



# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

## Victory Chapter 13

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 7

## Monthly Newsletter

JUL 2018

### ELECTED OFFICERS

Commander  
**Charles "Terry" Bohlinger**  
Sr. Vice Commander  
**Larry Brewer**  
1st Jr. Vice Commander  
**Pete Fitzpatrick**  
2nd Jr. Vice Commander  
**Tim Valentine**  
Adjutant  
**AJ "Doc" Moreno**  
Treasurer  
**Jim Hughes**  
Chaplain  
**Ted Imbasciani**  
Judge Advocate / Newsletter  
**Daniel L. M<sup>sc</sup> Donald**

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

Certified Service Officers  
**Greg Baskin, Bob Michaels,**  
**Terry Bohlinger, Carl Garrett,**  
**Pete Fitzpatrick, Mike Taylor,**  
**Frank Perna, Jim Hughes,**  
**A.J. Moreno,**  
**Cheryl Huggins, Tim Valentine,**  
**James O Moore & Mike Taylor**  
Officer Of The Day  
**Mike Taylor**  
Sergeant At Arms  
**Leo Poniatowski**  
Benefits Protection Officer  
**Daniel L. M<sup>sc</sup> Donald**  
Assistant Treasurer  
**Roy Larson**  
**Members-At-Large**  
**Larry Brewer, Ed Marvin**  
**& Bob Michaels**  
Social Media  
**Greg Baskin, Cheryl Huggins**  
**& Emily Hartle**  
Volunteer Committee  
**Mike Taylor & Val Clark**

Comrades: During June we assisted some 191 veterans coming here for claims assistance and another 11 veterans for Emergency Relief came here...an extremely busy and exhausting month. Last year we hit an all-time high of 1,818 veterans & family members assisted with Veterans Affairs Claims and already we have done 72 at mid-month July. Last fiscal year we assisted 244 veterans and families with Homeless Assistance and or Emergency Relief...raising our Grand Total of veterans assisted to 2,450 veterans during FY 2017. Anyone else want to consider being a Chapter Service Officer and join the crew here assisting veterans? Haven't heard specifically about the CSO Training in Tidewater area or in Northern Virginia ... hopefully we shall know more soon. If you are interested and are not currently among the comrades scheduled please come in and start learning "On the Job Training" with our currently serving Chapter Service Officers. We ask that each member trained assist three days each week...please join us as we do need more CSOs to satisfy veterans coming into our office seeking assistance.

Our DAV Auxiliary Unit 13 is meeting at 1100 hrs. each month following our DAV 13 meeting at 0900 hrs. 3rd Saturday morning. (So we need to clear the meeting room quickly so they can meet and discuss their business without our voices interfering!) Please ask your family members to consider joining the ranks of our DAV Auxiliary Unit 13 and assist veterans through DAVA activities. They do need to grow in membership. You now see their presence in our meeting room with their recently obtained wooden desk.

Another reminder: The DAV National Service Office has asked us to host the DAV NSO Mobile Service Officer Van on Tuesday, 7 August...this is an opportunity to meet new veterans and encourage them to join our chapter. Normally, DAV notifies veterans by letter of their presence here at Tabb Square. We'll need chapter members to assist. Please consider volunteering some time at your chapter home...this day.

Did you see some of your DAV 13 Chapter Members in the Yorktown Independence Day parade? Got some snapshots to share? Yes, DAV 13 was there!

Reminder: Comrades and Auxiliary members Please report all your volunteer hours including your hours assisting your chapter and other veterans in your neighborhood...our Chapter is currently in third place among the DAV Virginia Chapters but another chapter is so very close behind us...we need you to report your hours on the LVAP form and provide it monthly to the Chapter Adjutant.

The Executive Board approved holding a DAV 13 Family Picnic on Saturday 25 August (the Saturday following our monthly meeting) at the MWR Bethel Park Family Camp on 25 August...more information to follow. Please plan on bringing a dish to pass and share - it is planned as a family event.

The Executive Board also approved only selling our service ball caps and "B.S. flags" during chapter events such as meetings and other functions.

On 13 September is the VAMC Hampton's Annual Day of Caring....we hope to again dispense craft kits as we did last year...we sure could use some chapter and unit volunteers...Please sign up. Stop by during the week we are still open 8-1500 hrs (3 pm) each weekday...and a CSO is here after our monthly meetings to assist you with your Veterans Affairs questions and or claims.

Commander Terry Bohlinger

Visit your web site at: <http://www.dav13va.com/> E-mail us at: [dav@dav13va.com](mailto:dav@dav13va.com)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **MONTHLY BREAKFAST:** The next breakfast will be at 7:30 am on **Aug 18, 2018** at the Chapter home.
2. **MONTHLY MEETING:** The next meeting will be at 0900 on **Aug 18, 2018** at the Chapter home.
3. **EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The next meeting will be at 9:30 am on **Aug 14, 2018**, unless one is needed sooner in the Chapter home.
4. **DAVA AUX MONTHLY MEETING:** The next DAVA meeting will be at 1100 on **Aug 18, 2018** at the Chapter home.
5. **DAV NSO MOBILE VAN:** Chapter 13 will be hosting the DAV NSO Mobile Service Van at the Chapter home on **Aug 7, 2018** from 0830 to 1600.
6. **CHAPTER FAMILU PICNIC:** We are having a family picnic at Bethel Park Family Camp on **Aug 25, 2018** from 1200 to 1700. Bring a dish to share and your family for a time of fellowship and food.
7. **VAMC HAMPTON ANNUAL DAY OF CARING:** VAMC Hampton will hold this event on Sep 13th this year and we will be handing out kraft kits again. Come and join us in supporting our hospitalized veterans. The time will be announced as soon as it is known.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

H.R. 4843: Agent Orange Thailand , a bill that would concede herbicide exposure to all veterans who served at any military installation in Thailand during the Vietnam Era for purposes of determining their eligibility for VA benefits. This measure is a companion bill to S. 2105. DAV issued an alert in support of S. 2105 in December 2017. While VA's internal manual acknowledges herbicide exposure for specific military occupational specialties on the 50 perimeter of eight specific Thai Royal Air Force Bases, Thai statutes and regulations do not automatically recognize veteran exposure to herbicides while serving in Thailand during the Vietnam Era. H.R. 4843 would automatically concede herbicide exposure for all veterans who served at military installations in Thailand during the Vietnam Era, regardless of the base, duty

on the perimeter or military occupational specialty. As a result, the presumptive diseases currently associated with herbicide exposure, including spina bifida for children, would be applicable to all veterans who served at military installations in Thailand during the Vietnam Era.

H.R. 5693: This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), during the three-year period beginning on October 1, 2019, to transfer upon request a veteran for whom the VA is required to provide nursing home care to a medical foster home that meets VA standards. A veteran shall agree, as a transfer condition, to accept VA home health services.

H.R.5747: Special Operations Forces Tax Cut Act. More special operators could receive a break on taxes next year. The Special Operations Forces Tax Cut Act would grant tax breaks to troops based on their mission, rather than location. The bill would benefit troops who deploy outside of combat zones not formally recognized in the IRS' Combat Zone Tax Exclusion section. The Combat Zone Tax Exclusion allows service members who deploy to certain combat zones to exclude income from federal tax filings. Qualifying regions for the tax exclusion are Afghanistan, Kosovo and the Arabian Peninsula. "America's military conducts global operations that don't easily fit into one nation or geographic region," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Richard Hudson, whose North Carolina district includes Fort Bragg, home of U.S. Army Special Operations Command. The bill better reflects modern warfare, where the special operations troops are sent in small groups all over the world - and not just traditional "combat zones." "Fifty, seventy years ago, we'd have action in Korea, but we didn't have Special Forces soldiers all over the world," Hudson said. "The way Special Forces works today - trying to help stabilize governments and fight terrorism - it's a different warfare." Under Hudson's bill, special operators would be eligible for the tax break, regardless of their location, as long as their mission was to "combat terrorism." The bipartisan bill is being considered by the Ways and Means committee, which is the chief tax-writing committee in the House.

**UPDATE ON THE MISSION ACT:**  
Just when you think the coast is clear to

move out on the recently passed **VA MISSION Act** - the historic bill MOAA's been working on for over two years - lawmakers put a halt on funding the massive health care reform bill over a dispute on how to pay for VA health care going forward.

A House and Senate conference committee was set to meet July 12 on a fiscal year (FY) 2019 "minibus" spending package for the departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Energy and the legislative branch, but the meeting was canceled before members could come together to work out differences between the Senate and House bills.

Up until this point, the minibus was expected to move rather quickly through the process and be finalized well before the August congressional recess. At the heart of the dispute is how to pay for the \$1.6 billion bridge funding required to keep the ailing Choice program operating for another year, until a newly consolidated and streamlined VA community care program can be put in place - a move needed to prevent disruption in veterans' care. The new community care program is expected to expand access to health care and provide more options for veterans, whether they seek care in the VA or through private community providers.

The \$1.6 billion shortfall is a small fraction of the larger VA MISSION Act, which is expected to cost around \$52 billion. While the MISSION Act provided partial funding for Choice through May 2019, no agreement has been reached on the source of that funding for the remainder of FY 2019 and beyond.

If an agreement is not reached, the shortfall for VA health care will increase from \$1.6 billion in FY 2019 to \$8.67 billion in FY 2020 and \$9.5 billion in FY 2021.

While there has been no signal from appropriators to reschedule the conference meeting, negotiations continue behind the scenes. DAV and other VSOs are engaging with staffers on Capitol Hill to quickly achieve a favorable resolution - one that does not require cutting other VA health care programs or veterans' benefits to pay for these shortfalls.