



Volume 20 Issue 3	<i>Monthly Newsletter</i>	March 2020						
<p>ELECTED OFFICER Commander Larry Brewer Sr. Vice Commander Tim Valentine 1st Vice Cmdr John Schuster 2nd Vice Cmdr Cheryl Huggins Adjutant Ana Alicea-Diaz Treasurer James Hughes Chaplain Ted Imbasciani Judge Advocate Bill Townsley</p>	<p>COMMANDERS CORNER</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>Chapter annual picnic: 25th Apr. at picnic area #2 , shelter #10 same place as last year at Newport News park. Food will be served at 4pm, please sign up so we can get a head count. Any questions see Emily Hartle.</p> <p>Respect in the workplace!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Say something: If you see disrespectful or unsafe behavior that undermines the work environment, speak up. Everyone deserves to be treated respectfully. 2. Smile: Empathize and be considerate of others. Show gratitude often by making sure people know you appreciate them and their actions. 3. Be considerate and discreet: If you work in an open workspace and need to make a phone call, make sure to control your own volume and respect your neighbors. 4. Go the extra mile: Sometimes you may need additional help to get the job done. Offer to help and share the load. (Try to work with each other and not against each other.) 5. Be reliable: Follow through on your commitments and responsibilities. You’ll earn your coworker’s respect when they know they can count on you. <p>A collaborative workplace where everyone shares their ideas and offers creative solutions is one that thrives.....</p> <p>If any women veterans is interested in joining WOVEN (Women Veterans Network) please contact ANA ALICEA at 757 596 0062.</p> <p>We at Chapter #13 lost a brother and a great friend on Feb. 29th. (Richard Wolbert) most know him as Pappy. I want to ask our members to keep his family in their prayers.</p> <p>Old dominion Honor Flight (804-239-9176). Our next mission is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th 2020.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMANDER CHAPTER #13 - LARRY BREWER</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>WWW.DAV13VA.COM</td> <td>dav@dav13va.com</td> <td>(757) 596-0062</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">1700E Geo Wash Mem Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23693</td> </tr> </table>		WWW.DAV13VA.COM	dav@dav13va.com	(757) 596-0062	1700E Geo Wash Mem Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23693		
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<p>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</p>								

Ensuring accountability in 2020



Stephen "Butch" Whitehead, Commander

It was a tremendous pleasure to see so many of our dedicated members, advocates and supporters at the 2020 DAV Mid-Winter Conference in February. I've always enjoyed the camaraderie at the event, but my experience this year as national commander is something I'll cherish for the rest of my days.

Even in this role, I continue to learn new things about advocacy and the veteran landscape each time I visit Washington. I'm thankful for the imparted knowledge and am compelled to share my biggest takeaway from my recent visit—all of our legislative accomplishments are for naught if we don't monitor the implementation and progress of VA reforms that are put in place to better serve veterans and hold the VA, lawmakers and other government officials accountable for their outcomes.

In January, the VA finally began processing disability claims for Blue Water Navy veterans' exposure to Agent Orange in the waters off Vietnam decades ago. For months, the VA cited IT problems as it delayed processing these claims, withholding earned health care and survivor benefits for thousands of veterans and their families. But Blue Water Navy veterans have waited long enough for these benefits, and further delays are not acceptable. It's imperative for us to make noise on behalf of all Blue Water Navy veterans who have filed such a claim to ensure they receive a favorable decision in a timely manner.

Additionally, DAV will be soliciting feedback from our members as the VA MISSION Act approaches its first full year of implementation. We need to hear about your experiences—good and bad—so we can properly evaluate its strengths and weaknesses. Legislators and policymakers shouldn't only hear about VA-authored statistics pertaining to this law. They need to hear about real-life experiences from real veterans utilizing the VA health care system. I highly encourage you to participate in our survey when it reaches you.

Finally, we need your help in gaining as much support as possible for S. 2950, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act of 2019. This bipartisan legislation, which was crafted from an original DAV concept, would codify a concession of exposure to help ensure that veterans who served near burn pits have less red tape to deal with when, and if, they need to file a related claim for a service-connected disability. I ask you to call your elected officials and voice your support for this bill and ensure our post-9/11 veterans don't have to fight the VA for decades for disability benefits the way Vietnam veterans did with Agent Orange.

As always, thank you all for your tremendous work and advocacy on behalf of our nation's veterans. I humbly ask that you all remain steadfast in your efforts this year, because if we don't advocate for ourselves and our fellow veterans, who will?

ON A COMPUTER - GO TO DAV.org and search for PODCASTS in LEARN MORE in the upper tabs.

The first one is TALKING TOXIC EXPOSURE.

Suggest you listen to that if you have any questions.