



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS Victory Chapter 13

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 12

Monthly Newsletter

DEC 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

Jim Johnson, Ed Marvin

& Bob Michaels

Social Media

Greg Baskin, Cheryl Huggins,

Bill Townsley & Emily Hartle

Volunteer Committee

Mike Taylor & John Schuster

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades: On 9 December the local DAV chapters & DAVA units gathered at the VAMC Hampton for the annual Christmas party for our fellow hospitalized veterans. DAV 13 had three members (Don Pipes, Mike Taylor and me) to distribute the goodies to the Community Living Center (nursing home patients). We worked with DAV 58 and Unit 58 they also had individual gifts for each patient and party fixings and good eats for these patients. Our DAVA 13 had two members – they made up at least 75 ditty bags with personal hygiene items and slipper socks and DAV 13 had obtained small colorful blankets for each patient. WE hope that more members will join us next year. DAV 58 and DAVA 58 members really outnumbered us this year.

DAV 13 expects to close the office over the Christmas-New Years' time period meaning our CSOs get a break and stay home from Monday (December 24) afternoon when we close about 1200 hrs through normal opening Next Year on Thursday, 3 January 2019 @ 0800 hrs.

The Healing Waters program will begin a 13 week make your own fishing rod class commencing Wednesday Evenings at our chapter home beginning in January – contact Larry Brewer and/or Russ Jordan at the office (ph: 596-0062) to sign up for this class and for your questions.

Our Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary is active and still has much room for more members. They need new members; spouses, daughters, sons and grandchildren are welcome as are anyone interested in assisting veterans. We are a better organization working with our DAVA members. If you have family members or friends that might be interested we have a clipboard in the chapter to list their name and contact information so our DAVA can get properly organized.

Your Officers and staff wish you a Happy Hanukkah, a Very Merry Christmas and a Wonderfully Safe and Happy New Years. Remember to be wise and don't travel in bad weather. Do a Safety check on your auto before going into snowy conditions. Drive Safely Always. See you next year!!

"Terry" Bohlinger, Commander DAV 13 & CSO

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- MONTHLY BREAKFAST:** The next breakfast will be at 7:30 am on **Jan 19, 2019** at the Chapter home.
- MONTHLY MEETING:** The next meeting will be at 0900 on **Jan 19, 2019** at the Chapter home.
- EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The next meeting will be at 9:00 am on **Jan 15, 2019**, unless one is needed sooner in the Chapter home.
- DAVA AUX MONTHLY MEETING:** No meeting in December. The next DAVA meeting will be at 1100 on **Jan 19, 2019** at the Chapter home.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

House Passes Veterans Minibus: This week, the House and Senate grouped together numerous veterans' bills in a miniature omnibus package in order to pass as many noncontroversial proposals as possible before the end of the current Congress. Typically, at the end of each congressional term the House and Senate will try to wrap up and pass as many proposals as they can before the official end of the session. This year's bill would add improvements for homelessness programs, transition assistance, veteran-owned small businesses, student veterans, and many other beneficial proposals. Included in this package is the *SIT-REP Act* which would protect student veterans from penalties due to delayed GI Bill payments.

Included in the minibus above is: **S. 2248: Veterans Benefit and Transition Act of 2018** This legislation includes 23 sections that cover a range of veterans' issues, including provisions that would increase veterans' benefits to provisions that would improve the transition process from military to civilian life. Many of the provisions in this bill come from legislation previously passed by the House of Representatives. One provision would aid student veterans who are using the Forever GI Bill. It would make schools ineligible for GI Bill tuition payments if they penalized any student as a result of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) failing to make tuition payments on time. Other provisions would improve burial benefits for servicemembers, veterans

and their families; expand eligibility for successful homeless veteran job training programs; extend spousal benefits; improve VA medical facilities and more.

- S. 2248 would extend veterans benefits and improve military transition processes.
- The legislation would improve current veteran services.
- The Veterans Benefit and Transition Act of 2018 is compiled of provisions previously passed by the House of Representatives.

Blue Water Navy Bill Update: VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence met yesterday afternoon with Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), who earlier this week blocked the passage of H.R. 299, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018*, because he believes it costs too much. "If we can afford to send our military to war, it's unacceptable that we cannot afford to take care of them when they return home wounded, ill or injured," said Lawrence, who called the meeting very productive. "I met with Senator Enzi to make it clear that VFW members expect the Blue Water Navy to pass before the end of the year. The senator assured me that he wants to provide Blue Water Navy veterans the benefits they have earned and is working with his colleagues, including Senate VA Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson, to get this bill passed.

OTHER NEWS

2018 tax statements for military, retiree, annuitant and federal civilian employee customers serviced by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will be distributed mid-December through January 2019.

The IRS tax forms will be available via myPay, the Department of Defense online pay account management system (<https://mypay.dfas.mil/>) for most of the 6.4 million DFAS customers. In many cases, the electronic online forms are available much earlier and more securely than those sent to customers electing delivery by mail.

DFAS continues to provide IRS Forms 1095-B or 1095-C for military, retiree and federal civilian employees who receive healthcare insurance coverage through the Tricare or Federal Employee Health Benefit programs.

Government Shutdown Next Week?

A shutdown of the federal government appeared unlikely last month but the events of yesterday now seem to indicate we are headed in that direction. As everyone likely saw on the news last night the impasse is between the President and the minority leaders in Congress because there aren't enough votes in the Senate to pass legislation to spend \$5 billion building a wall on the southern U.S. border.

We will not get into the politics of the border wall but the impasse may mean the government could shut down a week from this Friday. Will this affect military personnel or military retirees and veterans?

The fy2019 budgets for the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have been passed into law so it is not likely there will be any affect on them. However, the budget for the Department of Homeland Security has not been passed so members of the Coast Guard could very well be affected.

Let's hope they can work out their differences in Washington and we won't have to find out who will or will not be affected.

