



YORK COUNTY - VICTORY CHAPTER #13

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

Volume 23 Issue 1	Monthly Newsletter	JANUARY 2023
<p>ELECTED OFFICERS</p> <p>COMMANDER Tim Valentine</p> <p>SR. VICE CMDR. Russ Jordan</p> <p>1st VICE CMDR. George Robinson</p> <p>2nd VICE CMDR. Laura Skeith</p> <p>ADJUTANT Ana Alicea-Diaz</p> <p>TREASURER Sharri Peck</p> <p>CHAPLAIN Ted Imbasciani</p> <p>JUDGE ADVOCATE Shay Odom</p> <p>APPOINTED OFFICERS</p> <p>CERTIFIED SERVICE OFFICERS</p> <p>Greg Baskin, Terry Bohlinger, Carl Garrett, Jim Hughes, Tim Valentine, Laura Skeith, Dave Austin, LaShawn Boyer, Shay Odom, Ana Alicea, Sharri Peck</p> <p>OFFICER OF THE DAY (vacant)</p> <p>SERGEANT AT ARMS Chuck Silvers</p> <p>BENEFITS PROTECTION OFFICER Shay Odom</p> <p>ASSISTANT TREASURER Vacant</p> <p>MEMBER-AT-LARGE Greg Baskin, Larry Mead</p> <p>SOCIAL MEDIA Ana Alicea, Terry Taylor</p> <p>COMMITTEE Chuck Silvers, John Schuster</p>	<p>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 Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life."</p> <p>Happy New Year to all our Chapter #13 members and their families. We hope the holiday season brought many blessings to all and that you enjoyed visiting with family and friends. New years are for new beginnings - we made it through 2022 by assisting overall 1575 veterans with claims (612), Emergency Relief (23), Food Baskets (14), etc. and providing valuable and useful information. DAV Victory Chapter #13, is looking forward to providing even more assistance in 2023 to many more veterans and their families.</p> <p>Chapter #13 enjoyed a wonderful DAV Christmas party with great food, door prizes and comradery. I would like to thank IPCC Larry Brewer, Comrades Chuck Silvers and George Robinson for assisting in the set up and cleaning after everything was over. We appreciate the many members and their families who brought the most delicious food to share with all.</p> <p>DAV Chapter #13 host its first ever Women Veterans Claims Assistance Workshop on Saturday, December 3, 2022, where informational briefings were given by PCC Terry Bohlinger, 2nd Jr Vice Commander Laura Skeith, Adjutant Ana Alicea, Senior Vice Commander Russ Jordan, Women's Committee Chair LaShawn Boyer and Judge Advocate Shay Odom. We had a great turnout and the attendees expressed how grateful they were for the information provided and with claims assistance after the workshop.</p> <p>It's hard to believe that despite being home to one of the largest percentages of women veterans in the United States, Virginia does not have a specialty license plate honoring women veterans. More than 107,000 women veterans' call Virginia home, and that number is growing. With more than 250 specialty plates offered by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) this license plate option is long overdue. We welcome your support, if you have any question, please reach out to Beverly VanTull, 804-297-8783, or Beverly.VanTull@dvs.virginia.gov</p> <p>Remember, Chapter #13 is your chapter, and the chapter is only as good as the active members in it, so please seek to volunteer even if it's just an hour of your time and make the chapter the best it can be.</p> <p>Best wishes to all in the New Year and stay healthy. COMMANDER: Tim Valentine, DAV Chapter #13</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>WWW.DAV13VA.COM dav@dav13va.com (757) 596-0062</p> <p>1700-E George Wash Mem Hwy, Suite E, Yorktown, VA 23693</p> </div>	



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DAV's Critical Policy Goals for Legislation

- Correct inequities and provide parity in compensation benefits for veterans and survivors
- Implement the PACT Act and address gaps in toxic-exposure benefits
- Ensure equity in VA care, services, and benefits for women, LGBTQ+, and minority veterans
- Provide a full spectrum of long-term care options for service-disabled and aging veterans
- Bolster mental health resources to ensure continued progress in reducing veteran suicide
- Expand the VA's capacity to deliver timely, high-quality health

Below are highlights of critical policy goals:

- Allow receipt of earned compensation and military payments without offsets
- Provide parity for survivors receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
- Monitor the implementation of the PACT Act
- Ensure parity for radiation-exposed veterans and remove the dose estimate requirement
- Ensure access to quality clinical services wherever care is received
- Improve the program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers
- Increase veterans' access to long-term care
- Improve specialized programs and services critical to preventing suicide
- Expand access to VA care through telehealth

Quick Compensation Update

Am I eligible for VA disability compensation? You may be eligible for disability compensation if you meet these three requirements. **All of these must be true:**

- You have a diagnosed illness or other health condition that's caused by exposure to a specific toxic hazard in the air, soil, or water, **and**
- You served on active duty in a location that exposed you to the hazard, **and**
- You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge

Getting a disability rating may also make you eligible for VA health care and other benefits.

Here are some ways you may have had exposure to specific environmental hazards:

- Burn pits and other toxic exposures in Afghanistan, Iraq, and certain other areas
- A large sulfur fire at Mishraq State Sulfur Mine near Mosul, Iraq
- Hexavalent chromium at the Qarmat Ali water treatment plant in Basra, Iraq
- Pollutants from a waste incinerator near the Naval Air Facility at Atsugi, Japan

Keep reading to learn more about the conditions we've determined are connected to burn pit and other toxins in Afghanistan, Iraq, and certain other areas. We call these presumptive conditions. Remember to check mail for correspondence from the Veterans Administration. Visit a DAV office if you have any questions.

Real Estate Tax Exemption Are you eligible?

For the full Code section, please

visit: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title58.1/chapter32/section58.1-3219.5/>

This means, if the application is approved, localities must exempt from taxation:

- The dwelling that is the principal residence of the qualifying veteran and up to one acre of land (or more if an exemption for greater than one acre is provided to elderly and handicapped persons).
- Owned by a Veteran with a 100% service-connected, permanent and total disability, who is/was alive on or after Jan. 1, 2011



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- Or the surviving spouse of such veterans, (§ 58.1-3219.5)
- Or the surviving spouse of any member of the United States armed forces who was killed in action, *which includes the DOW designation*. (§ 58.1-3219.9)
- Veterans rated at less than 100% but who the VA rates at 100% due to individual employability AND are rated “permanent and total” qualify for the exemption.
- The exemption shall remain provided that the disabled veteran or surviving spouse:
- Occupies the real property as their principal place of residence;
- For surviving spouses, provided they do not remarry.
- As of July 1, 2019, surviving spouses of KIA/DOW **and** 100% disabled veterans are allowed to move and take the exemption with them.

*For surviving spouses of active duty KIA/DOW – the service member may have died in combat prior to 2015 when the constitutional amendment was enacted; however, they cannot claim the exemption prior to 2015. The updated regulations for 58.1-3219.5 were published in the VAC in July 2019

RIS published the regulations for 58.1-3219.9 in the Spring of 2018. The ***Policy & Guidelines for Commissioners of the Revenue and Other Assessing Officials for §§ 58.1-3219.5 and 58.1-3219.9 Revised 2020*** was distributed to the Virginia Commissioners of the Revenue Association, and will be submitted to the Library of Virginia as part of the State Documents Project.

How to get free self-test kits - Get free self-test kits from VA

If you’re enrolled in VA health care, you can request up to 2 free self-test kits at your next primary care appointment or urgent care visit. We’ll also provide self-test kits to Veterans in other situations, depending on local supplies. For example, we’ll provide self-test kits to Veterans who are currently experiencing homelessness and living in shared community spaces.

Other ways to get free self-test kits

You can also get more free self-test kits at many local pharmacies. If you have health insurance, your plan may pay you back for tests. Check with your local pharmacies for more information.

[Find more about ways to get tests at COVID.gov](https://www.covid.gov)

Why staying up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines is important

Vaccines and boosters continue to protect against new forms of the coronavirus (like Omicron). Staying up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines is the best way to protect yourself and your family. This includes getting an updated booster shot at least **2 months** after you completed your primary vaccine series or got your last booster.

Here’s what we know from the Omicron surge:

- People who were vaccinated were much less likely to get very sick or die compared to people who weren’t vaccinated.
- People who had a booster shot had even better protection.

The updated (bivalent) boosters protect against both the original virus strain and the Omicron variant. An updated booster will protect you even more against COVID-19.

Note: It’s safe to get both your flu vaccine and your COVID-19 booster at the same appointment.