



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS Victory Chapter 13

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 10

Monthly Newsletter

OCT 2018

ELECTED OFFICERS

Commander

Charles "Terry" Bohlinger

Sr. Vice Commander

Larry Brewer

1st Jr. Vice Commander

Pete Fitzpatrick

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Tim Valentine

Acting Adjutant

Annisa Gravley

Treasurer

Jim Hughes

Chaplain

Ted Imbasciani

Judge Advocate / Newsletter

Daniel L. Mac Donald

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Certified Service Officers

Greg Baskin, Bob Michaels,

Terry Bohlinger, Carl Garrett,

Pete Fitzpatrick, Mike Taylor,

Frank Perna, Jim Hughes,

Bill Townsley, Cheryl Huggins,

Tim Valentine, James O Moore

& Laura Skeith

Officer Of The Day

Mike Taylor

Sergeant At Arms

Leo Poniatowski

Benefits Protection Officer

Daniel L. Mac Donald

Assistant Treasurer

Roy Larson

Members-At-Large

Larry Brewer, Ed Marvin

& Bob Michaels

Social Media

Greg Baskin, Cheryl Higgins

& Emily Hartle

Volunteer Committee

Mike Taylor & Val Clark

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades: The Department Fall Conference is this weekend so I will be absent from our chapter members meeting this Saturday...20 October...if you are able please save me a plain donut...for Monday Morning when I return to the chapter.

Last night, Tues, 16 October the York County Board of Supervisors invited DAV 13 to present information about our chapter activities...I presented a briefing all went well; I used a Power Point presentation (format prepared by our Department's Social Media Committee) displaying our current workload and last year's workload and expenditures of Veterans Service and Service in our Community. I believe we impressed the board members with our daily efforts for our area veterans. Likely our CSOs may see at least one of the board members for claims assistance soon. I also gave them a business card with our recent September and August newsletters.

At the Executive Board meeting Tuesday, 16 October we learned that we have assisted 899 veterans since 1 July...DAV 13 is off to another year towards exceeding the record high number of 2,089 veterans assisted during FY2017. We could not do this without the daily dedication of our chapter volunteers, our members who do the greeting and phone watch – the first member making contact with veterans as they enter our chapter, the Chapter Service Officers helping veterans with the maze of Veterans Affairs documents giving that veteran a better likelihood of claims success, and the other officers who serve on committees and in chapter officer roles...and of course Sr Vice Cmdr Larry Brewer who keeps our chapter looking neat and orderly and keeps things running smoothly daily here in our chapter. Please thank these comrades. Without their daily efforts we cannot serve our area veterans.

The annual Volunteer Training for VAVS VAMC Hampton is next week please consider attending one of these training sessions – actually when we participate in our activities at VAMC Hampton we are encouraged to have attended this annual training. This year it is all at VAMC Bldg. 83 on Tues 23 Oct from 6-9 p.m. and Wed 24 Oct at 9-noon. We must call 757-728-3124 to pre-register. Flu shots are given at these training session as these shots are mandatory to protect you and the patients at VAMC. If we get ten or more members (DAV and DAVA) we could ask that the training be held at our chapter home.

Up-coming next month is Election Day on 6 Nov the DAV 5K in Oyster Point area on 4 Nov and Veteran's Day (Nov 11) Celebrations likely on either 11 or 12 November 2018. The VAMC Hampton annual Stand-Down for homeless veterans is scheduled for Saturday 17 November.

Reminder: our primary means of communication is through email, however we know not all of our members use or have e-mail, so please contact the office (ph: 757-596-0062) to be placed on the US Postal Service monthly mailing of the newsletter to your home.

"Terry" Bohlinger, Commander DAV 13 & CSO

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **MONTHLY BREAKFAST:** The next breakfast will be at 7:30 am on **Nov 17, 2018** at the Chapter home.
2. **MONTHLY MEETING:** The next meeting will be at 0900 on **Nov 17, 2018** at the Chapter home.
3. **EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The next meeting will be at 9:00 am on **Nov 13, 2018**, unless one is needed sooner in the Chapter home.
4. **DAVA AUX MONTHLY MEETING:** The next DAVA meeting will be at 1100 on **Nov 17, 2018** at the Chapter home.
5. **YORKTOWN DAY PARADE:** The Annual Yorktown Day parade will be on **Oct 19, 2018** beginning at 10:30 am. If interested in participating let the office know.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Vet Mortgage Protection ► H.R.6737 | Protect Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act of 2018. (Sec. 2) This bill amends the National Housing Act to repeal waiting period requirements for guarantees provided by the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae). Specifically, Ginnie Mae may guarantee a security backed by a refinanced Department of Veterans Affairs housing loan without a waiting period. Passed House on 09/26/2018 and sent to the Senate.

VA Women Vet Programs Update 34 ► H.R.6869 | Violence Against Women Vets Act. As the nation recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month, this bill would improve services for women veterans experiencing domestic abuse. In 1988, the VA created the Women Veterans Health Program to streamline services for female veterans. Today, as more service roles are being made available to women in uniform, women make up the fastest growing group of veterans. Unfortunately, this advancement has also led to an increase in sexual assault and harassment for female servicemembers both during their time in the armed services and after. It is estimated that one third of female veterans experience domestic violence compared with less than a quarter of civilian women. Congress recently recognized the scope of this problem by designating domestic violence a separate crime under the Uniform Code of

Military Justice.

National Guard & Reserve Savings ► H.R.6757 | Family Savings Act of 2018. The House wrapped their final legislative sessions before the midterms by voting on a slew of tax and retirement focused bills. Included in the mix was a longstanding priority for members of the National Guard and Reserve. The Family Savings Act of 2018 creates a new tax-deferred savings account and removes the age restriction (currently 70 1/2 years old) on contributing to 401(k) plans. It also includes a slightly modified version of The Servicemember retirement Improvement Act (H.R.1317), a bill aimed at giving National Guard and Reserve members equal military retirement savings options as the active components. It is the biggest step forward on this issue since the creation of the blended retirement system (BRS).

The Servicemember Retirement Improvement Act, originally introduced by retiring Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX) amends the Internal Revenue Service Code, allowing members of the Ready Reserve to make the maximum allowable contribution to their Thrift Savings Plans (TSPs), without limiting the amount these members may contribute to a retirement plan based upon other employment. The bill also doubles the maximum allowable contribution amount to the TSPs of federal employees in the Ready Reserve who are not eligible to contribute to any plan other than the TSP.

True Fees Act ► H.R. 6987 | Requires All Fees be Included in Advertised Price. On 28 SEP Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-18-CA) introduced the TRUE Fees Act (H.R. 6987). The bill requires that below-the-line fees from communications providers be included in the advertised price. Below-the-line fees are hidden fees companies add on to their users' monthly bill but do not disclose in their advertised prices. The bill also prohibits forced arbitration agreements for wrongful billing and requires transparency in equipment fee increases.

Below-the-line fees have been a pernicious problem in the communications marketplace for years. These hidden fees are typically "administrative fees" or "service fees" companies have to pay as part of the cost of doing business but pass on to their customers only after advertising the service price. "Customers

deserve to know exactly what they're paying for when it comes to monthly cable and Internet service bills. Today, they're sold a service for one price, only to be blindsided by higher bills at the end of the month from tacked on 'service' or 'administrative' fees..

VA & TRICARE NEWS

2019 COLA

Effective January 1, 2019 military and federal retirees, veterans receiving compensation from the VA, and Social Security recipients will see a **2.8%** Cost-of-Living-Allowance (COLA) increase. This will be the largest COLA increase since 2011.

Depression Screening Available Online: Occasional feelings of sadness are part of normal life, but when the emotions continue for extended periods of time, or are associated with feelings of hopelessness and despair, it may be depression. For veterans who are concerned that they may have depression, VA now provides an online screening test through MyHealthVet. The 10-question test does not require an account or for anyone to log in online. The test also provides pop-up information for individuals who take the test and are at high risk of suicide. Upon taking the test, the clinical results are available with directions to print them if desired. [Take the test](https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/depression-screening) at: <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/depression-screening>.

