



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Victory Chapter 13

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 11

Monthly Newsletter

Nov 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

Annis Gravley

Treasurer

Jim Hughes

Chaplain

Ted Imbasciani

Judge Advocate / Newsletter

Daniel L. M^{sc} 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. M^{sc} Donald

Assistant Treasurer

Roy Larson

Members-At-Large

Jim Johnson, Ed Marvin

& Bob Michaels

Social Media

Greg Baskin, Cheryl Higgins,

Bill Townsley & Emily Hartle

Volunteer Committee

Mike Taylor & John Schuster

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades: We hope you all had a wonderfully relaxing Veterans Day to recover from your busy activities. For our older comrades when we were in grade school learning history and all those dates of stuff that occurred in our world – did any of you consider that you'd be alive to see the 100th Anniversary of the End of "The War to End All Wars" (WW I)? I will confess I sure did not. I attended the York Hall ceremonies on 11 November remembering this anniversary. On 12 November I participated in the Veterans Day Ceremony and placed the DAV 13 Wreath in remembrance and honor.

It has been very busy at your chapter our Chapter Service Officers are meeting new veterans daily needing claims and other assistance. Thank you for your dedication and perseverance.

On Sunday 4 November, several of our members participated in the DAV National Annual 5K: volunteers assisting in the function were Mike Taylor, Greg Baskin, Cheryl Huggins, Roy Larson, Jennifer Perkinson, Tim Valentine, Annissa Gravely, Pete Fitzpatrick and Laura Skeith. Thank you for volunteering to assist this event. "Doc" A J Moreno began his trek by running, me? I walked the distance. We all were blessed with wonderful fall weather for this event.

This weekend promises to be another busy DAV weekend with our normal members meeting at 9 a.m. after our brief get together commencing about 0730 a.m. Following our meeting a few of us are going down to the VAMC Hampton Annual fall Stand-Down to assist homeless veterans with claims. We are again working with VFW 824 and National Order of Trench Rats Dugout 627 and obtaining \$600 worth of footwear for these veterans. Chapter Service Officer Greg Baskin will be available in our chapter home to assist members and veterans with claims and questions until at least 2 p.m.

Our DAV Auxiliary Unit 13 will have their monthly members meeting following the chapter meeting. We are planning our Christmas Open House here at the Chapter Home, it is scheduled commencing at 1 p.m. on 15 December, the third Saturday in December. There will be no members' meeting in December (as usual) – just this social. *The last day to sign up for this event and list the dish you will bring is Friday 30 November. Our Committee informs that this 30 November is a firm date. You must sign up by this date.*

Don't forget your Flu shot, the VAMC Hampton provides it at no cost to veterans enrolled in their health program.

On Sunday, December 9 we'll have our annual Christmas Party for the Community Living Center and Alzheimer patients at VAMC Hampton. We'll do this with our DAV Auxiliary Unit 13 – and DAV 58 and DAVA 58 and DAVA 4 we can always use a few more DAV members. Please sign up and join us.

At the Department Fall Conference I received a plaque recognizing our Tim Valentine as Outstanding Chapter Service Officer; I hope to present it to Tim at our meeting. This past year was Tim's first year as an actual Chapter Service Officer, assisting veterans doing claims and documents for Veterans Affairs benefits. If you want to become a CSO come in and learn the "ropes" by watching and absorbing the details required and then next year attend the Annual DAV CSO training.

Hope to see you Saturday! Respectfully,

"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:** We will not have a breakfast in December. The next breakfast will be at 7:30 am on **Jan 19, 2019** at the Chapter home.
2. **MONTHLY MEETING:** We will not have a meeting in December. The next meeting will be at 0900 on **Jan 19, 2019** at the Chapter home.
3. **EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The next meeting will be at 9:00 am on **Dec 11, 2018**, unless one is needed sooner in the Chapter home.
4. **DAVA AUX MONTHLY MEETING:** No meeting in December. The next DAVA meeting will be at 1100 on **Jan 19, 2019** at the Chapter home.
5. **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE:** We are planning our Christmas Open House here at the Chapter Home, it is scheduled commencing at 1 p.m. on **Dec 15, 2018**, the third Saturday in December. There will be no members' meeting in December (as usual) – just this social. *The last day to sign up for this event and list the dish you will bring is Friday 30 November. Our Committee informs that this 30 November is a firm date. You must sign up by this date.*

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Congress has been in recess for the November elections and just came back this week. No new legislation has been introduced and any that do not pass before Congress ends this session next month will be dead. This happens every 2 years. One new bill did get introduced before the Congress left for their break:

► **H.R.6734 | Full Military Honors Act of 2018** Currently, "full military honors funerals" are limited to officers and E9s. This bill seeks to extend full military honors to enlisted Medal of Honor winners and enlisted prisoners of war who served honorably. You are encouraged to write your Congressional Representative to urge support of this bill and to your Senators to urge the introduction of a similar bill in the Senate.

Congressmen Mike Bishop (MI-08), Sam Johnson (TX-03), and House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Tim Walz (MN-01) announced the introduction of the

bipartisan Full Military Honors Act of 2018 (H.R. 6734) to allow enlisted Medal of Honor recipients and Prisoners of War (POW) who are eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery to receive a full military honors burial, which includes an escort platoon, a military band, and a caisson (horse-drawn casket) if available. Currently, full military honors are reserved for commissioned officers, warrant officers, and senior non-commissioned officers.

"America's POWs and Medal of Honor recipients have sacrificed immeasurably in service to the United States - regardless of their rank. So, I was shocked to find out that earlier this year a former POW from Michigan, Army Pvt. 1st Class Robert Fletcher was denied a full honors burial at Arlington National Cemetery based solely on his enlisted rank," said Rep. Bishop. "This has been an issue for too long, and my legislation will ensure those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty are provided the full military honors they have earned for their end of life ceremonies."

"During my time in the infamous Hanoi Hilton, many of my fellow POWs and I were isolated in cramped cells," said Rep. Johnson. "We spent months in leg irons, years in leg stocks, and endured extreme starvation and torture. My fellow POWs who served honorably demonstrated the utmost patriotism, but not all of them were eligible for full military honors at their burial, simply due to their rank. I believe this is wrong. ANY veteran who served honorably as a Prisoner of War or whose actions earned them the Medal of Honor has already demonstrated extraordinary dedication to defending Freedom. In return, they deserve to have the country they fought for bestow full military honors if they are eligible to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery."

"Medal of Honor recipients and POWs have earned and deserve nothing less than full military honors," said Rep. Walz. "As a retired enlisted soldier of 24 years, I'm proud to join in introducing the Full Military Honors Act. To help ensure we honor the sacrifices these heroes and their families have made for our country, we must pass it without delay."

Congressman Sam Johnson, a 29-year U.S. Air Force veteran, flew combat missions in both the Korean and Vietnam

Wars. On the 25th combat mission of his second tour in Vietnam, Johnson was shot down over North Vietnam and held as a POW for nearly seven years in the "Hanoi Hilton." While there, his captors labeled him a "diehard" resistor and moved him into solitary confinement in "Alcatraz," along with ten other POWs including U.S. Senator Jeremiah Denton and Vice-Presidential candidate Jim Stockdale. Congressman Tim Walz, a 24-year veteran of the Army National Guard, is the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and serves on the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. Walz is the highest-ranking enlisted soldier ever to serve in Congress.

Write Senators Kaine & Warner and urge them to vote in favor of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018. This bipartisan bill, unanimously approved by the House of Representatives, would end the injustice of denying care and benefits to veterans who suffer from life-threatening health conditions.

The Department of Veterans Affairs dispute scientific evidence that veterans who served in the coastal waters of Vietnam during the Vietnam War were exposed to Agent Orange, a toxic herbicide that has been found to be associated with the development of rare cancers and other health conditions. However, the National Academy of Medicine, formally called the Institute of Medicine, study entitled, *Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2014*, found that existing evidence shows possible routes of exposure for Blue Water Navy veterans, which means existing evidence should not be used to exclude Blue Water Navy veterans. One thing is undeniable: thousands of Blue Water Navy veterans are suffering and dying from the same conditions as veterans who served in-country during the Vietnam War. Time is running out for many Blue Water Navy veterans. The Senate must not delay further while Blue Water Navy veterans sicken and die from diseases related to exposure to Agent Orange.