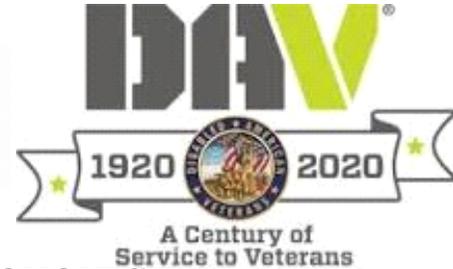


Disabled American Veterans

April 2025 Newsletter



FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER/ MICHAEL STOYONOVICH



Brothers and Sisters!

The District meetings this Spring have been very organized and very informative. Thanks to all the chapters and auxiliaries who have sponsored the meetings.

As you know the Department sold our Thrift Store in Louisville last summer. The Thrift Store was losing money the last few years so your SEC decided to sell it. At the same time the Heating/Air Conditioning in the store died. The cost estimate to replace the HVAC and the roof failures were \$150,000+. That made the decision to sell easier. The good news is the Department no longer has the expenses we had when owning the Thrift Store; in salaries, taxes, utilities and insurances so the interest income will help us until the SEC, with your suggestions, moves forward.

It is of utmost importance that during your Spring chapter meetings, that the responsible officer submit the chapter election results on the DAV National Officer Election Report (OER) online at MyDav.org. The OER must be filled out online and submitted online to DAV National and your Department of Kentucky within 10 days after the election takes place.

Your SEC is ready to present some Department fundraisers to help our income grow for 2025 and beyond. Details of these fundraisers are in statements by your Department Officers below.

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The Department is also putting the final touches on a Department Website in order for our members to better communicate between each other. Go to kydav.org and check out the new website introduction.

Don't forget our Department newsletter as well. I looking for your Chapter pictures and stories of your events to publish in the next edition right now! Please send them to my email address asap!

One personal goal for me as your Commander during my term is, "No Chapter Left Behind." We have had some chapters that have needed help to meet mandatory reports, (Officer Election Reports and IRS annual filing 990 forms), to DAV National and/or to the Department of Kentucky. The Department has assisted and the Chapter's Officers have stepped up and we now have submitted those mandatory reports and are in compliance and able to keep their nonprofit status. BRAVO!

The Department of Kentucky only exists to support you!

Thank you for having your trust in me as your Commander this past year. Together we have solved several lingering issues that have made our organization stronger. I will give you 100% in making us even better for 2025-2026 as your Commander. Blessings!

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

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/GEORGE HALL



I hope this finds each of you in good health as we get near the Department Convention June 19-21, 2025.

Don't forget at your spring chapter meetings to elect your new officers. Commanders and Adjutants, you are responsible to make sure that you list out your new officers on the DAV National form the Officers Election Report form (OER). You must type out and send this year's Officer Report Form online at MyDav.org and send it electronically to DAV National Membership and to the Department of Kentucky HQ to daveterans@yahoo.com. **I need to make a correction from our last newsletter that stated that failure to submit the officer report could lead to substantial monetary losses. To clarify...the statement should have said the failure to file your 990 could lead to the chapter losing their non-profit status, which could be costly to reinstate.**

I have been working with the veteran victims of these awful storms in Eastern Kentucky. There are veterans and their families who have lost everything they had. We have been providing up to 400 meals a day and many other clothing items, water and other needs. Please donate if you can. Send your donations to DAV Department of Kentucky, PO Box 129, Shepherdsville, KY. 40165. Bless you!!

Let's make the rest of 2025 the best it can be! If you have questions, please call: (502)780-3240 or daveterans@yahoo.com

George Hall
Department Adjutant



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/ LEE EWING

I hope you all had a great Spring! Our DAV State Convention is just around the corner. It will be good to see you all at the convention.

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

In the interest of our Chapter and State Service Officers, I received this bulletin last week from VA. The U.S. Supreme Court in a 7-2 decision said, the 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. The court ruled that the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is not required to review the Department of Veterans Affairs' application of the "benefit-of-the-doubt" rule, used in most decisions. The standard requires the VA to approve veterans' claims when the supporting evidence, either for or against approval, is close. This has been VA's standard for years, but is not anymore after this ruling.

Note: Please submit your Service Officer Nomination form to the NSO Office in Louisville now, to ensure your service officers are on the certification course list.

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/ MICHAEL SPARKS

It's Spring in Kentucky. The April showers this year bring another round of flooding not just in the areas prone to flooding but across the entire Commonwealth. I hope the majority of you have escaped the rains with minimal loss. Many of our brothers and sisters who suffered through the winter storms that brought extreme cold, heavy snow and ice were hit again. I have to send a gigantic thank you to our Adjutant George Hall and the group he has on site in Eastern Kentucky who have been tirelessly working to feed and shelter some of the most affected. Please continue to be vigilant and check on your members to see if anyone is in need of help, especially those that live alone. Hope the Easter Bunny Santa brought you a decorated potatoe or two.

Across the Commonwealth, our chapters are electing their leadership team for the 2025-2026 term that begins July 1, 2025. The DAV cannot and will not survive if we don't have folks interested in leading and helping to improve the organization. Sometimes the biggest failure is not trying. There are over 17,000 members in DAV Kentucky but I have attended meetings where only a few have been willing to accept a leadership position. Many fear messing up or don't believe they know how to do the job. Remember, "Team Work Makes the Dream Work." You are not on this mission alone. If you are in the lead position, use the strengths of your chapter members to group attack any and all problems you encounter. If you have knowledge and experience with a particular problem step up, volunteer to help, let your leadership know, be a hero. When everyone pulls in the same direction a lot can be accomplished.

With that being said, I have decided to seek the position of Department Commander at the upcoming convention. If I am lucky enough to be your selection for Commander, I may call upon YOU to assist me in some capacity where I believe you are fully capable of shining. A major challenge ahead of us is acquiring or raising funds to assist those veterans in need when tragedies happen.

If you have questions for me, feel free to text me at (859) 797-0299 (or leave a voice mail so I know who to answer). Email me at: msparksdavky@yahoo.com

Please continue to get out and be visible in your communities. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Department Convention.

DEPARTMENT 1ST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/MATT DILLON



Comrades: Things have been quiet here in eastern Kentucky this winter and spring.. I had additional treatments/surgery to remove another cyst and to repair the carpal tunnel nerve damage. I feel like I have spent the whole winter/spring just trying to regain the use of my left hand. It is slowly improving and hopefully return to normal before long.

I hope you all didn't have damage during these awful storms. Our chapter has stepped up to do welfare checks and have helped our brothers and sisters overcome hardships after these storms.

I look forward to seeing you all at the convention Blessings!

If anyone knows of a veteran in need of assistance feel free to email me at mattsremodeling74@yahoo.com Blessings!

DEPARTMENT 2ND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/JOHN CLARK



Engaging the Next Generation: Strategies to Attract and Retain Younger Members

+ **Meet Them Where They Are- Social Media:** Gen Z has grown up with smart phones, and a staggering 95% of them actively use social media. It's not just a trend-it's how they interact with the world. A strong, targeted social media strategy is crucial.

+ **Paid Social Ads:** Unlike older generations, Gen Z is more tolerant of ads, making paid social campaigns an effective tool for awareness and action.

+ **Content Strategy:** Use social platforms to share timely news, encourage direct action (like donations or volunteer sign-ups), and stay engaged through consistent interaction.

+ **Influencer Marketing:** Partnering with the right influencers can significantly boost awareness and trust, especially when targeting audiences interested in supporting veterans.

+ **Make Giving Digital and Mobile Cell Phone Friendly:** Online fundraising is no longer optional-it's essential. Both Millennials and Gen Z expect digital donations options that are quick and intuitive, especially on mobile.

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- + **Mobile Optimization:** Ensure your website is fully responsive, with easy navigation and engaging visuals.
- + **Inspire with Video:** These generations are highly visual. Short, powerful videos and compelling storytelling can drive both donations and involvement.
- + **Simplicity is Key:** Make it easy to donate, volunteer, and share our cause. Reduce friction and meet digital expectations.
- + **Create a Culture of Belonging:** Younger generations want to feel like they matter. Welcome them not just as volunteers, but as valued contributors to a mission-driven community.
- + **Onboarding Matters:** A warm, informative induction process sets the tone for long-term engagement. Assign each new member a sponsor. A good sponsor will stay in weekly touch with the new member and remind them of any meetings. Use it to establish expectations, build relationships, and share your culture.
- + **Start with Small Roles:** Instead of placing new members in formal leadership roles, assign them to committees or task forces that align with their strengths-communications, social media, fundraising, event planning, etc. This approach helps uncover their potential and keeps them motivated.
- + **Plant the Seeds Early:** Gaining members in their younger years increases the likelihood of long-term involvement. Use the strategies above to capture their interest, spark their passion, and show them that they can make a real difference.
- + **Brag on Yourselves!:** Let your community know about the good work you are doing. When the community sees the work, you are doing, they will feel more confident when making donations. We all love to see when the contributions we make are making a difference.

Please don't forget the Department Convention is coming up in June. If there is a chapter that may not have the funds to send a representative to the convention, please let me know. I will do everything I can to help them do some fundraising before the convention.

Our goal is to assure that each chapter has representation this year.

My cell phone # is (606)-425-3059. Feel free to text me your name and information with any questions. Email: VETJOHNCLARK@aol.com Thank you!

DEPARTMENT 3RD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/ JONATHAN COLLETT

Greetings Comrades.

I hope this finds each of you well. This must be one of my favorite seasons. Grass is growing, flowers are blooming, and our District meetings are well underway. For those we have been able to visit with, it has been great seeing each other. For those yet to meet, we will have a wonderful reunion.

This year has been particularly difficult in much of the state. In both Eastern and Western Kentucky, devastation shook the commonwealth when floods, high winds and tornados destroyed homes, businesses and communities. Although several counties were devastated, I am most familiar with the stories coming from Pike and Floyd counties. After the flood, freezing temperatures moved into the area. Many families were forced to live in tents and other shelters. Sadly, our veteran community was far from exempt. Our Adjutant, George Hall, worked alongside multiple organizations to care for our veteran community. He, and others, cooked and delivered hundreds of meals each and every day. Long cold nights were met with kerosene heaters. Fuel was being taken out many nights until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. The lack of fuel, generators, and adequate heat made a terrible situation almost impossible. Thank God for the veterans who stepped up to serve their comrades in their greatest hour of need.

During these times of need, it is important to be looking out for the welfare of one another. We need to be checking on those who serve alongside us. In our chapters, we may never know the situation of those we fellowship with on a regular basis—unless we ask. Chapters should have or develop a system of accountability. If we do not look out for our own, who will do so? I encourage each of us to follow a simple system of ideas to better serve our men and women who have put themselves in harms way protecting the liberties we all know and love. This will not only help in times of trouble, but will serve to make our chapters a more inviting place for all.

1. When we take in a new member, assign that veteran a sponsor. Everyone needs a friend. We share something that no other group can offer. No matter which branch of service, we have all served. That common bond of unity, that camaraderie, can never be substituted or replaced. We can tell stories among ourselves that our wives and children may never be a part of. The most callas of hearts will often open up to those who share a common bond.

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2. Develop a call system. Don't just assign a sponsor, but get involved with each other. Call the people under your charge. Remind them of meetings and events. Tell them how much you look forward to seeing them—to working with them. Everyone needs a purpose. Everyone needs to be wanted and needed.

3. Try to establish peer groups. Marines identify with marines. Navy veterans have experiences which only the Navy can comprehend. I am personally an Army Veteran. Nothing compares to hearing about how bad a soldier's time was at Benning, Bragg, or Knox. We have a common ground. Use it to our advantage,

4. Be on the lookout for those in the community you may not have connected with. When you see that veteran wearing his hat at Wal-Mart, Target, or Academy Sports, ask them where they served. Strike up a conversation. Ask them to your next meeting. Offer them a membership. Our chapter will pay for the first year if someone shows up to a meeting. Be creative in the way you recruit new members. They will not come unless you ask.

5. Finally, be involved in your community. In District 5, Jeff Morgan commands chapter 105 in Monticello. I am continually hearing about his chapter's involvement with the schools, with the Somerset VA, and every event that is held within the community. When people visit this chapter, they are met with a large group of motivated veterans who are eager to be involved. This is the way we want to be seen; we want to be seen active and alive.

Thank you to everyone who makes this organization what it is. We are not without fault, but we are striving to be better. Across this great Commonwealth, I do not know of a single chapter, member, officer, or administrator who is not doing the best they know how to do. We are better together. Share your ideas with those to your right and left. Remember that iron sharpens iron, and a man the countenance of his friend. We are better together.

DEPARTMENT 4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/TOMMIE CAUSEY



Dear Friends,

This year, I have had the honor of attending all District Commander's meetings except one due to personal reasons. Kudos to each chapter's leadership team and their members. A special kudo to their State Service Officers who are filing timely and effective claims to expedite benefits for deserving veterans and their families.

Now, I would like to draw your attention to the pending VA budget cuts, the upcoming election, the upcoming conventions, chapter membership, fund raising, and the disastrous weather effects.

VA Budget Reduction: The 64 thousand dollar question that looms large is governmental funding cuts and the impact of such. I have yet to meet anybody who is against eliminating wasteful spending. Yet, I predict this year will continue to be tumultuous and uncertainty will abound due to such. Front and center for veterans is the pending massive VA budget reduction. While the impact of the huge number of VA employees being laid off, contract terminations and other program cuts prompted by the reduction in VA funding has yet to be totally realized. Nevertheless, any proposed rollback in VA programs, services or compensation should give rise to skepticism and concern.

On the surface, the proposal does not appear to bode well for veterans and their families. If enacted, the proposed cuts could slow down claims processing. And staffing reductions may increase your wait time to see a doctor. As a minimum, all of which will have a negative impact on all categories of veterans. With a possible disproportionate impact on older and low to moderate income veterans and their families.

At the same time, the high cost of living continues to increase for virtually everything. This is true especially for must-have items, such as food and shelter. Moreover, the trajectory of higher prices for everything continues to rise with no end in sight. The cost for food and a decent place to stay is so high that it is troubling for most veterans. If not abated, the end result points toward an unwelcome decrease in their quality of life.

To be fair, many of the proposed budget reductions may not see the light of day. Taking higher prices into consideration, the VA, like you, cannot continue to do more with less as the cost of doing business escalates. Especially since most veterans are relying totally on VA for healthcare and other services and that number is expected to continue to increase. Yet, we can take some comfort in the fact that the National DAV continues to advocate what's best for veterans and their families. The Department joined in to do the same. For more information visit www.dav.org for details. *(continued on next page)*

Also, feel free to contact your federal congressional representatives and senators to voice your concerns/approval or to seek clarifications. For that's where the rubber meets the road. More importantly, you have earned the unique right to voice your concerns/approval or to seek clarifications in regard to this issue or any other matter as well.

Focusing on the positive, it is my sincere belief our local elected officials will continue to do what's best for veterans and their families too. Let's hope that is the case. For any major reduction in the VA's budget, resulting in major rollbacks or drastic cuts in VA programs, services, benefits or compensation may negatively affect all categories of veterans and their families, to include future veterans. That being said, deliberate and wasteful spending of the taxpayer's money must not be tolerated at any levels of government, including VA.

Elections: State and chapter elections are rapidly approaching. The candidates will speak for themselves, some already have and there may be others. I highly encourage you to get involved and stay involved. As you do, trust but verify. Do your research to verify who or what initiatives are best for veterans and their families that we are sworn to serve.

Conventions: Thanks to Brooke and Hollie. All chapters should be in receipt or soon will be in receipt of this year's convention package. If not, Commanders or the designated representative, please contact the Department for guidance. Also, please don't delay...make plans to attend this year's State and/or National Convention to enhance productivity. In doing so, please ensure your chapter comply with the Department's voting requirement. If you have questions or need help, please contact the Department for guidance or clarification.

Chapter Membership: Chapter membership continues to be a top priority. Though some chapters have realized significant gains in membership. To no fault of their own, some are having problems maintaining their existing membership. We need each member to pledge to actively recruit new members. By doing so, you put your name in the hat for National DAV Membership Rally incentives, a win, win for all. Hurry, the DAV Membership Rally ends June 30, 2025.

Fundraising: Fundraising like membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Therefore, fundraising like membership remains an ever present top priority. Chapter sponsor's car shows, Forget Me Not initiatives, the partnership with Golden Corral continue to be major fundraising initiatives. Donations, gifts, and the sale of DAV assets are other funding sources for the Department. Please be advised that any donation you make to your chapter or the Department is tax deductible. If you wish to do so, just contact your local chapter's leadership team and/or the Department for details. As always, we welcome your fundraising suggestions/recommendations. *(continued on next page)*

Weather: The weather has been unkind to us, especially Eastern Kentucky. As such, some veterans and their families have lost everything. The National DAV, Department, FEMA and other relief agencies have booths on the ground to provide some immediate relief. However, the unexpected loss of life and the lingering long term emotional, mental and traumatic effects associated with such weigh heavily on all. Moreover, the loss of cherished mementos and the immediate degradation in the quality of life can not be measured. Some chapters have already made donations and continue to help in other ways. If you or your chapter would like to make a donation, please contact the Department for details.

In closing, though the challenges may be many and seem overwhelming. Let's continue to stay focused on leaving no chapter behind, no veteran behind and no veteran's family behind. Simply put, that's what we do best. For there is strength in numbers and by working together seamlessly, I know we can continue to make it better for current and future veterans. As each of you know without any reservations,

["America's fighting men and women sacrifice much to ensure that our great nation stays free. We owe a debt of gratitude to the soldiers that have paid the ultimate price for this cause, as well as for those who are blessed enough to return from the battlefield unscathed."](#)

-Allen Boyd

By your service, you have personally validated that freedom is not free. In doing so, you may have served with someone who paid the ultimate price to keep our nation free. Even more reason to advocate doggedly for veterans and their families, ensuring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice did not do so in vain.

Therefore, I proudly join in saluting you and your family. Thanks for your service. Wishing you the very best and unlimited success.

Tommie Causey,
4th Jr. Vice Cmdr.
xxmmnn77@duck.com

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN/ JOSEPH MCCARTNEY



Greetings to my fellow Comrades!

Unfortunately, I do not have a whole lot to report pertaining to any historical events. I would like to recognize a couple of our 7th District Chapters for their **OUTSTANDING DEDICATION and SERVICE** to the veterans of their communities devastated by the flooding in Eastern Kentucky, once again.

CHAPTER #18, Commander Danny Shepherd, and **CHAPTER #169**, Commander Jerry Roberts, and Chapter members, for their unwavering support to fellow comrades. A **SPECIAL** recognition goes out to **George Hall** (and his Shriners group) who have put in an enormous amount of hours of their time throughout this ordeal. They have been ensuring that approximately 400 meals, and necessities, are distributed to those veterans in the area, **DAILY**. If you, or your chapter would like to make a monetary contribution to these continuing efforts please send them to DAV Department HQ in Shepherdsville, and put **Flood Relief** on the memo line of your check. Many thanks in advance!

Just a heads up, I am compiling a list to be displayed at our State Convention in June to recognize **ALL** members with 50 years or more of dedication to this organization. So I am asking all District and Chapter Commanders to please ensure your membership rosters are updated by May 15, 2025. This will give me time to get the list finalized and printed for display.

In closing, I hope everyone has a safe, and Blessed Easter, and Memorial Weekend. I hope to see you all at the State Convention in June.

Remember, if your chapter has a historical event that you feel needs to be recognized in the future, please feel free to contact me by phone, text message, or email at the following: (606) 682-2356, or jmacattack60@gmail.com

**DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE/ BENEFITS PROTECTION
TEAM LEADER/DAVID BALL**

As we are all aware, Spring represents a particularly busy period for the Disabled American Veterans Department of Kentucky. During this time, we will be engaged in District Meetings while also following our regular chapter schedule, all the while preparing for the upcoming Department Convention.

I encourage you to reflect on aspects of current legislation and Federal Departments that you believe warrant change or improvement. Please document these considerations and discuss them with your respective chapters. If your suggestions receive approval at the chapter level, kindly forward them to the Department for presentation and voting during the Convention. It is my sincere hope to see an increased number of resolutions from our Department to be brought forward to the DAV National level.

Myself, Department 3rd Junior Vice Jonathan Collett, and Department Commander Mike Stoyonovich were present at the DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Washington D.C. in late February. Our mission as representatives of our Department Benefits Protection/Legislative Committee was to meet with all our Kentucky Legislators and share with them the 2025 DAV National Critical Policy Goals. We were able to meet with eight legislative members. We were very straight forward with our conversation on these policy goals. The meetings went well as there was a lot of discussion both ways. I believe the Legislators understood our recommendations and concerns for the veteran community.

If your chapter completes any by-law changes or has questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me either by email: ball.david1976@gmail.com or my cell phone: (606) 309-1812.

DEPARTMENT SGT-AT-ARMS/ DANNY SHEPHERD



Hello my DAV friends!

I want to start off by saying thank you to Chapter #18. Thank you for all the work you have completed so far. We have been busy these past couple of months. The weather was a force to be reckoned with. We first helped a couple of veterans with cleaning up . We helped with removal of furniture and other household items. We helped with cleaning up afterwards. The families were surely happy with the results. The owners tried to pay us for our work, but we reassured them that payment wasn't necessary. We are just trying to help our fellow veterans. "Veterans helping Veterans."

I want to say thank you to Emily Elam and Chapter #132 for donating needed funds to help veterans during the flooding. With their donations, we were able to help four different veterans with needed clothing. We were able to buy necessities to help veterans such as with cleaning supplies, food, and water. These four veterans that we helped lost almost everything during the flooding. Again, thank you Chapter #132!

We also built a ramp for a veteran who was coming back from the hospital. His wife called one of my members and told him she needed a ramp built, but didn't have any money for the materials. We brought this up at our chapter meeting and everyone voted to help build it. We got the material through a donation and got to work and completed the task. We were thrilled with the results. The veteran and his wife were as well. "Veterans helping Veterans."

I want to also thank Luke Rollins and Jack Duff for teaching me to be a better Service Officer. Between the two of them is a wealth of knowledge. My hopes are to learn as much as I can and open our building for at least one day a week for service work and a Veterans Recreation Center. That is my goal for the future.

I want to leave you with this quote, "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." **Jimmy Dean.**

Reach me at (606)-793-4842 or dnnyshprd@yahoo.com



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN/ PRICE PORTER

To all my D.A.V. Brothers and Sisters and the DAVA, who have made all the miles to the district meetings. It is so good to fellowship around good food prepared with loving kindness and for serving with joy.

To all who have traveled to Frankfort and Washington in large efforts to make our journey through life and much more pleasant.

To George Hall who is a hero in my neck of the woods. To Danny Shepherd who has gone above and beyond, OUR HATS ARE OFF!

To all the unsung heroes whose contributions will not be known until we gather on "Heavens Bright Shore.

To all the Chaplin's and people of prayer who have spent so much time in prayer for the lonely, the broken and those whose nights are filled with dreams of things that have happened outside their ability to prevent, know that God Almighty knows how you feel, read Isaiah 53:1-12.

“Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

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He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors."

Look how much He cares!

Jesus is our intercessor or lawyer. He represents us to God the Father. He pleads us guilty and then pays our fine. My fine was heavy. I was sentenced to death, and He paid the fine.

Spring is here with the birds and the bees, flowers and trees busy doing what God created them to do. All you praying people, pray for all our leadership in the D.A.V. Also, for our state and federal leaders which God tells us to do. Pray for me that God almighty will direct my mind and emotions to the need of veterans. May God gather a great assembly of veterans on "HEAVENS BRIGHT PEACEFUL ETERNAL SHORE!"



Love, Chaplin Porter and My Sweetheart

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 PFC Leonard Lee I. Clendenning, Airman, accounted for.**
- **WWII Army Sgt. Norman H. Drewes, accounted for.**
- **WWII Army Pvt. Roman Cherubini, Airman, accounted for.**
- **WWII Army Major James J. O'Donovan, Soldier, accounted for.**
- **WWII Army 2nd Lt. William B. Bucey, Soldier, accounted for.**
- **WWII Army Sgt. Ivor D. Thornton, Soldier, accounted for.**
- **WWII Navy Fireman 3rd Class Royle B. Luker, USS West Virginia, accounted for.**
- **WWII Army Air Forces Staff Sgt Russell O. Chitwood, Airman, accounted for.**
- **Korean War Army PFC George A. Curley Jr., Soldier, Accounted for.**

You can rest now brothers!

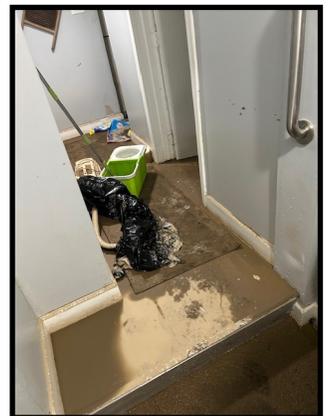
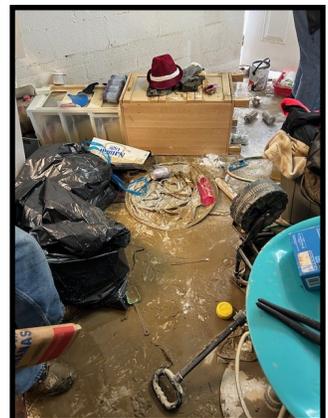
Chapter News

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 helping out their fellow veterans with flood cleanup. a lot of veterans were devastated by the floodwaters, and Chapter #18 tried to do their part. We were able to clean a couple of houses and help out with necessities.



Chapter News



Chapter #18

With the donation by Emily Elam and Chapter #132, Chapter #18 was able to buy four veterans some clothes. The veterans lost almost everything, and Chapter #18 was able to buy needed clothes and supplies with the help of Emily Elam and Chapter #132. Chapter #18 wants to thank Chapter #132 for their donation. It was really appreciated.



Chapter #18 was able to build a ramp for an elderly veteran. A veteran that was getting out of the hospital and needed a ramp urgently. The wife called one of my members, and they brought it up in a meeting. We did our research and found out the family was financially burdened and didn't have the money or the help to build a ramp. Chapter #18 was able to come up with donated wood, and we bought the rest. After everything was bought, we built them a ramp. Thank you, Chapter #18, for a job well done. ted.



Floyd County Shriners Easter egg hunt. Commander of Chapter #18, Danny Shepherd, in attendance.



Chapters 20 & 32 Vietnam Veterans Day Program



DAV Chapter 20 Honor Guard with rifle volley during TAPS



Edmonson County' Judge Executive, Scott Lindsey



Roel Pena Chapter #20 Honor Guard playing TAPS



Chapter #32 Commander Jack Hasty tolling the remembrance bell

Chapter News

Chapters 20 & 32 at Vietnam Veterans Day Program



Chapter 66

On Saturday, 29 March 2025, Chapter 66 participated in the VFW post 5908, Rockcastle County Vietnam Veterans Day celebrations held at 32 Mt Zion Church Rd., Mount Vernon, Ky. Chapter members included David Bogue, Woody Dunn, Ronald Lewis, John Bailey, several family members and other chapter members.



The chapter conducted team building, networking, and observation. Chapter members were given the opportunity to team build during the event by coordinating and executing a “stop by”. The members were able to network with other veteran services such as the Marines Toys for Tots program. The ceremony was concluded with a full honor guard provided by the VFW and a color guard provided by the Marine veterans.

In summary, this special event honoring our nations heroes, once subject to turmoil, gave proper recognition. It provided an excellent opportunity for our chapter members to work as a team and network with outside agencies.



Upcoming Events



& FLOYD COUNTY FRYSC
HOSTING

Live Music

Door Prizes!



MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

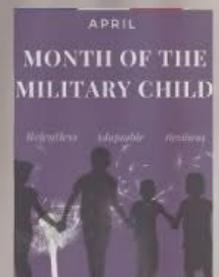
FLOYD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
APRIL 24, 2025
BEGINNING AT 6:00PM



ALL MILITARY MEMBERS, FUTURE, PAST, PRESENT
AND THEIR FAMILIES & FRIENDS ARE WELCOME

DINNER PROVIDED

PLEASE CONTACT TERESA GRIFFITH WITH ANY QUESTIONS @
606-358-2240 OR 606-226-6271



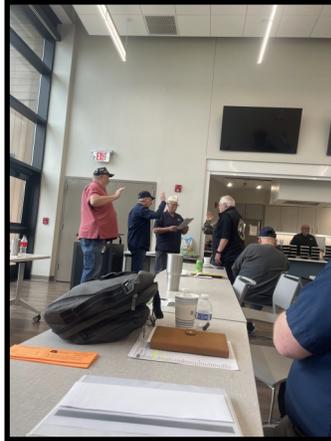
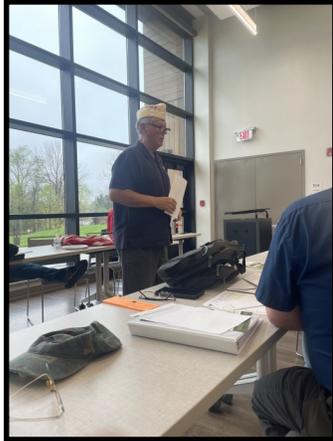
News & Notes



- + Veterans exposed to burn pit smoke during deployment are experiencing significant health challenges, including constrictive bronchiolitis (CB), a severe small-airways disease. Despite its debilitating impact, many veterans struggle to secure disability benefits due to difficulties in diagnosis and the VA's reliance on standard pulmonary function tests, which often fail to detect CB. The VA has held listening sessions to address concerns but critics express frustration over delays in finalizing policies.
- + 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.
- + The U.S. House passed six bipartisan bills for veterans and their families. DAV recently testified in support of H.R. 1039, Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act, that would simplify VA notice letters to make them more understandable to recipients; and H.R. 1228, Prioritizing Veteran's Survivors Act, that would move the Office of Survivors Assistance to the Office of the Secretary to ensure prioritization of all survivor benefits. Read about more of the bills: veterans.house.gov/news/documentsingle/
- + 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/.
- + From 2019 through 2023, 541,672 active-duty service members-from all branches were diagnosed with at least one mental health disorder. Approximately 47% of those individuals- about 255,000-were diagnosed with more than one mental health disorder. Mental health disorder diagnoses were more often found in female service members, individuals from a younger age demographic and in the Army. Active-duty female service members were diagnosed with PTSD at twice the rate of male service members, and incidents of diagnoses increased with age. The Navy led all other services in diagnoses of depressive disorders, bipolar disorders and personality disorders. Military suicides rose in 2023, continuing a troubling trend. The VA efforts to assist and treat service members continue.
- + 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

1st District Meeting

April 5th in Goshen, KY



MESSAGE FROM DAV VAVS STATE CHAIRMAN

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

Other Requested Supported Items

- Hygiene Items (Nail Clippers, Combs, Brushes and Travel size Lotions)
- Large and XL Sweatpants



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.

Opportunities to Serve

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

DAV historically and currently supports DAV Transportation, we understand that COVID has set us all back professionally, financially, and personally. 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



Educate, Refer, Empower

Restore confidence and self-dependence
in Veterans you work with



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