



YORK COUNTY - VICTORY CHAPTER #13

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

Volume 25 Issue 4	Monthly Newsletter	April 2024
<p>ELECTED OFFICERS</p> <p>COMMANDER Larry Brewer</p> <p>SR. VICE CMDR. Russ Jordan</p> <p>1st VICE CMDR. LaShawn Boyer</p> <p>2nd VICE CMDR. Jacqueline Herrmann</p> <p>TREASURER April Dozier</p> <p>CHAPLAIN Terry Taylor</p> <p>JUDGE ADVOCATE Shay Odom</p> <p>APPOINTED OFFICERS</p> <p>ADJUTANT Ana Alicea</p> <p>CERTIFIED SERVICE OFFICERS Terry Bohlinger, Carl Garrett, Tim Valentine, LaShawn Boyer, Shay Odom, Sharri Peck, Rob Lurie</p> <p>OFFICER OF THE DAY (vacant)</p> <p>SERGEANT AT ARMS Don Lamury</p> <p>BENEFITS PROTECTION OFFICER Shay Odom</p> <p>MEMBER-AT-LARGE George Robinson, Jacqueline Herrmann, Carl Garrett, Larry Mead</p> <p>SOCIAL MEDIA Ana Alicea, Terry Taylor, Bill Townsley</p> <p>WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE CHAIR Lashawn Boyer</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>DAV's 2024 Critical Policy Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct inequities for veterans receiving compensation benefits, and provide parity in benefits for survivors • Ensure the faithful implementation of the PACT Act, and address gaps in toxic-exposure benefits • Establish 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 reduction of veteran suicides • Expand the VA's capacity to deliver timely, high-quality health care to veterans <p>Project Healing Waters: Healing Waters Fly Fishing began in 2005 at Walter Reed Hospital. It has grown to over 200 programs around the world, providing mental, physical and emotional therapy to thousands of disabled veterans through fly fishing, fly tying and rod building. The local program meets at our Chapter #13 facility, free of charge. The Chapter is located at 1700 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Suite E, Yorktown. The group meets the first three Wednesdays each month, from 6:30-8:30 PM. All equipment and materials are provided for free thanks to the generous donations given to the Project Healing Waters non-profit to include DAV National. They also provide through the National Program, fly fishing trips. To learn more about the program attend one of the meetings. There are currently 27 veterans enrolled for the current session, enjoying the camaraderie of fellow veterans. Stop in and join out Vets or just sit and watch them build rods, tie flies at one of the meetings.</p> <p>Elections: Elections for Chapter #13 will be held during our next General Member Business meeting on April 20, 2024, at 0900 at 1700 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Suite E, Yorktown. Get involved in electing your line officers!!</p> <p>Chapter #13 will be hosting a Chapter Picnic on May 4, 2024, start time 1200 PM. All members are invited and bring a non-DAV member veteran. We need volunteers to help out with set up and cleaning.</p> <p>Congratulations are in order to all who participated in the March Membership Madness 2024 – the Department of Virginia DAV is bringing the trophy back to Virginia. Our Chapter has exceeded their goal for the year by more than 47 new members. We just need for these members to be more active with volunteerism at the Chapter. We need you!</p>	
<p>Commander Larry Brewer www.dav13va.com dav@dav13va.com 1700 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Ste E, Yorktown, VA 23693 757-596-0062</p>		



YORK COUNTY - VICTORY CHAPTER #13

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

Judge Advocate Corner

Summation of the highlights of the Critical Policy Goal of 118th Congress, Second Session

Allowing receipt of earned compensation and military payments without offsets. Congress must enact S. 344/H.R. 1282, the Major Richard Star Act, to repeal the inequitable offset between rightfully earned military earned military retired pay and VA disability compensation for all veterans, including medically retired combat veterans. Congress must enact H.R. 3489, the Restore Veterans' Compensation Act, which would afford justice for ill and injured veterans by eliminating the unfair practice of the VA recouping separation payments, which are based on military service, and differ from VA disability compensation.

Providing parity for survivor's receiving dependency and indemnity compensation.

Congress must enact S. 414/H.R. 1083, the Caring for Survivors Act, to ease the eligibility criteria for DIC and increase the monthly benefit amount to match benefits provided by other federal survivor's programs. Eliminating the remarriage age for survivors in receipt of DIC. Congress must enact S. 1266/H.R. 3651, the Love Lives on Act, to eliminate the remarriage age for survivors in receipt of DIC.

Title: Women Veterans' Mental Wellness Journey Key Points:

- **Alarming Suicide Rates:** Women veterans face significantly higher suicide rates compared to their male counterparts and non-veteran women; between 2020 and 2021, the suicide rate among women veterans was nearly 4 times higher than the increase observed among male veterans; it was also vastly higher than the increase seen among non-veteran women.
- **Attempt Rates and Means:** Women veterans are twice as likely as male veterans to attempt suicide; they are three times more likely than non-veteran women to choose firearms as the means of suicide.
- **Urgent Need for Support:** These statistics highlight the urgent need for targeted mental health support and resources for women veterans; Addressing their unique challenges and experiences is crucial to preventing further loss of life.

A Special presentation was devoted to Predatory Claim Practices: Predatory claims are when a company or individual charges large sums of money to assist/consult veterans with filing their VA benefits claim—it is illegal! Predators are not VA accredited which means they do not adhere to established ethical and professional standards. Their advice is often misleading at best and can be flat out fraudulent. Predators will use social media, Email, Pop Up Adds, and other means to promise a certain disability rating and/or offer medical documentation to assist in the granting of a disability claim.

Some of the highlights of the Extraordinary Contributions of the DAV: More than 1 million veteran members are organized into over 1,200 local chapters and 52 departments, including Puerto Rico and D.C. More than 12.4 million claims for benefits have been submitted by DAV since the organization was chartered by congress in 1932. More than 1.1 million veterans trust DAV with their power of attorney to represent them for benefits claims and have received more than 28.4 billion in earned benefits in 2023. Since 2014, DAV has co-hosted 977 job fairs, connecting nearly 310,491 active duty, Guard and Reserve members, veterans and spouses with employment, resulting in more than 181,036 job offers. During 2023, DAV donated over 726 to 1,038 to veterans affected by natural disasters, including hurricanes, tornados, floods, and fires throughout 21 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Colombia.