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| |  | | --- | | This summer 2022 DAV Chapter 21 newsletter provides information of benefit to all veterans. Please take time to read this newsletter.  Richard Hogue Adjutant and Newsletter Editor | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Summertime Greetings from DAV Chapter 21** | |

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| |  | | --- | | Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 21  8720 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80220-2234  720-379-3405 - dav21co@gmail.com  You can visit the Chapter's Facebook page to find information about the Chapter.  Chapter meetings are held on the first Wednesday monthly beginning at 6:30 pm with a meal served at 5:30 pm. Members may attend the meetings in person at the Chapter home or participate via Zoom. We encourage your participation in the Chapter meetings. The next Chapter meeting will be held on August 3, 2022. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Commander's Corner**  In January 2023, only six months away, our Chapter will be hitting a major milestone. We will be 50 years as an organization. 50 years! Wow! I realized that I have been a member of the Chapter and an officer for half of that time. The mind is boggled. 50 years!  With that in mind, we need to start thinking now about how we are going to mark that Golden Anniversary. Several members of our Chapter have gathered to do just that. Put the date of September 16, 2023, on your calendar. Mark it in gold and reserve a spot now for our 50th Anniversary Gala that we will be holding. The location and pricing are still to be determined, but we will be holding the event on that date. Plans for the Gala are still in the early stages, but we would love to see as many members of our Chapter and their families as possible out there to celebrate this momentous occasion. As more details become available, we will be sending out emails and regular mail to remind you of the upcoming event!  While we prepare for the Gala coming up, there are numerous happenings around the Chapter that need our attention.  The Steves (Steve Holman and Steve Viner (our building maintenance contractors)) are rapidly approaching completion of the interior of our workshop out behind the Chapter building for the purposes of our durable medical equipment program. This shed is already wired for electricity as well as heating and air conditioning connections, allowing us to work in the shed all year long. We will finally be able to release the Auxiliary Room back to the Auxiliary, where it belongs. The wheelchairs, other medical equipment, and other “accouterments” (tools, hardware, etc.) will be kept in the storage facility. This will allow us much more breathing room in the main Chapter facility. Thanks, guys!!!!  In case you missed it, our new flagpole is doing great! We are so proud to have a professionally installed flagpole in our facility after so many years. Stop by to check it out!  I must address a growing concern that has come to our attention. While we have over 2,000 members of this Chapter, only about seven of us do the actual work of the organization during any given month. We should be doing much, much better. Volunteerism is the mainstay of this organization. One of the points of our Mission Statement is that we will;  ·  Provide a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.  We do this through our Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) and volunteer hours in our DAV Transportation Program and VAVS Hospital volunteer programs. We need to get more of our members seriously involved in these opportunities to give back to our fellow veterans. We must allow our compassion to come through, especially in light of all that has been given to us in the past few years. Never, in the history of the VA, has there been such a dirge of volunteerism. Whether it is because of the COVID pandemic, or other social causes, we must continue to provide these services that are so desperately needed by our fellow veterans. Please consider volunteering today. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please stop by or call the Chapter office.  Speaking of volunteers, I want to welcome Kurt Miller as our newest Chapter Service Officer (in training). Kurt has already begun his training and will attend certification in September. We look forward to adding Kurt to the Service Officer Team.  As always, our office is open from 9 am to noon, Monday through Friday, except on Federal Holidays. The coffee is always on. Stop by and visit, check out the changes to our building and say “Howdy”! We look forward to seeing you!  Until next time,  Andrew Grieb | |

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| |  | | --- | | This June the Chapter was approved for a Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) grant of up to $15,000. The VTF program is administered by the Colorado Department of Veterans Affairs with annual grants authorized to veterans service organizations in support of expenditures that directly benefit veterans. The Chapter will be reimbursed for expenditures as incurred up to the $15,000 limit for direct assistance to veterans for temporary housing, rent and utility payments, food gift cards, vehicle repairs, wheelchairs/scooters, and other medical equipment. With this VTF grant, the Chapter has more flexibility to expand our direct assistance to our fellow veterans.  If you need direct assistance for any of the above-stated needs or if you know of a fellow veteran who needs such support, contact the Chapter office and select option 4 to speak with the Commander.  The Chapter thanks Russ Berget and Dick Hogue for their efforts in applying for and being approved for the VTF grant. It would not have happened without their dedicated work. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Chapter Membership Update**    As of June 30, 2022, the Chapter's membership was 2,090. The national membership department has recently completed its annual scrub of all Chapter memberships to remove deceased and delinquent dues-paying members. Accordingly, our membership as of July 17th was 2,067. Fortunately, this was a relatively small adjustment, because in past years we have lost up to 100 members with this adjustment process.  As you all should know, membership is critical to the Chapter's future, so we all should diligently work to recruit new members and encourage existing members to become actively involved with Chapter activities.  If you are not a fully paid life member and are not enrolled in automatic monthly payments, please call the national membership office at 888-236-8313 to arrange for automatic dues payments. If you do not make periodic payments toward your dues, you will eventually be dropped as a DAV Chapter 21 member.  ﻿If you are not receiving the National DAV magazine you should contact the national membership office to ensure they have your correct mailing address. Any questions regarding your membership status should be directed to the national membership office at the above direct phone number.  If you need assistance regarding your membership, you may call Adjutant Richard Hogue at the Chapter office and select option 3. He can provide your membership status or assist with some other membership matters.    NOTE: A new DAV life membership application form must be used for all new memberships and is available at:  <https://www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/MembershipApplicationFillable.pdf> | |

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| |  | | --- | | Clyde Seiler Chapter 21 Disabled American Veterans was chartered on January 21, 1973, in Aurora and named after Air Force Major Clyde Seiler who was the first Colorado National Guardsman killed in action in Vietnam when the plane he was piloting was shot down on March 27, 1969. His remains were recovered and he is buried at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Major Clyde Seiler** | | |  | | --- | |  | |

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| |  | | --- | | While we will not celebrate our 50th anniversary until 2023, we have formed an Anniversary Committee to identify and discuss preliminary actions and activities to be initiated or scheduled to ensure timely completion. After the committee has scheduled the celebration event and related activities, the committee will be reaching out to our membership for assistance to make this a very special and successful event. September 16, 2023, has been selected for the celebration event to be held at a venue to be determined.  Comments and suggestions are welcomed regarding our 50th-anniversary celebration.  ﻿More to follow as plans are developed. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Happenings at the Chapter Facility**  We have three vacant leased rooms and are working to find new tenants to keep our leased space fully occupied providing more income to help maintain our Chapter home. If you know of an individual or a business who may be looking to lease office space, please ask them to call the Chapter and select option 2 to speak with our building manager. We continue to offer our facility for use by our tenants and others in support of programs benefiting the community, many of whom are veterans.  Interior finish work on the Chapter's storage building continues with our building contractors having installed the insulation and drywall. Electrical power and copper lines have been connected to provide air conditioning and heating to keep the building comfortable for our crews to work year-round. Electrical lights and wall outlets will be installed soon, and a battery charging station will be installed to charge electric wheelchair batteries. The facility should be occupiable soon and will provide a spacious and comfortable site to store and maintain electric wheelchairs and other durable medical equipment. The wheelchairs and other medical equipment that is currently stored in our Auxiliary room and elsewhere in our main building will be moved into our new storage building.  ﻿Again, a big thank you to Home Depot who donated much of the materials needed to complete the interior of the storage building. With their generosity, we were able to complete that project with minimal cost to the Chapter. Support Home Depot with your purchases as they have donated over $3,500 in materials to the Chapter during the past year and they are committed to supporting the Chapter for future building materials needs.  There remains some finish trim work to be completed in the women's restroom, which has been complicated by the location of the light switch. Our building contractors have developed a solution to hopefully complete that trim work soon.  Our building maintenance contractors have our chiller operating for another season; however, operational issues need to be addressed as the unit is approximately 50 years old. If any of you know of an air conditioning technician who may be willing to work with us at a reasonable price, please call the Chapter office and select option 2 to speak with our building manager, Russ Berget, thanks.  We again thank our building contractors, Steve 1 and Steve 2 as we call them, for their dedicated efforts to complete the interior of the storage facility in addition to supporting other maintenance needs at our 50-year-old facility.  The Street Fraternity who leases our basement recently purchased a new smaller storage building to store many of their items that cannot be housed inside the main facility. The old metal shed, which was a bit of an eyesore, was demolished and the new building is a vast improvement. Thanks to the Street Fraternity for purchasing the new storage building. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Colorado Disabled Veteran (DV) License Plate**  The following information is provided to clarify the eligibility for Colorado DV license plates.  Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 42-3-304 states in part:  (3) No fee shall be payable for the annual registration of a vehicle when:      (a) The owner of such vehicle is a veteran who in an application for registration shows that the owner has established such owner's rights to benefits under the provisions of Public Law 663, 79th Congress, as amended, and Public Law 187, 82nd Congress, as amended, or is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who incurred a disability and who is, at the date of such application, receiving compensation from the veterans administration or any branch of the armed forces of the United States for a fifty percent or more, service-connected, permanent disability, or for loss of use of one or both feet or one or both hands, or for permanent impairment or loss of vision in both eyes that constitutes virtual or actual blindness.  A concern raised by some veterans is, that although they are rated at 50% or more by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), they are not rated as permanently disabled due to their service-connected disability. Accordingly, the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles will likely not issue DV plates to veterans whom the VA does not determine to be permanently disabled. NOTE: The veteran must show proof of their eligibility for DV plates.  The Colorado Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) may be able to assist veterans who are not rated by the VA as permanently disabled by issuing a letter enabling those veterans to obtain DV plates. Call 303-914-5832 to request assistance. The Colorado DVA is aware of the impact of the CRS language and is considering proposing a legislative change; however, there is no guarantee the statute will be changed. You may also contact the Chapter office and select option 1 to speak with one of our service officers in this regard.  ﻿The Chapter plans to forward this matter to the Colorado United Veterans Coalition requesting that they seek action with the state of Colorado to address the concerns of many Colorado veterans regarding eligibility for DV plates.  If you want to verify whether you are rated by the VA as permanently disabled, go to: *My Healthy Vet* at [https://www.myhealth.va.gov](https://www.myhealth.va.gov/) Use the following guide to find your VA benefit letters: On the home page click “Benefits”, on the next page click “Download your benefits letters”. There may be two benefit letters, the Benefits Summary Letter lists your monthly benefit amount and your combined disability rating. The Benefit Summary and Service Verification letter provides that same information, additionally, it states whether you are permanently disabled. Obtain information regarding other matters by clicking the appropriate link.  If you don’t have a *My Healthy Vet* account, you must register at the site to obtain any of your information. Veterans are encouraged to register because there is considerable useful information available at that site regarding their health care and benefits. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Chapter Service Officers' Update**  Chapter Service Officers Jim Sharp and Andy Grieb continue to support the needs of area veterans. They are accepting appointments for in-person consultations and continue to serve veterans virtually when requested. Jim and Andy are in the office most weekday mornings and are serving numerous veterans or family members daily. Jim and Andy had approximately 250 contacts with veterans during this May and June, thanks, guys.  Because of the number of veterans seeking service officer assistance, we are happy to have Chapter member Kurt Miller "step up" to become a third service officer (when fully trained) to assist with the workload. Additionally, assistance is welcomed from any member to come into the office during weekday mornings to help answer the phone and answer the door while Jim and Andy are on the phone or occupied with in-person meetings with veterans. If you have time to assist our service officers, please call the Chapter office and select option 1 to speak with Jim or Andy.  We are the only Denver metro area DAV Chapter that has Chapter Service Officers, so we all should be thankful for their dedication and willingness to donate their time to serve us all with benefits and claims-related matters.  Members are encouraged to contact Jim or Andy at the Chapter office or send an email to Jim at [davserviceofficer21@gmail.com](mailto:davserviceofficer21@gmail.com) or Andy at [dav21co@outlook.com](mailto:dav21co@gmail.com)  The process of working with the VA can be complicated so any veteran is encouraged to contact Jim or Andy for no-cost assistance. Members are reminded that they can also contact the DAV National Service Office at 303-914-5570 or it is preferable to send them an email to [dav.vbden@va.gov](mailto:dav.vbden@va.gov) and they will contact you. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Legislation of Interest to Veterans**    Below is a summary of veterans-related legislation that we are aware of. Members may conduct further research regarding veterans' legislation of particular interest.   * The Colorado State legislature recently passed: * Inclusion of a new women veteran coordinator with the Department of Veterans Affairs. * Establishing a Space Force license plate. * Maybe on the November ballot: Extending Homestead Act Property Tax Exemption to Gold Star Spouses. * Adding veterans/military to Colorado Fair Housing statutes. * Allowing veterans to audit space available for higher education courses for $10 per course. * Adding military occupational specialties to the credential portability program. * A bill to increase the Homestead Act Property Tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans and seniors failed in committee. * National legislation: * The “Honoring our PACT Act of 2022″ has passed both chambers of Congress and now needs one more vote of approval from the house before heading to President Biden’s desk. The bill would extend healthcare benefits for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals at home and abroad. In its current form, the bill includes the “Camp Lejeune Justice Act,” which would allow anyone who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and later suffered an illness linked to the contamination to sue the government for damages. * The Ensuring Veterans' Smooth Transition Act is in Congress and requires the VA to enroll all transitioning veterans into the VA health care system. * Veterans using the Post-9/11 GI Bill must verify their enrollment to receive the monthly housing allowance stipend. More information may be found at: http://dav.la/31w Please pass this information on to veterans using the Post-9/11 GI Bill. * Eligibility for burial at Arlington National Cemetery may be limited in the future because of limited space to only veterans who have received a Purple Heart or Silver Star and above. Contact your Congressperson if you have concerns in this regard. Current eligibility to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery include: * Members who died on active duty and their immediate family * Retirees and their immediate family * Recipients of the [Purple Heart](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/purple-heart-benefits.html), or Silver Star and above * Any honorably discharged POW who died after Nov. 30, 1993 * NOTE: Eligibility for burial at other national cemeteries includes veterans who have not received a dishonorable discharge.   I routinely send email updates regarding State and National veterans-related legislation and other matters of interest to veterans to those of you who are on our "active" Chapter's email list. Please call the Chapter and select option 3 if you wish to be added to our "active" email list. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Quarterly Payment Received Under the King Soopers Community Resource Program**  We received a quarterly payment of $134 in July under this program and were notified that only 13 individuals had enrolled and listed Chapter 21 as their designated organization. If you have not enrolled and designated Chapter 21 as your designated organization, please do so today.  **Support Chapter 21 by Joining the King Soopers Community Resource Program Today.**  Chapter 21 has been registered under the King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards Program for several months, making us eligible to receive quarterly distributions when individuals designate DAV Chapter 21 under the program when they shop at a King Soopers/City Market store. The amount of money distributed is determined by the number of individuals designating DAV Chapter 21 as their organization under the program and how much individuals spend at their stores.  To participate in the King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards Program you must create an online account if you do not already have one.  ﻿Go to:[http://www.kingsoopers.com](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kingsoopers.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C8327c41ebb5344bd65b408d9ee6b9104%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637802968031554515%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=5sQBBRr2%2FYLuKiXl8fWEpNpSx5aVE7uzvmPpWHManEs%3D&reserved=0) If you have an online account you can sign in, or if not, you can create an account. NOTE: Although you may have a King Soopers/City Market loyalty card, you must also create an online account to register under the Community Rewards Program. This program works at King Soopers and City Market stores. If you use City Market stores, you can enroll at: [http://www.citymarket.com](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.citymarket.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C8327c41ebb5344bd65b408d9ee6b9104%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637802968031554515%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=40IeipOtF6RWVGw%2B29cG9K8kj1fVML36QrdZ0TX0z5g%3D&reserved=0) If you enroll at either site, the program should work at both King Soopers and City Market stores. It only takes a few minutes, so start now.    When you reach the website, go to the upper right of the page and click "Sign-in" to sign in or create an online account using your email address. After you are signed in, move the cursor by your name at the top right of the page and select "My Account" from the drop-down menu. On the "My Account" page you will find a list of links on the left, go to "Community Rewards". You can then select Disabled American Veterans, Clyde Seiler Chapter 21 as your designated organization under the Community Rewards Program (use the search bar to help you find Chapter 21, search by name our number TU428). When you find the box listing Disabled American Veterans, Clyde Seiler Chapter 21, click on "Enroll" to select Chapter 21 as your designated organization.    When checking out at a King Soopers/City Market store, use your loyalty card or your alternate ID (normally your phone number) to record your purchases, enabling DAV Chapter 21 to benefit under the Community Rewards Program.    If you have questions, you may call the Chapter office and select option 3 or stop by the Customer Service desk at a King Soopers/City Market store for assistance.    Please pass this message on to family members and friends and encourage them to also designate DAV Chapter 21 as their organization under this program. Registering under the King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards Program is an easy way for everyone to help support Chapter 21.  If the Chapter could have 100 individuals enroll and designate Chapter 21 as their choice organization, we could receive approximately $1,000 quarterly. Let's do it.  Please Enroll TODAY! | |

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| |  | | --- | | **The Chapter's Auxiliary Unit Continues to Need**  **New Active Members**  **(This article is being repeated from previous newsletters because it is important for the future of our Auxiliary unit.)**  Chapter 21's Auxiliary Unit was Chartered in 1973 to assist Chapter 21 in supporting DAV's mission. Our Auxiliary Unit has actively supported the Chapter with fundraising efforts, volunteering at VA facilities, donating thousands of dollars toward veterans' programs, and assisting the Chapter with numerous projects and activities over the years.  Unfortunately, time has taken its toll on the Auxiliary's membership and the number of active members. There is only a hand full of Auxiliary members who attend their meetings, and some members serve in dual roles because there are not enough members to individually serve in all officer positions.  Auxiliary Unit 21 is struggling to survive and there is no certainty the unit will continue to function without more eligible individuals joining the Auxiliary and existing members becoming active.  Any immediate or extended family member of a current or past DAV member is eligible to join the DAV Auxiliary. DAV Chapter members are also eligible to join the Auxiliary.  All Chapter members are encouraged to speak with family members and encourage one or more of them to join the Auxiliary, or if they are an existing member, to become active. The Auxiliary also has a "Juniors" program where kids high school age and younger can participate in Auxiliary programs. | |

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| |  | | --- | | **Editor's Comments**  **Celebrate America!**  While I am likely one of the few homeowners in the Denver metro area to decorate my yard with patriotic flags, and banners and have red, white, and blue lights displayed at night during July 4th, we all should celebrate America on Independence Day in some fashion. | |

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| |  | | --- | | During the Independence day weekend, I read with much disappointment, individuals encouraging others not to celebrate America's independence. While I understand individuals' concerns regarding the social, economic, and political state of affairs in the United States today, it is not a reason to not celebrate America's Independence. We are still the land of the free and the home of the brave, which should be celebrated!  My wife Marilyn and I have had the pleasure to travel to many countries around the world. And while there is considerable beauty and amazing historical landmarks in many of those countries, when you talk with the citizens of other countries you realize the limitations placed upon them impacting their daily lives.  The standard of living in many other countries is far below ours. Having a nice single-family home is nonexistent in many countries. The quality of healthcare is relatively poor. Personal freedoms are curtailed, freedom of speech is limited, personal discrimination is allowed, and public protesting is often not tolerated. I am a Vietnam veteran and my wife and I traveled to Vietnam in 2013. People were still living in what I call "hooches", some remote areas didn't have electricity, most people travel on a motorcycle/scooter, and owning a knife larger than a kitchen knife is considered an illegal weapon.  Thankfully, we do have freedom of speech, and people are allowed to say and write about issues others may not agree with. But that doesn't mean I must listen to their views.  I fought and sacrificed for America, and I am proud of my military service. I am proud to be an American. I will continue to fly the stars and stripes at my home 24-7 and I will decorate my front yard each Independence Day.  ﻿While not everyone may agree with me, I am one of those "Love or Leave it!" guys.  God Bless America! | |

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| |  | | --- | | **On a Lighter Note, the Av's are Stanley Cup Champs!** | | I along with many of you greatly enjoyed watching the Colorado Avalanche during their championship run through the playoffs. Congratulations on again bringing the Stanley Cup to Colorado. Enjoy the remaining summertime season and remember, only a couple more months until football season.  Richard Hogue  Adjutant and Newsletter Editor | |

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