



<b>Volume 20 Issue 1</b>	<i>Monthly Newsletter</i>	<b>January 2020</b>
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**ELECTED OFFICER**  
**Commander**  
 Larry Brewer  
**Sr. Vice Commander**  
 Tim Valentine  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr**  
 John Schuster  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr**  
 Cheryl Huggins  
**Adjutant**  
 Ana Alicea-Diaz  
**Treasurer**  
 John Hughes  
**Chaplain**  
 Ted Imbasciani  
**Judge Advocate**  
 Bill Townsley

**APPOINTED OFFICER**  
**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  
**Member-at-Large**  
 Russ Jordan, Bob Michaels  
**Social Media**  
 Greg Baskin, Cheryl  
 Huggins, Bill Townsley  
**Volunteer Committee**  
 John Schuster, Chuck  
 Silvers

**COMMANDERS 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 Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life."

Presently there are over 700 members within Chapter #13. While some members are in distant locations and are unable to help the chapter, there are many of us living close by that could make a difference. We have a few volunteers that are always ready to help the chapter when needed with parades, festivals, and fundraisers. They are greatly appreciated and without them we would fail as a chapter. So, we are looking for some new volunteers to help the Chapter.

I'll close on that note. Please give serious consideration to helping your chapter this new year going forward. It's not going to get better unless we make it happen.

Nadine Karaskevics, Norfolk Vet Center counseling session is by appointment. For an appointment call 757-722-9961 Ext. 6312.

Old Dominion Honor Flight (804-239-9176). Our next mission is scheduled for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 2020.

American's veterans are our nation's treasures, and we at ODHF firmly believe that we owe everything we as a country have today to you, our heroes. Whether you were on the front line, in a supply company, a mechanic, or worked in an office, your service to our country is something that won't soon be forgotten by our future generations. Thank you for answering the call serve and know that we are very grateful to you!!

**NOTE:** Remember how you conduct yourselves around others does reflect on this Chapter. Our behavior towards all veterans and their spouses should be professional at all times. This Chapter will not tolerate unprofessional behavior inside this Chapter.

COMMANDER CHAPTER #13 - LARRY BREWER

<a href="http://WWW.DAV13VA.COM">WWW.DAV13VA.COM</a>	<a href="mailto:dav@dav13va.com">dav@dav13va.com</a>	(757) 596-0062
1700E Geo Wash Mem Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23693		

Legislative News and Information ~ For almost a century, DAV has been advocating for better federal veterans programs, benefits, health care and transition services for the men and women who served, their families and survivors.

- Women make up about 10 percent of the nation's veterans population, 17 percent of current military personnel and 30 percent of military service academy students. The number of women using VA health services has more than tripled over the last two decades.
- In the 115th Congress, a number of DAV's key legislative priorities were enacted, including the historic VA MISSION Act, a bill to reform and strengthen the VA health care system and expand VA's caregiver program to all eras of veterans. In addition, new legislation was approved to modernize the claims and appeals process, and improve earned benefits for veterans, their families and survivors.
- For the 116th Congress, DAV is actively working to achieve six new Critical Policy Goals:

Strengthen veterans' health care.

Improve care for women veterans.

Establish benefits based on burn pit exposure.

Enhance survivors' benefits.

Achieve justice for Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans.

Ensure a sufficient VA budget for fiscal year 2020.

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

NOTE: To read/ learn more about the goals go to:

<https://www.dav.org/learn-more/legislation/issue-briefs/>