



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS Victory Chapter #13 YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

Volume 19 Issue 9	<i>Monthly Newsletter</i>	November 2019
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Note: There was no August meeting or newsletter

ELECTED OFFICERS

Commander

Larry Brewer

Sr Vice Cmdr

Tim Valentine

1st Jr Vice Cmdr

John Schuster

2nd Jr Vice Cmdr

Cheryl Huggins

Adjutant

Ana Alicea-Diaz

Treasurer

Jim Hughes

Chaplain

Ted Imbasciani

Judge Ad/ Newsltr

Bill Townsley

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Certified Service Officers

Greg Baskin, Bob Michaels,
Terry Bohlinger, Carl Garrett,
Jim Hughes, Cheryl Huggins,
Tim Valentine, James Moore,
Laura Skeith, Dave Austin

Officer of the Day

(vacant)

Sergeant at Arms

Chuck Silvers

Benefits Protection Officer

Bill Townsley

Assistant Treasurer

James Moore

Members-at-Large

Russell Jordan, Bob Michaels

Social Media

Greg Baskin, Cheryl Huggins,
Bill Townsley

Volunteer Committee

John Schuster, Chuck Silvers

COMMANDER'S CORNER

DAV Mission Statement: "We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish that by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capital Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life."

In 2018, DAV provided 3,569 emergency relief drafts, totaling more than \$1.2 million, and roughly 305 supply kits for disaster victims.

More than 11.5 million claims have been submitted by DAV since the organization was chartered by Congress in 1932.

More than 1 million veterans trust DAV with their Power of Attorney to represent them for benefits claims.

This is the month that we celebrate our veterans on November 11th this year. We honor those who served in our armed forces and show appreciation to our country. How did this day get its start ??The hostilities of World War 1 were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when an armistice with Germany went into effect. With support and urging of the major U.S. Veterans Organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. Continue to remember our comrades and continue to let each other know they are each and every one appreciated!

We also celebrate Thanksgiving on November 28th this year. I hope you have the opportunity to celebrate with friends and family.

Our Chapter Christmas Party is on the 14th of December this year. Sign up sheet is posted. We will be running shifts please sign up for 1st or 2nd .

HAPPY VETERANS DAY
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

COMMANDER CHAPTER #13
LARRY BREWER

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If you are interested in any of the issues below, please refer to www.dav.org or www.virginiadav.org

National DAV ISSUES

H.R. 3036, Breaking Barriers for Women Veterans Act - Congressman Rose (NY) has introduced H.R. 3036, the Breaking Barriers for Women Veterans Act, to correct environmental, structural, and staff deficiencies to ensure VA’s delivery of high-quality health care to women veterans.

H.R. 4137, Healthcare for Open Air Burn Pit Exposure Act - On July 30, 2019, Representative Raul Ruiz (CA), introduced H.R. 4137—the Jennifer Kepner Healthcare for Open Air Burn Pit Exposure Act. If a veteran is not eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care based on service-connected disabilities, current statutes allow veterans treatment for diseases related to specific toxic exposures. However, exposure to burn pits is not one of the accepted toxic exposures. H.R. 4137 would amend that statute to allow veterans who served at locations with an open air burn pit on or after January 1, 1990, to be eligible for VA medical care.

H.R. 2982, Women Veterans Health Care Accountability Act - Representative Joe Cunningham (SC) has introduced H.R. 2982 to identify and remedy barriers women veterans face when trying to access VA health care. The legislation would require the VA Secretary to survey women veterans—both those who use VA health care and those who do not—to understand their reasons for not using VA services. The survey will question women veterans about their perceptions of safety in VA facilities, access to services, and stigmas they may express about seeking treatment for sensitive issues such as military sexual trauma, mental health or substance abuse disorders. The legislation would then require VA to identify strategies for addressing any issues identified by the survey.

Blue Water Navy Veterans Need Your Help - Earlier this year on June 25th, the entire veterans’ community celebrated when Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. However, less than a week later, our joy turned to dismay when VA Secretary Wilkie issued a blanket stay that stopped all processing of all benefit claims by Blue Water Navy veterans.

Urgent Action Needed to End “Widow’s Tax” - We need you to take action today and let your Senators know that we want them to end the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, which is effectively a “widow’s tax.”

S. 2216, Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act - Senators Peters (MI) and Blackburn (TN) have introduced S. 2216, the Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act or the TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act. If enacted, this bill would make needed improvements to the VA’s Comprehensive Caregiver Support Program.

S. 2022, Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019 - On June 27, 2019, Senator Jerry Moran (KS) introduced S. 2022—the Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant helps veterans with certain service-connected disabilities live independently in a barrier-free environment. However, the maximum grant amount adjusts annually, and the grant benefit cannot be used more than three times up to the maximum dollar amount allowable.

S. 2072, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019 - On July 10, 2019, Senator Johnny Isakson (GA), Chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, introduced S. 2072—the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019.

S. 1881 and H.R. 3356, Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act - Senators Young (IN) and Duckworth (WI) have introduced S. 1881, and Representatives Gosar (AZ) and Kirkpatrick (AZ) have introduced a companion bill, H.R. 3356. If enacted, this bill, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act, would provide free TSA Pre✓® clearance to veterans with severe disabilities.

H.R. 2359, the Whole Veteran Act - Growing awareness and acceptance of complementary and integrative practices has interested more veterans in obtaining these services, especially if they struggle with disorders, such as chronic pain, that are resistant to more conventional medical treatment. Because of the growing opioid epidemic, many veterans are also increasingly concerned about using opioids to manage chronic pain and want, or are told by medical providers, to seek safer alternatives.

Virginia DAV ISSUES:

<i>Blue Water Navy</i>	<i>Burn Pit Exposure</i>	<i>Comprehensive Caregiver Support</i>
<i>Expand & Strengthen Service Member Transition</i>	<i>Employment & Economic Opportunities</i>	<i>Improve Survivor Benefits</i>
<i>Individual Unemployability</i>	<i>Licensure and Certification of Active Duty Military Personnel</i>	<i>Re-balancing Long Term Supports and Services</i>
<i>VA Health Information Technology</i>	<i>Women Veterans</i>	<i>Strengthen Veterans Health Care</i>
<i>Eliminate Veteran and Survivor Offset</i>	<i>VA Mental Health</i>	