




# YORK COUNTY - VICTORY CHAPTER #13

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

| Volume 25<br>Issue 8  | Monthly Newsletter   | November 2024 |
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| <p><b>ELECTED OFFICERS</b></p> <p><b>COMMANDER</b><br/>Larry Brewer</p> <p><b>SR. VICE CMDR.</b><br/>Shay Odom</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> VICE CMDR.</b><br/>Russ Jordan</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> VICE CMDR.</b><br/>Don Lamury</p> <p><b>TREASURER</b><br/>April Dozier</p> <p><b>CHAPLAIN</b><br/>Ed Binder</p> <p><b>JUDGE ADVOCATE</b><br/>Terry Bohlinger</p> <p><b>APPOINTED OFFICERS</b></p> <p><b>ADJUTANT</b><br/>Ana Alicea</p> <p><b>ASSISTANT TREASURER</b><br/>Jackie Herrmann</p> <p><b>CERTIFIED SERVICE OFFICERS</b><br/>Terry Bohlinger, Carl Garrett, Tim Valentine, Dave Austin, Shay Odom, Sharri Peck, Rob Lurie</p> <p><b>SERGEANT AT ARMS</b><br/>George Robinson</p> <p><b>BENEFITS PROTECTION OFFICER</b><br/>Shay Odom</p> <p><b>MEMBER-AT-LARGE</b><br/>George Robinson, Jacqueline Herrmann, Carl Garrett</p> <p><b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b><br/>Ana Alicea, Terry Taylor, Bill Townsley</p> <p><b>WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE CHAIR</b><br/>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><u>DAV 5K Run:</u> Ensuring our injured heroes are not alone on their road to recovery. The DAV 5K is a walk, roll, run, and ride that thanks those who served and raises awareness of the issues our ill and injured veterans face every day. Join us in keeping our promise to America's veterans! There are two ways to participate, join us in-person in the Chapter #13 in person walk on November 2, 2014 at 1200 at Ft Monroe Gazebo(close to Chamberlin Hotel), VA or virtually from anywhere. Go to <a href="https://support.dav.org">https://support.dav.org</a> then under the search function type in "Stamp Out Leukemia" and it will take you to our participant's page for the DAV 5K to donate.</p> <p><u>Christmas Party:</u> The Chapter Christmas party will be held on December 21, 2024. All members are invited but please sign the sheet at the office or email Adjutant Ana Alicea (<a href="mailto:adj@dav13va.com">adj@dav13va.com</a>) with an RSVP. Let us also know what dish you are bringing so we can have a balanced meal ready for all. If you have any questions, please contact us at (757) 596-0062 or email Adjutant.</p> <p> <u>Ever wonder how or why DAV adopted its official emblem?</u> A little history - Our emblem was selected as the official symbol of the Disabled American Veterans when our organization was founded, in 1921. Some people think the statute on the capitol dome in Washington DC is Columbia. But it is not. That is a statute called the Statute of Freedom. Columbia in the DAV emblem, is knighting a World War I soldier. She is honoring him for his bravery in protecting humanity, and a group of soldiers stands at attention in the background. President Wilson and the artist E.H. Blashfield, authorized our organization to use the design. The emblem was adopted. One of the original founders of the DAV, Judge Robert S. Marx, applied for and was granted a patent on the emblem in 1921.</p> <p><u>CSO Updates</u><br/>Breast cancer, including male breast cancer is now considered a presumed service- connected disability for eligible toxic exposures.<br/>If you are planning to file a claim make sure you bring a voided check. This will prevent the claim from being delayed 30 additional days.</p> <p>CONGRATULATIONS are in order! Chapter #13 was awarded the 2024 Highest Chapter Numerical Increase of New Members Beyond Goal, which was presented on October 19, 2024 at the 2024 Dept Fall Conference.</p> <div data-bbox="500 1829 1385 1913" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <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**

**NEWS FOR VETERANS**

DAV Magazine: September/October 2024

**VA care and benefits access expanded to some previously denied:**

In April, the Department of Veterans Affairs posted a final rule amending its regulations regarding character of discharge determinations, expanding access to VA care and benefits for some former service members discharged under other-than-honorable conditions or by special court martial. The VA's new regulation expands access to care and benefits for certain former service members with other-than-honorable and bad-conduct discharges. The VA character of discharge determination does not change the military's characterization of service and has no effect on the former service member's military discharge status. The VA's determination is for VA benefits and services eligibility only. This opens the door for previously denied service members to reapply for VA benefits and services. If you have been previously denied VA benefits and services because of your discharge status, DAV benefits advocates can help you file for a character of discharge determination. Please contact your nearest DAV service office by visiting [benefitsquestions.org](https://benefitsquestions.org).

**Veteran wins Supreme Court battle over GI Bill benefits:**

In April, with a 7–2 decision, the Supreme Court ended a nine-year legal battle fought by Army veteran Jim Rudisill, who sued the Department of Veterans Affairs for wrongfully denying him the GI Bill education benefits he earned since he served both before and after 9/11. The Montgomery GI Bill program, the predecessor to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, offers far less money but still can provide several thousands of dollars to veterans for tuition costs if they paid into the program at the start of their military service. Currently, the VA makes students give up eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill when they register to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill. That means once they exhaust the benefit, they cannot receive support from the other program. Lawyers for Rudisill estimated as many as 1.7 million veterans nationwide could benefit from the ruling, but federal officials have estimated the number to be less than 30,000 individuals.

**Joint Leadership Council of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services 2024-2025 Legislative Initiatives**

**JLC Initiative 2025-01 - Verification of Veteran Status – Arrest, Jails, and Prisons**

OBJECTIVE: To identify arrested and incarcerated veterans in Virginia so as to better connect them to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (USDVA), Virginia Department of Veterans Services, and community employment, education, and other resources to help lower their recidivism rate and connect them with federal and local court and community resources.

**JLC Initiative 2025-02 - Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans**

OBJECTIVE: Prohibit 'Claim Shark' companies from preying on veterans seeking to obtain or modify their VA entitlements.

**JLC Initiative 2025-03 - Virginia National Guard Tuition**

OBJECTIVE: Transition the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP) from its current reimbursement to an upfront payment model.

**JLC Initiative 2025-04 - Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery Expansion**

OBJECTIVE: Secure the necessary funds to expand the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk and ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our veterans and their families.

**JLC Initiative 2025-05 - Women Veterans Day**

OBJECTIVE: to establish June 12th as Women's Veterans Day in Virginia, recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of women veterans and commemorating the historic signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act.