



# YORK COUNTY - VICTORY CHAPTER #13

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

Volume 25 Issue 5	Monthly Newsletter		June 2024
<p><b>ELECTED OFFICERS</b></p> <p><b>COMMANDER</b> Larry Brewer</p> <p><b>SR. VICE CMDR.</b> Shay Odom</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> VICE CMDR.</b> Russ Jordan</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> VICE CMDR.</b> Don Lamury</p> <p><b>TREASURER</b> April Dozier</p> <p><b>CHAPLAIN</b> Ed Binder</p> <p><b>JUDGE ADVOCATE</b> Terry Bohlinger</p> <p><b>APPOINTED OFFICERS</b></p> <p><b>ADJUTANT</b> Ana Alicea</p> <p><b>ASSISTANT TREASURER</b> Jackie Herrmann</p> <p><b>CERTIFIED SERVICE OFFICERS</b> Terry Bohlinger, Carl Garrett, Tim Valentine, Dave Austin, Shay Odom, Sharri Peck, Rob Lurie</p> <p><b>OFFICER OF THE DAY</b> (vacant)</p> <p><b>SERGEANT AT ARMS</b> Don Lamury</p> <p><b>BENEFITS PROTECTION OFFICER</b> Shay Odom</p> <p><b>MEMBER-AT-LARGE</b> George Robinson, Jacqueline Herrmann, Carl Garrett</p> <p><b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b> Ana Alicea, Terry Taylor, Bill Townsley</p> <p><b>WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE CHAIR</b> Shay Odom</p>	<p><b>COMMANDER'S CORNER.</b> 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>Chapter #13's Membership Appreciation Picnic will take place on September 28, 2024, at the Newport News Park. Maximum attendance will be 75, therefore, we need members who will be attending to sign up on sheet posted at the chapter.</p> <p>The Chapter #13 committee appointments have been posted on the board and members have been appointed by the Commander. Committee Chairs should be prepared to report to the members any activity concerning the committee during the Monthly Member meetings.</p> <p>On May 4, 2024, we held our membership drive cookout/picnic. Two new members were signed up during the event. We currently have 1009 members; however, only approximately 20 members are committed volunteers. We need for our members to step-up volunteerism to keep the chapter open. At the present time we are looking for an Assistant Adjutant and Chapter Claim Officers. If interested please contact Commander Brewer or Adjutant Ana Alicea.</p> <p>On August 3, 2024, Chapter #58 will be representing DAV at the Hampton Roads Harley Davidson in Yorktown with Chapter #13's permission. We are seeking volunteers to represent Chapter #13 for this event. See the Commander if interested.</p> <p>Point of contact for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Yorktown is Seth Pilgrim, (207) 331-0305. Chapter #13, will be participating with members marching, and on vehicles and motorcycles. If you wish to participate, please let us know in advance.</p> <p>During the month of March and April, 2024, Chapter #13 serviced 455 veterans and their families. Two hundred and thirteen (213) were actual claims submitted. The Commander wants to thank our dedicated Chapter Service Officers (CSO) for their dedications and a job well done.</p>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Commander Larry Brewer <a href="http://www.dav13va.com">www.dav13va.com</a> <a href="mailto:dav@dav13va.com">dav@dav13va.com</a> 1700 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Ste E, Yorktown, VA 23693 757-596-0062</p> </div>			



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## Judge Advocate Corner

### Summation of the highlights of the Critical Policy Goal of 118<sup>th</sup> 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.