



**Disabled American Veterans  
Department of New Mexico  
Newsletter**

**Volume #2 Issue #2 June 2017**

## **Your 2017 Department Officers**



Your elected Department Officers from left to right: Commander Eddie Maestas (Chapter 15, Santa Fe), Senior Vice Tim Talley (Chapter 6, Clovis), 1st Junior Vice Ed Mitchell (Chapter 5, Rio Rancho), 2nd Junior Vice Tillery Dingler (Chapter 33, Albuquerque), Judge Advocate Rick Madera (Chapter 6, Clovis), and Chaplain Maurice Graff (Chapter 32, Albuquerque).

**FOR CHAPTER INFORMATION, VETERANS' RESOURCES AND MORE:**

**[davnewmexico.org](http://davnewmexico.org)**

## Convention 2017

### Who's Who and Who's New in Department

Convention 2017 has wrapped up and things are now getting back to normal at Department. Newly-minted Commander Eddie Maestas has made his choices for Department's appointed positions and there are familiar faces as well as new. David Alderete has once again been appointed to the Adjutant position, Rob Brown (Chapter 5, Rio Rancho) has replaced Carl Northcliff as Sergeant-At-Arms, Dave Pineda (Chapter 15, Santa Fe) is staying on as Benefits Protection Team Leader (formerly known as Legislative Chairman). Larry Johnson, Treasurer pro-tem for the last few months, has been officially appointed for this term and Randy Trujillo (Chapter 5, Rio Rancho) has been retained in the position of Officer of the Day.

Your SECs by District are as follows:

- DIST #1 (Chapters 9&21):** Pat Giguere
- DIST #2 (Chapters 8, 12, 15):** Francis Cordova
- DIST #3 (Chapters 6&19):** Mike Schneider
- DIST #4 (Chapters 1, 10, 14, 25, 38):** Kevin Dasing
- DIST #5 (Chapters 24, 29, 33):** Peter Romero
- DIST #6 (Chapters 3, 5, 32):** Joe Gutierrez

Commander Eddie Maestas, Senior Vice Tim Talley, 1st Junior Vice Ed Mitchell, 2nd Junior Vice Tillery Dingle, Judge Advocate Rick Madera and Chaplain Maurice Graff, all elected Officers, were shown on the front page of this Newsletter.

### Directory

The Department Secretary is currently working on this year's Directory and projects that it should be finished before mid-July. These will be distributed to Chapter and Unit Commanders and Adjutants, Department (DAV and DAVA) Officers and SECs.



Above: District 17 NEC Frank Maughan congratulates Commander Eddie Maestas after the swearing in.

### Thanks!

Department would like to thank all the Officers and members of DAV and DAVA from the other states in District 17 (Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming) for making the trek to Albuquerque to attend this year's Convention.

Thanks also to the 2017 National reps: DAV Assistant National Service Director Steven Wolf and DAVA PNC LeeAnn Karg and the speakers at this year's joint session.

Special thanks to Donut Mart for their donation of delicious donuts once again this year.

### DAV National Convention

National Convention will be held this year in New Orleans, LA July 29-Aug. 1. A block of rooms is set aside at the Hilton New Orleans, Riverside. Call 1-800-Hiltons or (504) 561-0500 to make reservations. Make sure to mention that you are with the DAV to get special room rates, if available.



## *From the desk of The State Commander*

Thanks to everyone for your support in voting me in as your new State Commander. I look forward to working with all of you in our quest to help veterans and help every Chapter better themselves. I will be at Headquarters 2-4 times per month and will be in close communication with my Adjutant, David Alderete.

I would like to congratulate our 2017-2018 Department Officers and welcome Tillery Dinger (Chapter 33) on as 2nd Jr. Vice and Rob Brown (Chapter 5) as Sergeant-At-Arms. Also, congratulations to the DAVA Department Officers and new and returning members of the State Executive Board and Finance Committee.

I would like to thank Keving Dasing (Chapter 38, District 4 SEC) for making it possible for members of Chapter 25, (Chaparral) to attend this year's Convention. Chaparral is our southernmost and smallest Chapter and members rarely make it to the Convention. It was great to see them this year!

On that note, I would like to remind all SECs that it is important to keep up with the Chapters in your District. You are the voice for your Chapters and are entrusted with bringing any concerns or questions to the quarterly SEC meetings. Don't let them down.

I will be attending the Commander and Adjutants Association event in Cold Spring, KY, July 8-11 this year for the first time and am looking forward to learning from and sharing information with Commanders and Adjutants from across the country.

Once again, thanks for your support!

*Eddie Maestas, Commander*

### **From New Mexico to Siberia?**



Chapter 29 member Lewis "Gene" Green will be soon be traveling to Tomsk, Siberia to learn Russian. Tomsk is often referred to as the capitol of Siberia and is the oldest city, having been founded as a military outpost 411 years ago. The city is 520 miles north of where the borders of Kazakhstan and Mongolia almost touch. Gene and his wife Heide (Treasurer, DAVA Department) will be in Siberia for approximately 10 weeks while Gene gets one-on-one tutoring in Russian. The Valencia County News-Bulletin online edition will be running Gene's blog about his journey.

*Picture and content courtesy of Gene Green/News-Bulletin*

# Adjutant's Notes



From the State Adjutant's Desk:

Another Convention has come and gone, however, this one proved to be the most trying and challenging one for me yet. While I received many kudos on the undertaking of it, I also was chastised for my lack of wisdom in preparing for it, which I felt was not the case, but attributed this to "rustiness" of not having helmed the process last year. The one fault that I can recall was the lack of acknowledgement to the many that assisted me in one capacity or another. I was remiss in this area and sincerely apologize to all of you. I feel that I must atone for this oversight and wish to express my wholehearted thanks to all that gave me their help and support during the planning and execution of this year's Convention. Thank you to my wife, Mary Alderete; Edward C. Mitchell, Department 1st Junior Vice, and his wife Elaine, Chapter 5 Commander, who has helped me for over five years; Celisa Dickson, Department Secretary; Stephanie Chavez, Department Accountant and her husband Anthony, chef extraordinaire; Larry Johnson, Department Treasurer; and Lupe Cruz, Transportation Coordinator. I must also include the muscle power of other members that helped with the loading and transport of items necessary for our Hospitality Room and other items vital to the Convention. These members include: George Perez, outgoing State Commander; Rick Madera, Department Judge Advocate; Tim Talley, Department Senior Vice Commander; Tillery Dinger, Department Second Junior Vice Commander; Forrest Barka, Chapter 3 Commander; Joe Gutierrez, Chapter 3 Senior Vice Commander and District 6 SEC, and the host of other friends and comrades that lent their assistance. **THANK YOU!**

I promise you that next year I will be more diligent and methodical in my approach to planning the Convention. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas as to how I can accomplish this feat, please let me know via email or telephone. I will consider your suggestions and apply them accordingly if possible and within reason.

May all of you and your Chapters/Units have a terrific year and hope that we at Department can provide assistance or guidance when you require it.

*David Alderete, Adjutant*

## **Special Oryx Hunts For Servicemen And Women**

Injured military service members can apply online beginning June 14 for an upcoming special drawing by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) to award three special oryx authorizations for hunts on White Sands Missile Range.

Applicants must be active-duty or veterans of the U.S. military who have a disability rating of 50 percent or greater in accordance with U.S. Veteran's Administration guidelines for receiving disabled veteran benefits. Significantly injured, active-duty military members also may apply and will need to submit supporting documentation to the department prior to the July 19 application deadline.

The hunts will be three days between Sept. 1, 2017, and March 31, 2018, with dates and areas to be determined by the successful applicants in coordination with White Sands Missile Range. These hunts will not be considered once-in-a-lifetime.

For more information visit [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us) or contact the Game and Fish Department's Information Center at (888) 248-6866.

## **DAV AUXILIARY NEWS**

Congratulations to all newly elected unit and DAVA Department of New Mexico officers for the coming year. Hope we are all ready to work toward our organizations goals and we urge everyone to continue to volunteer as much as possible.

We had a successful state convention. The state department officers elected at convention were Teresa Barr as Commander, Diana Wong as Sr.-Vice Commander, Jerry Hernandez as Jr-Vice, Heidi Green as Treasurer, Karen Roybal as Judge Advocate. Victoria Salazar was appointed as adjutant and Clara Deming as chaplain. Commander Teresa Barr was elected as DAVA Department of New Mexico delegate to national convention and PSC Brenda Moore elected as alternate.

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

>National DAV/DAVA Convention July 29-August 1, 2017 to be held in New Orleans, LA. The auxiliary agenda begins on July 27<sup>th</sup> with the National NEC meeting and the District 17 NEC meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

>National Fall Conference September 28-30, 2017 to be held at the Lexington Embassy Suites, Lexington, KY. Room rates are \$124 for single/double, \$134 triple/quad. Call for room reservations 1-800-EMBASSY or direct to hotel at 1-859-455-5000. Agenda and additional info was mailed to unit adjutants or can also be found at DAV.org.

>The CO State Fair starts Aug. 26th and CO State Commander Leslie Sandoval has extended an invitation to all NM DAVA members to participate in their activities. For more information, give me a call.

We will relay information for DAVA Department of New Mexico SEC as soon as we set a date which will be held sometime in October.

**Vicky Salazar, DAVA State Adjutant**  
**(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](http://www.davnewmexico.org)



# Departed Comrades

Humm, John M., Chapter 14  
Keegan, James H., Chapter 14  
Klingenberg, Ernest R., Chapter 14  
Murphy, Jim R., Chapter 14  
Penney, Meyers F., Chapter 14  
Roche, Harold E.  
Walker, Ruth R., Unit 38

*(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*

## NEW LVAP

## EFFECTIVE JUNE 30

As of June 30, 2017, I will be taking over the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP). I will be processing and logging the hours for all Chapters and volunteers in New Mexico. All volunteer hours must be turned in to Department by the last workday of the month and must include each volunteer's FULL NAME and LAST 4 OF THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. If this information is not included, we will not be able to log the hours with National. If you have any questions about the program, you can contact me at (505) 401-6352. You can also call Department or the DAV Voluntary Services Department at (877) 426-2838.

Thank you!  
Forrest Barka



## PAST COMMANDER

## RONNIE BRITTAIN

**1956-2017**

Past Department Commander Ronnie Brittain passed away May 27th, 2017, just one day shy of his 61st birthday. In his 30 year involvement with the DAV, Ronnie worked his way up through DAV Department ranks to become Commander from 2010-2011 and had served as the Adjutant for Chapter 21 Gallup, for many years.

His leadership, winning smile and warm demeanor will be greatly missed by Department, Chapter 21 and throughout NM DAV.

Rest well, Comrade!