



Disabled American Veterans Department of New Mexico Newsletter

Volume #2 Issue #1 March 2017

GEARING UP FOR CONVENTION 2017



Where does the time go? Once again, we at Department are gearing up for the upcoming State Convention, June 8-10. This year's Convention will once again be held at the MCM Elegante Hotel (above) located at 2020 Menaul Blvd. NE here in Albuquerque. For reservations, call (505) 884-2511 and mention you are with the DAV to get the special room rate of \$81/night. This includes a breakfast buffet and 2 drink tickets redeemable in the Sandia Springs Lounge.

- Service Officer Training will be held at the Elegante on Wed. June 7th from noon-4. The class will be presented by the NSO supervisor Gary Prescott and Department strongly advises every Chapter to send at least one member to the training.
- This year's banquet will feature 3 choices of entrées and will be \$25 per ticket. A vegetarian option will also be available. Visit our website at davnewmexico.org to download a printable version of the banquet registration. Or call Department for other options including registering over the phone with a credit card.
- Featured speakers at the joint session will include NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jack Fox, Curtis Holly from VA Transportation, and a representative from Loving Thunder Therapeutic Riding, Inc. among others.

Convention Schedule of Events

Wed. June 7, 2017

12pm-4pm Service Officer Training

5pm-6pm Finance Committee

Thurs. June 8, 2017

8am-12pm Registration

9am-10am Memorial Service

10:30am-12pm DAV SEC Meeting

10am-12pm Nomination Committee Meeting

11:30am-1pm Lunch

1pm-4pm Registration

1pm-3pm Chapter Officers/SEC training

2:15pm-4pm Candidate interviews

6pm-8pm National Reps reception

8:15pm-10pm NOTR Meeting

Fri. June 9, 2017

8am-4pm Registration

8am-9am Past Dept. Cmdrs and Adj. Breakfast

9am-11:30am Joint Session

11:30am-1pm Forget-Me-Not Luncheon

1pm-4pm 1st Business Session

6pm-8pm Banquet

Sat. June 10, 2017

9am-12pm 2nd Business Session

DAV Dept. Officers Nominations/Elections

SEC Meeting following elections

****Detailed schedules have been sent to Chapters. You can also download schedules on the website or call Department to have one sent to you.**

National and District 17 Conventions

- **Department of Wyoming:** May 5-7 in Cheyenne, WY at the Little America Hotel. Call (303) 672-8931 to make reservations. For more information, call Adjutant Floyd Watson at (307) 631-5116
- **Department of Colorado:** May 17-19 in Denver, CO at the Doubletree Hotel. Call (303) 321-3333 to make reservations. For more information, call Office Coordinator Joni Cousland at 1-877-581-8387
- **Department of Utah:** June 1-3 in Salt Lake City, UT at the Downtown Radisson Hotel. Call 1-800-333-3333 to make reservations. For more information, call Adjutant Penny Larsen at (801) 359-8168
- **National Convention:** July 29-Aug. 1 in New Orleans, LA at Hilton New Orleans, Riverside. Call 1-800-Hiltons or (504) 561-0500 to make reservations. For more information, go to www.dav.org.

Make sure to mention that you are with the DAV to get special room rates, if available. You can also call Department if you have any further questions.

Department of Health and Department of Veterans Services Partner to Expand Care for Veterans in New Mexico

SANTA FE, NM – Today, the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) and Department of Veterans Services (DVS) announced plans to expand long-term care services for veterans at Fort Bayard Medical Center (FBMC) in Silver City, NM.

As the state's veteran population ages, DVS reports that there is a need for as many as 200 additional long-term care beds for New Mexico veterans. NMDOH has worked over the last few years to improve service capacity at state-operated facilities across New Mexico.

To make this change possible, NMDOH will relocate drug and alcohol abuse treatment services currently offered at its Yucca Lodge Chemical Dependency Treatment Center (located at FBMC), to the New Mexico Rehabilitation Center in Roswell. The move will enable FBMC to focus its efforts on long-term care services and expand veterans' services utilizing the space left vacant by the transition.

New Mexico Rehabilitation Center (NMRC) will become the southern New Mexico hub for NMDOH's drug and alcohol treatment services, along with the department's Turquoise Lodge Hospital in Albuquerque. NMRC and Turquoise Lodge will offer inpatient and outpatient drug and alcohol misuse and abuse services including: medical detoxification, social rehabilitation, and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) services.

"This move improves the efficiency and sustainability of the services that our facilities provide," said NMDOH Cabinet Secretary Lynn Gallagher. "Fort Bayard Medical Center can better serve New Mexico's veterans just as they served us and our nation; and we can better address substance misuse and abuse at the New Mexico Rehabilitation Center whose primary focus is rehab services."

Earlier this year, NMDOH and DVS announced plans to streamline and improve services for New Mexico's veterans by moving management of the State Veterans Home in Truth or Consequences from NMDOH to DVS, aligning both state and federal resources to better serve our veterans.

Courtesy of Ray Seva, DVS



From the desk of The State Commander

These past nine months have been very educational and interesting working on the budget, not only for my tenure in office, but for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Department has sold some property that has helped the budget as well as lowered the inventory of property that was donated to Department over the years. We have recently received an offer for the land in Torrance County and hope the potential buyers will be interested in some of our other properties.

These last couple of weeks, the Adjutant and Office Assistant have been busy working on this year's State Convention and Bylaws are being updated in order to facilitate the budget, candidates and overall smooth operating procedures. There will be more input from the Chapters as to who is assigned to the Finance Committee.

Currently, the Department Service Office is asking for volunteers to help veterans in applying for their disability. We need to open up a line of communication between the regional DAV Office and the Department Service Officers at the Raymond G. Murphy Medical Center. The current volunteers will process an average of eight to twelve claims per day. Mistakes are made, but can be corrected by adding more volunteers to help with the paperwork.

Volunteers are also needed to assist on the days that the American flags are flown at the VA Medical Center. Approximately 100 flags are posted starting at 0700 and then are retired at 1500. Last time, we only had approximately five volunteers. We are looking to have a healthy crew of fifteen to twenty volunteers for Memorial Day.

As I mentioned earlier, we are getting ready for the NM Department Convention scheduled for June 7, 8, and 9, 2017 at the MCM Elegante on Menaul. If you are going to need an electric wheelchair, please let the Department Office know ahead of time.

DAVA 3 will be having a fundraiser. All items to be sold will be five dollars and you will also be able to purchase a delicious frito pie while you are shopping. The dates will be May 15 and 16, 2017 at the Department Headquarters from 1000 to 1800. Come on by and see what's on sale!

George Perez, Commander

Adjutant's Notes



From the State Adjutant's Desk:

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary Unit Members.

The current year has proven to be a fast-paced one and is culminating in a few short months with the upcoming State Convention on June 8, 9, and 10th, 2017. Several good things have happened at Dept. over the past year, including the sale of property in Hobbs, NM and Auxiliary State Adjutant Ellen Timmerman's quest for National Office. Currently Ellen holds the position of 1st Jr. Vice Cmdr. and at the National Convention in New Orleans on July 28 – Aug. 1, 2017 she will hopefully be elected to Sr. Vice Cmdr. and ultimately at the National Convention in 2018 she will be elected National Auxiliary Commander. She has proven herself to be a formidable opponent and deserves all the fruits associated with her endeavors.

The upcoming State Convention is taking shape and we hope it will be as successful as planned. The speakers at the Joint Session on Wednesday June 8th will be varied and interesting and should prove to be informative. They will vary from Horseback riding therapy to hospitalized veterans arts and crafts which veterans can put together while they are recovering. Additionally there is information on the VAMC Van Transportation for veterans in wheelchairs, a first for the V.A.

I would encourage all Chapters to provide the opportunity for their members to attend the State Convention. When the Chapter Convention packets are received, please review and send us any comments or additions/changes you would like us to consider. This, of course, will be subject to revision if time or space permits. This also applies to any form of training you may feel the members either need or are required to have. This is crucial to the success of any Convention and deserves your utmost attention.

We look forward to seeing the members of your Chapters as well as Auxiliary Units at the 76th Annual State Convention in 2017.

David Alderete, Adjutant

QUILT OF VALOR PRESENTATION

At their November meeting, Grant County-Ft. Bayard, Chapter #1 presented a Quilt of Valor to Marine Silver Star recipient Albert Mendoza (Vietnam '67-'70). Terry Summers from the Silver City Quilters Guild made the presentation. The Quilters have presented a total of 35 quilts to area Veterans this fiscal year, making at least one presentations at each of Chapter #1's meetings.

Pictured below: Albert Mendoza (center) and his daughter (left), and Terry Summers from the Silver City Quilters Guild (right)



DAV AUXILIARY NEWS

Spring is here and DAV Auxiliary units are busy with nomination and election of officers for the coming year. Remember that your reports to national DAVA headquarters are due 10 days after the installation of officers. It also is the time for us to reflect on what our units have accomplished this year and complete the reports that were mailed out by Adjutant Ellen Timmerman. These reports are due to Ellen by May 1, 2017.

Other important events coming up that should be put on your calendars are listed below:

- >Wyoming State Convention May 5-7, 2017 to be held in Cheyenne, Wyoming
- >Colorado State Convention May 17-20, 2017 to be held in Denver, Colorado
- > Utah State Convention June 1-3, 2017 to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah
- > New Mexico State Convention June 8-10, 2017 to be at the MCM Elegante in Albuquerque
- >National Commander Frances Costa's Testimonial Dinner on April 9, 2017 in Randolph, MA
- >National DAV/DAVA Convention July 29-August 1, 2017 to be held in New Orleans, LA

I want to thank all our DAV/DAVA volunteer "boots on the ground" for the hard work this past year and invite all of you to continue to work for our veterans. God Bless America, our veterans, and you, the members who make DAV/DAVA successful!

Vicky Salazar, DAVA State Commander

(575) 313-1373



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



Martin S. Sanchez, Chapter 3
Danny L. Quick, Chapter 5
Doyle L. Fetzer, Chapter 6
Charles E. Naslund, Chapter 6
Dennis R. Pate, Chapter 6
Wilbur C. Garner, Chapter 9
Dannie R. Roberts, Chapter 9
Daniel L. Banks, Chapter 10
Walter J. Burr, Chapter 10
Lawrence Henderson, Chapter 10
Pedro C. Hernandez, Chapter 10
Steven Thomas Leask, Chapter 10
Rodolfo Marquez, Chapter 10
Albert S. Merritt, Chapter 10
Jack L. Valencia, Chapter 10
Jose D. Lujan, Chapter 12
Richard L. Holstein, Chapter 14
Wayne Arviso, Chapter 21
Walter F. Bailey, Chapter 21
John K. James, Chapter 21
Frank B. Lambson, Chapter 21
George Daniel Morris, Chapter 21
Mark J. Romancito, Chapter 21

(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)



PAST COMMANDER
DANNIE R. ROBERTS
1934-2017

Past DAV Department of New Mexico Commander (2006-2007) Dannie Roberts passed away on Monday, March 20, 2017 in Farmington, NM. He was born August 21, 1934, in Amarillo, Texas. He was married to Mattie R. Roberts, the love of his life, for more than sixty years. He graduated from Farmington High School in 1952, and worked for El Paso Natural Gas Company in the drilling department. He retired from EPNG after thirty-eight years.

During his time with the United States Air Force, he earned the rank of Senior Master Sgt. Dannie was active in Four Corners Search and Rescue, Civil Air Patrol, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans. He was a former Captain of the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department, and for forty years he worked with the San Juan County Sheriff's Department. He coached Golden Glove boxers and Little League and Babe Ruth baseball teams.

Dannie was preceded in death by his parents, Evabell and Raymond Roberts. He is survived by his wife, Mattie, his brother, Ben, his four children, Derinda Babcock, Brenda Milleson, Danny Roberts, and Kelley Calder, their spouses, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.