharon Stratton, RN, Cindy Wojteck, RN, Denise Grella, LPN, Barbara Stoval, LPN, and Carol Williams, RN.



Auxiliary Keeps Time...

Members of Auxiliary Unit 6 in Las Animas, Colo., recently donated 24 clocks to Bent County Nursing Home. According to Auxiliary member Olive Tomlin, when Colorado passed a state law requiring large numerals on clocks in nursing homes, the Unit members purchased a clock for every room. Unit 6 members at the presentation are, from left, Frances Dean, Opal Adams, Mary Beamer, Director of the Nursing Home Barbara Miles, Tomlin, and Alice Southern.

House Considers 5.2% COLA, Indexing Of Disabled Veterans' Compensation

Following last year's delay in passage of a COLA for disabled veterans, a House subcommittee is considering a proposal to automatically index increases in the service-connected disability and death compensation programs administered by the VA to the consumer price index (CPI).

And while the DAV has long opposed such indexing for a number of reasons, the House panel was told it may be time to go back to the drawing board. "The events of last fall—when our COLA was held hostage to the issue of Agent Orange and subsequently failed to clear the 101st Congress—have prompted a large number of DAV members to reconsider the issue," said DAV National Legislative Director John F. Heilman. "I am certain that the pros and cons of indexing will be very much on the table and reevaluated when our National Convention delegates meet in New Orleans later this summer."

Heilman's remarks came in testimony before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension & Insurance. The subcommittee, chaired by Douglas Applegate (D-Ohio), met to consider a proposed 5.2 percent across-the-board increase in basic service-connected disability and death compensation benefits. As in years past, the same increase would also apply to dependency allowances and to the special statutory awards and ratings (except the "K" award).

> Also being sought is an acceptable plan to reform the DIC payment formula.

Heilman called the 5.2 percent "fair" and discussed the organization's historic opposition to indexing. He noted that "disabled vets have routinely faired far better at the hands of Congress than they would have, had their adjustments been linked to CPI movement.

"Secondly, over the years disability compensation measures have proven themselves to be excellent legislative vehicles to achieve other program modifications and improvements.

"Finally, the DAV has been concerned that indexing service-connected entitlements would preclude the necessity for annual oversight hearings and thereby place the entire program on the shelf. From the standpoint of periodic oversight and scrutiny, we view this situation as undesirable."

Heilman also pressed the House to come up with an acceptable plan to reform the DIC payment formula. Noting that a House-passed DIC reform proposal was not acted upon favorably by the Senate, Heilman urged the subcommittee to hold additional hearings on the issue and carefully consider reform.

Disabled American Veterans National Headquarters

BALANCE SHEET

(AUDITED)

	December 31, 1990	
	1990	1989
ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:		
Current assets	$8,838,978	$9,993,582
Investments	38,369,305	44,548,164
Claim for refund of taxes	8,047,900	8,047,900
Total Unrestricted Operating and Designated Funds	**$55,256,183**	**$62,589,646**
FIXED ASSETS FUND:		
Land, buildings and equipment (less depreciation)	9,720,745	9,408,833
Total Fixed Assets Fund	**$9,720,745**	**$9,408,833**
RESTRICTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND:		
Current assets	$2,202,841	$5,013,386
Investments	87,478,860	83,960,516
Total Restricted Life Membership Fund	**$89,681,701**	**$88,973,902**
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:		
Current liabilities	$20,187,414	$17,399,215
Operating and Designated Funds:		
Undesignated Operating Fund available for general activities	34,012,345	43,508,643
Designated by National Finance Committee for:		
Scholarships	79,757	718,541
Emergency Relief	419,249	367,979
Disaster Relief	557,418	595,268
Total Unrestricted Operating and Designated Funds	**$55,256,183**	**$62,589,646**
FIXED ASSETS FUND — Fund Balance	$9,720,745	$9,408,833
Total Fixed Assets Fund	**$9,720,745**	**$9,408,833**
RESTRICTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND:		
Current liabilities	$53,258	$61,160
Fund balance	89,628,443	88,912,742
Total Restricted Life Membership Fund	**$89,681,701**	**$88,973,902**

Cemeteries...

(Continued from page 21)

increase from the 70,700 projected for 1995 to 105,600 per year by the year 2010.

Burgess noted that of the 113 national cemeteries, only 64 are still open for new interments. Another 19 will be closed by the year 2000, he added, at the same time when the World War II veteran population approaches its peak years of need.

"We cannot ignore these figures," Burgess said. "If we fail to plan for this now and begin appropriating realistic funds as needed, we will have worse than the current Riverside Cemetery mess to deal with in the future."

During a recent visit to a friend's gravesite at a national cemetery, Andry said he saw a place that was in total shambles and unfit as a final resting place for his friend, or for any of the men and women who answered the nation's call in war.

"As I walked across the poorly tended lawns, I reflected on the irony of the whole situation in light of today's events. Here we are in the United States, a nation flush with pride over our recent military successes in the Middle East, yet that patriotic pride sure wasn't reflected on this patch of ground where America will someday bury many veterans of the Persian Gulf War," Andry said. "Is this the way a grateful nation treats its fallen heroes?"

membership standings

Disabled American Veterans as of April 13, 1991

Stdg.	State	— Membership — Popula.	Goal	———Percent Of——— Goal	Renewal	Life
DIVISION I—(More than 35,000 Members)						
1	California	103,969	100,867	103.08	79.86	71.46
2	Texas	72,695	70,740	102.76	83.91	74.34
3	Florida	81,542	79,668	102.35	87.14	77.95
4	Michigan	50,767	49,786	101.97	87.64	79.86
5	Ohio	58,018	56,988	101.81	85.60	81.87
6	New York	85,300	83,901	101.67	86.38	79.04
7	Pennsylvania	59,800	59,194	101.02	90.21	70.85
8	Massachusetts	52,434	52,265	100.32	91.63	77.73
DIVISION II—(18,000 to 34,999 Members)						
1	Alabama	19,666	18,901	104.05	81.89	72.04
2	Indiana	22,970	22,197	103.48	89.10	76.20
3	Oklahoma	20,986	20,503	102.36	83.79	73.17
4	Washington	21,886	21,509	101.75	83.10	81.60
5	N. Carolina	29,551	29,097	101.56	84.27	74.76
6	Georgia	21,975	21,693	101.30	81.26	72.04
7	Tennessee	18,363	18,137	101.25	83.21	69.30
8	Wisconsin	20,462	20,219	101.20	89.41	77.79
9	Illinois	30,143	29,805	101.13	86.37	72.02
10	Minnesota	19,950	19,744	101.04	88.48	79.41
11	Arizona	19,335	19,139	101.02	86.06	81.17
12	Kentucky	25,599	25,344	101.01	85.15	78.43
13	Missouri	22,550	22,330	100.99	88.08	72.39
14	Virginia	26,573	26,324	100.95	84.29	71.95
15	New Jersey	34,823	34,544	100.81	85.84	73.45
16	Maryland	20,447	20,322	100.62	79.41	77.61
DIVISION III—(10,000 to 17,999 Members)						
1	Colorado	18,293	17,739	103.12	86.33	87.58
2	Connecticut	15,360	14,943	102.79	87.30	73.54
3	Louisiana	14,123	13,900	101.60	84.80	65.44
4	Mississippi	11,234	11,076	101.43	82.92	69.01
5	Arkansas	15,213	15,029	101.22	84.52	77.19
6	S. Carolina	13,628	13,472	101.16	85.30	74.65
7	West Virginia	12,072	11,934	101.16	84.68	74.93
8	Oregon	10,985	10,893	100.84	85.59	77.81
9	New Mexico	11,736	11,651	100.73	85.81	83.72
10	Iowa	10,850	10,789	100.57	87.55	76.16
DIVISION IV—(5,000 to 9,999 Members)						
1	Rhode Island	7,412	6,976	106.25	87.73	68.78
2	Maine	7,426	7,268	102.17	88.03	78.06
3	Nevada	5,310	5,205	102.02	87.53	79.57
4	Puerto Rico	8,689	8,525	101.92	76.80	79.94
5	Utah	6,266	6,176	101.46	87.27	80.27
6	Kansas	10,018	9,924	100.95	89.94	73.14
7	Idaho	5,569	5,522	100.85	88.79	85.15
8	New Hampshire	6,896	6,857	100.57	91.21	70.64
9	Nebraska	8,384	8,340	100.53	90.18	78.85
DIVISION V—(Less than 5,000 Members)						
1	Delaware	3,631	34,574	105.03	97.25	80.09
2	Wash., D.C.	3,968	3,784	104.86	80.45	83.37
3	Alaska	1,507	1,450	103.93	89.74	86.07
4	Hawaii	4,224	4,154	101.69	82.05	85.84
5	Vermont	3,167	3,123	101.41	89.78	74.27
6	South Dakota	4,819	4,757	101.30	83.73	86.18
7	Montana	4,982	4,919	101.28	88.41	83.04
8	Wyoming	2,331	2,303	101.22	87.22	81.42
9	North Dakota	4,364	4,318	101.07	87.63	89.99

DAV NATIONAL TOTAL, 1,180,200

DAV NATIONAL GOAL, 1,159,680

DAV Auxiliary As of March 31, 1991

Department	Quota	Members
Alabama	2,460	2,188
Alaska	91	90
Arizona	4,912	4,639
Arkansas	2,593	2,271
California	11,140	9,800
Colorado	2,922	2,726
Connecticut	1,217	1,084
Delaware	431	414
Wash., D.C.	382	355
Florida	15,134	14,040
Georgia	3,289	3,030
Hawaii	210	183
Idaho	982	897
Illinois	3,270	3,109
Indiana	4,373	4,155
Iowa	1,492	1,338
Kansas	1,384	1,282
Kentucky	3,816	3,808
Louisiana	1,872	1,693
Maine	1,079	971
Maryland	2,427	2,273
Mass.	7,169	6,728
Michigan	9,056	8,362
Minnesota	2,444	2,721
Mississippi	1,668	1,424
Missouri	3,323	3,158
Montana	845	797
Nebraska	1,768	1,685
Nevada	647	601
New Hamp.	1,066	985
New Jersey	3,356	3,022
New Mexico	1,988	1,737
New York	6,048	5,391
N. Carolina	4,276	3,779
N. Dakota	1,145	1,167
Ohio	7,663	6,998
Oklahoma	3,037	2,637
Oregon	1,813	2,035
Penn.	4,965	5,114
Philippines	134	130
Puerto Rico	765	506
Rhode Is.	698	610
S. Carolina	2,188	2,160
S. Dakota	1,158	1,126
Tennessee	2,062	1,950
Texas	10,423	9,607
Utah	1,045	905
Vermont	640	513
Virginia	3,298	2,994
Washington	3,280	3,033
W. Virginia	1,580	1,547
Wisconsin	3,811	3,837
Wyoming	246	228
At Large	79,324	62,062
Auxiliary Nat. Totals	**238,423**	**209,913**

reunions...

Because of the increasing number of requests and the space limitations of our magazine, we must limit publication of unit reunions to one time only. Send such notices at least three months in advance. Mail to: Reunions, DAV Magazine, 807 Maine Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024. Thank you ... the Editors.

ARMY

27th INF. HQ. TRAINING BN. (Camp Croft, S.C., 1943-45)—Planning reunion. Contact Harold Arenstein, 31 Nottingham Terrace, Waterbury, Conn. 06704, phone (203) 753-9187.

VIETNAM 198 AMERICAL INF.—Planning reunion. Contact Dan Hubert, 1540 Plum, Mansfield, Ohio 44905.

AMERICAN DIV. 132nd A.S.H. Co. (Chu Lai RVN)—Planning reunion. Contact Steve Dempsey, 11 Nichols St., Danvers, Mass. 01923, phone (813) 278-5935.

5th R.C.T., or 555 F.A., 72nd COMBAT ENGINEER COMPANY, 5th INFANTRY REGIMENT (1949-54)—Planning reunion. Contact 5th R.C.T., P.O. Box 878, Acton, Mass. 01720-0012.

325th AA S/L BN., HQ/A/B/C BTRYS.—June 1991, Paducha, Ky. Contact J.D. Patterson, 7000 E. Pine Grove Rd., Bloomington, Ind. 47401, phone (812) 837-9334.

724th R.O.B.—June 12-15, 1991, Brookside Resort, Hy. U.S. 231 North, Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contact James Williams, Golden Terrace, 555 Lakehurst, Apr. 1, Browns Mills, N.J. 08015, phone (609) 893-6117.

103rd COMBAT ENGR. BN., 28th INF. DIV. (WWII and Korea)—June 20-22, 1991, Valley Forge Hilton, 251 DeKalb Pike, King of Prussian, Pa. Contact Thomas R. Morrow, 104 Meadowbrook Ave., Hatboro, Pa. 18017, phone (215) 675-1697.

A CO., 10th INF., 5th DIV.—June 21-23, 1991, Ramada Inn, 700 W. Riverside Drive, Jeffersonville, Ind. Contact J.T. George, 1104 Bach Ave., Duquesne, Pa. 15110, phone (412) 466-5766.

8th ARMORED DIV. ASSOC.—July 1-4, 1991, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis. Contact Alexander J. Woehrle, P.O. Box 134, Delmar, N.Y. 12054.

522nd ORDNANCE CO., H.M.F.A.—July 12-14, 1991, The Drake Hotel, Oakbrook, Ill. Contact Raymond Ufer, 205 E. Medill Ave., Northlake, Ill 60164, phone (708) 562-0293; or Charles Zienert, 22717 Lefever, Warren, Mich. 48091, phone (313) 757-2920.

2nd DIV. (WWI, WWII, Korea)—July 17-20, 1991, Red Lion Hotel, Omaha, Neb. Contact Gerald Udelhoven, P.O. Box 460, Buda, Texas 78610.

CO. D., 2nd BN., 35th INF., 4th DIV. (Vietnam 1969-70)—July 18-21, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Pat Cassetty, Route 1, Box 506, Springfield, Ky. 40069.

224th REG., 40th DIV., HV. MORT. CO. (Korea 1950-53)—Aug. 1991, Los Angeles, Calif. Contact Dale Reilley, 1329 Cliff Ave., Fillmore, Calif. 93015.

398th ENGR. CO. B (WWII)—Aug. 2-4, 1991. Contact Woodrow Edgar, 4981 Summers Lane., Klamath Falls, Ore. 97603, phone (503) 882-0650.

44th TANK BN.—Aug. 8-11, 1991, Troy Hilton, 1455 Stephenson Hy., Troy Mich. Contact David Scobie, 502 Barrington Rd., Grosse Pointe, Mich. 48230, phone (313) 824-1335.

547th ENGR. BN. ASSOC.—Aug. 9-11, 1991, Landmark Inn, Maple Shade, N.J. Contact Thomas B. Brown, 700 David St., Mt. Holley, N.J. 08060, phone (609) 267-1420.

762nd SEARCHLIGHT BTRY.—Aug. 9-11, 1991, Holiday Inn, Pinehurst, N.C. Contact. Leslie Tice, 344 Siesta Drive, Sarasota, Fla. 34242.

TROOP B 252nd REMOUNT TROOP—Aug. 10-11, 1991, Best Western Motel, Off Highway 54, Ellis Blvd., 1937 Christy Lane, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact Oliver Raithel, Route 1, Box 76, Centertown, Mo. 65023, phone (314) 584-3653.

63rd INF. DIV. ASSOC.—Aug. 14-18, 1991, Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Barney Forrest, 360 E. 9th Ave., Collegeville, Pa. 19426, phone (215) 489-9523.

82nd AIRBORNE DIV. ASSOC.—Aug. 15-17, 1991, Buffalo Hilton, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact John S. Ebling, 590 Potter Rd., W. Seneca, N.Y. 14224, phone (716) 882-5952.

CO. B., 167th INF., 31st DIV.—Aug. 16-17, 1991. Contact Leo Logel, P.O. Box 19, New Lebanon, Ohio 45345, phone (513) 687-2017.

400th AAA AW BN., BTRY. C (WWII)—Aug. 20, 1991, Midtown Holiday Inn, Grand Island, Neb. Contact Walter M. Anson, 642 N. Broadwell, Grand Island, Neb. 68803, phone (308) 382-7400.

197th AAA AW BN., BTRY. A (WWII)—Aug. 21-25, 1991, Burlington, Vt. Contact William J. Gray, 10149 Coburg Lands Drive, St. Louis, Mo. 63137, phone (314) 869-6729.

713th RAILWAY OPERATING BN.—Aug. 22-24, 1991, The Villager Motel, Lincoln, Neb. Contact Victor Schaefer, 3305 S. 16th St., Lincoln, Neb. 68502.

148th INF. REGIMENT, 37th INF. DIV., CAMP PERRY TRAINING SITE, PORT CLINTON, OHIO—Aug. 23-24, 1991. Contact Hank Donnel, 8117 Scarborough Ct., Indianapolis, Ind. 46256.

987th ARMORED F.A. BN. (WWII)—Aug. 23-24, 1991, Canton, Ohio. Contract Jim Volzer, 5918 Mapeldell, NW., Canton, Ohio 44718, phone (216) 499-4434, home; or (216) 456-7371, office.

250th ENGR. COMBAT BN., CO. A (WWII)—Aug. 26-28, 1991, Grand Hotel, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact Joe L. Turner, 6968 Kings Rd., Southaven, Miss. 38671.

94th INF. DIV. ASSOC.—Aug. 29-31, 1991, Stouffer Orlando Resort, Orlando, Fla. Contact Harry Helms, 609 Dogwood Drive., Downington, Pa. 19335.

SOCIETY OF THE 5th DIV.—Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 1991, Brookfield Marriott, 375 S. Moorland Rd., Milwaukee, Wis. Contact Bill Upham, 2728 E. Bradford Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53211, phone (414) 277-1312.

CO. D, 144th INF.—Aug. 31, 1991, Garrison, Texas. Contact Alfred L. Hugins, Route 1, Box 126B, Daingerfield, Texas 75638, phone (214) 656-2278.

46th ENGR. CONST. BN.—Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1991, Oklahoma City, Okla. Contact Marvin W. Hoot, 14929 E. 9th Street, N. Owasso, Okla. 74055, phone (918) 272-8803.

605th TANK DESTROYER BN.—Aug. 31, Sept. 2, 1991, Knights Stop Motel, Findlay, Ohio. Contact Lawrence N. Montgomery, 120 E. 1st Ave., Plainwell, Mich. 49080, phone (616) 685-8729.

86th ENGR. PN. BN. (WWII)—Sept. 1991, Williamsburg, Va. Contact Philip J. Wax, 2306 Fourth St., Easton, Pa. 18042, phone (215) 258-1297.

739th ENGR. BN.—Sept. 1991, Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contact Larry H. Eckard, P.O. Box 5145, Hickory, N.C. 28603, phone (704) 256-6274.

299th ENGR. BN. (Vietnam)—Sept. 1991, Kokomo, Ind. Contact Neil Reed, 909 South 9th St., Lafayette, Ind. 47905.

166th General Hospital (LeMans and LeHavre, France 1944-46)—Sept. 1991, Milwaukee, Wis. Contact Monica Carollo, 3609 N. Tucker Place, Milwaukee, Wis. 53222, phone (414) 461-0358; or Gladys Hesson, 651 Karl Ave., Green Bay, Wis. 54301, phone (414) 437-6726.

36th EVAC. HOSPITAL (WWII and Vietnam)—Sept. 1991, Harrisburg, Pa. Contact Ruth V. Foor, Star Route 4, Box 5, Everett, Pa. 15537, phone (814) 652-5243.

802nd ENGR. ASSOC.—Sept. 1991, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact Raymond C. Griffith, RD #3, Box F-433, Cooper Lane, Chester, N.J. 07930, phone (908) 879-5687.

ASA (All Former Members)—Sept. 1991, Sierra Vista, Ariz. Contact Larry H. Eckard, P.O. Box 5145, Hickory, N.C. 28603, phone (704) 256-6274.

CO. C, 702nd TANK BN.—Sept. 1, 1991, Best Western, Danville, Pa. Contact Hugh St. Clair, RD #2, Box 370, Danville, Pa. 17821, phone (717) 437-2060.

3840th QM G.S. CO.—Sept. 3-5, 1991, Baldknobbie Inn, Branson, Mo. Contact Charles Smith, Box 287, Stockport, Ohio 43787, phone (614) 559-2601.

9th SIGNAL CO., 9th INF. DIV. (WWII)—Sept. 3-5, 1991, Bird-In-Hand, Pa. Contact Zignumd "Doc" Pazyra, 21 Seaview Ave., Malden, Mass. 02148, phone (617) 324-2513.

6th ARMORED DIV.—Sept. 3-8, 1991, Harrisburg, Pa. Contact Edward F. Reed, P.O. Box 5011, Louisville, Ky. 40205.

157th INF. REGT. and 158th FA BN., 45th DIV. (WWII)—Sept. 3-8, 1991, Westin Hotel, Denver, Colo. Contact Felix L. Sparks, 7900 W. 23rd Ave., Denver, Colo. 80215, phone (303) 233-2369.

FORT SHAFTER & SCHOFIELD BKS, COAST ARTILLERYMEN (1932-42); FORT RUGER/DERUSSY (Hawaii 1932-42); and FORT SHERMAN/RANDOLPH (Panama Canal Zone 1935-45)—Sept. 4-9, 1991, The Chamberlin Hotel, Fort Monroe, Va. Contact D.M. Cooper, P.O. Box 142, Glen Dale, W.Va. 26038, phone (304) 845-0880.

617th QM DEPOT CO. (WWII)—Sept. 5-7, 1991, New Philadelphia, Ohio. Contact John Terakedis, 211 High Stree, Dover, Ohio 44622-9541, phone (216) 343-6938.

749th TANK BN.—Sept. 5-7, 1991, Sheraton Inn, Canton, Ohio. Contact Steve Bodo, 5986 Easy Pace Circle, Canton, Ohio 44718, phone (216) 499-5624.

463rd AAA AW BN., 79th DIV.—Sept. 5-7, 1991, Radisson Hotel, St. Paul, Minn. Contact George Landshut, 437 White Bear Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55016, phone (612) 771-7035.

170th COMBAT ENGR. BN., COs. A, B, C and H & S—Sept. 5-7, 1991, Omaha, Neb. Contact Stewart Rhoe, phone (612) 537-7126; or George Riede, 11325 140th St., Lot 56, Davenport, Iowa 52804, phone (319) 381-3503.

855th AVN. ENGR. (WWII)—Sept. 5-8, 1991, Drury Lodge, Cape Girardeau, Mo. Contact Richard T. Rollins, Route 1, Box 98, Cairo, Ill. 62914.

748th RAILWAY OPERATING BN.—Sept. 5-8, 1991, Akron, Ohio. Contact Carl Lowe, 2806 Conway St., Akron, Ohio 44314.

14th ARMORED (LIBERATORS) DIV.—Sept. 5-8, 1991, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Contact Andrew D. Tierno, 42 Vestal Ave., Binghamton, N.Y. 13903, phone (607) 724-1958.

CO. I, 71st INF. (WWII)—Sept. 5-9, 1991, Orlando, Fla. Contact Joseph DeSantis, 110 Royal Park Drive, Apt. 4E, Oakland Park, Fla. 33309.

163rd ENGR. COMBAT BN. (WWII)—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Paris, Tenn. Contact Joe Walker, 428 Raven, Martin, Tenn. 38237, phone (901) 587-2487.

125th FIELD ARTILLERY, 34th INF. DIV. (WWII)—Sept. 6-7, 1991, Duluth, Minn. Contact Harold Gould, 1219 Stanford Ave., Duluth, Minn. 55811, phone (218) 727-4366.

7th FIELD HOSPITAL (WWII)—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Contact Ruby Fleming Morrell, 1783 Lombard Drive, Baton Rouge, La. 70810, phone (504) 769-1592.

565th AAA AW BN. (All Batteries)—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Atlanta, Ga. Contact George Harber, 2781 Pierce Drive North, Macon, Ga. 31204.

76th INF. DIV. ASSOC.—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Pittsburgh, Pa. Contact E.C. Cutler, Jr., RR 2, Box 68, Jackson Ave., New Windsor, N.Y. 12553.

81st QM CO.—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Durango, Colo. Contact Shirley Slaugh, 188 South 1350 West, Vernal, Utah 84078.

CO. D, 63rd INF., 6th DIV.—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Canton, Ohio. Contact Dean Tope, 319 Park Ave., Carrollton, Ohio 44615, phone (216) 627-2896.

43rd INF. "WINGED VICTORY" DIV. (WWII, Korea and after)—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Treadway Hartford Hotel, Route 372 (exit 21 off I-910), Cromwell, Conn. Contact Howard F. Brown, 150 Lakedell Drive, East Greenwich, R.I. 02818.

CO. B, 55th ARMORED INF. BN., 11th ARMORED DIV.—Sept. 6-8, 1991, St. Louis, Mo. Contact George L. Reimer, 12463 Roth Hill Drive, Maryland Hgts., Mo. 63043, phone (314) 434-4733.

2nd INF., ANTI-TANK CO., 5th DIV. (WWII)—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Pipestem State Park, Pipestem, W.Va. Contact Virgil Wettig, 206 Lincoln St., Richmond, Ind. 47374, phone (317) 935-4035.

BTRY. C, 560th AAA BN., CO. C, 72nd CHEM. MORT. BN.—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Comfort Inn, Highway 24-27 East, Albemarle, N.C. Contact Pete Whitley, Route 6, Box 714, Albemarle, N.C. 28001.

BTRY. C, 166th AAA GUN BN.—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Erie, Kan. Contact Gerald F. Fager, 1423 N. Baltimore, Derby, Kan. 67037, phone (316) 788-0289.

735th RAILWAY OPERATING BN.—Sept. 6-8, 1991, Maxim Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Robert M. Ward, 30 Dartmouth St., Fitchburg, Mass. 01420, phone (508) 343-3613.

BTRY. C, 78th COAST ARTILLERY—Sept. 6-9, 1991, Wichita Hilton East Hotel, Wichita, Kan. Contact Floyd Schwartz, 605 Frost Drive, Bay City, Mich. 48706, phone (517) 684-9736.

494th AAA—Sept. 7-8, 1991. Contact Darwin Van Riper, 610 Johnson, #G, Albert Lea, Minn. 56007, phone (507) 373-4777.

NAVY

USS KIRWIN (ADP-90)—Planning reunion. Contact Conrad W. KReisel, 599 Garden Ave., Woodbridge, N.J. 07095-3850, phone (908) 634-1804.

CASU #14—Planning reunion. Contact Frank Zera, 2500 W. Mitchell St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53204, phone (414) 643-8828.

USS WILLIS (DE-395)—Planning reunion. Contact John Gay, P.O. Box 28, Crownsville, Md. 21032, phone (301) 923-2280.

USS ARNEB (AKA-56) (Operation Deepfreeze, 1-2-3-4 to Antarctica)—Planning reunion. Contact Charles R. Harsla, P.O. Box 369, Eagle River, Wis. 54521, phone (715) 479-3631, or (715) 479-6321.

USS STEVENSON (DD-645)—Planning reunion. Contact Frank J. Kmiec, 66 Chadwick St., North Andover, Mass. 01845.

USS SPECTOR (AM-306)—Planning reunion. Contact Bennie W. Saindon, 10222 W. Ida Ave., #240, Littleton, Colo. 80127, phone (303) 973-3166.

NAVY 525, EXETER, ENGLAND (WWII)—Planning reunion. Contact Bill Yancey, 305 Spruce St., Chula Vista, Calif. 91911, phone (619) 420-8253.

USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10)—June 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Jim Metts, 1103 22nd St., Nederland, Texas 77627, phone (409) 722-1468.

USS WHIPPLE (DD-217)—June 4-7, 1991, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Walt Knight, 5555 S. Keystone, Indianapolis, Ind. 46227.

USS IRWIN (DD-794)—June 5-8, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Thomas J. Adams, 183-A Meriline Ave., West Paterson, N.J. 07424, phone (201) 785-1335.

MCB-9 (Vietnam)—June 22, 1991, Bolles Field, Port Hueneme, Calif. Contact Richard I. Casoli, Box 88, Hanson, Mass. 02341, phone (617) 293-7212.

BYRD STATION 1966 WINTER OVER CREW—June 22, 1991, Palo Alto, Calif. Contact Larry Spitz, 821 Southampton Drive, Palo Alto, Calif. 94303, phone (415) 322-2554.

USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DE-413, DD-823) SURVIVORS ASSOC. (FFG 58)—Summer 1991. Contact Vince Goodrich, 7 Brown Ave., Bradford, Pa. 16701, phone (814) 368-6090.

USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG-51), LITTLE BEAVER S.O.D., DESRON 23—July 4, 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact C.D. Lail, 159 9th Street, Colonial Beach, Va. 22445, phone (804) 224-7643.

USS ENTERPRISE (CV-6)—July 24-28, 1991, Denver, Colo. Contact Mel Hofer, 13711 East Marina Dr., #A, Aurora, Colo. 80014.

USN BASE HOSPITAL #18—July 30-Aug. 1, 1991, Hartford, Conn. Contact V.J. Scavetta, 118 Forest St., East Hartford, Conn. 06118.

USS STRONG (DD-758, DD-467)—July 23, 1991, Annapolis, Md. Contact O.P. Pritchard, 182 Hair St., Soddy Daisy, Tenn. 37379, phone (615) 332-5051.

USS SHUBRICK (DD-639)—Aug. 1-4, 1991, Bremerton, Wash. Contact George Morley, 5422 Portland Rd., #57, Salem, Ore. 97305, phone (503) 393-1803.

USS SHELIAK (AKA-62)—Aug. 1-4, 1991, Grand Haven, Mich. Contact Larry H. Eckard, P.O. Box 5145, Hickory, N.C. 28603, phone (704) 256-6274.

USS KEOKUK—Aug. 9-10, 1991, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Arlington, Va. Contact Tony Astorino, 147 Pennsylvania Av., Bridgeville, Pa. 15017.

USS INTREPID (CV, CVA, CVS-11) (1943-74)—Aug. 10, 1991, New York, N.Y. Contact Fred Hemmerich, 144 Furler St., CN240, Totowa, N.J. 07512.

USS EATON (DD/DDE-510)—Aug. 14-18, 1991, Coralville, Iowa. Contact Barbara Gorvin, RR 1, Box 165, Oxford, Iowa 52322 phone (319) 628-4964.

USS HENDERSON (DD-785)—Aug. 16-18, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact Dick Sierra, P.O. Box 1024, South San Francisco, Calif. 94080.

USS INDIANA (BB-58) (All Former Crew and Marines)—Aug. 21-25, 1991, Washington, D.C. Contact A. Vicarelli, P.O. Box 620, Cases Lane, Cutchague, N.Y. 11935, phone (516) 734-5001.

USS ORISKANY (CVA-34)—Aug. 23-25, 1991, New York, N.Y. Contact Daniel M. Kearns, P.O. Box 242, New Lisbon, N.J. 08064-0242, phone (609) 893-4907.

USS GRADY (DE-445) (in conjunction with the DESA National Convention)—Aug. 25-29, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Warren L. Jessen, 162 Evergreen Place, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265, phone (515) 224-5949.

DESTROYER ESCORT SAILORS ASSOC.—Aug. 25-29, 1991, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact DESA, P.O. Box 680085, Orlando, Fla. 32868-0085, phone (407) 877-7671.

62nd CONST. BN.—Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1991, Quality Inn Riverview, Covington, Ky. Contact James Marsicik, 211 NW 20th Court, Pompano Beach, Fla. 33060.

66th SEABEE BN. and 1022nd DETACHMENT (WWII—Alaska, Aleutian and Philippine Islands, Guam, Okinawa, Hawaii and Japan)—Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1991, Holiday Inn, Southeast Crossing, 3310 Trout Hy., Tyler, Texas. Contact Thomas Rice, 109 Bonita, Apt. 13, Jacksonville, Texas 75766, phone (214) 586-1922; or Charles Mullinnix, 1518 Rogers Drive, Tupelo, Miss. 38863, phone (701) 842-4450.

PT BOATS (WWII—Squadrons, Bases, Tenders, Supply, Communications, FEMU, Medical)—Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 1991, Pittsburgh Hilton and Towers, Pittsburgh, Pa. Contact Alyce N. Guthrie, P.O. Box 38070, Memphis, Tenn. 38183-0070, phone (901) 755-8440.

63rd CONST. BN. (WWII)—Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 1991, Evansville, Ind. Contact Byron L. Carter, 555 Shady Lane, Boonville, Ind. 47601-9107, phone (812) 897-2661.

USS LYON (AP-71)—Sept. 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact W. Battlewall, 4215 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Apt. 204, Longboat Key, Fla. 34228, phone (813) 383-7483.

USS COLUMBUS (CA-74, CG-12)—Sept. 91, Las Vegas, Nev. contact John Harvey Thomas, 163 N. Hill Ave., DeLand, Fla. 32724-4636, phone (904) 736-4509.

USS PECOS (AO-65)—Sept. 1991, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact Walter Socha, 17392 Kinsman Rd., Middlefield, Ohio 44062, phone (216) 632-1320.

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CV/CVA/CVS-39) (All Officers and Ship's Company, Marines, embarked Squadrons, Pilots, and Aircrewmen)—Sept. 1991. Contact Phillip E. Nazak, P.O. Box 34, Vestal, N.Y. 13851-0034, phone (607) 729-4783.

OPERATION DEEPFREEZE, WINTER'OVER PARTIES (All former members)—Sept. 1-8, 1991. Contact Jim Wallace, 6101 DeSoto Ave., New Port Richey, Fla. 34653, phone (813) 849-3830.

USS LST 240 (in conjunction with the U.S. LST Assoc. convention)—Sept. 2-7, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Wayne M. Rosselot, 10105 Hosler Rd., Leo, Ind. 46765, phone (219) 627-6224.

LST 958—Sept. 2-9, 1991, Clarion Hotel, New Orleans, La. Contact Arthur E. Wegman, 6547 N. Pasadena Drive, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449, phone (419) 898-1188.

USS MARYLAND (BB-46)—Sept. 3-8, 1991, Green Bay, Wis. Contact John A. Nelson, 1478 LaCorta Circle, Lemon Grove, Calif. 91945, phone (619) 469-3142.

USS LST 246—Sept. 4-8, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Bill Askin, 57 Hope St., Stamford, Conn. 06906-2621, phone (203) 323-5720.

USS TORTUGA (LSD-26)—Sept. 4-8, 1991, San Diego, Calif. Contact David L. Waldron, P.O. Box 235, Paris, Mich. 49338-0235, phone (616) 832-2189.

USS BLACKHAWK (AD-9) AND ASSIGNED DESTROYERS—Sept. 4-8, 1991, Sacramento, Calif. Contact G.H. Mason, 2212 122nd Ave., E., Puyallup, Wash. 98372-1614, phone (206) 863-8666.

USS FREMONT—Sept. 5-7, 1991, Atlanta, Ga. Contact Bob Allen, 819 Ackermon Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13210.

TASK GROUP 22.3 (ESCORT DIVISION 4), USS PILLSBURY (DE-133), USS POPE (DE-134), USS FLAHERTY (DE-135), USS CHATELAIN (DE-149), USS JENKS (DE-665)—Sept. 5-7, 1991, Charleston, S.C. Contact Maurice Lemieux, P.O. Box 951146, Lake Mary, Fla. 32795, phone (407) 321-4657.

USS PRINCE WILLIAM (CVE-31)—Sept. 5-8, 1991, Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, Okla. Contact John D. Love, 740 North 165th St., Seattle, Wash. 98133, phone (206) 542-1416.

USS ROBINSON (DD-562)—Sept. 5-8, 1991, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Contact Don Fahlberg, 105 Center St., Anna, Ill. 62909, phone 9618) 833-7150.

USS WILLIAM P. BIDDLE (APA-8), Sept. 5-8, 1991, Holiday Inn Waterside, Norfolk, Va. Contact Don Skouse, phone (816) 478-3403; or Biddle Group, Box 1638, Independence, Mo. 64055.

USS LANDSDOWNE (DD-486)—Sept. 5-8, 1991. Contact F. Caterina, 12718 Mengibar Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92129, phone (619) 566-8084.

USS LARDNER (DD-487)—Sept. 5-8, 1991, Chicago, Ill. Contact Jim Meadows, 12204 Eastridge, Dr., NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87112, phone (505) 298-9236.

USS WOOLSEY (DD-437)—Sept. 5-8, 1991, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Braintree, Mass. Contact John Kenes, 108 Wayside Drive, Uniontown, Pa. 15401, phone (412) 437-1220.

USS HANSFORD (APA-106) (WWII)—Sept. 5-8, 1991, Long Beach, Calif. Contact Billy W. Barnett, 1746 Trenton Ave., Bremerton, Wash. 98310; or Rudy Baca, 2612 Via Corona, Montebello, Calif. 90640.

LST 910 (WWII)—Sept. 6-8, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Glen E. Halter, 308 West Gargas St., Louisville, Ohio 44641.

PC 1228—Sept. 6-9, 1991, The Hershey Hotel, Broad at Locust, Philadelphia, Pa. Contact Mal MacDonald, 1 Lakeview Ave., Apt. 9, Reading, Mass. 01867.

USS CANOPUS (AS-9)—Sept. 8-10, 1991, Eureka Springs, Ark. contact Andrew A. Henry, P.O. Box 637, Thousand Palms, Calif. 92276.

USS REYNOLDS (DE-42)—Sept. 8-12, 1991, Omaha, Neb. Contact Joseph McKenzie, 1016 Constantine, Three Rivers, Mich. 49093.

115th NAVAL CONST. BN. (WWII)—Sept. 11-14, 1991, Holiday Inn, 4949 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Sarasota, Fla. Contact Edward E. Plummer, 5023 East Naomi St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46203, phone (317) 359-6990.

LION FOUR/NAVY 3205—Sept. 11-14, 1991, The Greenwood Inn, Beaverton, Ore. Contact Hal Wenick, Route 3, Box 196, Florence, Ariz. 85232, phone (602) 969-0262.

USS PATTERSON (DD-392)—Sept. 11-14, 1991, Holiday Inn, Warren, Pa. Contact Ted Amoroso, 15 N. Main St., Union City, Pa. 16438, phone (814) 438-2732.

USS SCHROEDER (DD-501)—Sept. 12-14, 1991, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Pat Haffey, RR 1, Box 32, New Hampton, Mo. 64471, phone (816) 439-2175.

USS VAMMEN (DE-644)—Sept. 12-14, 1991, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Chester Pike, 4650 State Route 132, Batavia, Ohio 45103, phone (513) 732-1448.

USS BENNION (DD-662)—Sept. 12-15, 1991, Baton Rouge, La. Contact William J. Kelley, 35 Horton Place, Milton, Mass. 02186, phone (617) 698-0286.

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN—Sept. 12-15, 1991, Long Beach, Calif. Contact Lyal M. Stryker, P.O. Box 71835, Charleston, S.C. 29415, phone (803) 797-0841, or (803) 553-1450.

USS ARTHUR MIDDLETON (APA-25)—Sept. 12-15, 1991, Marine Memorial Club, San Francisco, Calif. Contact Eugene Muntzner, 16 Webster St., Floral Park, N.Y. 11001, phone (516) 354-6348; or Chrles Balanti, phone (415) 366-8965.

LST 312—Sept. 12-15, 1991, Parke Hotel, 4343 Everhard Road., NW, Canton, Ohio. Contact John E. Rees, 6115 Reno Drive, Louisville, Ohio 44641.

USS AULICK (DD-569)—Sept. 12-15, 1991, Portland, Ore. Contact James C. Hayes, 4621 El Caminito, Shingle Springs, Calif. 95682, phone (916) 677-4615.

USS BROOKS (DD-232, APD-10)—Sept. 13-14, 1991, Burlington, Iowa. Contact Paul Pemberton, 3 Shady Acres, RR 1, Burlington, Iowa 52601, phone (319) 752-3971.

USS CAPPS (DD-550)—Sept. 13-15, 1991, New Orleans, La. Contact Earl Beadle, 1203 West St., Pine Bluff, Ark. 71602, phone (501) 247-3702.

USS DAWSON (APA-79)—Sept. 13-15, 1991, Wichita, Kan. Contact Harold Prochaska, RR 3, Box 132, Dunlap, Kan. 66848, phone (316) 787-2227.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MIDSHIPMEN'S SCHOOL 1940-45—Sept. 13-15, 1991, Westin Hotel, Chicago, Ill. Contact William R. Lewis, 253 Santa Barbara Circle, Palm Desert, Calif. 92260, phone (619) 346-7626.

CBMU 569—Sept. 13-15, 1991, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Nick Schiro, 76 Columbus Ave., Hasbrouck Hgts. N.J. 07604, phone (201) 288-9395.

USS PERKINS (DD & DDR-877)—Sept. 13-15, 1991, Meriden, Conn. Contact Michael V. Ciuitillo, 261 Howd Rd., Durham, Conn. 06422, phone (203) 349-8178.

AIR FORCE

7th COMM. SQ. (Tague, Korea 1950-54)—Planning reunion. Contact I.A. Feiler, Box 1664, Lone Grove, Okla. 73443.

AVIATION CADET CLASS 43-G OF WILLIAMS FIELD, ARIZONA—June 6-9, 1991, Portland, Ore. Contact Earvie T. Cloyd, 4236 North 34th Place, Phoenix, Ariz. 85018, phone (602) 956-3318.

9th TROOP CARRIER COMMAND, PATHFINDER GROUP ASSOC.—june 20-23, 1991, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Arlington, Va. Contact V.S. Pedone, P.O. Box 2733, Arlington, VA. 22202, phone (703) 979-1992.

326th TROOP CARRIER SQ., 327th TROOP CARRIER SQ., 512th TROOP CARRIER WING, and 912th, 913th TROOP CARRIER GROUP—June 29, 1991, Officers Club, Willow Grove naval Air Station, Willow Grove, Pa. Contact Herman Lotstein, 21-7 Potters Place, Holland, Pa. 18966, phone (215) 968-7630.

3910th BOMB GROUP, R.A.F. STATIONS (Wyton, Mildenhall, Lakenheath, and Upper Heyford, England, 1950-53)—July 19-24, 1991, Tampa, Fla. Contact Bill G. Parkhurst, P.O. Box 2881, Tulsa, Okla. 74101, phone (918) 446-6400.

51st FIGHTER INTERCEPTER WING (Korea, Okinawa, 1951-56)—July 25-27, 1991, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Donald Porter, 4924 Johnanne Dr., Groveport, Ohio 43125, phone (614) 836-9836.

VRC-50 SQ.—Aug. 9-11, 1991, Orlando, Fla. Contact Clint Staples, 6910 Windstream Terrace, Orlando, Fla. 32818, phone (407) 299-8428.

1503rd AIR BASE GROUP, HANEDA AIR FORCE BASE (Japan 1950-54)—Aug. 16-18, 1991, Moline, Ill. Contact William Tiechman, 4338 5th St., East Moline, Ill. 61244, phone (309 796-2084.

388th BOMB GROUP ASSOC.—Aug. 19, 1991, Holiday Inn, King of Prussia, Pa. Contact Edward J. Huntzinger, 1925 SE 37th St., Cape Coral, Fla. 33904-5076, phone (813) 542-4807.

95th BOMB GROUP (H), 8th AIR FORCE—Sept. 9-20, 1991, Reno, Nev. Contact Frank Coleman, 9 Marlette Dr., Carson City, Nev. 89703, phone (702) 882-3398.

339th FIGHTER GROUP, 8th AIR FORCE (WWII)—Sep. 11-15, 1991, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact Chet Malarz, 2405 Kings Point Dr., Atlanta, Ga. 30338.

2nd BOMBARDMENT ASSOC., 8th AND 15th AIR FORCE (2nd Bomb Group WWII, and 2nd Bomb Wing, SAC)—Sept. 12-15, 1991, Stouffer Hotel, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Kemp F. Martin, 8433 Katy Freeway, Suite 102, Houston, Texas 77024-1997, phone (713) 467-5435.

97th BOMB WING (1946-59)—Sept. 13-15, 1991, Marriott Hotel, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Leonard Capps, Route 1, Box 369-A, Erin, Tenn. 37061, phone (615) 763-2429.

43rd AIR SERVICE SQ., 5th AIR FORCE—Sept. 18-20, 1991, Lompoc, Calif. Contact Elvis Stitch, 300 Amberst Place, Lompoc, Calif. 93436, phone (805) 735-1451.

89th TROOP CARRIER GROUP/807th AAFBU, BERGSTROM FIELD, AUSTIN, TEXAS (WWII)—Sept. 18-21, 1991, Holiday Inn City Centre, Topeka, Kan. Contact Wayne Taylor, 222 SW Fairlawn Road, Topeka, Kan. 66614, phone (913) 272-2584.

454th BOMB SQ. ASSOC., 323rd BOMB GROUP, 9th AIR FORCE, B-26 MARAUDERS (WWII)—Sept. 18-22, 1991, Clarion Hotel, New Orleans, La. Contact Joe Havrilla, 1208 Margaret St., Munhall, Pa. 15120-2048, phone (412) 461-6373.

AIR FORCE POSTAL COURIER ASSOC.—Sept. 19-21, 1991, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Jim Foshee, 3509 Deer Trail, Temple, Texas 76504, phone (817) 774-7303.

AIRWAYS AND AIR COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE—Sept. 19-22, 1991, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Martin Whetstone, 1001 Lake Drive., New Carlisle, Ohio 45344, phone (513) 845-3673.

47th BOMB GROUP ASSOC. (WWII)—Sept. 19-22, 1991, Seattle, Wash. Contact Costa Chalas, c/o Rainbow Travel, 67 Trapelo Rd., Belmont, Mass. 02178, phone (617) 484-5620.

410th BOMB GROUP (L), 9th AIR FORCE—Sept. 26-28, 1991, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Bill Keim, 6 Laurel Lane, Syosset, N.Y. 11791, phone (516) 921-1016.

19th BOMB GROUP ASSOC.—Sept. 26-28, 1991, Hampton, Va. Contact James A. Kiracofe, 274 Quinn Rd., West Alexandria, Ohio 45381, phone (513) 839-4441; or Harry Carlson, 122 Dogwood Dr., Newport News, Va. 23606, phone (804) 596-1397.

MARINE CORPS

5th MARINE DIV., E MEDICAL COMPANY, 5th MEDICAL BN. (WWII)—Planning reunion. Contact Ted Martz, 2947 Cornwall Rd., Bethlehem, Pa. 18017, phone (215) 868-0581.

AMTRAC PLATOON BLT-2/4, 2/26 (Vietnam 1967-68)—July 17-21, 1991, Washington, D.C. Contact Gene Cox, 2121 E. Palo Verde, Phoenix, Ariz. 85016, phone (602) 997-7561.

ALPHA 1/12 (Navy and Marine)—July 18-21, 1991, Melbourne Beach, Fla. Contact Dale Punch, 131 Boulder Dr., Lincolnton, N.C. 28092, phone (800) 476-7822-office, or (704) 735-8509-home.

9th MARINE CORPS RESERVE BN.—Aug. 1991. Contact Angus P. Robinson, 228 E. 144th St., Dolton, Ill. 60419-1153.

CO. C, 1st BN., 5th MARINES (WWII)—Aug. 7-11, 1991, San Diego, Calif. Contact G.P. McHale, 5467 Fairbrook St., Long Beach, Calif. 90815, phone (213) 597-1189.

3rd BN, 1st MARINES ASSOC. (WWII)—Aug. 22-24, 1991, Omaha, Neb. Contact Carl E. Bennett, Route 1, Box 341, State Line, Miss. 39362, phone (601) 648-2686.

2nd MARINE DIV.—Sept. 1991, Norfolk, Va. Contact Bill Smith, 21500 Lassen St., #168, Chatsworth, Calif. 91311, phone (818) 341-0504.

U.S. MARINE RAIDER ASSOC.—Sept. 4-8, 1991, Marriott's Mountain Shadows, Scottsdale, Ariz. Contact Francis Hepburn, 4711 Del Monte Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92107, phone (619) 222-8030.

1st MARINE DIV., F-2-5 (Korea)—Sept. 12-21, 1991, Hampton Inn, Jacksonville, N.C. Contact A.B. Hendrickson, 705 Doris Ave., Jacksonville, N.C. 28540, phone (919) 346-6490.

A-1-10, A BTRY., 2nd BN., 10th MARINES—Sept. 27-28, 1991, Americana Hotel, 13th and Wyandotte, Kansas City, Mo. Contact Marty Ekstrom, phone (708) 858-5069; or Dave Estes, phone (913) 722-1574.

COAST GUARD

USS AQUARIUS (AKA-16)—Sept. 12-16, 1991, Orlando, Fla. Contact Walter Swett, 3017 Lake Josephine Dr., Sebring, Fla. 33872, phone (813) 655-1044.

USS PRIDE (DE-323)—Sept. 26-28, 1991, Travelodge Hotel, Mt. Laurel, N.J. Contact Joe Oxley, phone (609) 939-4845.

USS MACHIAS (PF-53), ESCORT DIV. 33—Sept. 26-29, 1991, Landmark Hotel, Metairie, La. Contact John R. (Dick) Jones, 806 Helene St., Wantagh, N.Y. 11793, phone (516) 731-0442.

ALL SERVICES

CANADIAN VIETNAM VETERANS, N.S., N.B., P.E.I., NFLD—Planning reunion. Contact Bob Beattie, phone (902) 765-3567; or Jack Kavanaugh, Lakeview Drive, St. Peters, N.S., Canada B0E-3B0, phone (902) 535-2228.

BRADLEY FIELD, WINDSOR LOCKS, CONN.—Planning reunion. Contact H. Snyder, 1463 Blvd., West Hartford, Conn. 06119, phone (203) 561-3096.

KOREAN VETERANS OF PENNSYLVANIA—Planning reunion. Contact B.J. Chambers, 530 Park Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17602, phone (717) 397-9704.

ROLLING THUNDER IV RIDE FOR FREEDOM—May 26, 1991, Washington, D.C. Contact Artie M. Muller, P.O. Box 216, Neshanic Station, N.J. 08853, phone (201) 369-5439.

MIDWESTERN ALL VETERANS REUNION (Wis., Minn., Iowa, N.D., S.D., Mo., Kan., Ill., Ind., Mich., and Neb.)—Aug. 23-25, 1991, American Legion Post 220, Soldiers Grove, Wis. Contact Roger Turnmire, P.O. Box 113, Soldiers Grove, Wis. 54655, phone (608) 624-3232.

SURVIVORS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR AND OTHER FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR OF THE FAR EAST—Aug. 24-29, 1991, Fontana Village, N.C. Contact Wayne Carringer, P.O. Box 46, Robbinsville, N.C. 28771, phone (704) 479-6205.

AZORES, LAJESFIELD VETERANS OF THE 1940's and 1950's—Sept. 26-28, 1991, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Contact Robert M. Watson, 4171 Rondeau Ridge Dr., Kettering, Ohio 45429-1325, phone (513) 299-2473.

recruiting awards . . .

The following DAV members have been recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in membership recruitment during the 1990-91 membership year.

(as of March 31, 1991)

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S TEAM
(More than 100 New Members)

Francesco E. D'Amato - Calif. 157, Cecil J. Wyatt - Maine 1, Joseph R. Harold - Mass. 10, William B. Beachum, Jr., John H. Bickerton, John L. Maki - Mo. 1, Dennis R. Nixon - Texas 3, Edwin G. Cooke - Texas 20, Kenneth C. Smith - Texas 21, Leslie A. James - Texas 37, John J. Malone - Texas 88, Samuel L. King, Donald M. Sampson - Texas 215

FRANCIS J. BEATON AWARD
(50 to 100 New Members)

Donald R. Cox - Ark. 57, Floyd W. Herron - Fla. 103, Bob G. Pomeroy - Kansas 4, Milton O. Purvis - Miss. 5, Larry M. Endicott, Jess B. Stagner, Jr., Edward L. Wallace, Mo. 1, Stephen C. Pollock, Jr. - Mo. 2, William E. Comp, Jr., - Mont. 22, William J. Morin - Neb. 7, Kenneth Grunwald - N.J. 21, Nicholas Cachianes - N.Y. 76, Thirsey M. Foster - Okla. 26, Daniel D. Barry - Pa. 70, Nocholas Viglione - Pa. 76, Marion D. Nesbitt - S.C. 38, Eugene A. Murphy - S.D. 1, Dennis R. Nixon - Texas 3, Edwin G. Cooke - Texase 20, Kenneth C. Smith - Texas 21, John J. Malone - Texas 88, Charles R. Wickham - Texas 157, Samuel L. King, Donald M. Sampson - Texas

125, Esther Westlake - Wash. 45.

GOLD STAR
(25 to 49 New Members)

Billy R. Black, Charles W. Milles - Ala. 12, Fred J. Baker - Ala. 25, Gary G. Zimmerman - Ariz. 8, Robert L. Williams - Ariz. 11, Partick R. Young - Ariz. 20, David L. Baxter, Nathaniel Hart - Calif. 7, Ted F. Pasnak - Calif. 70, David N. West - Calif. 79, Guillermo Pajo - Calif. 84, William H. Conroy, Jr. Colo. 7, Max M. Schleider - Fla. 75, Silva E. Short - Fla. 91, John T. Paul - Fla. 93, James E. Phagan - Ga. 1, Edwin C. Zollinger - Idaho 2, M. Douglas Kendall - Ill. 23, Thomas L. Jones - Ind. 3, Henry Walthour - La. 10, Laroy G. Canady - Mass. 16, Alfred L. Hindes, David E. Smith - Mich. 3, William E. Comp, Jr. - Mont. 22, Ronald F. Moschella - N.J. 21, Herbert L. Johnson - N.J. 41, Clarence Brown - N.J. 79, William Richard Parker - N.Y. 153, Roger D. Gist - N.C. 9, Harold J.T ester - N.C. 90, Euell L. Smith - Ohio 42, Joseph W. Jurcak - Ohio 49, Jimmy D. Blackburn - Okla. 5, Thrisey M. Foster - Okla. 26, Bruce E. Cousins - Pa. 27, Nicholas Viglione - Pa. 76, Jack E. Cairnes - Tenn. 9, Kenneth C. Smith - Texas 21, Samuel L. King, Donald M. Sampson - Texas 215, Collie M. Mattfeld - Utah 6, Perry W. Johnson - Va. 31, Shirley Jaynes - Wash. 5, Dennis F. Kinney - Wisc. 3, Donald Lee Savage - Wisc. 19, Thomas W. Rymer - Wisc. 45, Vernon M. McCarthy - Wy. 9

SILVER STAR
(10 to 24 New Members)

Perry C. Gillespie - Ala. 12, Doyle P. Taylor, Ala. 23, John A. Archer - Ala. 25, Henry A. Ford - Ariz. 28, David A. Jeter - Ark. 7, Terrance F. Cogan - Ark. 51, Kenneth N. Warr - Calif. 6, Stanton W. Lore - Calif. 7, Henry J. Hernandez - Calif. 48, Rafael Montanez - Calif. 58, James C. Jenkins, Richard D. Krueger - Calif. 73, Albert C. Derby - Colo. 1, Everett W. Bauer - Colo. 7, Robert Williams, Jr. - Colo. 14, Fidel E. Lucero - Colo. 39, Berton L Francoeur - Conn. 18, Clayton P. Giles - D.C. 16, Samuel Stanley - Fla. 4, William B. Cady - Fla. 11, Max M. Schleider - Fla. 75, Ray S. Jackson, Sr. - Fla. 85, John T. Brockes, Jr., David E. McCord, Jr. - Fla. 91, James M. Roll - Fla. 146, Billy J. Nix, Ga. 1, Billy H. Braswell - Ga. 33, Harold L. Weise - Idaho 17, Leonard Polk - Ill. 6, George L. Jones - Iowa 54, Harry Johnson, Jr. - Kansas 25, Roscoe Dickinson - Ky. 60, Terry E. Stockton - Ky. 66, Charled D. Faulkner - KY 143, Allan C. Williams, Ky. 149, E. Thomas Humble - Ky. 160, Theodore R. Tibbetts - Maine 1, Leslie E. Weaver - Maine 13, Andy Marshall, Md. 4, Harold W. LaPonsie - Mich. 45, Fred Lockwood - Mich. 68, Dale Clark - Mich. 117. Jerry W. Bay - Mo. 11, Roy L. Dalrymple - Mont. 10, Ronald W. Reilly, N.H. 4, Benito Carrion - N.M. 3, Raymond B. Desmond, Sr. - N.Y. 19, Samuel Sabino - N.Y 82, Adam G. Maier - N.Y. 95, Patrick J. Reilly - N.Y. 137, Charlie C. Welborne - N.C. 16, Thomas A. Gregory - Ohio 1, Coleman P. Powers - Ohio 35, Donal L. Bailey - Ohio 37, Rolland J. Ranks - Okla. 7, Litton H. Faust - Okla. 56, Lynn L. Ayers - Ore. 9, Francis R. Sholly - Ore. 32, Metro Lynn - Pa. 4, Byrne H. Johnston - Pa. 12, Catherine M. Rygiel - Pa. 64, John W. Richardson - Pa. 70, Ginger M. Ruckman - Pa. 73, Nicholas Viglione - Pa. 76, Joseph T. Furlong - Pa. 77, Zedrick Thomas, Sr. - Pa. 101, Simplicio G. Babao - PI 23

BRONZE STAR
(5 to 9 New Members)

Marcus V. McWaters, Ala. 7, Judy Littrell - Ala. 15, John O. Wright - Ala. 87, James Dale Gay - Ariz. 16, Charles E. Reilly, Ariz. 18, Jon C. Roberts - Ariz. 30, James F. Roeder - Calif. 12, Spence Davis - Calif. 21, Chris Dallas - Calif. 29, Robert L. Hanna, Dale J. Ridgway - Calif. 40, James A. Slade - Calif. 55, Edward L. Marvin - Colo. 18, Michelle C. Frank - Del. 5, Leonard A. Polizzi - Fla. 16, Eldon W. Sumpter - Fla. 18, Craig A. Bridges - Fla. 23, Frank P. Vito - Fla. 32, Albert I. Suresch - Fla. 37, Thomas F. Patton - Fla. 109, Robert D. Kreider - Fla. 122, James M. Roll - Fla. 146, John W. Griffin - Ga. 16, Truitt F. McNabb - Ga. 27, Paul L. Kelly - Idaho 5, Margaret S. Ivey - Ill. 34, Byron S. LaMunyon - Ind. 15, William J. Taylor - Kan. 11, Harry Johnson, Jr. - Kan. 25, Oren D. Hanbaum - Ky. 7, Robley H. Rex, Ky. 16, Horace G. Sharp, Ky. 25, Roscoe Dickinson, Karl K. Kaylor - Ky. 60, Terry E. Stockton - Ky. 66, Robert Bilz - Ky. 156, John H. LaPeze, Jr. - La. 9, Harris Soileau - La. 41, Harold B. Alford - La. 45, Andy Marshall - Md. 4, Edmund Corey - Mass. 32, Paul E. Gamage - Mass. 110, Victor J. Taricano - Mass. 114, Bobby Ben Norman - Mich. 7, Andrew S. Magner - Mich. 11, Harold J. Smith - Mich. 23, David R. VanHill - Mich. 116, William A. Ford - Miss. 5, Robert J. Winkler - Miss. 17, John P. Evans - Miss. 47, Rhonda K. Litchfield, Robert D. White - Mo. 2, John E. Gogan, Neb. 7, John R. Brainard - N.J. 29, Dolores S. Vallone - N.J. 65, William F. Hall - N.C. 46, Robert L. Evans - N.D. 9, William C. Alexander - Ohio 41, Gail E. Altvater, Sr. - Ohio 43, Denver O. Curtis - Ohio 53, Paul R. Kail - Ohio 97, William J. Flippen - Okla. 4, James W. Woods, Sr. - Okla. 16, Dora Louise Vickers - Okla. 29, Calvin L. Leach - Okla. 32, John H. Beeson, II - Okla. 39, Austin Looney - Okla. 40, Richard B. Spangler - Pa. 4, James G. Ryan - Pa. 15, Michael J. Walsh - Pa. 33, C. J. Appleby - Pa. 50 - Theodore L. Buck - Pa. 52, Catherine M. Rygiel - Pa. 64, Ginger M. Ruckman - Pa. 73, Nicholas Viglione - Pa. 76, James R. Thomas - S.D. 2, Allan J. Johnson - S.D. 3, Charles D. Fulcomer - Texas 29, Alfred J. Stanley - Texas 47, Elmer F. Flythe - Texas 63, James E. Lee - Texas 83, George Conner - Texas 84, George G. Sybert - Texas 187, Elmer R. Walker - Texas 222, Howard W. Wiseman - Va. 21, Glenn H. Gibson - Va. 45, Brill Hiers - Va. 49, David C. Schulz - Wash. 9, James W. Riddle - Wash. 57, Janet Hughes - W.V. 52, James E. Grieb - Wisc. 1, Charles E. Brown - FP 2, Josue N. Saez - P.R. 1, N. Millan- Solero - P.R. 7, Arthur R. Maines - Alaska 1.

inquiries...

This column is devoted to all personal inquiries submitted by DAV members and other interested persons. Your request will be processed through various computer lists in an effort to find the person you are attempting to locate. Requests to locate persons to Substantiate a Claim will be published if all computer attempts have failed. Thank you . . . the Editors.

To Substantiate Claims . . .

751 F.A. BN., BATTERY A, CAMP BOWIE, TEXAS (1943)—Andrew F. Rutherford, 78-11 64th St., Glendale, N.Y. 11385, phone (718) 497-5075, needs to hear from anyone who can verify him being burned with mustard gas.

DET. 908th QM CO. (Serv), 1602 ORDNANCE SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNIT-AVIATION (San Marcos Army Air Force Base, Texas) and 456th BASE HQ AND AB SQ.—Theodore G. Dittel, 212 East Adams, Apt. 6, Rapid City, S.D. 57701, phone (605) 343-3080, needs to hear from anyone who remembers him being burned on the arms and in the hospital from Sept. 1943-Apr. 1944.

CO. B, 204th COMBAT ENGINEERS (WWII)—Chalres W. Schoell, 5961 Acorn Dr., Harrisburg, Pa. 1711, needs to hear from Oba J. Scott or other personnel involved in the Moselle River crossing near Arnaville, France in 1944 to substantiate his claim for a Purple Heart.

AIR FORCE 1961-62—Henry J. Syseskey, Jr., 60 Shrine Ave., West Boylston, Mass. 01583, is looking for a Dr. Anthony Dimatteo or Dematteo who treated him for a hearing problem and seizure disorder to substantiate his claim for service-connected benefits.

HQ. 39th INF.—Ivan Charlesworth, P.O. Box 103, Newtown, Ind. 47969, needs to hear from anyone who can substantiate his claim for service-connected benefits.

ANTWERP V1 and V2 BOMBING, (two weeks at four hour intervals, on Susan Luckenbach, Nov. 26, 1944, to Feb. 13, 1945, Antwerp, Belgium, Battle of the Bulge) —Ralph R. Spanbauer, 1111 Knapp St., Oshkosh, Wis. 54901, phone (414) 235-3210, needs to hear from personnel who are aware of his injuries; or on S.S. Thomas U. Walter from Mar. 13, 1945, to Feb. 12, 1946, especially Rick (engineer), Tyrone (oiler) and Henry Dawson (Master).

New, Recertified VAVS Appointments

Four new state chairpersons, seven new representatives and ten new deputy representatives lead the list of new and recertified VA Voluntary Service appointments at VA medical centers around the country.

The four new state chairpersons are James R. Sidwell in Arkansas, Edward Kupchick in Delaware, Greg L. Holland in New Mexico, and Arturo Garcia Pena in Puerto Rico. Harold F. Tomlin was recertified as state chairperson in Colorado.

Seven new representatives include Fred Monaco in Little Rock, Ark., Roger S. Hall, in Loma Linda, Calif., Robert Masami Iso in Livermore, Calif., Robert V. Holzman in Wichita, Kan., William Edward Klein in Batavia, N.Y., Luis A. Martinez in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Richard E. Powell in Spokane, Wash. Raddy G. Hughes was recertified as a representative in Fayetteville, N.C.

New deputies include Berton L. Francoeur in West Haven, Conn., Floyd W. Neessen in Iowa City, Iowa, Vincent P. Reed, Jr. in Manchester, N.H., Noel P. Chandler in Albuquerque, N.M., Richard A. Freeman in Camp White, Ore., Darrell B. Holtzclaw in San Antonio, Texas, Jessie J. Meshell in Houston, Texas, James T. Stasko, Sr. in Salem, Va., Eugene Martin Bast in Martinsburg, W.Va., and Charles Vavrina in Tomah, Wis.

Recertified deputies David D. Branch and Frank Lenihan are in Sepulveda, Calif., and Lyle P. Thorsten in Fort Lyon, Colo. Mario J. Bonola, Salvatore E. Uccello and John William Wolf have all been recertified in Newington, Conn. Albert J. Miller has been recertified in St. Louis, Mo.

In Miles City, Mont., Mencel L. Carey, Stanley M. Mrachek, David Dale Newby and Harvey L. Wright have all been recertified as deputies. Roy B. Goddard, Sr., and Lawrence D. McShea have been recertified in Castle Point, N.Y. In Fayetteville, N.C., Julius V. Bischak and James A. Galloway have been recertified as deputies.

Other recertified deputies include John Joseph Short in Asheville, N.C., Clarence D. Brooner and Edgar Garner in Muskogee, Okla., Clinton A. Mosler in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Charles E. Stonesifer in Martinsburg, W.Va.

Correction

In the April issue of the magazine, we incorrectly identified the Auxiliary National Commander in a photo caption. Our apologies to DAV Auxiliary National Commander Myrtice R. Vinson.

DAV Charitable Trust Assists Homeless Vets

The DAV Charitable Service Trust recently donated $12,000 to the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans. This Boston, Mass., program was founded by four Vietnam veterans to provide shelter and rehabilitation to veterans who are living on the streets.

The grant will be used to provide operating support for the day shelter program. According to Shelter President Kenneth Smith, the shelter's goal is to help residents sober up, get into drug and alcohol counseling and get their lives straightened out. In addition, the program provides meals, clothing, showers, and a safe setting, as well as furnishing housing, benefits and recovery counseling to 100 to 150 homeless veterans each day.

Smith added, "Many of these veterans we serve are not safe out there. Nearly one-fifth are over 55, veterans from Korea and World War II. One-quarter are disabled. We serve men who are barely ambulatory and have earned more than a life in the streets."

The DAV Charitable Service Trust is designed to fill the gap between what veterans need and what government can provide. The Trust makes grants available to support such activities like the Boston shelter, as well as employment and recreational therapy programs to help disabled veterans.



Those at the opening of the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans included Shelter President Ken Smith at the podium, Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn and former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, third from right. The DAV Charitable Service Trust donated $12,000 to help the shelter provide meals, clothing and a safe setting from some 100 to 150 homeless vets.



Six TVs Donated in New Jersey...

Using donations from Forget-Me-Not campaigns, members of North Bergen-Secaucus Memorial Chapter 54 bought six 19-inch televisions to give to the East Orange, New Jersey, VA Medical Center. According to chapter commander Walter Spodaryk, the hospital's Chief of Voluntary Services let the chapter know the VA needed the sets. Presenting the TVs are, from left, Chapter Member Joseph Zoluski, East Orange VA Medical Center Director Peter Baglio, Spodaryk, Chapter Adjutant Sal Scalzo, and Chapter Treasurer Steven Bodnar.



Helping Military Families...

Families of troops stationed in Saudi Arabia were given a helping hand by members of DAV Chapter 47 in Bellevue, Neb. A $100 check was presented to Col. Noel Mears (left), Deputy Commander, 55th Combat Support Group, at Offutt Air Force Base to add to the base's emergency fund for families. Presenting the check are Chapter Commander Howard Heslin (center) and Chapter Adjutant Don Gallagher.

IT'S A CAJUN AND CREOLE CONVENTION!

New Orleans, Louisiana—home to so many good things spelled creole and cajun—will be home as well for the 70th Annual National Convention of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary, July 27 to August 1, 1991.

It's a special land on the Mississippi River delta that mixes the old world with the new, and the cultures of France with the musical samplings of downhome blues and uptown jazz.

When you come to New Orleans, bring your appetite and be prepared to learn a whole new vocabulary of foods that are uniquely Louisiana. From spicy andouille sausage and sweet beignet pastries for breakfast to dinners of crawfish, gumbo and dirty rice, the range of dishes is exotic and apparently endless.



The 1991 National Convention at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel puts delegates at the doorstep of the famous French Quarter and a short stroll from the sites and shops along the Mississippi River. And whether it's a ride on a paddle wheeled river boat or a john boat journey through the swamps, the port city of New Orleans offers something for everyone.

This year, too, it's gotten particularly easy to travel to our national convention city, thanks to special DAV National Convention fares with Delta Airlines. DAV and DAV Auxiliary delegates to New Orleans this year can take advantage of



Reservation Form

Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary National Convention
July 27 to August 1, 1991
New Orleans, Louisiana

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone ( ) _____ Sharing with _____
Date Arriving _____ Time (am/pm) _____ Date Departing _____
Airline _____ Flight No. _____
I will guarantee my reservation by:
☐ Advance Deposit ☐ VISA ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ Diners Club
Card Number: _____
Guest Room Requests: ☐ King Bed ☐ Double/Double
Signature: _____

NOTE: All rates quoted are subject to 11 percent state and local taxes. Additionally, a $3 per room, per night hotel occupancy tax applies at the Sheraton New Orleans and $2 at the Hotel Inter-Continental, and is subject to change without notice. Please return reservation no later than June 27, 1991, to insure confirmed room reservation. All reservations are confirmed on a first come first serve basis. A deposit of $75 (per room), payable to the Sheraton New Orleans or Hotel Inter-Continental New Orleans, must accompany this reservation request, or confirm your reservation with a major credit card. **Changes or cancellations must be made directly with the hotel.** The confirming hotel is responsible for any room deposit refunds on cancellations. Failure to cancel your reservation within 48 hours of arrival will result in the loss of your cash deposit or charge to individual credit card accounts.

Mail to:

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
500 Canal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
(504) 525-2500

☐ Single $66 ☐ Double $66

Main House Suites:
☐ 1-Bedroom $175
☐ 2-Bedroom $245
Executive Level Suites:
☐ 1-Bedroom $260

Hotel Inter-Continental New Orleans
444 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
(504) 525-5566

☐ Single $61
☐ Double $61
☐ Triple (3 person) $67

Suites:
☐ 1-Bedroom From: $200
☐ 2-Bedroom From: $300

☐ Confined to Wheelchair
☐ Visually Impaired
☐ Leg Amputee

THE 70th NATIONAL DAV AND AUXILIARY

Delta's 45 percent discount off the unrestricted Coach fare. This special discount is based on Delta's published Coach round-trip fares within the United States and Puerto Rico. Additionally, Delta offers a 5 percent discount on any of their other published fares for travel to New Orleans for the National Convention.

Departures to New Orleans must be between July 23 and August 4, 1991. Seven days advance reservations and ticketing are required. Certain travel restrictions may apply and seats are limited.

Cosmopolitan Travel, the DAV's official travel agency, will confirm your air travel at the lowest rate available. For reservations and information, call Cosmopolitan Travel toll free at 1-800-541-1332 between 10 am and 9 pm Eastern Standard Time. Be sure to refer to file number D0089 when making your reservations.



Finding Your Way Around New Orleans

New Orleans is an easy city in which to get around. During the day you can walk to almost any destination in the Central Business District or in the lively French Quarter. But, as in most large cities, it's advisable to take a cab or other form of public transportation after dark.

Fares for taxicab rides from the airport to downtown New Orleans are $18 for up to three people, $6 for each additional passenger. The ride from the airport to downtown takes about 15 to 20 minutes except during peak traffic periods.

Within the city cab drivers charge $1 per mile with a $1.10 drop charge. Each additional passenger costs 25 cents.

Special Rates from Hertz

Special car rental rates are available from the Hertz Corporation for attendees of the Disabled American Veterans 70th National Convention. These special rates are available during the convention and for one week before and one week after after the convention.

Advance reservations are your best bet and can easily be made by calling the Hertz toll-free convention number 1-800-654-2240. Be sure to tell the reservation agent you will be attending the DAV National Convention in New Orleans and refer to file number CV7727 when making your reservation.

A publication with the wheel - chair tourist in mind, *Rollin' By The River* is available as a guide to wheelchair accessible facilities for dining and entertainment, as well as wheelchair transportation. Copies of *Rollin' By The River* are available from:

Advocacy Center for the Elderly and Disabled
210 O'Keefe Avenue, Suite 700
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-522-2337

Copies may be picked up in person for $1 each or send a check or money order for $2.25 per copy to the above address.

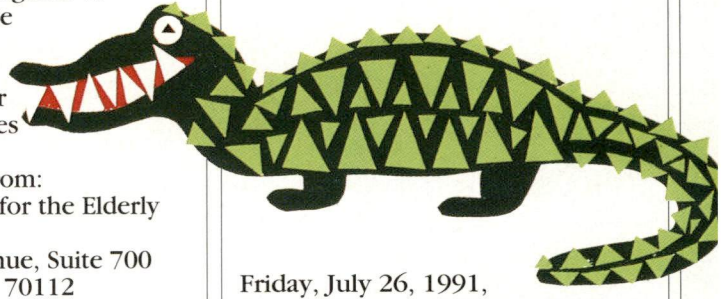
For additional information about getting around New Orleans during the DAV National Convention, contact the Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission, 1520 Sugar Bowl Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112; or telephone 504-566-5011.



Tickets, Tickets, Tickets

Don't miss out on two of the most popular gala events of each year's National Convention, the National Commander's Reception and Grand Ball.

Delegates and guests attending these activities will be required to purchase a ticket that will be collected upon entering each of the events. Tickets for both events can be purchased at the DAV Information Booth in meeting room Bayside A & B on the fourth floor level of the Convention Hotel (Sheraton New Orleans). Tickets sales begin Friday, July 26, 1991, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tickets are $2.50 per event, per person. Children under 18 will be admitted free.



The always popular National Commander's Reception is scheduled for Sunday, July 28, 1991 in the Sheraton Grand Ballroom, from 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., and the grandest of them all, the Grand Ball, will take place on Thursday, August 1, 1991 in the Sheraton Grand Ballroom from 7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



Buy This Valuable Memory Of Korea And Help Build The Memorial In The Nation's Capital.

Today, we have an opportunity to commemorate the end of the Korean War and to honor those who served. Congress has authorized the issuance of a new coin by the U.S. Mint. This limited-edition, legal-tender commemorative silver dollar is a fitting tribute to Korean War veterans, and for each coin sold, $7.00 is turned over to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund. To help build a lasting memorial in Washington, D.C., purchase your coin by filling out and mailing the order form below, or simply call 1-800-453-4500.

A rare tribute to those who served.

Coin enlarged to show detail. Designs depicted are renderings of the Korean War Memorial Coin, and are subject to slight modification prior to engraving.

The Korean War Memorial Coin

Please accept my order for the coin(s) indicated. I understand that if my order is postmarked no later than May 31, 1991, I am eligible for the pre-issue price shown, that orders are not valid until verified and accepted by the Mint, and that once accepted, orders may not be cancelled.

	Option No.	Qty.	Item	Regular Price	Pre-Issue Price	Subtotal
1	K10		Proof Silver Dollar	$31.00	$28.00	
2	K11		Uncirculated Silver Dollar	26.00	23.00	
			MINT USE ONLY		Total Order Price	

KA1 K436

The Mint reserves the right to limit quantities and may stop accepting orders at any time. Shipping will begin in May, 1991 and continue for several months. All sales are final and not subject to refund. Orders may be filled in multiple shipments.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DO NOT SEND CASH. Make checks or money orders payable to United States Mint.

METHOD OF PAYMENT: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card Account No.

Credit card orders will be billed and checks deposited upon receipt by the Mint.

Expiration Date: Month ____ Year ____

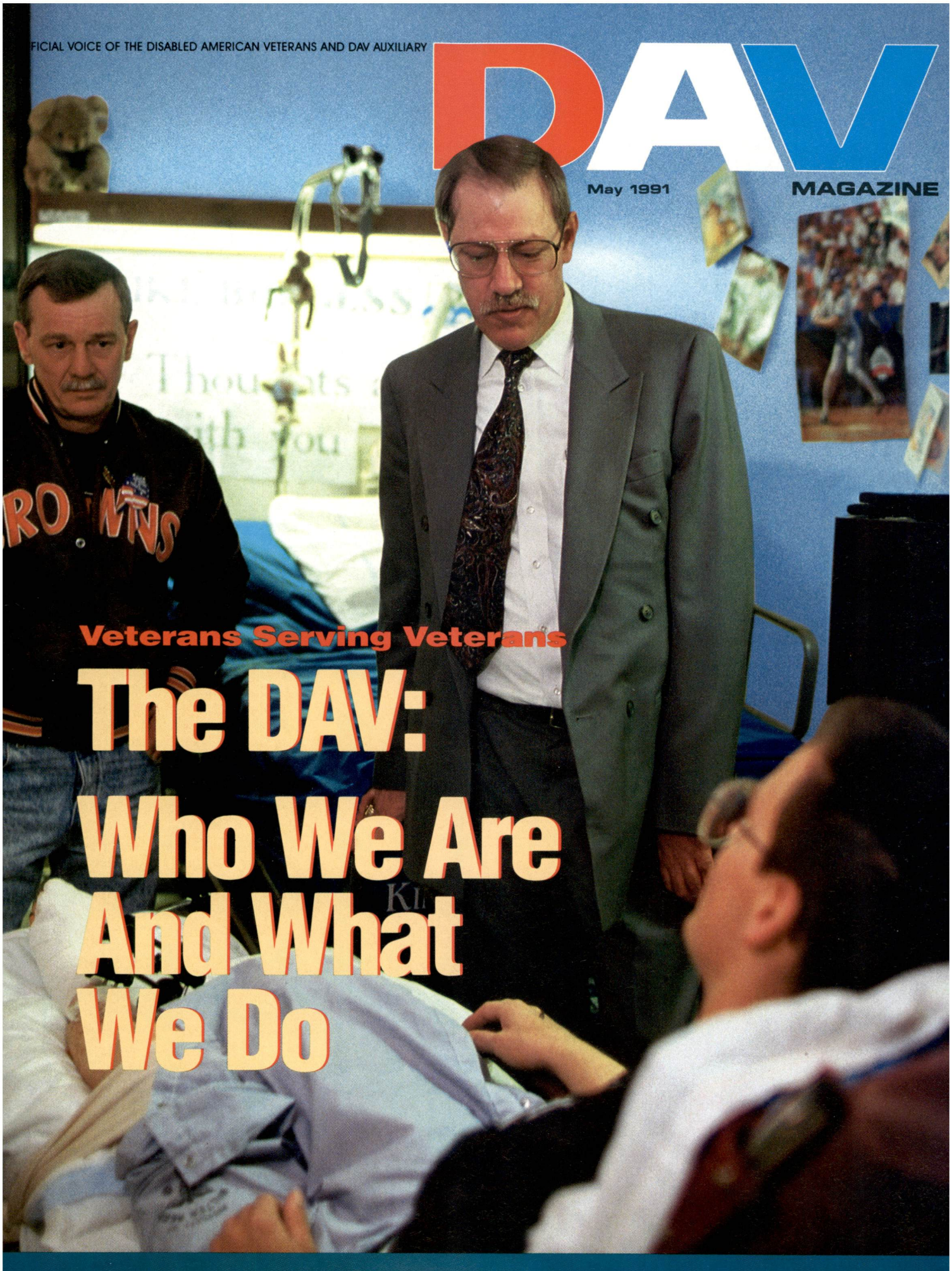
Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: The United States Mint, P.O. Box 41998, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1998

FICIAL VOICE OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AND DAV AUXILIARY

DAV MAGAZINE

May 1991



Veterans Serving Veterans

The DAV: Who We Are And What We Do

★ A Special Report ★

in this issue . . .

DAV MAGAZINE

The official voice of the Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary

☐ **Joseph E. Andry, National Commander** ☐ **Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant and Publisher** ☐ **Jerry Atchison, National Director of Communications** ☐ **Gary J. Logan, Editor** ☐ **James A. Chaney, Production Coordinator** ☐ **David W. Givans, Staff Writer** ☐ **Ashley McGinnis, Administrative Assistant**

DAV Commander's Viewpoint . . . The DAV in Action	1
From the Executive Director . . . Life or Death on the VA's Wards	2
SPECIAL REPORT: THE DAV IN ACTION	4-19
National Service Dept.: Fighting in the trenches	5-8
National Employment Dept.: Working with federal agencies	9-12
National Legislative Dept.: Tracking veterans legislation	13-16
Voluntary Services Dept.: People working with people	17-18
National Membership Dept.: Strengthening the DAV	19
Know Your Benefits . . . Vocational Rehabilitation	20
The Auxiliary view . . . Gold Stars and Mother's Day	22
Department & Chapter News	24-25, 31
Chaplain's Corner	25
Membership Standings	27
Reunions, Inquiries	28-30

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"What is the DAV and what does it do?" *DAV Magazine* this month tackles that question with an in-depth self-assessment. Initially, DAV staff approached the question in a practical way—outlining Department programs and services. But what we quickly discovered is that what we do would not be possible without the people who make up our staff. They, like our members, are disabled veterans. And they, like our members, have unique human characteristics that grew out of serving their country.

Compassion is one of those characteristics—a characteristic that underlies the efforts of the National Service Department. Without a deep concern for disabled veterans and their families, Service Department staff would not have the enthusiasm necessary to effectively fight for the service-connected benefits and entitlements due disabled veterans. Empathy is another characteristic. Without having experienced the hurdles facing a disabled veteran seeking meaningful employment, members of the DAV National Employment Department would have a difficult time working for the employment and vocational rehabilitation rights of disabled veterans. Tenacity is another DAV characteristic, especially in the National Legislative Department. That staff, all combat-wounded veterans, have experienced the intensity of battle. They know what warfare is about, and they take what they know to Capitol Hill everytime they have to fight for legislation that will protect the rights of disabled veterans.

Looking further, we found creativity in the Voluntary Services Department and a never-give-up attitude in Membership. But ultimately we looked beyond ourselves and at you, our members. In the final analysis, we realized what we do happens because of not only who we are, but who you are—disabled American veterans.

Volume 33, Issue 5 DAV Magazine (ISSN 0885-6400). **Editorial Office:** DAV Magazine, 807 Maine Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024. Published and circulated monthly by the Disabled American Veterans, a Congressionally-chartered, nonprofit organization. Available on recording for the blind and those with physical handicaps that preclude reading printed material. Subscription rate, $4.00 per year. Second class postage paid at Newport, Ky., and at additional mailing offices. Printed in U.S.A. **Change of address:** When ordering change of address, send former as well as new address, including zip code number, to: DAV Magazine, DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-5550. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to DAV Magazine, DAV National Headquarters, P.O. Box 145550, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-5550.



The DAV In Action

Joseph E. Andry, National Commander

The DAV subscribes to a service that reviews the nation's newspapers and magazines, and sends us copies of articles that deal with disabled veterans, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and other issues that directly affect us and our families.

In fact, I think it's the same clip service the VA uses.

I mention that because we've been receiving more and more newspaper clippings each month. Today those clippings—from big and little papers in large towns and small—are numbering in the hundreds each month. Some of those articles tell good news: disabled vets doing what they do best—helping others.

But a growing number of these newspaper stories aren't good news. Some of those distressing stories are covered in this issue of the magazine. You'll read, for example, the tragic tale of veterans who died in a VA hospital in North Chicago, Illinois. They died, by the VA's own admission, because of poor quality care. Chicago area newspapers tracked down and interviewed scores of former patients and staff who talked about unnecessary surgical procedures and improper care.

A nationally syndicated columnist recently wrote about how incredibly difficult it's become for amputees to obtain prostheses from the VA, how long the wait for these prostheses has become and the marginal quality of the artificial arms and legs once they're received. He, too, told a tale of not enough funds to meet the need, or provide sufficient staff, and disenfranchised veterans as a result.

And, of course, many of you are familiar with the tale of a hospitalized vet who went without food for three days in a VA hospital, as reported on national television.

These kinds of stories are being reported in the media just about everywhere these days.

I don't think there's been a single metropolitan newspaper since the beginning of the year that hasn't had some kind of sad or tragic example of veterans in need.

The tragedy of veterans' health care has reached into virtually every community in America. For the last 10 years we've warned against a future that has finally reached us. For more than 10 years we've refuted, on a point-by-point basis, the excuses of a long line of VA Chiefs who've said here in Washington that everything's OK.

Most recently, you'll recall that last month VA Secretary Derwinski called us all a bunch of gripers. So the denial continues.

All of us feel keenly the effects of a federal government that's teetering on the edge of insolvency. We've watched savings and loans go over that edge—and our tax dollars spent to pull them back. And we've seen a recession settle in a floundering national leadership in response.

The last few months, I've been like everyone else—a citizen in search of a single bright spot in all this tragedy, doom and despair.

I believe the magazine you hold in your hands is going to show you that we need look no further than the DAV to find that bright spot.

Like any other organization, from time to time we need to take a step back and look at the big picture. We need to assess our programs, our people and our goals. In the process of doing that, we've rediscovered just how truly important the work of the DAV is, how particularly important are the programs the DAV administers and—most importantly—how special are the people who make it all work.

Like me, I think you'll read with considerable pride the leadership roles we've taken in service, our employment and legislative programs. In each area there are programs that offer help available nowhere else, or advocacy unmatched in skill and effectiveness.

You'll read how Operation Desert Storm soldiers wounded in combat—and the survivors of those who did not come back—have turned to the DAV for the help and guidance the organization can offer. You'll read how special DAV programs are helping military men and women make the transition back to civilian life. You'll read of legislative efforts on Capitol Hill that are helping shape this nation's obligations to her newest generation of veterans—and respond to the growing needs of current disabled veterans and their families. You'll read how our national transportation network has grown from a convenience to a life-saving necessity for so many veterans around the nation. And you'll read about innovative plans to meet the future needs of veterans.

I'm going to hang on to this issue of the magazine. When people ask me who we are and what we do, I'll hand them this magazine. When others throw up their hands in frustration, I'll remind them that we're one group of people who are truly making a difference.

We're going to keep right on fighting the bureaucrats, keep right on articulating our clear vision of this nation's obligation to its disabled veterans and keep right on working together for a brighter future.

Over the next several pages you'll read about the DAV in action. I think you will find it, like me, the welcome counterpoint we all need.

From the Executive Director . . .

Life or Death on the VA's Wards

Jesse Brown, Executive Director, National Service & Legislative Headquarters, 807 Maine Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024 Phone 202-554-3501



At the end of March a VA report was released that concluded at least 43 veterans may have died at the VA hospital in North Chicago, Ill., as a result of poor quality patient health care. Shortly thereafter the VA specifically accepted blame for six deaths because, in the words of VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski, "mistakes were made. The medical care was clearly not what it should be."

The report's findings were released more than 14 months after initial allegations of poor medical care surfaced, and 10 months after the first of at least three reviews were ordered in the wake of growing complaints about substandard care at the hospital.

In response, Derwinski belatedly suspended virtually all surgery at the hospital and initiated disciplinary proceedings against two senior management officials.

The VA investigators at North Chicago, one of the largest VA hospitals in the nation with over 1,000 beds, "found indications of questionable patient-care practices" and said the situation "may be symptomatic of larger and more widespread patient-care problems at this facility."

None of that was a surprise to Loretta Murrey, whose husband died in the North Chicago VA hospital following what should have been routine surgery. "It was like a lamb being led to slaughter," Mrs. Murrey told a Chicago newspaper. The VA doctors botched the job badly, ignored the warning signs and filled Mr. Murrey with morphine and Valium, according to the VA report.

"The excessive use of these potent narcotics and sedatives demonstrates a serious lack of experience and/or poor supervision by attending physicians," the audit concluded.

"There were errors in medical judgement," Derwinski said, "and errors in medical procedure which were extremely upsetting."

But Derwinski's response—shuffling the administrators into new jobs after the problems with Mr. Murrey and others were uncovered—was much the same as those actions he took last year when similar patient-care problems were reported at VA medical centers in Albuquerque, Cleveland, Long Beach and Poplar Bluff, Mo.

In each of these instances where substandard patient care or questionable medical practices were uncovered there were some unreasonable delays in addressing the problem. In some instances, staff were reassigned elsewhere within the system. Where reviews uncovered questionable practices, additional reviews were ordered. Nevertheless, the pattern of deteriorating medical care persists.

"But when there comes a time—when veterans' lives are needlessly lost and elderly and destitute veterans are subjected to the poorest quality of care—then there must come a time when irony gives way to rage."

Compelling evidence was found early on that North Chicago VA staff were guilty of failing to diagnose and treat health-care problems quickly, were ignoring diagnostic tests or performing unnecessary surgeries.

But additional reviews were ordered and the evidence suppressed at a time when Congress was publicly questioning the VA's ability to serve as a medical backup to military hospitals for casualties of Operation Desert Storm.

Derwinski and his staff repeatedly told Congress the VA would have no problem providing comprehensive health care to military men and women wounded in the Middle East. Yet, even as growing numbers of complaints against the system were being lodged, Derwinski told a Senate subcommittee, "Without seeming to be melodramatic, this could be our finest hour."

In a separate interview at about the same time, Derwinski told reporters that, too often, medical misadventures are swept under the rug.

The pictures of joyous, flag-waving Americans welcoming home our young heroes of Operation Desert Storm, to my mind, formed an ironic backdrop against which the treatment of the nation's sickest veterans of past wars has played out.

The VA health-care system fell some $700 million short of providing services at a level that matched last year. And projections are the system will fall even further behind—to the tune of $1.7 billion—for fiscal year 1992.

So, again, my sense of irony was strong when President Bush told veterans in early March, "You understood that when the forces of aggression arise, America must stand ready to do the hard work of freedom. You understood because you've been there. And you know how important the support

of the folks back home is to our troops. What we stood for was a principle. And now we've got to stand for doing what's right by our veterans."

But when there comes a time when veterans' lives are needlessly lost and elderly and destitute veterans are subjected to the poorest quality of care—then there must come a time when irony gives way to rage.

There comes a time, when accountability must truly replace rhetoric. Derwinski's public confidence in the VA's abilities to provide quality health care has grown in lock step with the growing number of public disclosures of needless VA patient deaths, deteriorating VA hospital conditions and dwindling staff morale.

Right now there are young men and women in military hospitals who are receiving expert care in excellent conditions. As a nation, we are twice-blessed that America did not suffer more casualties in Operation Desert Storm. That America can come through one of the largest offensives in history with so little loss of life clearly speaks to the quality of our military leaders and the total commitment of resources necessary to get the job done.

If casualties had been severe, America as a nation would have raged against a national VA health-care system that would have failed its sons and daughters, its newest generation of veterans.

In the meantime, what about those other casualties of war? What of the Murrey family...and those other families in North Chicago who have learned from VA attorneys that they, too, probably lost a loved one to poor quality health care?

Through our Chicago National Service Office, the DAV has offered assistance and representation to those families who have lost a family member at the North Chicago VA Hospital.

The VA continues its own investigation into the causes of death of other veterans who were patients at the facility. And a full evaluation of the surgical services at North Chicago is underway.

But the spectre of doubt persists. The VA Inspector General's report covered only nine months at the hospital in North Chicago. We believe the VA's review should be expanded one year on each end of the existing study, to include the periods from June 1988 to June 1989 and from March 1990 to March 1991, and that each and every patient death be reviewed in depth. Further, we believe any credible review can only be undertaken by an independent and objective committee from *outside* of the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration (VHSRA).

The DAV continues to receive reports, on almost a daily basis, of continuing problems with the delivery of health care at VA hospitals around the nation. We have provided information on these reports to the Chief Medical Director's office.

Shortly before this issue of the magazine goes to press, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care will hold hearings on the problems in VA health care. We will testify that Chicago is quite possibly only the tip of the iceberg. And we will ask how many deaths must there be on the wards before changes are made?

Since fiscal year 1983, the VA has paid out more than $224 million in malpractice claims. Imagine how much more health care could have been provided ailing and indigent veterans with that money. Thousands of claims were settled for slipshod medical procedures or substandard care.

The burden of budgets repeatedly cut, of staff stretched thin and of resources that are virtually exhausted has now grown to overwhelming proportions.

In North Chicago there were deaths on the wards—needless deaths. And there were deaths on the wards in Albuquerque and Poplar Bluff and Cleveland—needless, senseless deaths. Those are only the deaths we know about, deaths that have escaped the cloak of secrecy, deaths that were so tragically wrong as to confound every excuse maker in the system.

We were, indeed, winners in Operation Desert Storm. We won because leadership was provided and resources were committed. Such a simple lesson is not lost on those who've served America in our past wars. Within the VA, leadership is needed. An equal commitment of resources is called for. Otherwise the toll of casualties will get higher. The battles will have been won abroad, but the war will have been lost at home. There must not be any more deaths on the wards.

WHAT'S BEING DONE MR. SECRETARY?

Shortly after the deaths in North Chicago were revealed, DAV Executive Director Jesse Brown wrote Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward J. Derwinski and asked for some straight answers. Here are the questions which, at press time, the VA still had not answered:

- Why has it taken the VA almost 10 months to disclose and address the largest concentration of malpractice cases in its history?
- Given the serious health and welfare issues involved, why did the Inspector General ignore the seven day reporting requirements of Public Law 95-452 in 1990?
- What role did the Medical Inspector play in this scenario and if he was not directly involved, why not?
- In view of the mounting system-wide evidence of serious problems in the quality of health care, i.e. Cleveland, Poplar Bluff and New Mexico, what systemic changes do you anticipate are necessary to preclude similar instances where inspections/audits indicate a problem and no corrective actions are taken?
- Do you anticipate any remedial actions relative to the VHSRA (Veterans Health Services and Research Administration) review team, whose business-as-usual attitude appears to have seriously damaged the credibility of the VA?
- As regards any disciplinary actions, the DAV expects more than title changes, which begs the question—Will those parties deemed responsible for this situation remain in the operation or administration of veterans' health care now and in the future?
- What overall management changes do you anticipate to preclude any future "sweetheart" reviews?
- Finally, given that the buck stops at your desk, what managerial initiatives will be forthcoming to the VHSRA staff to ensure the integrity of that service and to tighten your management control over the process?

More than six months ago, following the report of two apparently avoidable patient deaths at Albuquerque, N.M., Brown wrote Secretary Derwinski and asked, "what is being done to prevent similar such circumstances and incidents from occurring in the future on a system-wide basis." Brown said he asked the question because he recognizes that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Special Report: DAV IN ACTION

The first four months of 1991 have not been uneventful ones for America's veterans, particularly disabled veterans. In January, VA hospital employees and former and present patients were writing DAV Magazine *about their experiences—both good and bad—in the VA health-care system. The diagnosis? High morale but also denied care, limited prescriptions, poor doctor-patient communication and staff shortages. At about the same time in Los Angeles, the VA's Commission on the Future Structure of Veterans Health Care was wrapping up its fact-finding mission on the VA's 172 hospital system. Among its findings—shortages in beds and facilities, long waiting lists for VA nursing home care, and "an acute shortage" of geriatric psychiatrists. And, of course, in mid-January "Operation Desert Storm" kicked off, raising the question of the quality of VA health care for both wounded service men and women returning from the Persian Gulf and veterans already in VA hospitals.*

Other issues that surfaced in early 1991 included the Administration's proposed budgets for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor (DOL) and its employment programs for veterans, legislation restoring the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) that was killed late last year, and a DAV class action lawsuit against the VA on behalf of incompetent veterans. These issues and emerging issues continue to challenge the energy and resourcefulness of the DAV's national staff, its nationwide network of 276 National Service Officers (NSOs), and its 2,800 chapters and departments across the country. As DAV Magazine *prepared to go to press for this month's issue, NSOs under the DAV's National Service Department were meeting with wounded Persian Gulf War veterans and survivors of those killed in the Gulf. Members of the DAV's Employment Department were discussing with DOL, Office of Personnel Management and VA officials the employment and vocational rehabilitation needs of disabled veterans as well as those returning from Desert Storm. DAV's Legislative Department was sending its members to Capitol Hill to testify on such issues as VA service-connected disability entitlements; death, education and health-care benefits; the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program; and the state of the National Cemetery System. The DAV's Voluntary Services Department was also addressing that issue, developing a program to provide needed equipment at some national cemeteries. Voluntary Services was also continuing its disabled sports and transportation programs, and its celebrity visitation program at VA and military hospitals. The Membership Department, among other projects, was preparing its Mother's Day membership drive.*

Even as the DAV National staff attended to their respective jobs, issues affecting veterans continued to challenge the DAV. In early April, newspapers reported veterans' deaths at the North Chicago VA Medical Center due to misdiagnoses and unnecessary surgeries. In Washington, D.C., the Department of Veterans Affairs was realigning itself to, as Secretary Edward J. Derwinski put it, "better reflect VA's day-to-day operations."

Some of those VA "operations" and issues affecting disabled veterans are reported in the following special section. The focus is not only on the issues, but how the DAV staff respond to them. From a department-by-department viewpoint, DAV Magazine *editors hope to give readers an insight into not only what the DAV does, but how it does it. Following is this special report—"DAV In Action."*



DAV National Service Officer James M. Combs, left, discusses disabled veteran entitlements with Michael Burgess, an Operation Desert Storm soldier who was wounded by a land mine. Looking on is Burgess' father, William.

DAV IN ACTION
Service

Some observers have described the DAV's National Service Officers (NSOs) as the backbone of the organization and its mission. Whether making initial contact with an injured veteran or family survivor, assisting with filing claims for disability compensation, educational, housing, or vocational rehabilitation benefits, or representing veterans before military Physical Evaluation Boards, NSOs are the frontline soldiers of the DAV.

"In a tangible, hands-on way, they represent the meaning of what the DAV does," said DAV National Service Director Art Wilson of the DAV's 276 NSOs nationwide. "NSOs make sure that disabled veterans and their family dependents receive what they're entitled to. If they don't, our NSOs will be there to review the decision and counsel and represent the veteran or family member in an appeal," Wilson added.

The NSOs rapid response to the return of U.S. service men and women from the Persian Gulf War is a timely example of their role. As wounded "Operation Desert Storm" military personnel returned to the Washington, D.C., area, for example, NSOs O.J. Brooks, James M. Combs and other Washington-based NSOs began contacting officials at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"My initial role is to let them know the full range of DAV services, and that we're available to those who need help," said Combs, who was wounded in Vietnam in 1967. "We have to let the hospital staffs know how important it is to have access to us, and for us to have access to them," he added.

Once an NSO gets in touch with a disabled service member, he or she will review the medical records, and help the individual file the appropriate claims. The NSO may also help represent the service member before a military Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) at the hospital, which determines the service member's fitness for continued military service or eligibility for military retirement.

"DAV NSOs—These are the guys who are fighting in the trenches for disabled veterans who don't get the praise they deserve."

The primary role of the NSO before the PEB, according to Combs, is to make sure that the service member receives a fair hearing. "The questions I have to ask are 'What has the board recommended?' 'Is it consistent with the medical findings?' 'Have the Board members used the correct evaluation procedures?' 'Has this man or woman been rated properly,'" said Combs.

Unlike VA disability claims, which a veteran may re-open at any time during his or her lifetime, decisions of the PEB may be final since they may only be changed upon petition for review to an Appeals Counsel or the Board for Correction of Military Records. An appeal of a PEB determination can take years to resolve and is often difficult to overturn.

"Therefore, it is critically important that the service member receive expert representation before a PEB," said Wilson. "Our NSOs know that a decision of the PEB can last a lifetime. If a service member suffers a disease or injury that qualifies that individual for disability retirement from the military, then we want to present the issues in such a way that the PEB will make the right determination. While the benefits of retirement may not be readily apparent to the service member, we know it assures that monthly disability compensation will never be less than military retirement. Also, eligi-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)
bility is established for commissary privileges, CHAMPUS and all other benefits of military retirement."

NSOs often use information gleaned from the hearing in filing and appealing disability compensation claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). "The VA makes its own independent verification of the service member's claim, but we try to make sure that VA considers PEB findings supporting the claim," said Combs.

GETTING THE RIGHT INFORMATION

One wounded Persian Gulf serviceman Combs recently contacted at Walter Reed is Michael Burgess, a 20-year old Army medic who was severely wounded by a land mine in Kuwait. Combs has met repeatedly with Burgess and his family at the hospital, informing them of entitlements for disabled veterans, and helping him fill out the necessary forms to receive those entitlements.

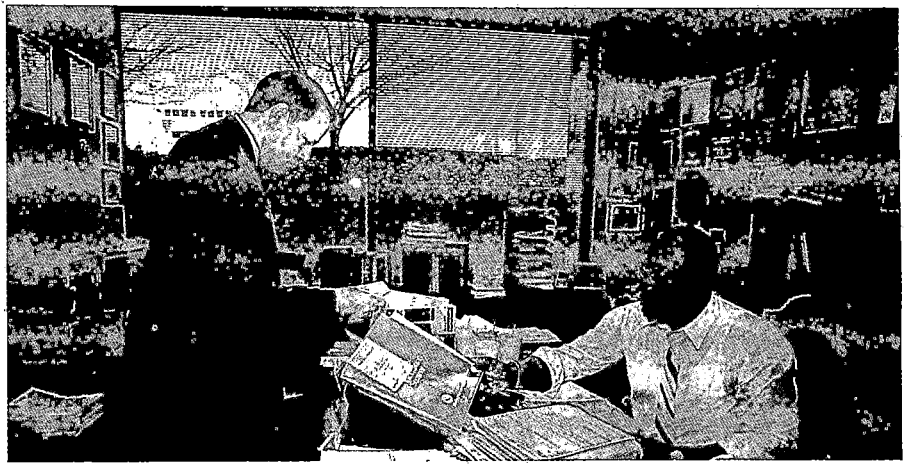
"Here's the case of a young man whose life has been dramatically changed because of his service to his country," said Combs. "The questions we have to be concerned with are 'What happens to him when he leaves here?' 'Is he going to be left out in limbo somewhere?' What we're doing now is going to affect him the rest of his life."

Asked if the role of an NSO is the same as that of a VA veterans' benefits counselor, Combs added, "We're not here to get someone through the system. We're here to see that they get the representation they need to get everything they're entitled to."

How helpful are NSO Combs and other NSOs to disabled veterans? "If it were not for your service officers, they (veterans) wouldn't be getting the right information," said a VA employee, who asked that he not be identified.

Paul A. DeMichael, NSO Supervisor in the DAV's Cleveland, Ohio, office, has also been meeting with Persian Gulf service personnel and their family members. He recently met with the widow of Capt. David M. Spellacy, who was killed in action in the Persian Gulf on Feb. 25. On behalf of the DAV, DeMichael granted the widow, Megan Spellacy, emergency relief aid, and helped her file a Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) application.

"When we realize there's been a KIA



Right, DAV Washington Office Supervisor O.J. Brooks, on the right, discusses a Desert Storm veteran's claim with NSO James M. Combs. Below, NSO Dan Barry of the DAV's Pittsburgh National Service Office meets with the surviving family members of Sgt. John T. Boxler, who was killed during a Scud missile attack on his barracks in Saudi Arabia.





Paul A. DeMichael, NSO Supervisor in the DAV's Cleveland office, meets with Megan Spellacy, the widow of Captain David M. Spellacy, who was killed in action in the Persian Gulf.

(killed in action) or a WIA (wounded in action) in our area, we want to be the first ones to reach out, to ensure that they or their survivors get the best representation before the VA," said DeMichael, a combat-wounded Marine veteran of the Vietnam War. He added, "I'm extremely proud of this case. I met with the widow on a Monday and was able to get a VA award the following day, which can take months through the adjudicative process. We knew exactly what was needed by the VA, and hand-carried her case through the system until finalized."

REWARDS OF SERVICE

What are the rewards for NSOs serving disabled veterans and their families? "Self pride," answered DeMichael. "It feels good to reach out and help people in need," he added.

Those sentiments were echoed by Daniel D. Barry, NSO Supervisor in Pittsburgh, Penn., who also met recently with service men and women who served in the Persian Gulf. "There's a lot of pride that goes with this work. There is the reward of a recent case in which we got a veteran upgraded from 30 percent disabled to 80 percent disabled retroactive from 1946," said Barry. He added, "But you don't always have to win the big one. You can see the gratification in letters and phone calls from people who maybe got a 10 percent disability rating or a new set of eyeglasses. They appreciate the minor things. It's self rewarding."

Barry recently visited the Johnstown, Penn., widow of Sgt. John T. Boxler, who was killed when a Scud missile hit his barracks in Saudi Arabia. Sgt. Boxler was a Vietnam veteran and a life-member of DAV Chapter 2 in Johnstown.

BUILDING A RAPPORT

In addition to issuing emergency relief funds to Mrs. Boxler, Barry and other Pitts-

(Continued on page 8)

Management and Oversight Key Roles of DAV Service Department

If DAV's National Service Officers are the front-line field soldiers for the organization, the Washington, D.C.-based National Service Department is their Command Post. That office, according to National Service Director Art Wilson, provides for the training and management of the DAV's nationwide network of 276 NSOs, and oversees the Washington, D.C., institutions that influence veterans' benefits, including the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration.

"From a management perspective, we hire, train, and monitor the performance of our NSOs from our National Service and Legislative Headquarters," said Wilson. He added, "We also oversee such issues as Social Security disability insurance and changes in VA regulations and the VA's rating schedule, among other activities."

Coordinating, defining and updating the NSO training programs are some of the chief concerns of the Department. As this issue of *DAV Magazine* reaches readers, several NSO trainees will be undergoing DAV orientation at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky. They are participating in the 16 month on-the-job training program at their assigned DAV office.

"They'll receive intensive training, since they'll be performing a function similar to that of an attorney. Training is the key to ensure that our clients receive the best possible representation from our NSOs," said Wilson. "When they complete the initial phase of training, they'll begin to sharpen and enhance their skills through practical application and involvement in the Structured and Continuing Training Program," he added.

Underlying both the training and the actual work of the National Service Department, said Wilson, is the DAV's goal of ensuring that the VA responds to veterans' claims and entitlements as it is directed to under federal law. "There's a reason why our National Service Officers are trained in the precise art of writing appellant briefs for consideration by the Board of Veterans Appeals and presenting oral and written arguments before the Court of Veterans Appeals. There's a reason why our NSOs are skilled in the laws and regulations concerning veterans' entitlements," said Wilson. He added, "That reason is making sure that veterans receive the benefits they are entitled to under law. We help them work through the maze of red tape, providing an advocacy that is unmatched."

The National Service Department also administers the DAV's Disaster and Emergency Relief programs, the DAV's Field Service Unit (FSU), and such programs as the Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program and the Native Americans Outreach Program. Regardless of the particular program, concludes Wilson, the work of the National Service Department is people work. "Whether we send out our FSU to rural areas to advise disabled veterans and their families, or provide disaster relief to veterans catastrophically affected by disasters like Hurricane Hugo or the earthquake in San Francisco, we're always providing needed services to people," said Wilson. He added, "Often that human contact speaks more about what we do than anything else."



Members of a Navy Physical Evaluation Board consider a serviceman's case. DAV NSO James Combs, representing the military member, is shown at right.

(Continued from page 7)

burgh NSOs have informed her of burial and DIC benefits, and educational benefits for her and her two children. What has been the Pittsburgh office's approach in dealing with Mrs. Boxler and other survivors of deceased veterans?

"We try to expedite their claims and provide emergency relief as we normally would in such situations, because they have suffered the ultimate loss—a parent, spouse or child. Even though monetary benefits do not rectify that loss, they don't need the drudgery of having to get food on the table and meeting expenses," Barry said. He added, "When we first go in we try to provide a wide range of information about VA benefits. We sit down with her and try to build a rapport, deal with her one-on-one."

Said Wilson, "This approach often provides peace of mind to our claimants, knowing that their claim is being represented by an organization that prides itself on expert advocacy for veterans and their families."

Building that rapport with survivors and vets is made easier by the experiences of DAV NSOs. As Barry noted, all veterans and their families share similar experiences. "What you're seeing in the relationship between us and the Gulf victims is that everybody in this office is disabled. We can associate with the pain, the bureaucratic red tape."

Cleveland NSO DeMichael agreed: "We represent all veterans, but naturally we have an empathy with combat-wounded veterans and their families. You can relate with them very easily because they know you're a combat-disabled veteran. We're more or less one of them. The fact that we don't represent the government turns them on even more."

Barry noted that Pittsburgh NSOs have met with other rural Pennsylvania service members who served in the Persian Gulf War through the DAV's mobile Field Service Unit. Initial claims paperwork has been completed, he added, and claims are pending the service members' separation from their respective military branches.

"We're keeping constant contact with these people and maintaining diaries on their cases," said Barry. "In the beginning, there won't be any problems with their cases, but as time goes on, there may be when they find out they have to come in for future evaluations."

The work of NSOs and the National Service Department staff is long, painstaking work, explained Wilson. But the service they provide to veterans and families in need, he added, are well worth the labor.

"These are the guys who are fighting in the trenches for disabled veterans, who normally don't get the glory and praise they often deserve," said Wilson. He added, "But as you'll hear from them, the rewards come from what they do, which maybe explains the long, hard hours they put in."

Service Department Monitors Increasing Needs of Women Vets

"VA health care will never be the same because of the increasing, specialized needs of women veterans. The role of service women in the Persian Gulf War, in which women lost their lives, were wounded and taken prisoner, is evidence that women veterans will have a greater reliance on the VA. And this reliance will not only be on VA health care, but also on disability compensation, educational and vocational rehabilitation benefits, among other needs."

That was the response of DAV National Service Director Art Wilson when asked about the impact of an increasing number of women veterans on the Department of Veterans Affairs' programs and its health-care system. Wilson added that the DAV and his department will continue to push the VA to meet the increasing demands of women veterans.

National Service Officer Shirley Jaynes, Assistant Supervisor of the DAV office in Seattle, Wash., noted a dramatic increase in the number of women entering DAV Service offices. "Other than established outreach efforts, I believe it's a direct result of information received at transition programs offered by the DAV at military installations," said Jaynes. "Women leaving the military now feel comfortable in coming to us for help in filing compensation claims with the VA," said Jaynes.

Jaynes, who is also a member of the VA's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, said that the VA has come a long way in its treatment of women veterans over the last decade. The Advisory Committee, which was set up 10 years ago to address the problems of treating women veterans at male-oriented VA hospitals, recently met in Washington, D.C. The members discussed recommendations the Committee will make to the VA Secretary on how the VA can more effectively deal with women veterans.

"We took a really close look at what the VA is providing to women who were involved in Operation Desert Storm," said Jaynes. "For instance, in preparing for returning woman casualties and their special medical needs, the VA contacted both military and civilian hospitals for specialized assistance. Also, the VA considered service women's needs in setting up Desert Storm teams to assist veterans at VA Vet Centers.

Jaynes added that the VA is taking the lead in research on women's mental health, including research into post-traumatic stress disorder. "There hasn't been much research done in the private sector on how war affects women who have served on the front lines," said Jaynes. "The VA feels the research is very important because of the high number of women who served during the Persian Gulf crisis."

Generally, said Jaynes, the VA is still addressing the differences in treating men and women. VA hospitals still have Women Veteran Coordinators to act as liaisons for women and their medical concerns. If a VA facility doesn't have a gynecologist on staff, for example, the Coordinator will make sure that the woman gets the treatment necessary outside the VA, but at VA expense.

Claims Assistance

National Service Department Director Art Wilson reminds readers to refer to the DAV family members and friends who served in "Operation Desert Storm" and who are in need of assistance on matters ranging from Physical Evaluation Boards and VA benefits to Social Security programs. Check your telephone directory for your nearest DAV National Service Office. If you are unsure of the location of the NSO office in your area, please forward inquiries to: DAV, National Service and Legislative Headquarters, 807 Maine Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

DAV IN ACTION

Employment

Ensuring that disabled veterans receive adequate job training and meaningful employment is the primary goal of the DAV Employment Department. Underlying that goal are myriad duties and responsibilities of the Department, including testifying before Congressional committees, tracking federal legislation, meeting with corporate leaders and officials of the Departments of Labor and Veterans' Affairs, and sitting on such committees as the Small Business Administration's National Veterans Advisory Committee.

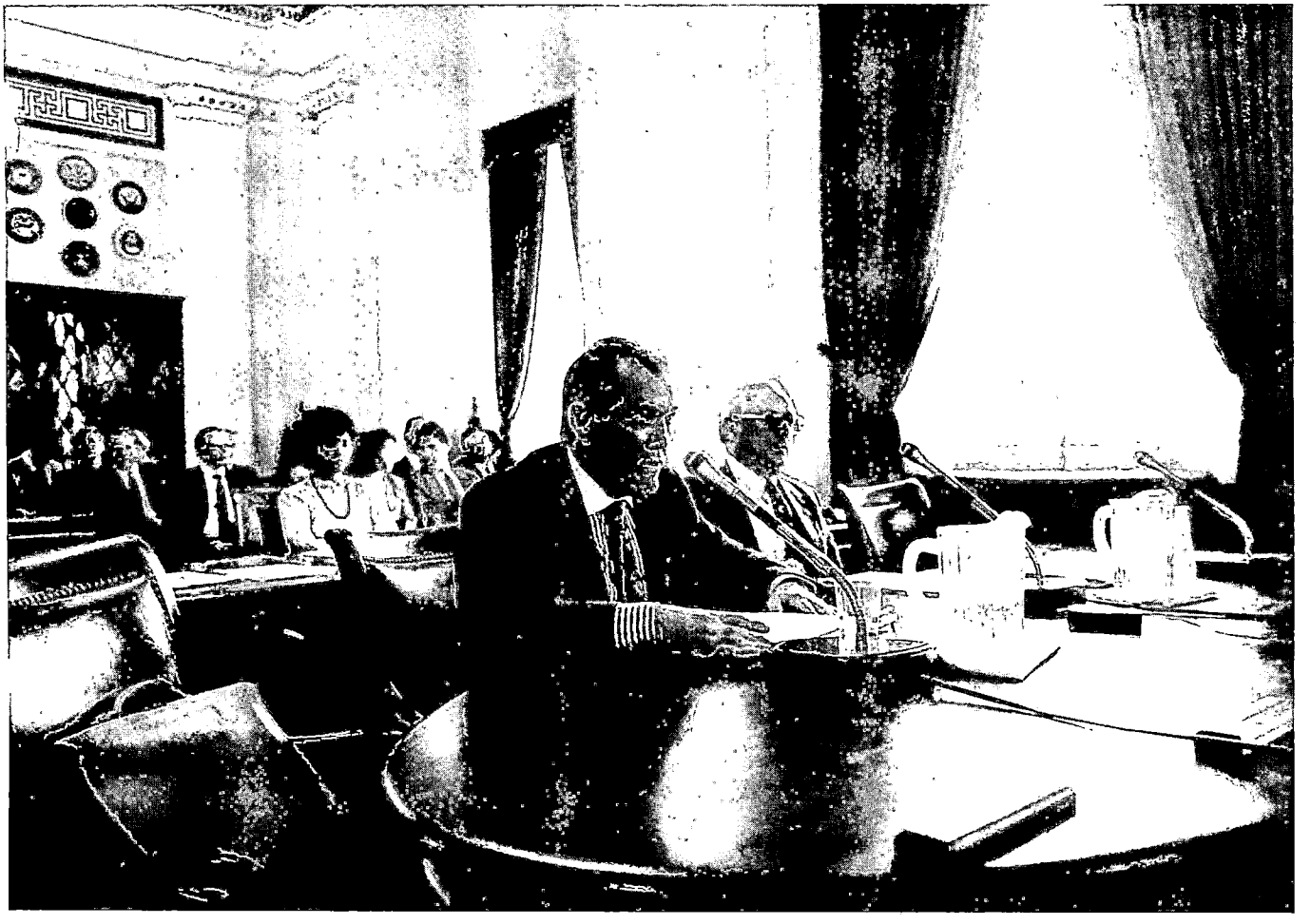
Labeled "the acronym department" by co-workers, DAV Employment Department representatives discuss veterans jobs' programs on a regular basis with officials from EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), OPM (Office of Personnel Management), VETS (Veterans Employment and Training Service), ETA (Employment Training Administration) and OFCCP (Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs). What do they discuss? Among other programs, DVOP (Disabled Veterans Outreach Program), LVER (Local Veterans Employment Representatives Program), TAP (Transition Assistance Program) and VRA (Veterans' Readjustment Authority). Because of the nature of its work, the Employment Department meets with more Washington agencies and discusses more government programs than any other DAV Department.

"We work with several federal and state agencies, as well as private non-profit groups and corporate representatives to sensitize them to the job-training, vocational rehabilitation and employment needs of disabled veterans," said Ronald W. Drach, DAV National Employment Director. He added, "Of course, we also inform them of the qualities of disabled veterans. They have shown themselves to be productive employees, once they're given the opportunity."

The continuing return of service men and women from the Persian Gulf and their future employment needs have not lessened the challenges confronting the Employment Department. In mid-April the Defense Department released the names of military bases proposed to be closed as part of the government's five-year plan to cut U.S. military forces by 25 percent. At the same time, national surveys were indicating that the postwar euphoria was ebbing, being overshadowed by domestic problems such as increasing unemployment.

Such challenges put the Employment Department into action. Working with the DAV National Service Department, Employment Department representatives and NSOs were at U.S. military installations conducting workshops for service men and women on transition to civilian employment. Also, Employment Department Director Drach was reviewing the Hampton (Virginia) VA Medical Center's work-therapy program for disabled veterans, and Associate National Director of Employment Len Gilmer was conducting a seminar on the Americans With Disabilities Act for government human-resources managers.

Other veterans' employment issues remain on the DAV's front burner, including Reservists' reemployment rights, veterans' preference in federal hiring, and vocational rehabilitation. All of these activities and issues, some of which are highlighted in this section on the DAV Employment Department, keep the Department at a fast pace. But, as Drach noted, "These are the things we must do to ensure that disabled veterans receive the necessary training and rehabilitation, as well as have equal opportunities, to compete in the job market."



DAV National Employment Director Ronald W. Drach is shown testifying on veterans' reemployment rights during a recent Capitol Hill hearing.





Left, members of the Naval Air Station Jacksonville disabled transition assistance program (DTAP) include, from left, DAV Department Service Officer Robert Hunter, Navy civilian employee Deborah "Tiny" Kampe and the disability counselor, Quartermaster Chief Stephen Sisung. Above, Department Service Officer George Passwater, shown in a DTAP classroom, also counsels soon-to-be discharged service men and women in the program. The Florida program is one of a number of such programs at military installations around the nation.

DAV Guides Military Personnel In Transition To Civilian Life

On a recent Friday in April, the space shuttle *Atlantis* lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, and headed out into space.

At the same time, about a hundred miles up the Florida coast, a group of Navy men and Marines were preparing for their own incredible voyage—their discharge from the military and return to civilian life as a result of disabilities they had incurred on active duty.

For many of these recently disabled veterans at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, it was a transition just as disconcerting as the shuttle astronauts' journey from Earth to space. The future was something they were just beginning to grasp.

The half-dozen sailors and Marines at Jacksonville, however, were some of the lucky ones, benefactors of a model disabled transition assistance program (DTAP) that features DAV counseling and service as an important part of the day-long program.

DTAP is one of a variety of programs designed to assist the military man or woman who is returning to civilian life. They are programs mandated by federal law and operated jointly by the Departments of Defense (DoD), Veterans Affairs and Labor.

By September, military installations in 19 states are scheduled to be operating TAP, the transition assistance program. A number of those sites, including Jacksonville, have added programs especially tailored to meet the information needs of disabled military men and women—DTAP.

During a recent visit to Jacksonville, *DAV Magazine* learned there are a variety of reasons why the DAV has entered the various programs around the country.

"I don't have any personal insight into the VA system," said Navy Quartermaster Chief Stephen Sisung, who is the disability counselor at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. "I know the DoD rules and regulations and what the military will do for those being processed for a disability discharge. But the men from the DAV have been there, in the VA hospital system and claims system, and can tell these folks what to expect once they get out."

Sisung said he feels good about the DAV presence in the counseling sessions because it offers the disabled vet the assurance that a network of trained and committed people is on the outside waiting to help. "That assurance hasn't been there in the past," he said. "And while most of us know what the military has to offer, we're plain ignorant of the disability benefits offered from the VA. The DAV is helping to fill in the gaps."

DTAP at Jacksonville supplements the longer TAP program and brings together counselors from the military, the VA and two DAV Department Service Officers: George Passwater and Robert Hunter.

Besides offering first-hand insight into how the VA health care and claims systems work, the two DAV officials perform service medical record reviews and answer questions.

"We just try to help smooth the transition," Hunter said. "They appreciate the fact that we've been through the system and that we represent a nationwide network of people who are there to help."

Passwater agreed, adding that the newly disabled veteran, for the first time, is looking beyond the military experience to civilian life: "And they see the DAV as an organization of people who have shared their experience and who are committed to helping."

Sisung estimated about 600 people a year are rated by a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) at Jacksonville and transferred to the disability retired rolls or discharged.

Nationally, the military discharges about 360,000 a year for all reasons. That large number of service men and women in need of transition information was one reason the DAV involved itself in the transition process. But a number of other reasons existed as well.

DAV support for military pre-separation briefing programs extends back many years. The DAV now provides service medical record review and seminar briefings at 30 military installations, many of which are not yet covered by TAP or DTAP.

"Our linkage with the military came in several ways," said Ronald W. Drach, DAV National Employment Director and the individual responsible for overseeing the organization's participation in the various military transition programs. "We surveyed our national service officers and discovered many of them with military activities in their areas had formal or informal arrangements to provide some kinds of counseling. At some locations the DAV was working with the military retirement centers. At others we were working with the physical evaluation board people, because they do not work with VA rating boards on a regular basis. Thus our expertise in this area was particularly appreciated by them. At still others we went out and offered our services or, in the case of California, the state came to us and asked if we would help."

Drach said the transition programs run from just a few hours to several days and include various participants. "But they're critically important because we know, on average, these veterans will have higher unemployment rates or be in lower paying jobs. They need information and help as early as possible and as comprehensively as possible. Hopefully the DAV can help fill that need."

Drach said the future of transition services is bright. "Legislation was passed expanding TAP and DTAP to all major military installations. We expect that the expansion to 19 states will provide services to over half of all separating personnel."

The DAV plans to help out wherever it can, Drach said. But in the process of helping educate newly disabled veterans, the DAV has had to educate some federal agencies as well. "We had to fight to get into some sites. The Labor Department tried to keep us out in some instances, but the Defense Department wanted us in. Labor wanted us out because many DOL officials don't see the filing of disability claims as an integral part of the separation process. We disagree. Our findings have shown that 80 percent of the records we've reviewed result in legitimate claims for compensation that may lead to preference in hiring in federal, state or local jobs, or affirmative action with federal contractor employers in federal contracting."

"We had to keep apologizing to our people that we couldn't give them accurate disability claims information because the rules kept changing...The DAV's helping to change all that."

Presently, the DAV has a number of initiatives in support of the TAP/DTAP program. The national organization is preparing tailored resource materials to be used by DAV service officers engaged in the military transition process, as well as by those being discharged.

"We are also currently negotiating with the Navy in Norfolk, Va., to open a DAV office there," said Drach. "After visiting the Navy site in Norfolk I am convinced more than ever of the need for DAV services."

Drach said the military has been particularly cooperative in the DAV's efforts around the country. The reasons behind that cooperation were perhaps best underscored by Chief Sisung. "We had to keep apologizing to our people that we couldn't give them accurate disability claims information because the rules kept changing, and none of us—really—had any first-hand knowledge of the VA system. The DAV's helping to change all that."

DAV Responds To ADA Regulations

When federal legislation affecting disabled veterans is enacted into law, DAV officials can usually be found nearby. The enactment of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) was no exception, as members of DAV's Employment Department looked on as President Bush signed the measure into law last summer.

But according to DAV National Employment Director Ronald W. Drach, DAV's role in making sure that the Act does what Congress intended it to do is not yet over. Drach recently submitted the DAV's comments to the proposed regulations for the ADA, noting that disabled veterans—as a class—should *automatically* be considered as disabled for purposes of enforcing the law. In addition, he feels it's especially important to track disabled veterans' complaints of discrimination to ensure that they are getting the benefits of this new legislation.

The Act provides protection against discrimination for disabled people in such areas as employment, public transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications. For instance, restaurants must provide menus in braille or have waiters read menus to blind people; gas stations must have pumps accessible to disabled people or provide full-service at self-service prices; and phone companies must provide assistance in relaying telecommunications for hearing-impaired people.

Drach noted that it is an encouraging sign that the federal government and the American public are becoming increasingly aware of how important it is for disabled people to be accepted into the mainstream of everyday life. He explained that the Act will have a major impact on the employment rights of disabled people, including disabled veterans. To that end, the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission recently came out with the proposed regulations to enforce the law.

Under the proposed regulations, starting July 27, 1992, state and local governments and private employers with 25 or more employees are prohibited from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities in job application procedures, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation, other benefits, and job training. Employers with fewer than 25 employees are not covered until July 27, 1994. To be protected by the non-discrimination provisions, a disabled person must be qualified and able to perform the job he or she is hired for.

If a disabled person needs special accommodations to do the job assigned, employers must be prepared to make changes in the workplace. Examples of reasonable accommodations are: making buildings accessible, rescheduling working hours, reassigning an employee to a vacant position, providing interpreters, etc. However, the Act does not require employers to make any accommodations that would pose an undue hardship or expense to the business.

Drach concluded, "The DAV is glad to see the rights of disabled people being protected. We all know that disabled people can be just as 'able' as individuals without disabilities. But it's sure nice to see something like the Americans With Disabilities Act come along to prove it."

Employment Department Fights For Disabled Vets' Jobs Programs

The DAV National Employment Department's current fight for continued funding of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) illustrates how the Department battles yearlong for government programs designed to help disabled veterans find meaningful jobs.

The Department's latest skirmish on behalf of disabled veterans centers around a White House recommendation to cut $40 million from DVOP, a Department of Labor (DOL) program designed to assist unemployed and underemployed disabled and Vietnam-era veterans. If the White House proposal stands, DVOP staffing will drop from an authorized level of 1,885 this year to 438 next year, according to DAV National Employment Director Ronald W. Drach.

This 80 percent cut comes at a time, Drach said, when—

- The Department of Defense is projecting 650,000 separations during the next six months because of force reductions and attrition following the Persian Gulf War,
- The number of unemployed in the U.S. has risen by 1.6 million from June 1990 to February 1991, and
- The unemployment rate for Vietnam veterans between the ages of 35 and 39 has nearly tripled to 10.7 percent during the last 14 months.

Under the proposed Fiscal Year 1992 budget, the DVOP was scheduled to suffer the 80 percent cuts by January 1992. These Administration cuts were based, in part, on a formula which depended on a Vietnam era definition. As that definition was to expire on Dec. 31, 1991, DVOP staff positions were slated to be reduced. Since then, however, new legislation has been signed into law extending the definition of Vietnam era veteran and, subsequently, the DVOP until 1994. Despite this extension, Administration and DOL officials have yet to request additional funding to fully support the DVOP.

"If the Administration is not going to support the legislation," Drach said, "it should provide a legislative package outlining its initiatives to provide meaningful employment services to not only returning veterans, but disabled veterans currently unemployed."

DAV's National Employment Department is currently pressing DOL officials and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to restore the DVOP funding. Drach said the DAV has been joined in this fight by two powerful allies, Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.) and Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), respective chairmen of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees.

More than 778,000 veterans, including 68,658 disabled veterans, received some type of service through the DVOP during the program year ending June 30, 1990, according to the latest data from DOL's Veterans Employment and Training Service. Of the 179,751 veterans who found jobs through the DVOP during that period, more than 76,000 were Vietnam era veterans and more than 17,000 were disabled veterans.

"The DVOP is one program that truly focuses resources in an area of tremendous need for disabled veterans, the one group that has been notoriously underserved in most employment and training programs," said Lennox E. Gilmer, DAV's Associate National Employment Director. "Now they want to severely reduce the DVOP in spite of the law."

The DVOP was begun in 1977 as a special initiative to assist unemployed and underemployed disabled Vietnam era veterans and the staffing formula required one DVOP staff specialist for every 5,300 Vietnam era and disabled veterans. DVOP staff specialists generally provide employment and employability services to veterans with service-connected disabilities and Vietnam era veterans, especially those who are economically and/or educationally disadvantaged.

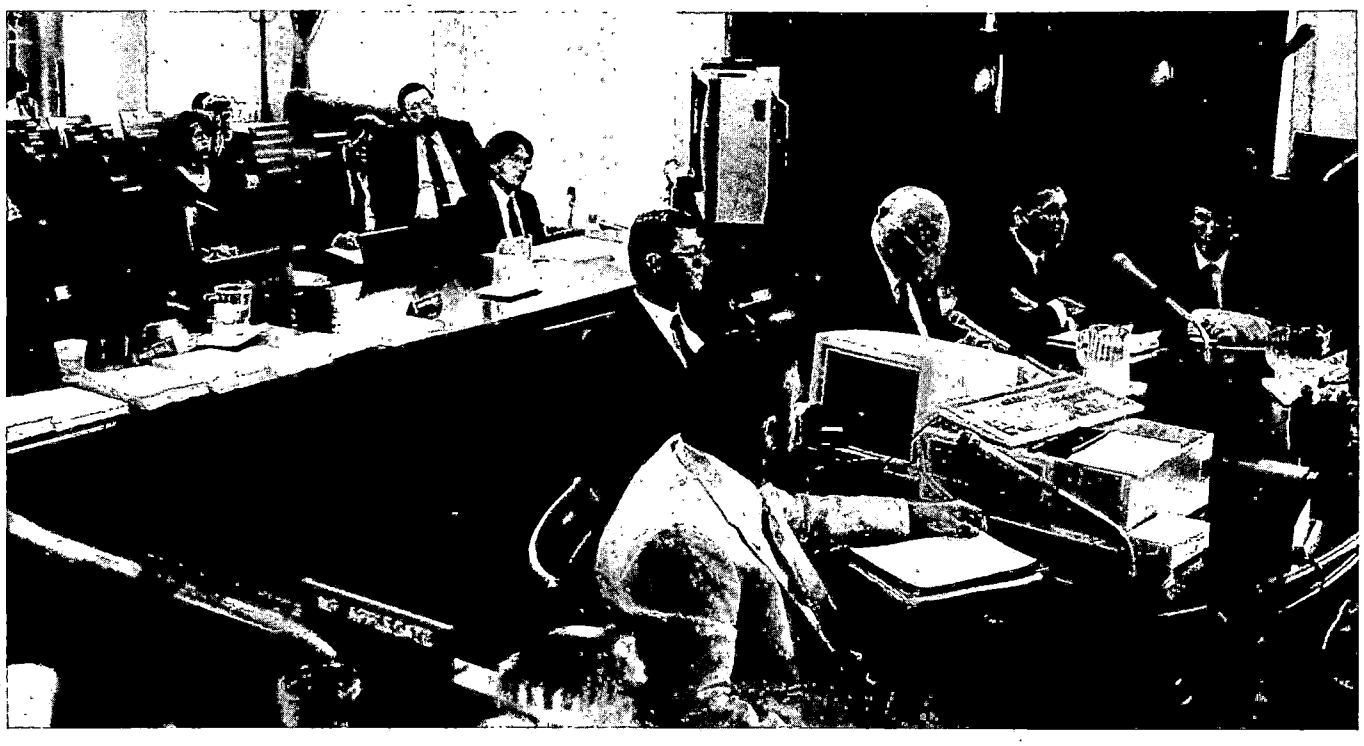
"We're very often the first place a disabled veteran is referred to and we try our best to make them aware of all the services available," said Levi Royster, a DVOP staff specialist at the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services.

"We do a tremendous amount of on-the-spot counseling, especially in helping veterans apply for federal jobs."

The looming question, however, is how much longer will Royster and other DVOP staff specialists across the country be able to provide their valuable assistance to America's disabled and Vietnam era veterans?



Disabled vet Robert Nellson, left, listens to DVOP specialist Levi Royster explain employment opportunities.



DAV Assistant Legislative Director David W. Gorman, second from right, is shown during a recent Congressional committee hearing.

DAV IN ACTION
Legislative

Whether the issue is the quality of VA health care, the VA's disability compensation program, the conditions of national cemeteries, or the government's policy on a full accounting of POWs and MIAs, the DAV Legislative Department can be found on the scene. That scene may be a House or Senate hearing room, a Congressional representative's office, a briefing room at the Department of Veterans Affairs, sometimes the White House, but often the hallway of a government building.

"Veterans' legislative issues move in this town, and we have to move with them by tracking bills, monitoring hearings, testifying before Congress and meeting with lawmakers and their staffs," said DAV National Legislative Director John F. Heilman. "By doing all that, we try to make sure that federal legislation affecting veterans moves in the right direction," he added.

By looking at Congress' spring lineup of hearings, one can see the dizzying schedule the Legislative Department follows. As *DAV Magazine* readers received this issue in early May, Legislative Department representatives were preparing to testify before House and Senate Committees on such issues as disabled veterans' cost-of-living allowance (COLA), the VA's Home Loan Guaranty Program, veterans' education and employment programs, service-connected disability compensation, and Court of Veterans Appeals legislation.

"Looking at the legislative calendar, you can see that there is no shortage of issues out there for us to be involved in," said Heilman. "We're here and up on the Hill to ensure that these issues address veterans' needs adequately and meaningfully. Frivolous legislation and legislation without proper funding will not answer the needs of our members. We have to get into the nuts and bolts of proposed laws and fine-tune them through our input to Congress to ensure that they do meet those needs," he added.

Some of the issues Heilman referred to include those highlighted in this special section on the DAV's Legislative Department. But there are other issues he and the Legislative staff addressed during the last Congress and continue to address this session. They include beneficiary travel to VA hospitals, homeless veterans, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the VA's prosthetics programs.

The DAV's approach in dealing with them, said Assistant National Legislative Director David W. Gorman, is determining the impact of the issue on veterans and whether administrative action or legislation is needed to address any problems.

"Take PTSD, for example," said Gorman. "The VA is saying it is opposed to expanding its treatment for veterans suffering from PTSD unless it receives more money for that purpose. What we're saying is that certain disabilities constitute priorities—those directly related to military service, for example—and must be the focus of treatment by the VA."

In that regard, DAV Legislative staff is working with Members of Congress and giving their input on legislation that would ensure that this needed treatment is provided by the VA.

"I met with legislative staffers to discuss a change of language in the legislation that would direct the VA to provide that PTSD treatment whether or not we get additional funds," said Gorman. He added, "What we're trying to do is work with the committees and members' staffs to enhance the way the VA provides needed medical care for veterans suffering from PTSD."

Another current concern of the Legislative Department is the reported unnecessary deaths of veterans at the North Chicago VA Medical Center (see "Life or Death on the VA's Wards," p. 2). How is Legislative addressing that issue?

"We're defining the process that the VA uses to assure quality medical care in the system. What is the central direction of VA quality assurance? Where are the policy and procedure directives coming from? Are they being followed through?", asked Gorman. He added, "More importantly, we're talking to members of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, and asking VA Secretary Derwinski the hard questions: Why the delays in responding to serious quality-of-care issues? If it does take this long, what's being done to change it so we can avoid future unnecessary deaths?"

As with other DAV departments, the welfare of the disabled veteran is the bottom line issue for the Legislative Department. For some other illustrations of how the Department advocates that concern, see the accompanying articles involving the Legislative Department in this section.



Senator Barbara Mikulski, right, is shown with members of the DAV's Washington staff following her subcommittee's April hearing on problems being experienced in the VA. Shown from left are, Richard F. Schultz, Associate National Legislative Director (seated); Paul Thompson (partially obscured), Maryland Department Adjutant; Jesse Brown, DAV Executive Director; John F. Heilman, DAV National Legislative Director; and Bruce Burgess, Associate National Legislative Director.

Sen. Mikulski Grills VA Officials On Medical Care, National Cemeteries and COVA Backlog

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) grilled VA's highest ranking officials for nearly three hours concerning the VA's quality of medical care, credentialing of doctors, problems in the National Cemetery System, and the increasing backlog of cases at the Court of Veterans Appeals.

Mikulski, who chairs the Senate Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, voiced her concerns during an April 17 hearing that was witnessed by a standing-room-only crowd of DAV members from the Departments of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

"Mr. Secretary, I'm going to tell you up front—today's hearing is going to be tough," Mikulski told VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski in her opening remarks. "We've got some very serious concerns about the Department of Veterans Affairs and the services it is providing to those who fought for this country's way of life."

Mikulski, citing recent problems at the VA's North Chicago Medical Center that she called a travesty, told Derwinski she wondered whether North Chicago is not a symptom of a much larger, more serious pattern and if there's a lack of discipline throughout the VA medical system.

"Unfortunately, your budget request does not seem to indicate that quality of care is at the top of your agenda," Mikulski said. "I think you would agree that an adequate budget is the key to quality care and while VA's budget does increase medical care by almost $1 billion in medical care, this represents only a 5 percent increase — compared to a medical inflation rate of about 10 percent."

Derwinski, while noting the VA does have some management and fiscal problems, said the VA did the best it could in getting money from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and that "quality of medical care is a special concern of the VA. By and large, I think the system is a good one."

As Derwinski left the hearing to attend a special Cabinet meeting with President Bush, Mikulski asked Derwinski to tell the President "he did a heck of job with Desert Storm...but Mr. President, we've got to meet our commitment to veterans of other wars. Yellow ribbons and speeches are just not enough."

"These veterans are being jerked around. I don't want to see young lawyers earning their spurs on the backs of veterans."

Mikulski then questioned Dr. James Holsinger, Jr., VA's Chief Medical Director, about the problems in the VA's credentialing process for doctors and the seemingly constant shortage of qualified nurses. Under the VA's credentialing process, the backgrounds and qualifications of VA health-care professionals are supposed to be periodically checked.

Although Holsinger told the Senator the VA has made great progress in credentialing, Mikulski was far from satisfied. "If the VA has to be constantly reminded to do something as simple as checking credentials, then I'm afraid there's a whole lot more you need to learn." Mikulski was deeply troubled about the VA's request to be exempted from new federal regulations calling for stringent quality control measures on clinical laboratory tests. When Holsinger insisted that the VA had taken a lead in this area and worked hard to improve the quality of its test results, Mikulski said, "if you're that terrific, then you shouldn't mind complying with these new standards. We can't have two sets of rules, that's just wrong." Holsinger replied, "it's the cost of imple-

"Mr. President, we've got to meet our commitment to veterans of other wars. Yellow ribbons and speeches are just not enough." **Senator Barbara Mikulski**



menting the program that concerns us, not the quality control standards."

After hearing VA Deputy Secretary Anthony J. Principi describe actions the National Cemetery System (NCS) has taken to correct the recent problems at California's Riverside National Cemetery, Mikulski lauded the DAV and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) for donating time and money to help the NCS maintain proper burial sites for veterans (see "DAV Launches Twofold Effort To Restore National Cemeteries," p. 16).

"I think it's wonderful what the DAV and other VSOs have done to help out, but the National Cemetery Service can't be run on donations from bake sales and chili cook-offs," Mikulski said. "Any help the VSO's give should be in addition to what the government does, not in lieu of what the government promises."

Mikulski then turned her attention to the mounting backlog of cases facing the Court of Veterans Appeals (COVA) and her concern that "veterans don't get what they're entitled to in a timely manner. I'm horrified that it takes the court 90 days just to tell a veteran they're going to consider his case."

COVA Chief Judge Frank Q. Nebeker said the main reason for the backlog is that "our non-judicial staff has to spend an inordinate amount of time finding out what the veteran wants decided in his case. It's a lengthy process and we just don't have enough people to do the job."

Nebeker said 64 percent of veterans with cases before the COVA are not represented by anyone, 24 percent are represented by an attorney, 11 percent by non-lawyer claims representatives like the DAV's National Service Officers, and one percent by relatives or guardians.



VA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski

Mikulski told the judge, "these veterans are being jerked around and I don't want to see those young lawyers and staffers in your office making a name for themselves and earning their spurs on the backs of our country's veterans."

The Senator also expressed her concern with a proposed COVA rule change that would require VSOs like the DAV to have attorney supervision when representing claimants before the court. "I don't think that's necessary, and I think VSO's should be able to represent more veterans before your court."

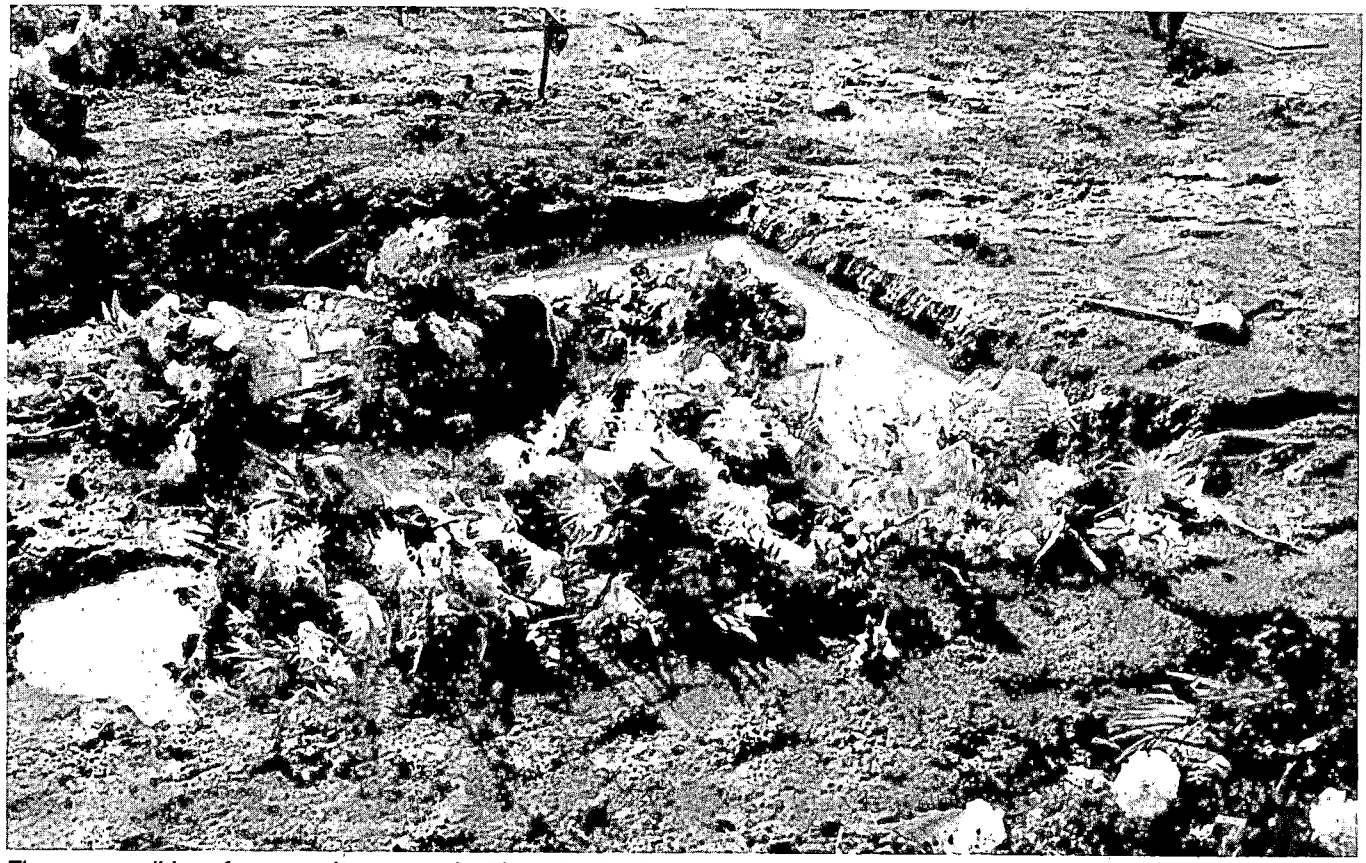
While Nebeker said he personally agreed with the Senator, he said he wasn't certain COVA's other judges shared his view. Mikulski then directed Nebeker to provide her subcommittee with the findings of a COVA five-member advisory committee that is studying ways to improve the court's performance.

Past National Commander Paul Thompson, a Maryland resident who attended the hearing, said Sen. Mikulski was "exactly right when she told the judge that VSOs, especially the DAV, are the best qualified people to represent veterans before COVA. Frankly, the COVA system would reach a crisis point if VSOs could no longer represent veterans."

In an interview with *DAV Magazine* following the hearing, Mikulski said she wanted her questions to get the message across that Congress is ready to work with the VA to solve these problems. "But if the problems are internal in the VA because of attitudes or sloppy management, then we want the VA to take steps to correct them," Mikulski said. "We're ready to supply the resources but some of the matters are not budgetary and can't be fixed with money."

Mikulski said she was disturbed that "the head of VA medical care (Dr. Holsinger) sounded more like he was the head of the AMA (American Medical Association) than the head of VA medical care," when responding to the questions on the credentialing of VA doctors. Saying his answers were the same old answers of protectionism, Mikulski added that Holsinger's comments "cast a bad light on the very fine physicians that work for the VA."

Thompson, who noted that Maryland veterans had contacted Sen. Mikulski about proposed VA budget cutbacks, concluded, "It was pretty obvious that Sen. Mikulski is taking a leadership role in championing the cause of veterans' rights. I think she did an outstanding job of asking the tough, direct questions needed to help her prepare a realistic VA budget."



The poor condition of a veteran's grave at the Riverside, Calif., National Cemetery underscores the impact of funding shortages for the VA's National Cemetery System.

DAV Launches Twofold Effort To Restore National Cemeteries

Stunned and outraged by the deplorable condition of our national cemeteries, National Commander Joseph E. Andry, in a letter to DAV leaders, has announced a twofold DAV effort to help the VA obtain additional funding to "properly maintain these hallowed places where our departed comrades have found their final rest."

On the legislative front, Andry said DAV's National Legislative Department will continue to press Congress for additional funds to purchase new equipment, including road graders, soil shredders, bulldozers, and street sweepers. The VA's National Cemetery System (NCS) says it desperately needs this equipment to properly maintain its 113 national cemeteries.

In his letter, Andry asked each DAV Chapter across the United States to contribute to the restoration of the national cemeteries through a program developed by the DAV's National Voluntary Services Department. Each chapter will receive an equipment list detailing the needs of their state's national cemeteries and may designate one or more specific cemeteries for their contributions.

Andry made it clear that the NCS staff is very caring and responsive to the needs of veterans, but they simply don't have the money to carry out their mission. It appears, based on the President's Fiscal Year 1992 NCS budget request of $57.3 million, that situation is not likely to change. Although the President's proposed NCS Fiscal Year 1992 budget shows an increase of $3.5 million over what the NCS was appropriated in Fiscal Year 1991, it reduces NCS full-time equivalent employees (FTEE) by 37 and delays the opening of the San Joaquin Valley, Calif., National Cemetery by one year, until October of 1992.

In a move to reduce some of NCS's fiscal problems, VA Deputy Secretary Anthony J. Principi recently met with Office of Management and Budget officials to discuss how to reallocate funds to the NCS to purchase desperately needed equipment and supplies, and hire additional personnel to maintain national cemeteries. As this issue went to press, NCS officials believed reallocated funds would become available but were uncertain of the exact amount.

Both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees have recommended increases over the President's proposed NCS Fiscal Year 1992 budget. The DAV supports these proposed increases.

The $11 million House Veterans' Affairs Committee add-on would provide the NCS with an additional 153 full-time employees, activate the San Joaquin National Cemetery on time, cover the cost of operating and maintaining the Arizona National Cemetery, and provide $4.3 million for replacement equipment and maintenance and repair projects that were deferred from previous years.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee's Fiscal Year 1992 budget recommendation calls for a $19.7 million increase over the President's proposal. This increase would provide $9 million to address the equipment backlog issue, $5.2 million for 180 more full-time employees, $2 million for deferred repair and maintenance projects, $1.5 million to replenish the inventory of basic supplies and materials, and $2 million and 18 full-time employees to activate the San Joaquin National Cemetery in November of this year.

By way of comparison, the DAV-supported Independent Budget called for an increase of $18.4 million over the President's Fiscal Year 1992 NCS budget.

While the DAV has always shown a strong interest in the NCS, public and Congressional concern did not intensify until March when the Associated Press and other national wire services published photos illustrating the deplorable conditions at California's Riverside National Cemetery.

Even the VA acknowledged the magnitude of the problem when Principi indicated in his letter requesting the recent

(Continued on page 21)