



Disabled American Veterans Department of New Mexico Newsletter

Volume #1 Issue #4 June/September 2016

YOUR 2016-2017 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



(above) 2016 Officers being sworn in by Past National Commander Don Samuels at this year's State Convention. From right to left: Sgt. At Arms Carl Northcliff, Treasurer Ed Holbrook, Adjutant David Alderete, 2nd Jr. Vice Edward Mitchell, 1st Jr. Vice Tim Talley, Sr. Vice Eddie Maestas, Commander George Perez, Judge Advocate Rick Madera, Chaplain Maurice Graff, and District #4 SEC Kevin Dasing

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From the desk of The State Commander

Congratulations to all Department Officers on their new positions and here's looking forward to working together to keep Department running smoothly for another year. Also, congratulations to the new and continuing members of the Department of New Mexico Executive Board and the Officers of the DAVA.

While attending the Department of Utah convention, National Commander Moses McIntosh was the convention speaker. His message was that the DAV organization needs to be more family-oriented. The new veterans (OIF, OEF) want to travel with their families. National will be organizing at the National level to become more family-oriented with the State Departments to follow.

The Commanders and Adjutants convention was very informative. Mr. Moos, Deputy National Service Director, did a presentation on the requirements for National, State and Chapter Service Officers. He mentioned that training will be upgraded and the move is being made towards using computers instead of paper forms: www.ebenefits.va.gov will be used by all veterans that have filed a claim. This site will be available to check status needed documentation in order to complete the claim. Service Officers, please inform veterans of this valuable tool so they can follow the status of their claim.

During the SEC quarterly meeting, I will make available different VA, state forms for DAV members. We can rent cars at a discount as well as receiving discounts at various hotels and motels. There is a new VA form for buying home life insurance. These forms will be available at the next SEC meeting in September for the SECs to distribute them to their Districts.

The Adjutant, Women Veterans Program Chairperson and I have been invited to be guest speakers on the radio program "Calling All Veterans" on KVSF out of Santa Fe. More on this elsewhere in this issue.

From National: all lifetime DAV membership cards will be replaced by new ones (telephone number to the membership department will be included), and as of December 1, 2016, all veterans that are receiving disability compensation or for surviving spouses will receive an increase in their disability (COLA) monthly payments.

If problems exist at a Chapter level, contact your Chapter Adjutant, Commander or SEC delegate. The next person in the chain of command will be Department Adjutant David Alderete. We at Department will give all issues the consideration that they deserve.

One last thing, all Chapters please submit articles to the newsletter! Get the news out about your Chapter! Lets acknowledge van drivers, volunteers and all who contribute to your Chapters. Let us know about fundraisers or special events or a member that goes above and beyond for the DAV.

George Perez, Commander

Adjutant's Notes



I want to begin by thanking all the members that attended this year's State Dept. Convention. I want to encourage Chapters to assist their members in attending the Convention in years to come, particularly the Line Officers. Dept. tries to disseminate information that is vital to Chapters and we want to hear from you as to what type of information your particular Chapter needs. I understand that this year's major complaint was the menu at the banquet. I want all of you to know that we do listen and will be working on this issue for next year.

The Dept. recently had some work done on the outside of our building, thanks in part to Past Dept. Commander Gene Weber. If you remember, the work was accomplished through the efforts of Tyler Sperry and his Scout troop. Department will soon be renovating part of the inside of the building through a grant from Home Depot. Thanks again to Past Cmdr. Weber for getting the ball rolling on this! Home Depot is donating \$7200 worth of materials as well as labor to upgrade the restrooms, lighting, floors as well as a new coat of interior paint. Also included in the grant are 4 new swamp coolers, the installation of which Department will be responsible. Since the initial contact, we have taken the necessary steps and completed the paperwork that was required. Labor will be supplied by Home Depot, but they have requested that we provide some manpower to help move items in and around the areas that will be worked on. If you wish to lend a hand, please call Department HQ and let the secretary know. The date of the project is currently TBD, but we will contact all volunteers as soon as we know the date. Remember, this is your building.

Another interesting thing at Dept. is that Commander George Perez, Elaine Mitchell, Chairperson for the Women Veterans Committee and I went on the air at a radio station in Santa Fe to promote the DAV Chapters and Department. The station, FM 101.5, can be heard in Santa Fe and northern areas. The program is "Calling All Veterans" and airs every Tuesday. All three of us spoke about the DAV; what we do, the services we provide, programs available to vets, and we provided contact information in case any listeners had any further questions. The show is hosted by Chuck Zobac and for more information about the show, you can go to: santafe.com/thevoice/shows/calling-all-veterans. We have been invited to be guests on the show again in late August.



I would like to say that it is a pleasure and joy to be back at Dept. as the Adjutant and I look forward to a positive year. If any member wants to provide me with some input on issues affecting them or suggestions on what, as a Department, we can do to improve services to all members of the DAV, please contact me at Department Headquarters.

David Alderete, Adjutant

Department Gun Raffle Winners



As you all know, the gun raffle tickets were drawn at this year's State Convention. Past Dept. Cmdr. Gene Weber presented the firearms to the First Place winner Sid Gariss (left) who chose the Springfield .45 ACP pistol and the Second Place winner Danny Carroll from Chapter #19 in Artesia (right) who received the Ruger LC9. Thanks to everyone for helping make this year's Convention successful. Hope everyone had a great time and hope to see you next year!



Home Depot Gives Department Grant For Improvements



Home Depot has given Department a \$7200 grant for improvements including 4 new swamp coolers for the building. Past Commander Gene Weber got the ball rolling through his tenacious efforts and current Adjutant David Alderete was able to seal the deal. The project will take place on September 30, 2016 and includes improvements to much of the interior of the building; lighting, painting, flooring and repairs to the restrooms. We at Department are very thankful to Home Depot for this great opportunity. Manager Nick Herrera says that Home Depot would like us to have 7-8 volunteers from DAV for the project, but he says, "they have the option to help, but it's not necessary. Realistically, we just want our associates to bond with the veterans that served our great country. We want them to know as a company how much we appreciate them." Department will be supplying food and refreshments, so if you are interested in volunteering, please give Department a call.



THE DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IS IN NEED OF A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN TO VOLUNTEER AS POV DRIVERS TO HELP OUR STATE'S VETERANS GET TO AND FROM THEIR NECESSARY MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS. TO VOLUNTEER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LUPE CRUZ, ALBUQUERQUE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, AT (505) 265-2821. YOU CAN ALSO FIND COORDINATORS IN YOUR AREA ON DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE AT: www.davnewmexico.org

Departed Comrades

**Orlando M. Candelaria,
Chapter 3**

Gordon D. Coffing, Chapter 3

Elmer E. Boatman, Chapter 6

Gerald Mirabal, Chapter 6

Rudolph J. Buday, Chapter 9

Antonio Montoya, Jr., Chapter 9

**Past DAVA State Commander,
Angela Frederickson, Unit 11**

Eddie DeArmond, Chapter 21

Martin J. Walsh, Chapter 21

Richard W. Park, Chapter 32

(This information is compiled from what is received by Department. If you have information on a departed comrade that was not included in this list, let us know and we will make sure they are listed in the following issue of the Newsletter)



The bench pictured above was donated to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire by Chapters 3 and 5 and was built by Rick Madera of Chapter 6.



Linda Stake National Commander DAV Auxiliary

(From DAV National Adjutant J. Marc Burgess)

It is with great sadness and regret that I advise you that DAV Auxiliary National Commander Linda Stake passed away Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

Linda's work as a veterans advocate is longstanding. Even before her long and storied service through the Auxiliary, she fought tirelessly to ensure her husband, Charles, received the care and benefits he had earned. Linda became a life member of the Auxiliary in 1998 and was a charter member of Auxiliary Unit 57 in Heber Springs, Arkansas.

Linda was a steadfast and devoted advocate for our nation's veterans and their families. She was also a dear friend and mentor to so many of us. Her life is a testament to the powers of grace, selflessness and determination.

Linda is survived by her husband, Charles, and her daughters Kim, Carol and Penny; grandchildren Casey, Austin and Macy; and great grandsons Jaden and Tyler. All are very active members of the DAV Auxiliary through their units or the DAV Auxiliary Juniors.

Our hearts go out to Linda's family and all her dear friends. She will be remembered eternally for her leadership and contributions that will impact the lives of veterans, their families and survivors for generations to come. May she rest in peace.

Visitation and Funeral services were held in Heber Springs, AR on July 29th and 30th, 2016.

(Photo courtesy of DAV National)



Museum of the American Military Family Opens On Old Route 66

The Grand Opening of the Museum of the American Military Family took place on Saturday, June 9, 2016 and District #6 SEC and Chapter 3's 1st Jr. Vice Joe Gutierrez was on hand for the festivities. The Museum is located next to Molly's Bar and used to be the bar's namesake's home. For more information, go to:

www.museumoftheamericanmilitaryfamily.org



(Above) Scenes from inside the Museum of the American Military Family courtesy of Joe Gutierrez



Nate Cote, Chapter #10 Adjutant, signs the Manuel Tapia scholarship while Kristi Martin, DACC development officer, looks on.

(Courtesy of Doña Ana Community College)

New DACC Scholarship For Disabled Veterans

Mesilla Valley Chapter #10 and the New Mexico State University Foundation have established a scholarship for disabled veteran student, their spouses, and dependents attending Doña Ana Community College. The Manuel Tapia Memorial Current Use Scholarship will be available beginning in the fall semester of 2016 at DACC. Private Tapia was an accomplished soldier who survived some of the most noted battles of WWII. He participated in the D-Day Invasion at Normandy as well as other notable Offensives and earned five bronze stars and a myriad of other medals, ribbons and honors. He was discharged from the Army as marksman, cannoner and gunner. Kudos to Chapter 10!
(Information obtained from the Las Cruces Sun-News)