

# Disabled American Veterans

April 2026 Newsletter



## FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER/ MICHAEL STOYONOVICH



Brothers and Sisters!

Thank you for the honor of serving you as your Department Commander these past two years. I can say that these last two years as your Commander have been two of the best years of my life.

**My number one priority** for this year is again, “No Chapter Left Behind.” The Department officers and staff, (Brooke, Hollie, John Clark, and several other SEC members), worked with 24 chapters this past October through January 2026 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.

- **DAV National now requires all Chapters to submit an annual financial report digitally on National’s specific forms no later than 90 days from the date of the last day of our Department Convention. The Department has been working continually in complying with National’s new requirements explained above.**

**Chapter Officers:** Please consider during your new chapter officer elections this Spring to consider members for positions or committees that have experience using personal computers and are computer experienced in light of all these new requirements to submit mandatory reports to DAV National and the DAV Department of Kentucky, digitally.

**All chapters must now submit annual financial reports to DAV National and the DAV Department of Kentucky.** Please let me, or any of your Department Officers, Department Staff, 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. After working with all chapter officers these past months the Department has a good financial baseline to help support all our chapters in submitting these annual financial reports for 2026 and beyond.

**Priority-**Working final development of Department/Chapter fundraisers to help our income grow for 2026 and beyond. The 1<sup>st</sup> DAV Annual Department of Kentucky Bass Fishing Tournament at Lake Cumberland was a great success and a lot of fun last fall. We had a good turnout and your SEC Officers were on site to make sure we all had a good time. Your Department Officers are working on details for more fundraisers. **Sr. Vice Commander John Clark is working out the details for another Department Bass Fishing Tournament fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> on Lake Cumberland. Fun for all!!**

**Priority-** We have launched our new **Department Website** in order for all our members to better communicate safely between each other. **Our System Administrator is Hollie from Department HQ.** She has experience as a system administrator with websites and we couldn’t be more thrilled with her volunteering to take this on. *(continued on next page)*

The new website is [ky-dav.org](http://ky-dav.org). Please let us know what you would like to see as a feature in the new website. On our website you are able to access the DAV National website, access our past editions of the Department Newsletter, chapter locations and contact information, and lots more!

**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. Your 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Jonathan Collett, (A Department Champion Recruiter for 2025), will be discussing his recommendations for recruiting at our Spring District meetings as a guideline for your future use.

**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 has received several donated vehicles during 2025-2026, and we have turned them into income for the Department General Fund.

The Department is researching available grants as a way to help us help more veterans. We have found three grants where the Department has scored between 8-9.5 out of a 10 possible score by the grantor. We are pursuing those now.

The Department and Chapter 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 much needed SEC and Finance Committee meetings to address how to move forward as a Department. More of these meetings to follow this year.

We also have had several live Zoom SEC meetings in late 2025 and again in 2026 with several SEC Officers in attendance with discussions on several topics on how to improve the Department for us all. We also had several Finance Committee Zoom meetings with discussions focused on Department Investment strategies and how to improve. We discussed what to do with monies we have now, as well as future investments. A discussion ensued for scheduling more Zoom meetings for the SEC and the Department Finance Committees. **These Zoom meetings were able to save time traveling and fuel expenses for the participants.**

**Lastly,** I have had more than one member tell me to consider asking all our chapter's brothers and sisters to **send their favorite or generational family favorite recipes to Department HQ**, so we can develop a **DAV Department of Kentucky Cookbook**. We eat so good at our Chapter meetings and District meetings that I know there is some great family recipes out there. **3<sup>rd</sup> District Executive Committeeman, Jerry Long**, was the first to suggest a **Department Cookbook**. I believe developing a cookbook together would be fun and well received. Let me know what you all think.

**Blessings to you all and your families!**

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

### DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/ LEE EWING



I hope you all have had a great Spring!

I have been busy this year helping our veterans and family members get their well earned benefits. We have kept the new CMS/VA system loaded with new claims already this new year. 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. When possible the NSO's, or others approved by our National Service Office, that have gotten their specific password and specialized training can come to your chapter or group session and train you where you live. NSO's will provide each State and Chapter Service Officer their own password to enter and use the CMS system and submit claims.

**Note:** Please review the Department of Kentucky Constitution and By-Laws dated 2025, which has a lot of new language added this past state convention. Your Chapter Officers need to be aware of what mandatory reports are due to whom and when. Several annual reports such as, Chapter Officer Election Reports and Chapter Annual Financial Reports have to be filed on-line at [dav.org](http://dav.org) and sent electronically to the Department of Kentucky and DAV National.

If I can be of service, please feel free to call (502) 543- 7705 or email [daveterans@yahoo.com](mailto: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



Hello fellow members:

As we wrap up our spring meeting and begin preparing for the State Convention, I want to emphasize just how important it is for each chapter to send representatives. This convention is not just a formality—it's an opportunity to strengthen our organization and ensure we're all aligned moving forward.

There will be important training sessions, including guidance on completing annual financial reports. We'll also be introducing a new Excel spreadsheet designed to help chapters better track and manage their finances. As requirements from National continue to evolve, maintaining clear and accurate documentation will be essential.

In addition, we will be holding our annual elections. The ability to vote and have a voice in the direction of our organization is one of our most important responsibilities. Participation truly matters.

If your chapter is experiencing financial challenges, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help and can work with you to organize a fundraiser or find other ways to provide support.

Thank you all for your continued dedication and service.

### DEPARTMENT 1ST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/ JONATHAN COLLETT



Greetings Comrades.

I want to start off by saying what a pleasure it is to be in the midst of our Spring District Meetings. Traveling throughout the state and connecting with colleagues from various districts in the department is consistently rewarding, especially since we don't get to see each other as frequently as we'd prefer. The camaraderie within our organization is something I hope we never take for granted.

This year I was fortunate to travel to the DAV Mid-Winter Conference. There, we focused on legislation we wished to support with our legislators in congress and senate. There are two pieces of legislation which demonstrate real need in the veteran community. I would ask you to read about these bills and speak with your representatives about pushing this legislation forward.

The first bill I would like to see action on is HR 210. Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50% or higher are generally exempt from copayments for VA healthcare, including Whole Health services. This group of veterans is generally referred to as Priority Group 1. Veterans in this group have VA at their disposal for most healthcare, but not dental care. Currently, only veterans with 100% service-connected disability, or those who meet certain criteria from service have dental access. HR 210 seeks to fix this. If this bill were to be adopted, Veterans in lower priority groups would gain access to dental care. This would be a game changer for many who currently have no coverage.

The second is commonly referred to as the Major Richard Star Act. The Major Richard star act was first introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> congress, with House and Senate versions referred to committees in March 2020. This bill has been reintroduced in subsequent Congresses to allow combat-disabled retirees to receive both full, earned military retirement and VA disability pay without the current offset. It proposes to eliminate the offset that reduces retirement pay for veterans with less than 20 years of service who are medically retired due to combat-related injuries. While the bill has gained overwhelming bipartisan and cosponsored support, it has stalled in committees. We would like to see this bill move forward for a vote.

Information about all of our Mid-Winter critical policy goals are available for review at [DAV.org](https://www.dav.org). I would like to encourage everyone to reach out to their elected representatives in support of our efforts. I will speak more about these as we see each other in the remainder of the spring meetings.

Respectfully,  
Jonathan Collett  
1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice  
DAV, Department of Kentucky

### DEPARTMENT 2ND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/ANTHONY EVANS



As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of American independence, we are reminded of the extraordinary courage and sacrifice that shaped the United States. This milestone is more than a historical marker; it is a moment to reflect on the generations of Americans who defended freedom, including the veterans we proudly serve today.

The spirit that guided our founders is the same spirit we see in veterans who continue to serve their communities long after their military service ends. This month included a meaningful visit to Boston, the birthplace of the American Revolution. Walking the Freedom Trail and standing at the Old State House

brought a renewed appreciation for the legacy we carry forward.

As we look toward the semiquincentennial, the Declaration of Independence continues to speak to the heart of our mission. Its core belief that every individual has inherent worth aligns with DAV's commitment to ensuring veterans receive the care, respect, and support they have earned. The Declaration was a promise of dignity, and our work today helps fulfill that promise for every veteran and their family.

#### Check In — It Matters

A call, a text, or a quick visit can break through isolation. Many veterans carry burdens quietly, and your outreach may remind someone they are not alone.

#### Mental Health

- Encourage open, judgment-free conversations.
- Share local VA and community mental health resources.
- Remind veterans that seeking help is a sign of strength.

#### Physical Health

- Promote regular checkups and preventive care.
- Encourage movement, such as walking, stretching, or low-impact exercise.
- Share information about local fitness or wellness programs.

#### Addiction Awareness

Addiction affects veterans from every era and background. Recovery is possible, and support is essential.

- Offer compassion, not stigma.
- Share information about treatment programs and peer support.
- Remind veterans that recovery does not have to be faced alone.

#### Looking Ahead

As we honor 250 years of American independence, let's recommit ourselves to the values that define our service: community, resilience, and looking out for one another. Every Buddy Check strengthens our chapter and ensures no veteran is left behind.

Best regards,

Anthony Evans

### DEPARTMENT 3RD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/ DANNY SHEPHERD



Hello, my DAV friends! I want to thank Chapter #18 for all the work they do. We are getting ready for our annual march to bring awareness to veteran suicide. Every year, I am able to hand out between four and five hundred pamphlets. We began doing this march about six years ago, and we are adding more people every year to the march. We invite anyone to join us. The march is set for May 23, 2026. Registration is between 9 and 11 AM. The march will start at 11 AM. The march will start on top of Starfire Hill in Paintsville, KY. I will be posting flyers on our page.

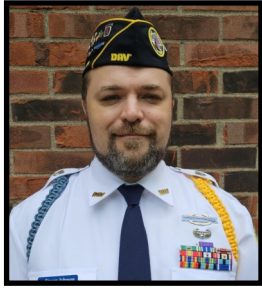
Our service officer's office is doing great. We opened it up last year, and I have had it open every Wednesday. This year at the convention, I will have another member training to be a service officer. It will give me some help. Service work is very satisfying. I appreciate each and every one of you who does service work for our veterans. I want to thank Randy Bunting for answering all my questions. I appreciate everyone's help. Iron sharpens iron.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention. I'm really looking forward to seeing Luke. Last year, he got up and danced at the commander's ball. I'm hoping to get him up there again this year.

“Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.”

--Jim Rohn

### DEPARTMENT 4TH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER/ STEVE JOHNSON



Greetings Comrades!

Department Spring District meetings are in full swing here in Kentucky. Great to see everyone as we travel around the Commonwealth to the various meetings.

As I have stated in the past three Department Newsletters, I have been working on turning my podcast idea into reality. Just before district meetings started, I put together a trailer episode for the podcast. The trailer sums up what I am hoping to accomplish with the podcast. It can be found on YouTube at “The Bluegrass Sitrep” or if you are reading this digitally you can [CLICK HERE](#) to go directly to the episode.

It is my hope to start recording full episodes in the coming months, just getting the last few things together regarding equipment. Phase One of the podcast is aiming to be audio only, this is the cheapest option to start with and will allow the podcast to grow a following and start getting our stories, events, and community engagement out to theirs in the state. Once that is done, or primarily, once funding is available, I want to make it a full audio/video podcast of the interviews I am conducting with veterans across the state.

The Department Convention is right around the corner, and I am sure my fellow officers are reminding everyone to ensure you get your required documentation submitted to department and to national to keep your chapter in good standing and have a vote during our state convention. I will be seeking election to the line again this year and would greatly appreciate the support of my fellow DAV members, as I am ready to continue serving and spreading our message and mission across the state. Hope to see you all at convention!

As always if there is anything I can do for you or your chapter, or you have questions regarding the podcast I am working on, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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

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



As we move forward in the new membership year, this is an ideal time for every chapter across the Commonwealth to review and update your Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. These governing documents are the backbone of proper chapter operations, ensuring that our procedures, elections, financial practices, and leadership responsibilities remain aligned with national standards.

To support this effort, DAV National provides an official Constitution and Bylaws template available at [DAV.org](http://DAV.org). Chapters are strongly encouraged to use this template as the foundation for any updates or revisions. Doing so helps maintain consistency across the organization, reduces the risk of procedural conflicts, and ensures that every chapter is operating within the framework approved by the National Convention. If your chapter has not reviewed its governing documents within the last two years, now is the time to do so. As Judge Advocate, I am available to assist with questions, interpretation, or guidance as needed.

#### **Our Purpose: Why We Serve**

At the heart of every meeting, every event, and every hour volunteered is a simple truth: our purpose is to serve our service disabled and/or injured veterans and their spouses. The mission is not just a line in our charter, it is the reason DAV exists and the reason each of us chooses to be part of this organization. We stand as advocates for those who have borne the burden of service, ensuring they receive the benefits, support, and respect they have earned. Whether we are assisting with claims, providing transportation, supporting caregivers, or simply offering a hand to a veteran in need, we honor the promise that no veteran should face the challenges of life after service alone. This purpose unites us, and defines the DAV.

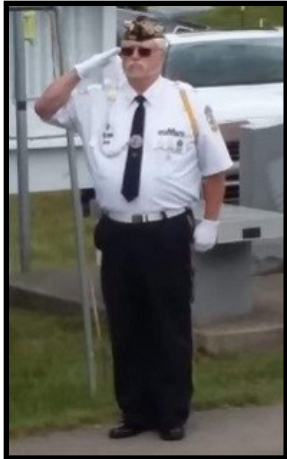
Respectfully,

David Ball

Department Judge Advocate/ Benefits Team Leader

DAV, Department of Kentucky

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



### DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN/ JOSEPH MCCARTNEY

My Fellow Comrades,

I hope this correspondence finds all of you happy, well, and blessed.

I want to apologize to everyone for missing the past four district meetings. The reason being, I finally was able to get my left knee replaced on March 6<sup>th</sup>. I have every intention to attend the rest of the district meetings (Lord's will).

I am ready to start working on the state rosters to recognize **OUR MEMBERS** with fifty years of service with this organization. So, **PLEASE** make sure your chapter rosters are up to date. Thank you in advance for helping me with this project.

I am also working on a second project, to recognize the **MEDAL OF HONOR** recipients that are from the State of Kentucky.

I am declaring to run again for Department Historian, so your support will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me at (606)-682-2356 or email: [jmacattack60@gmail.com](mailto:jmacattack60@gmail.com).

Until the next time, Bless all of you, and I will see everyone at our Department Convention, (Lord's will)!



### DEPARTMENT SGT-AT-ARMS/ JEFF MORGAN

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

Hope all is well with everyone. The weather is warming up and it is time for us to get to work. There will be a lot of opportunities coming up to set up at stores, fairs, horse shows, and where our veterans frequent. Where do you go? What activities do you do? Set up where veterans go, as more than likely there are a lot of veterans there you can talk with. Ask them where they live and you will find out they live right where you do.

Looking forward to the Department Convention. I hope to see new faces this year, wanting to help the DAV grow and move forward. We need more member/veterans to help with the daily fight in Washington D.C. for our benefits. We also need those new faces on the ground working to keep DAV growing and moving toward the future.

Chapter 105 will be having a car show July 18<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Park in Wayne County. Gates will open at 8am, judging will be 3pm to 5pm. We will have door prizes, dash plates, and goody bags for the car owners. We hope to have a good turnout. Anyone that has a car or truck bring it to our car show, who knows you might get a trophy.

Chapter 105 got to be part of the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> on the square in downtown Monticello. The program was brought to the city and county by Park Rangers from SGT. Alvin C. York Park in Pall Mall, Tennessee. The program was done in downtown with our "Doughboy" as the back drop. Sgt. York's grandson and other family members were there. When Monticello got the Doughboy, 103 years ago, Sgt. York was actually invited. The family could not find anything that said if he actually made it or not. There was a gentleman from California that spoke, and he actually wrote the book on the location of every Doughboy statue in the United States. On Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> the second half of the program was done in Pall Mall, Tennessee. We had a great time. We hope to have pictures in the Department Newsletter regarding the program.

Blessings!

Jeff Morgan

Sgt.-At-Arms

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

# The Lighter Side of Things

*"Life is brighter on the lighter side of things."*



# 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](mailto:stoyboy.stoyonovich300@gmail.com) or to Department HQ at [daveterans@yahoo.com](mailto: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– Lincoln Day Dinner



# Chapter News

## Chapter 32—Veterans Day

### NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

**SATURDAY APRIL 4, 2026 @  
9:30 a.m. - BROWNSVILLE  
COMMUNITY CENTER**



Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class E7 Stephen Ray McCrady  
US Army  
3-20-1950 to 2-2-2021  
Son of  
Richard Lee & Jane A. Johnson McCrady

Chapter 32 of the Disabled American Veterans & Auxiliary will be sponsoring its annual Vietnam Veterans recognition ceremony. Recognition of featured Vietnam Veteran, Stephen Ray McCrady, will be presented by Gerald Carroll recognizing Sgt. McCrady's service in Vietnam and 25 years of service with the USArmy Assault Helicopter Unit. There will be calling of the names of the fallen Vietnam Veterans from Edmonson County and tolling of the bell. A register will be available the day of the ceremony for guests to include the name of a friend/family member KIA in Vietnam, not exclusively from Edmonson Co. Brunch will be served after the ceremony. Public is welcome.



We are pleased and honored to announce that Kevin Poynter of Temple Hill will be joining this year's ceremony. He has 15 years of experience in playing bagpipes and enjoys playing at military ceremonies and funerals to honor veterans. Mr. Poynter is a retired fire fighter with 23 years of service and currently works as an instructor for the Kentucky Fire Commission.

Any questions regarding the program, call 270-597-7097; 270-246-3967 or 270-784-8285.



(more photos on next page)

# Chapter News

## Chapter 32-Veterans Day



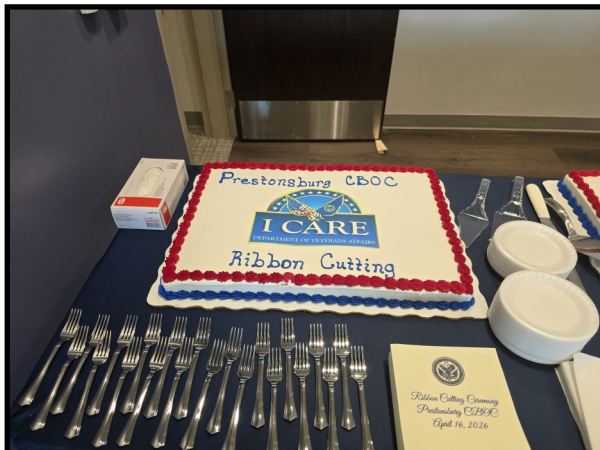
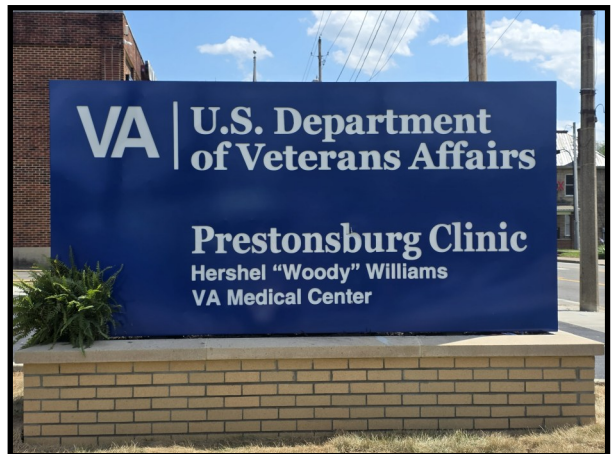
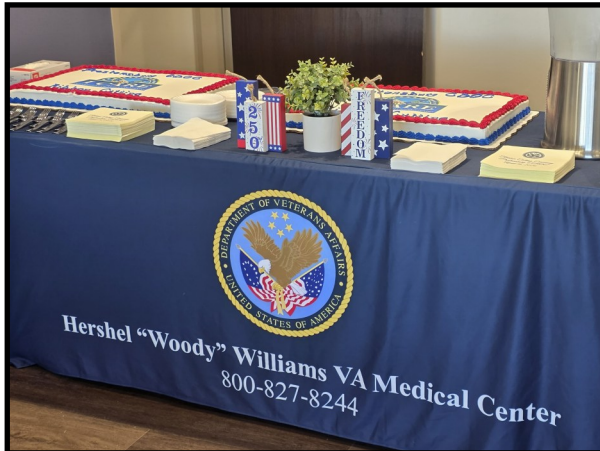
## Chapter 105

Monticello, KY held a "Spirit of the American Doughboy Commemoration Celebration", in honor of this being the 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Monticello Doughboy. DAV Ch. #105 Wayne County/Monticello was proud to participate and assist with this celebration. Special guests from the Sgt. Alvin C. York family and representatives from the Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park were in attendance and it was very interesting to find out the connection that Monticello and our Doughboy and the Alvin C. York family and park had in common.



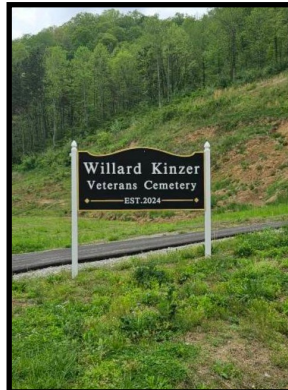
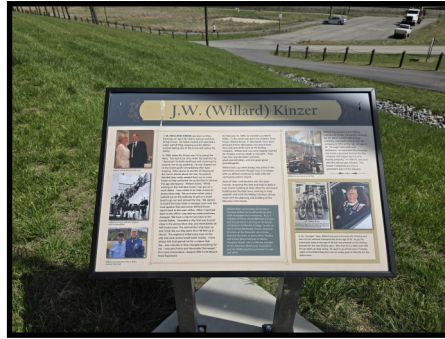
# Chapter News

## New VA Clinic Prestonsburg Ribbon Cutting



# Chapter News

## Veteran Cemetery in Floyd County



# *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fishing*

# **Tournament**

- All Proceeds will be given to the Disabled American Veterans Department of Kentucky
- Date: Saturday July 25, 2026
- Time: 7:00 PM – 2:00 AM Central Time
- Location: Halcom's Landing Russell County, Kentucky
- pm or pre-register with the tournament director John Clark 606-425-3059
- Flight Number will be determined by registration order.
- \$200 Entry fee
- This year will be a 100% Payback

NIGHTTIME BASS FISHING ON LAKE CUMBERLAND:



# KYNECT-A-VET

## What is KYNECT-A-VET?

If you are a Kentucky veteran aged 60 or older OR a veteran of any age with a traumatic brain injury as defined by KRS 211.470, you may qualify to receive a Samsung mobile device that is preloaded with the "Here Now Help" app to increase veteran access to resources and supports.

**This pilot program is a partnership with the KY Department of Veteran Affairs and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Aging and Independent Living.**

## How do I apply?

Kentucky agencies serving veterans may complete an application to nominate a veteran who meets the eligibility criteria.

## How can I obtain an application?

The application is located on the KDVA website at:

Wounded and Disabled Program [kynectavetky.gov](http://kynectavetky.gov)

An announcement will be sent to agencies serving veterans.

All completed applications will be sent to the secured KDVA email box: [kynectavet@ky.gov](mailto:kynectavet@ky.gov)

Applications are currently being accepted. Applications must be fully completed to be considered. Selected nominees will be notified.

## Who do I contact for more information?

Email [millie.stevens@ky.gov](mailto:millie.stevens@ky.gov)



## 100 Veterans

Eligible to Receive  
a Samsung  
Mobile Device



## Here Now Help App

Increase Veteran Access to  
**Local, State & Federal  
Resources & Supports**

Connectivity to  
**Mental & Physical  
Health Services, Crisis  
Intervention  
Resources, &  
Much More!**

# POW/MIA

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:



**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:

World War II Army Tech Sergeant James E. Gadsey, accounted for.  
World War II Army Tech Sergeant Edwin E. Ross, accounted for.  
World War II Army Air Forces Staff Sergeant Ray G. DeMatteis, accounted for.  
World War II Army Air Forces Tech 4<sup>th</sup> Grade William P. Butler, accounted for.  
World War II Army Private Elmer F. Blonien, accounted for.  
World War II Army Private Marvin N. Everts, accounted for.  
World War II Army Staff Sergeant Carl F. Abbott, accounted for.  
World War II Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Andrew J. Litz, accounted for.  
World War II Marine Corps Private First Class Norton V. Retzsch, accounted for.

**YOU CAN REST NOW BROTHERS !**

## News & Notes



- + **Senate Committee Advances Veterans Legislation:** The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a business meeting on pending legislation and has advanced 24 bills for consideration, many of which were supported in testimony by DAV and VFW. These proposals span a wide range of issues, including establishing parity in education benefits for National Guard and Reserve service members, improving VA's disability compensation claims and appeals processes, and studying the generational impacts of toxic exposures. If enacted, these bills would strengthen benefits and services for veterans, caregivers, and survivors while advancing key Veteran Service Organizations legislative priorities.
- + **Protect Yourself Against Veteran Benefit Scams:** Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) scams continue to target veterans seeking disability compensation. While DBQs allow submission of private medical evidence, some companies charge high fees and falsely promise favorable outcomes. Free compensation and pension exams are provided when needed through VA or contracted providers. To avoid fraud, veterans should verify exam requests directly with VA and avoid paying for questionable services. Trusted, accredited representatives can help navigate the claims process safely. Disabled American Veterans (DAV) offers free, accredited assistance to file and manage claims.

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- + Veterans are being prescribed powerful psychiatric medications, often several at once, without clear written information about the risks. This is unacceptable. Two House Bills would bring real protection and real options: **H.R. 4837**, Written Information Consent Act, would require clear written information before VA prescribes certain psychiatric medications. **H.R. 2623**, Innovative Therapies Centers Excellence Act of 2025, would create five VA centers to expand access to cutting-edge PTSD treatments. Veterans deserve transparency, safety, and real choices.

- **Commission Seeking Input from Afghanistan War Veterans**

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 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.

- + **Major Richard Star Act:** DAV and VFW voiced strong outrage after the U.S. Senate blocked passage of the Major Richard Star Act for a second time. The Veterans Service Organizations were “appalled” that the bill was again stopped through procedural opposition. The measure, introduced as SB 1032, was brought forward for unanimous consent by the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs but was blocked by another Senator. DAV and VFW emphasized the legislation would correct an injustice affecting more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans. It is time to end the “procedural games,” and hold a full hearing and pass the bill to honor veterans’ service and sacrifice.
- + **The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs** now has a Homeless Veteran Grant Program which has proven to be successful in helping veterans currently experiencing homelessness or those at risk through a \$750.00 grant for rental, electric, gas, and water assistance. Requirements include: 1) Must be a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, with an honorable or general discharge and proof of a DD214 form, 2) Completed application, Photo I.D., DD214, Proof of income, and copy of Electric, Gas, Water, Rental Agreement statements.  
Send completed application packet to: [kdvafinancialassist@ky.gov](mailto:kdvafinancialassist@ky.gov)
- + **VFW Challenges VA Rules Denying Full GI Bill Benefits:** The VFW has filed a legal brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit challenging VA rules that deny veterans the full education benefits they earned through service. The case centers on 2024 Supreme Court decision in *Rudisill v McDonough*, which affirmed that veterans eligible for both the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-9/11 GI Bill may receive up to 48 months of combined education benefits. The VFW argues that VA’s current rules impose restrictions Congress never intended, including requiring a break in service before accessing the full benefit. By taking this fight to court, the VFW seeks to ensure the law and the Supreme Court’s ruling are fully honored
- + **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](http://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.

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### **DAV Department of Kentucky State Executive Committee 2025-2026**

|               |                     |                                                                                        |                |
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