



| Volume 22 Issue 4  | Monthly Newsletter  | April 2022 |
|--|---|------------|
| <p><b>ELECTED OFFICERS</b></p> <p><b>COMMANDER</b><br/>Larry Brewer</p> <p><b>SR. VICE CMDR.</b><br/>Tim Valentine</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> VICE CMDR.</b><br/>Russ Jordan</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> VICE CMDR.</b><br/>George Robinson</p> <p><b>ADJUTANT</b><br/>Ana Alicea-Diaz</p> <p><b>TREASURER</b><br/>Jim Hughes<br/>Asst: Sharri Peck</p> <p><b>CHAPLAIN</b><br/>Ted Imbasciani</p> <p><b>JUDGE ADVOCATE</b><br/>Bill Townsley</p> <p><b>APPOINTED OFFICERS</b></p> <p><b>CERTIFIED SERVICE OFFICERS</b><br/>Greg Baskin, Terry Bohlinger,<br/>Jim Hughes, Tim Valentine,<br/>Laura Skeith, Dave Austin,<br/>LaShawn Boyer, Shay Odom</p> <p><b>OFFICER OF THE DAY</b><br/>(vacant)</p> <p><b>SERGEANT AT ARMS</b><br/>Chuck Silvers</p> <p><b>BENEFITS PROTECTION OFFICER</b><br/>Bill Townsley</p> <p><b>ASSISTANT TREASURER</b><br/>Michael Salka</p> <p><b>MEMBER-AT-LARGE</b><br/>Russ Jordan</p> <p><b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b><br/>Greg Baskin, Bill Townsley</p> <p><b>VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE</b><br/>Chuck Silvers, John Schuster</p> | <p><b>DAV Mission Statement:</b> “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><b>Regional Job Fair:</b> Hampton Roads Job Fair is on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am until noon at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. More than 100 Employers will be on-site.</p> <p>The Employment Committee’s Facebook page can be found at: @viriniadabemploymentcommittee. Employment opportunities, updates and events are posted regularly.</p> <p>Beginning April 9, 2022, all customers with a Virginia 757 area code must dial the area code plus number for all local calls.</p> <p><b>DAV CHAPTER# 13 ELECTIONS ARE ON MAY 21, 2022 0900 AM.</b></p> <p>Note: All CHAPTER REPORTS need to be turned in to Department 14 days prior to CONVENTION. 90<sup>TH</sup> Annual Department Convention; 16-19 June; Holiday Inn Tanglewood, Roanoke.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Saturday night dinner theme is: ROARING 20’S</p> <p>COMMANDER LARRY BREWER, DAV CHAPTER #13</p> |            |

90th Annual Department Convention: 16-19 June; Holiday Inn Tanglewood, Roanoke, VA  
101st DAV National Convention: 06-09 August; Hyatt Regency, Orlando, FL

### **Strengthening Programs and Services for Women Veterans**

DAV continues to work for equal access to benefits and quality health care for women veterans. Today, women are serving in the military in record numbers and increasing numbers have turned to the VA when they return home to address post-deployment health issues and readjustment challenges. Women are the fastest-growing sub-population of the military and veteran communities, representing more than 15% of active-duty military and 10% of veterans. Yet despite much recent progress, some women veterans continue to face significant barriers accessing health care and other earned benefits, and still do not receive proper recognition for their service to the nation.

### **Women Veterans Legislation**

DAV was pleased to see a heavy focus on women veterans issues in the 116th Congress—resulting in 11 congressional hearings and—and passage of several important pieces of legislation pertaining to women veterans' health care services and infrastructure; suicide prevention and mental health; and the creation of an Office of Women's Health within the Veterans Health Administration to oversee women's health programs as well as counseling and legal services.

### **Ending Sexual Assault and Harassment**

It is important to note that one in four women veterans report having experienced some form of sexual harassment within VA—a troubling problem that will require the full commitment of department leaders to solve. The VA broadened its End Harassment campaign into [Stand Up to Stop Harassment Now!](#) and in addition, introduced a virtual bystander intervention training tool in all its facilities to teach staff and providers how to intervene when witnessing inappropriate behaviors. The VA also launched its [White Ribbon VA](#) campaign in 2019, designed to eliminate sexual assault and harassment within VA health care settings.

DAV also brought this information to our members and audiences through [video messages](#), [DAV Magazine](#) and the [DAV podcast](#), doing our part to educate all VA health care users about the importance of treating each other with respect and dignity.

### **DAV's Women Veteran Reports**

DAV's 2014 landmark report [Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home](#) and 2018 follow up, [Women Veterans: The Journey Ahead](#), continue to be valuable resources into the expanding role of women in our armed forces and have helped usher in numerous policy and legislative changes to improve programs and services for women veterans.