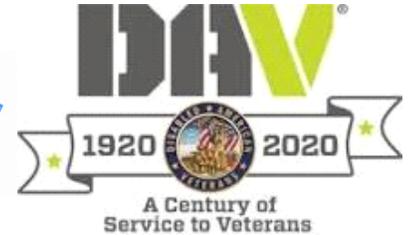


Disabled American Veterans

July 2025 Newsletter



FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER/ MICHAEL STOYONOVICH

Brothers and Sisters!

Thank you for the honor of serving you as your Department Commander again this year. I will give you 110%. You have elected a great team at the convention and they are anxious to get to work for you.

My number one priority for this year will again be, “No Chapter Left Behind.” The Department officers worked with seven chapters this past year when they got behind on submission of mandated reports such as Officer Election Reports, Annual Financial Reports, Tax Returns (IRS 990 Form), and Annual Kentucky Secretary of State Nonprofit status fees. The Department and the Chapter officers came together and we kept the nonprofit status for said chapters, intact. Unfortunately, several more chapters were unable to vote at the convention this year because they did not have any delegates from their chapter present and/or did not have credentials to be able to vote. This is an issue that we need to solve. Please let me, or any of your Department Officers, or District Officers know if you need support in submitting these mandatory report forms. We are here to support you with no animosity. Without our chapters we can't exist as an organization.

- **Another priority** is development of Department/Chapter fundraisers to help our income grow for 2025-2026 and beyond. Your Department Officers are working on details for fundraisers now, and make mention of that in their statements below.
- **Another priority** is also putting the final touches on a Department Website in order for all our members to better communicate between each other. Go to kydav.org and check out the website introduction.
- **Another priority** this coming year will be developing a training program to support our chapters in recruiting new members. This will be in the form of a recommendation to chapter officers to use as a guide for future recruitment of new members.
- **Another priority** will be to make sound financial investments to grow our Department income and allow the SEC to make future decisions on how to invest our monies. The Department, Districts, and Chapters leadership will gladly accept your recommendations from any of our Chapter members on priorities that make us better to serve you.

The Department of Kentucky only exists to support you!

Thank you for having your trust in me as your Commander. Together we have solved several lingering issues this past year as to updating our Department Constitution and Bylaws and having a much needed SEC meetings to address how to move forward as a Department. More of these meetings to follow this year.

Contact me at stoyboy.stoyonovich300@gmail.com or daveterans@yahoo.com or by phone/text: (270) 566-3722.



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/GEORGE HALL

I hope everyone is doing well through all of this weather. We have a couple of department procedures that need to be clarified:

Although the DAV department office building belongs to every DAV member, please try to limit your time if possible when visiting headquarters. If you have business in the office, please set up an appointment so the department staff can better prepare to assist you when you do come in.

If you or anyone would like the department to send out personal information please be sure to include permission to department to send out this information.

Thank you for your dedication to the DAV and to all of our veterans around the state!



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/ LEE EWING

I hope you all are having a great Summer! Our DAV State Convention is done for this year and it was good to see you all!

All our Service Officers are making sure our Kentucky veterans and families receive their hard earned benefits. Bravo!

At the Service Officer training this year we had over 80+ in attendance. It was a comprehensive course this year with several new things to learn. The CMS system is all digital and requires service officers to do a lot of keyboarding. Just take your time in adjusting to the system. Know your VA forms and the rest will just take adjusting to. Your NSO's and I are here for you.

The Chapter Officer training went well and we went back to the basics and worked on how the Chapter Officer needs to submit what mandatory report, and when it is due.

Note: Please review the Department of Kentucky Constitution and By-Laws in order for your Chapter Officers to be aware of what mandatory reports are due to whom and when.

If I can be of service, please feel free to call (502) 543- 7705 or email daveterans@yahoo.com. My prayers are with you and your families and I want you to know that I appreciate your service and your dedication to DAV.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER/JOHN CLARK



Good Morning Fellow Veterans,

I'd like to take a moment to speak on something critical to our continued success- **the importance of immediate action.**

Across our department, we have several chapters in need of attention. While some may not be in default with their reports or with national, that doesn't mean they are functioning at their best. We are seeing a troubling trend-as active members are falling away. When that happens, we lose our ability to fundraise, and more importantly, we lose our ability to serve veterans in our local communities. This is the quiet erosion that threatens the foundation of our chapters.

When problems arise, we must **step up and address them without delay.** This shouldn't be seen as something extra-it must become routine. Reacting to issues isn't optional; It's part of our responsibility as leaders. It's a necessary step to ensure not just the survival of our individual chapters, but the strength and future of the entire Department of Kentucky.

But finding the problem isn't enough. The real work lies in taking action **and being part of the solution.** And we can't assume everyone knows what to do. That's why we must provide **clear, actionable guidance** when issues like low chapter funds or reduced member attendance arise. It's on us to define the expectations and give our members the tools to take meaningful steps forward.

We must also promote a culture of **proactivity.** Give your members ownership-empower them to be part of the solution. You are the key to maintaining a high-quality chapter. Taking prompt action shows initiative, dedication, and the professionalism of a quality leader.

Let's not forget the value of **positive reinforcement.** When our members take initiative, let's acknowledge them. Let's celebrate their efforts. Recognizing their contributions not only boosts morale-it reinforces a culture of responsibility and action.

Only by working together can we restore and strengthen our chapters, creating a vibrant, proactive organization that we can all be proud to be a part of.

At the Department, we are committed to support every chapter in any way we can. If you need help-reach out. Don't hesitate. I along with your Commander and the Vice Commanders, will gladly come to your location to assist in any way possible that you need it.

Please don't forget the all night fishing tournament will be in two weeks on the night of July 26, 2025. **I have attached the flyer for your convenience with the details.**

Together, we can grow this department into something truly great! Thank you Brothers and Sisters!
Reach me at (606) 425-3059 or email: VETJOHNCLARK@AOL.COM

DEPARTMENT 1ST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/ JONATHAN COLLETT



Greetings Comrades!

With the 2024-2025 year now behind us, I would like to thank everyone for their continued dedication to fulfilling our mission. DAV exists to empower veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. Every initiative we undertake from benefit assistance to public education should mirror this single, unifying purpose. This vision, which is made clear by the national organization, can not be

accomplished without the continued dedication of our members. Together we provide free professional assistance to veterans and their families in assessing benefits and services earned through military service. Our service officers are second to none. Our dedication and commitment to those who served is clearly demonstrated by every Chapter, Department, and National member within our ranks.

Last year, I had the opportunity to serve as the Membership Chair for the Department of Kentucky. Together we met 99.44% of our membership goal. This year, we plan to exceed that expectation. As we move forward, we will implement new strategies. I encourage every chapter to plan at least one membership drive. For those who need help, the department officers stand ready to assist wherever we are needed.

With this new year before us, we will hit the ground running. We have already begun to discuss new plans for activities, recruitment and fundraising across the Commonwealth. This year I will give attention to planning events where we can all come together and build the comraderie between us. I have already began speaking and making tentative plans for Motorcycle Rallies and Shooting Tournaments. I want to reach underserved communities with Pop-up clinics and Claims representation. We will set the bar high, and we will succeed together.

I am honored to serve as your First Junior Vice. If anyone across the department has any feedback or criticism for me, I welcome it with open arms. I am here to serve the department, and I am willing to adjust as necessary. I once had a First Sergeant who took all the NCO's on a "fun run." When we were about a mile away from the barracks, he took us aside and told us that the only reasons we had positions was because all soldiers were entitled competent leadership. He reminded us that anyone can hold rank, but it took leaders to lead. He said our responsibility was to the soldier who looked to us for direction. This is the same mind I hope to carry today. I am here to serve, and that mission is not complete until every veteran is taken care of.

Best wishes in the year ahead.

Jonathan Collett, 1st Junior Vice, DAV Department of Kentucky

DEPARTMENT 2ND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/ANTHONY EVANS



Dear fellow Kentucky DAV members:

I hope this finds you well. As I embark on my journey as your 2nd Junior Vice Commander, I am filled with gratitude for the support and trust bestowed upon me by our fellow members. It is an honor to serve in this capacity, and I eagerly anticipate a productive year ahead.

My commitment to the service of veterans and their families is deeply rooted in my values, second only to my love for God and family. Since retiring two years ago, I have fully dedicated myself as a volunteer. In addition to my new position, I serve as my District, Jr. Vice Commander, Chapter 118 Sr. Vice Commander and Chapter Service Officer. I additionally serve on the American Legion Honor Guard providing military funeral honors.

The past year has been challenging, particularly following my heart attack in September and the loss of my younger brother due to addiction. These experiences have profoundly shaped my perspective and gratitude for life. I encourage everyone to be present in each moment, as our choices in facing challenges truly define us. I look forward to traveling across the state this year and meeting many of you while offering my assistance, wherever needed.

With gratitude,
Anthony Evans

**My cell phone # is (270)-564-7551. Feel free to text me your name and information with any questions.
Email: evansdav118@gmail.com**

DEPARTMENT 3RD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/ DANNY SHEPHERD



Hello, my DAV friends!

I want to start by saying that I had a great time at our state convention. I always love seeing all my friends and making new ones. I am already counting down the days for our next one.

Despite our different beliefs, we all share one common goal, and that is to help veterans. That is why I feel honored when I'm around you all. I'm always learning something new, and I hope someone might learn something from me.

This year, I want to focus on making more connections in the DAV and helping where I am needed. I am very pleased to be serving as your 3rd Junior Vice Commander. If there is anything I can help anyone out with, please contact me by phone or email. If I don't know the answer, then I will find the answer.

I am going to learn more about service work this coming year. Again, I want to thank Luke and Jack for taking me under their wings. My office is situated in the chapters meeting building in Auxier. I'm am only taking appointments as of now. This is just one more way to help veterans out. I love being helpful. It is a great feeling to help another person. Service work is just one more thing that I can assist with. A lot of people have told me that I work too much, but if you love what you are doing, is it really work?

I want to leave you with this quote from Abraham Lincoln, "Whatever you are, be a good one."

Contact me at (606) 789-4852 or email at dnnysphrd32@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENT 4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/ STEVE JOHNSON



I would like to start by saying it is a great honor serving next year as your 4th Junior Vice Commander. I think we had a great convention this year, including casting votes on several Bylaw changes for the department as well as electing this years Department Executive Committee. I am looking forward to working with my fellow department officers on promoting our organizations mission of empowering veterans to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity.

On a department level I believe it is important to ensure chapters have the tools they need for success. One being, offering service officer training, which we did this year at our department convention. This allows our chapters and their service officers to assist their fellow veterans by offering free claims assistance from certified volunteers. Another thing I believe our department can offer is training for adjutants and treasurers. Most of us have heard of Commander Stoyonovich's "No Chapter Left Behind" priority. I strongly agree with him and believe in helping our chapters succeed and remain solvent. We need our chapters to have a presence during our annual convention and have the ability to bring in new members. If your chapter or a chapter you know of is struggling to ensure their required paperwork is submitted on a timely basis, please contact the department so we can assist you. We all want you to succeed.

Finally, I believe state and federal legislation is of utmost importance to our veterans. Last year Kentucky legislators tried to enact bills that would greatly benefit veterans only to see lobbyists change opinion and either shoot down the bills during session or change bills to no longer benefit veterans. There is a way to become involved by joining the DAV Commanders Action Network (CAN). The CAN puts veterans in direct contact with our DAV National Legislative Department and notifies the veteran about legislation, laws, regulations and policies, and gives veterans an avenue for contacting their U.S. legislators about bills that affect veterans. More details can be found at dav.quorum.us/home.

Again, I am excited to serve as a department officer this year and look forward to working with my fellow Kentucky veterans to make this a great year for our department and our chapters!

I can be reached at either email stevejohnson.dav@gmail.com or talk/text at (812) 797-4377

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE/ BENEFITS PROTECTION TEAM LEADER/DAVID BALL



It's truly an honor to continue serving as your Department Judge Advocate for another year. This past year has been a journey of growth, learning, and deepening my commitment to this role and each of you. For those who attended this year's Department Convention, you know we tackled significant updates to our Bylaws. These changes reflect our collective dedication to clarity, accountability, and forward momentum. Commander Stoyonovich wanted to update our Department Bylaws this past year due to our still working off a 2019 Department Constitution and Bylaws document that desperately needed updating. I'm pleased to share that these revisions have been finalized and will be submitted to DAV National immediately.

As we move forward, I'm excited about the direction we're headed and the dedication this Department continues to show. Change isn't always easy, but our progress demands it-and I'm proud of the work we've accomplished together. These bylaw updates weren't just procedural; they were a testament to our shared commitment to integrity, clarity, and accountability.

In the coming year, my goal is to not only uphold these principles but to engage more openly with each of you. I'll be seeking your feedback, encouraging collaboration across chapters, and providing resources to help us all stay informed and aligned. Together, we're laying the groundwork for lasting impact.

Contact me at (606)309-1812 or email at Ball.David1976@gmail.com



DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN/ JOSEPH MCCARTNEY

My fellow Comrades!

First off, I want to thank everyone for allowing me to carry on as your Department Historian for the 2025-2026 term. I hope everyone had a safe, and joyful 4th of July this year with their families and friends.

During this past Department Convention, I displayed a poster acknowledging all the members across this great state that have been in this organization for FIFTY YEARS (or more). Each of the members named were listed with their assigned chapter at the time of publishing. There were also a few members listed with 60 and 70 plus years. I researched a few of their names and found that some had passed away within the last year. I chose to keep the names on the list, as a tribute to their dedication to this organization. I plan on continuing with this project for next years department convention; especially since there were several names on the rosters with 49 years to be added.

Also, during the Convention I displayed a shadow box with a Garrison Cap from a WWI Veteran by the name of, PVT. B.J. Feller, U.S. Army Signal Corps, DAV Chapter 6, Louisville, Ky. This cap was donated by John Wingfield, VFW Post 2921, Louisville, Ky. This cap was presented to Department Commander Stoyonovich at the Convention this year and is now displayed at DAV Department of Kentucky HQ, Shepherdsville, Ky, in the front lobby for all to see.

Special recognition goes out to DAV Chapter 66, London, Ky. For their 75 years as a DAV Department of Kentucky Charter Member. Accepting the award for Chapter 66 was James D. Roark, 5th District Executive Committeeman (Commander).

I was asked about possibly starting another project to honor our state veterans that had received “The Medal of Honor” award. Yes, I have already started the research on this project and found that there are 60 “Medal of Honor” recipients from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Twenty-Five of these veterans are from WWI through Iraq/Afghanistan.

As a reminder let’s not forget the veterans and their families that we have lost over the past few years with the devastation this state has witnessed. With the tornado in Western Kentucky to the flooding in Eastern Kentucky, and most recently the tornado in South Central Kentucky. Please continue praying for these families. God Bless them all!

Remember to please contact me if your chapter has any type of historical event that needs to be recognized by our fellow veterans. Until next time, stay safe, and continued prayers for our military and our nation. May God Bless Us All.

Respectfully,

Joseph J. McCartney
Department Historian

Contact me at (606) 682-2356 or Email at jmacattack60@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN/ PRICE PORTER



Regards,

It is with spiritual joy that I look back on our last convention. Encouragement came from every direction. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made. The atmosphere was alive with joy, fellowship and mutual respect. The DAVA was great! Their input is invaluable.

It is a blessing to be trusted for another year with the responsibility of being Chaplin. The privilege of carrying the needs, the brokenness and the regrets of those who did so much for this great nation to the throne of the creator of life. No matter what we have done or what we have had to do, our heavenly father let his son, Jesus Christ, pay the penalty. If you trust Jesus, you are free. He paid your sin-debt in full. God, the Father has the receipt stamped "paid in full!"

The New Testament is Jesus' last will and testament. Chapter #15 of Salyersville, Kentucky was elected as Grand Marshall of our 4th of July Parade.

My information is public, so if I can encourage each of you as Chaplin, I will. And people of prayer, I encourage you to keep praying. Statistically, the rate of suicide is decreasing drastically. For that I am thankful. The Supreme Commander of the armed forces of heaven loves you.



Love,

Chaplin Porter





DEPARTMENT SGT-AT-ARMS/ JEFF MORGAN

I want to thank everyone for electing me as your Sgt.-At-Arms. I am an Army veteran with 3.5 years of active duty from 1986-1989. I then served in 1990-1991 in Desert Storm/Desert Shield with the 1/623rd Field Artillery. Counting all my time, I served a total of eight years in the service.

I have been at DAV Chapter 105 for 12 years and have served on the Chapter Honor Guard for 11 years. I have held Chapter 105 and District 5 positions as: Sgt.-At-Arms, Jr. Vice, Sr. Vice, and Commander. I am currently the Commander at Chapter 105.

I hope to work with all others at the Department level in making us, "Set the Example for success at DAV, nationwide." Each of us need to be one voice for what is best about our great organization.

I believe we need to improve our recruitment of younger veterans and I am going to strive to do so this coming year. Blessings!

Contact me at (606) 307-8719 or email at MORGANJEFF89@yahoo.com

POW/MIA

MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced identifications and updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:



WWII Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Clifford E. Keeney, Airman, accounted for.

WWII Army 2nd Lt. Charles S. Atteberry, Soldier, accounted for.

WWII Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Raymond A. Kaudelky, Airman, accounted for.

Korean War Army Pfc. Elijah Trannon Jr., Soldier, accounted for.

Korean War Army Corporal Oscar L. Sprague, Soldier, accounted for.

Vietnam War Army Master Sgt. Donald P. Gervais, Soldier, accounted for.

Vietnam War Air Force Tech. Sgt. Donald K. Springsteadah, Airman, accounted for.

Vietnam War Air Force Tech. Sgt. Willis R. Hall, Airman, accounted for.

Vietnam War Air Force Staff Sgt. Henry G. Gish, Airman, accounted for.

Vietnam War Air Force Colonel Walter A. Renelt, Pilot, accounted for.

You can rest now brothers!

**MESSAGE FROM DAV VAVS STATE CHAIRMAN
July, 2025**

DAV Officer & Members,

Giving thanks by giving back

The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (formerly Voluntary Service) has started a Food Pantry and are seeking donations in the form of non-perishable can goods and other food staples for low-income Veterans and their families.

Power Milk

Can meat i.e. spam, tuna

canned vegetables other than Corn and Green Beans

boxed and Cup mac-n-cheese

Small Cereal Containers

Packaged instant potatoes.

Microwaveable Pancake Mix

Ramen Noodles

Seasonings / Condiments:

Salt

Pepper

Mrs. Dash / or comparable sat free seasoning.

Veteran families. We are also accepting Walmart or Kroger gift cards in increments of \$20, \$25 to purchase items that must be refrigerated or frozen. If you have questions, please call (502) 287-6221 or email us at vhalouvavs@va.gov.

Other Requested Supported Items.

Hygiene Items (Nail Clippers, Combs, Brushes and Travel size Lotions)

Large and XL Sweatpants

(continued on next page)

SAVE the DATE

15th ANNUAL
WOMEN VETERAN'S OPEN HOUSE
KICK OFF THEIR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
AT THE ROBLEY REX VA MEDICAL CENTER

Volunteers Needed!



Lexington VA is looking for DAV Service Officers to work out of their Hospital. They have a nice place set up for them to work out off. POC is Patrick Sinclair at (859) 233-4511 Ext. 2297

DAV historically and currently supports DAV Transportation, If your Chapter can help the Department of Kentucky in purchasing two (2) new Vehicle would be great. They are need of them. The Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) is reaching out to DAV Chapters in Kentucky. We are looking for volunteer Transportation **Coordinators** and **Drivers** in the following areas: Campbellsville, Elizabethtown/Radcliff, Glasgow and the Louisville Metro Area. We are looking for applicants who have time to drive at least one or two days per month. You do not have to be a Veteran to volunteer as a Transportation **Coordinator** or **Driver**. Please reach out to your friends that want to help support Veterans. This leads to our community involvement, and new drivers. We will accept any licensed applicant aged 18 and older. There is a vetting and onboarding process. For more information about this volunteer opportunity, please call (502) 287-4454 or email vhalouvavs@va.gov. Thank you in advance for listening and helping our nation's heroes. The DAV/VTN Transportation program provides free rides to Veterans to and from their medical appointments only.

Steven L. Freeman

Steven L. Freeman
State VAVS Chairman
800 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
PH: (502) 287-6851

Chapter News

If your Chapter would like to be included in our Chapter News Section of our Department Newsletter, please send articles, pictures, fund raising event information, Honor Guard information, etc. to: stoyboy.stoyonovich300@gmail.com or to Department HQ at daveterans@yahoo.com. We have a space for all Chapters to participate.

“DON’T KEEP ALL YOUR GOOD DEEDS TO YOURSELVES. BE PROUD SAY IT LOUD!!!!!!”

CHAPTER 18

Chapter#18 performing flag retirement ceremony on June 6th, 2025



Chapter News

CHAPTER 18

Bringing awareness to veteran suicide. I gave out about 350 pamphlets. We try and get the whole city blowing their horns to show their support. We also give out shirts. Thanks to Little Caesars for the Pizza!



Chapter News

Chapter#18 annual picnic with cornhole tournament

1st place—Herald Auxier and Pastor Dan
2nd place—Danny Shepherd and Bobby Trador
3rd place—Dallas Lemaster and Desirae Haney
Air mail champion—Danny Shepherd
Long distance champion—Thurman Mullins



Chapter News

Chapter #32

The Wand B. Doyle #32 DAV and Auxiliary held their annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26, 2025. This year Edmonson County celebrates 200 years and it is only fitting that the soldiers of the Civil War were especially remembered this year.



The featured veteran this year was Capt. Noah Norris. Norris served in the Union Army and after his service he returned to Edmonson County where he became the County Court Clerk. In 1872 Norris along with Woodford Houchin and the local Justices of the Peace designed and completed the courthouse that is still here today.



Guest Speakers this year were; Rep. Michael Meredith. Circuit Court Judge J.B. Hines and Edmonson Judge Executive Scott Lindsey.

"I believe we have five special holidays, Christmas, Easter, 4th of July, Veterans Day, and the most hallowed of our holidays is Memorial Day." - Rep. Michael Meredith, "I have also always respected the words of General

George S Patton; 'It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died but rather we should thank God that such men lived."

"The War of Independence claimed thousands of lives, ordinary patriots who never lived to see the nation they fought for." -Judge J.B. Hines," May we live the lives worthy of their sacrifice, may we protect the values they died to defend and may we never forget the price of freedom that we enjoy today."



"We must carry forward the memories of those we have lost, not just in ceremonies like this but in how we live our lives every day." Judge Exec. Scott Lindsey,

"Let us also remember the families of the fallen who have carried on with quiet courage. That strength isn't just found on a battle field but in the daily lives of those who have loved and remembers the one lost."



Chapter News

Chapter #132



On Friday morning, July 4, Morgan County DAV#132 presented colors for the Kiwanis celebration in West Liberty. Afterwards, the Morgan County Peace by Piece - Quilts of Valor, received the Citizens of the Year award. District 7 Commander Emily Elam is the co-leader of this group. We have hosted ten ceremonies and presented 93 patriotic quilts to veterans in the past year.



Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!
September 27, 9am-12pm

**15TH ANNUAL
WOMEN VETERAN'S
OPEN HOUSE**

KICK OFF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH WITH US!

ROBLEY REX VA MEDICAL CENTER

Upcoming Events

1st Annual Fishing

TOURNAMENT

Benefiting the Department of Kentucky
Disabled American Veterans

- **Date:** Saturday, July 26, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM – 8:00 AM
- **Location:** Halcom's Landing Russell County, Kentucky
- Registration will be from 5PM – 7PM or pre-register with the Department of Ky DAV Contact #606-425-3059
- Flight Number will be determined by Registration order.
- Guaranteed \$2,000 First Place Pay Out!
- \$200 per Boat Entry Fee Maximum of 2 persons per boat.

NIGHTTIME BASS FISHING ON LAKE CUMBERLAND!



All proceeds go directly to support
Disabled American Veterans Department of Kentucky –
Empowering Veterans to Lead High-Quality Lives with Respect and Dignity.



2025 STATE CONVENTION



News & Notes



- + The House of Representatives is considering a bill H.R. 2605, Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act, which would create a five-year pilot program for VA to provide grants to nonprofit organizations to furnish eligible veterans with service dogs and veterinary insurance. Service dogs have proven to assist veterans who have various physical, auditory, and trauma-related disabilities.
- + The journey to home ownership for Veterans can be challenging, but the VA provides support to help you stay in your home during financial hardships. VA has options such as special forbearance, repayment plans, loan modifications, or the new VA Servicing Purchase (VASP) program can provide relief tailored to your situation and help you avoid foreclosure. For additional support, contact the VA at 877-827-3702 or the website at va.gov.
- + Bad actors sometimes prey on veterans by targeting their VA benefits. Direct deposit benefits payments are more secure and could help thwart these fraudsters. Recognizing that some veterans lack a bank account, VA established the Veterans Benefits Banking System (VBBP) in 2019 that has assisted more than 530,000 veterans and other beneficiaries to open accounts and enroll in direct deposit. VBBP also offers a variety of financial education resources. Learn more (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/banking.asp>).
- + VA's specialized programs for homeless veterans provide housing solutions, employment opportunities, health care, justice related services, and more. If you, or someone you know, is homeless or at risk of homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at (877) 424-3838 for assistance.
- + The Veterans Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to supplement the needs of VA cemeteries. Grants totaling \$992 million have been awarded for the expansion, improvement, operation, and maintenance of 122 veterans cemeteries in 49 states and territories. These cemeteries provided more than 43,000 internments in fiscal year 2024 alone. Read more www.cem.va.gov/grants/.
- + The Afghanistan War Commission is a bipartisan entity established by Congress in 2021 with the mandate to examine the strategic, diplomatic, and operational decisions made during the war in Afghanistan. The Commission is seeking input from veterans who served there between June 2001 and August 2021. The information and views you share will be considered in recommendations to Congress and policymakers for shaping future decisions regarding national security. Your comments to: (<https://www.afghanistanwarcommission.senate.gov/veterans/>).
- + VA has added three cancers to the list of presumptive diseases covered under the PACT ACT of 2022. Male breast cancer, urethral cancer, and cancer of the paraurethral glands are now presumed service-connected disabilities due to toxic exposure, streamlining the claims process for eligible veterans with evidence of a diagnosis.
- + The VA National Caregiver Support Line has new operational hours of Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm EST. Caregivers, family members, friends, veterans, and community partners can call toll-free at 855-260-3274 to learn more about the services that are available, and for assistance connecting with the Caregiver Support Team at a local VA Medical Center. Read more www.caregiver.va.gov/help_landing.asp.
- + The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against two veterans who argued that their disability claims were unfairly denied because they did not receive favorable decisions when the evidence presented in their cases was equal. In a 7-2 decision, the court ruled that the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is not required to review the VA application of the "benefit-of-the-doubt" rule in most decisions. The standard requires the VA to approve veteran's claims when the supporting evidence, either for or against approval, is close.

DAV Department of Kentucky Contact Information:

DAV Department of Kentucky
PO Box 129
Shepherdsville, KY 40165
daveterans@yahoo.com
(502)543-7705

DAV Department of Kentucky State Executive Committee 2025-2026

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Adjutant:	George Hall	ghall08@yahoo.com	(606) 477-5460
Sr. Vice	John Clark	vetjohnclark@aol.com	(606) 425-3059
1st Jr. Vice:	Jonathan Collett	jcollett.kydav@gmail.com	(606) 250-8116
2nd Jr. Vice:	Anthony Williams	evansdav118@gmail.com	(270) 564-7551
3rd Jr. Vice:	Danny Shepherd	dnnyshphrd32@yahoo.com	(606) 789-4852
4th Jr. Vice:	Steven Johnson	stevejohnson.dav@gmail.com	(812) 797-4377

