



Disabled American Veterans

Department of New Mexico

Newsletter

Volume #2 Issue #3 September 2017

National Convention 2017



National Commander Metcalf-Foster

This year is an extremely great year in that not only do we have the first woman elected as National Commander (Delphine Metcalf-Foster, pictured above), she is also African American and the daughter of a Buffalo Soldier. She is also the first woman to lead a national veteran's service organization. Commander Metcalf-Foster is a retired Army First Sergeant who is also a Combat Wounded Veteran. This lady has such an impressive resume/biography that it would take three newsletters to list all of the accomplishments in her lifetime of service to our great nation. I invite you to go on the DAV web site and read all about her and I am sure that you will see more in future DAV publications about this wonderful lady. As we all know, her predecessor Commander Riley has been very effective and I am sure that Commander Metcalf-Foster will be as effective if not even more so in the coming year. During her acceptance speech, the entire audience was on their feet as she laid out her plans for the year. I recommend that all of the DAVNM get in behind the new Commander and support her to the fullest because I am sure that she is supporting us. I feel that with Commander Metcalf-Foster at the helm of an outstanding staff of elected and appointed officers at DAV National we will see great things happen this year for DAV.

(photo and article courtesy of Dept. Treasurer Larry Johnson)

National Officers Elected

The National Officers elected this year are as such:

Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster (CA), Sr. Vice Commander Dennis Nixon (TX), 1st Jr. Vice Commander Stephen "Butch" Whitehead (MN), 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Donald Day (NY), 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Andrew H. Marshall (FL), 4th Jr. Vice Commander Josepha Parsewich (MN), Chaplain Michael Dover (GA, reelected) and Judge Advocate Michael Dobmeier (ND, reelected). For more information on appointed positions, go to dav.org.

District 17

(NM, CO, WY, UT)

The District 17 representative for the next two years is Paul Jackson from Colorado with New Mexico Sr. Vice Commander Tim Talley as the Alternate. We look forward to these two gentlemen leading District 17 into the future.

In addition, New Mexico had other members elected/appointed to other posts and we are very proud to have them representing us. They are:

Constitution & Bylaws Committee: Gene Weber, PDC

Legislation & Veterans Right Committee: Edward C. "Mitch" Mitchell, DAVNM, 1st JVC, (Chapter 5)
Alternate, George Perez, PDC (Chapter 3)

Committee on General Resolutions & Membership: Alternate, Gary Prescott, NSO, Albuquerque, (Chapter 5)

As you can see, New Mexico is well-represented in District 17 and we think that our state will assist in moving the DAV ahead in the coming years.

Convention Attendance

The 96th Annual Convention was well attended this year. Total attendance was 8865 with 32 State Departments and 450 Chapters from around the country being represented. This includes representatives from New Mexico's State Department as well as members of Chapters 1, 3, 5, 6 and 9, members from Units 1, 3, and 9 and our National Service Officers.

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96th DAV National Convention (respectfully submitted by Department Treasurer Larry Johnson)

As with all of our national Conventions we could write a book on all of the events that took place, as well as the various Committee meetings and talks that were given. Given the short amount of space for this report we will only list the highlights and as always you can go on the DAV.org Web site and read more about the Convention. It is impossible for any one individual to attend all of the events at the Convention, therefore the New Mexico contingent was split up and assigned to attend the various meetings.

VA presentation by Dr. David Shulkin, Secretary of VA. Dr. Shulkin gave a very impressive speech regarding the current state of affairs of VA and it was extremely interesting all of the improvements that are on-going within the system. I can see many more improvements in the coming years. The major thing that he brought up was the approval of the \$186.5 billion budget that has been approved. There were many other things but I would suggest that everyone go on the DAV web page to see what all was presented.

Dr. Kenneth Lee was selected at the Outstanding Veteran of the year and he, too has quite an impressive resume. His complete story was in the July/August edition of the DAV magazine.

Service and Legislative Seminar. This was a round table discussion with Congressman Tim Waltz, Deputy Under Secretary of VA, Robert Reynolds and our own Dr. Sky McDougal, Director of New Mexico Health Care Systems. This was an extremely informative seminar and many items were discussed that would be of interest to all of the people in New Mexico.

The Inspector General and Fundraising Seminar. This was conducted by Mr. Ed Hartman and his team. There were many things of interest that he discussed. He started off the discussion with the statement, "THE IRS IS COMING". With this said he explained that this past year we had lost 25 Chapters nation-wide because they lost their charters by not submitting their necessary Federal and State Tax documentation as required by law. He stated that all departments and chapters should be diligent to ensure that their documents are in order. His seminar was very good as it gave an insight to what all is required of the Departments and Chapters to keep their books in order. *Note: If anyone is interested in the entire seminar the Adjutant and JAG of Chapter 5 have good Trip Reports on this seminar and by contacting the Adjutant of Chapter 5 he would be glad to send copies of them to you.*

Women Veteran's seminar. As in previous years this was a very informative seminar and you can read all about it on the DAV Website. One of the big pushes for 2017/2018 @ National is to do more to support the Women Veterans programs. I would look for DAVNM to get on board with this and make some headway locally in getting as much done as possible this year.

Fun Night: I would be very remiss if I didn't say something about the Gary Sinise and Lt. Dan Band show. This, as in the previous 10 years has been a stellar performance and I can assure you that everyone enjoyed it the entire show as they do a bang-up job. For all of us old Vietnam Vets it reminded me of the USO show formats that we saw so much and it brought back so many memories to this old war horse. On a personal note, I think that this is the only reason that my wife enjoys the conventions so much . LOL

This is all for now and I hope that many more of our New Mexicans will try and go to the Conventions next year because they are well worth the time and effort spent to go. I can assure you that if you go you will learn things as long as you attend the functions. These are not vacations, rather they are an opportunity to learn more about the DAV. Yes, during the times that there are not things for you to attend then there are plenty of things to do on your own. As you can see Reno next year is considerably less expensive than New Orleans was so start saving your pennies and we hope to see many of you there!





From the desk of The State Commander

Hello, Comrades! It's been a busy few months with many events to attend and work to be done. I hope this finds you all well.

At the beginning of July, I attended the State Commanders and Adjutants event in the Cincinnati area. I traveled with Senior Vice Tim Talley and it was the first time attending for both of us and it turned out to be enjoyable and informational. We attended many meetings and learned quite a bit. So much, in fact, that it was hard to keep track of everything after a while. We toured National Headquarters and met National Commander David Riley (see right) and enjoyed a river cruise and "Oktoberfest in July" which featured traditional German fare and large steins of beer. All in all, a very positive experience.



Department Commander Eddie Maestas with National Commander David Riley at the C&A.

I was unable to attend the National Convention in New Orleans because of prior commitments, but that subject will be covered elsewhere in this Newsletter

On August 14th, I attended the ribbon cutting for the Taos Veterans' Cemetery. The Vietnam Veterans Color Guard was in attendance as well as Congressman Ben Ray Lujan. Chapter 12 Commander and District #2 SEC Francis Cordova did the ribbon cutting honors and gave a speech in which I was recognized. The cemetery is approximately 25 acres and much-needed as the National Cemetery in Santa Fe is running out of plots. There was a Luncheon following the ceremony where enchiladas and posole were served up to the 200+ attendees.

For all of you who are interested, Ben Ray Lujan is planning to attend Chapter 15's meeting on September 5th to discuss what he is doing to help veterans. The meeting will be held at Buffalo Thunder at 7pm. If you would like more information on this, please call me at (505) 901-9649.

Eddie Maestas, Commander



Members of Robert C. Lopez—Ernie Pyle—Cutting, Chapter and Unit 3, Albuquerque, attend the Ernie Pyle event.

Ernie Pyle Birthday

On August 3rd, the birthday of WWII news correspondent Ernie Pyle was celebrated at the New Mexico Veterans' Memorial in Albuquerque. Pyle, who was a resident of Albuquerque, has a local public library and a middle school named for him as well as being included in the name of DAV Chapter 3 in Albuquerque.

The well-attended event featured keynote speaker Joseph Galloway, a Vietnam War correspondent and author of "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young", the Ernie Pyle Middle School ROTC color guard, and local historian Baldwin Burr's presentation, "Ernie Pyle: A One Man Show".

Ernie Pyle was born August 3, 1900 in Indiana and was killed by a Japanese machine gunner on Ie Shima, a small island off of Okinawa, on April 18, 1945.

Adjutant's Notes



Once again, the Department finds itself dealing with the lapse of time going by so rapidly. The State and National Conventions have come and gone, leaving us with the expectations of Veterans Day in November along with the prospects of doing some much needed fundraising at the Golden Corral during Veterans and Military appreciation day during which a dinner is served to all veterans on or near the ensuing Monday of November 11th. This event is followed by the Thanksgiving Day holiday which finds Chapters, as well as Department, scrambling to seek donations of food items needed to put together holiday food baskets including turkeys, hams, side dishes and desserts. This will be followed by the Christmas season with many of the Chapters planning seasonal events including the abovementioned food baskets, presents, get-togethers and other events which will be enjoyed by a multitude of veterans and their families in and out of the VA Medical Center.

Department will be planning an extensive sock give-away during the Christmas holidays. This event has been made possible by the donation of \$2300 by Rio Grande Credit Union to Chapter 3 to purchase socks and underwear for all veterans wherever they may be situated. As always, Chapter 3 will share this donation with Department and Chapters throughout the state.

George Perez, Past Department Commander, was instrumental in obtaining a trip for two to Laughlin, Nevada which Department hopes to start raffling off very soon. The details should be worked out by the first week of September 2017 and will be announced during the State Executive Committee meeting on September 8th.

With all this information to digest, I will bid you "Adieu" and trust that everyone will be well along with your families, Chapters and fellow Veterans.

David Alderete, Adjutant



Above left: Dept. and chapter 3 Adjutant David Alderete and RGCU employee Rebecca Pierre.

Above right (left to right): Department Treasurer Larry Johnson, SO Dana Weakley (Chapter 5), Past Dept. Commander George Perez, RGCU CEO Chris Fitzgerald, Chapter 3 Commander Forrest Barka, SO and Dept. Sgt. At Arms Rob Brown, and Dept. Adjutant David Alderete.

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Lupe Cruz Celebrates 20 Years With the DAV

Transportation Coordinator Lupe Cruz was honored for 20 years of service to the DAV with a lunch at Outback Steakhouse in Albuquerque on June 30, 2017. The lunch was attended by members of Lupe's family and Department Officers and staff. Thank you, Lupe, for 20 years of hard work. Here's to 20 more :)

Holiday Party!

We invite all DAV/DAVA members, friends and family to attend Department's annual Holiday Open House to be held at Department on December 8th starting at noon. The meal will be provided and we invite you to bring desserts. See you there!

DAV AUXILIARY NEWS

The DAV/DAVA national convention which was held In New Orleans was a great success and set a historical record with the DAVA electing William Craig Johniken as the first male commander. Our own Ellen Timmerman was elected as Sr.Vice Commander. She will be running for national commander next year at the convention to be held in Reno, NV. I urge all chapters and units to try to send delegates to this convention so that we can show our support for Ellen.

The next events that you need to remember are as follows:

>National Fall Conference September 28-30, 201 to be held at the Lexington Embassy Suites, Lexington, KY

>SEC meeting Saturday, October 14, 2017 to be held at DAV Depart headquarters starting at 10:00 am. Refreshments will be available at 9:30 am.

There were many changes to by-laws which were voted on and passed for DAVA. Copies were mailed to Unit Adjutants. Further information will be issued by DAVA National soon. The change with major impact would be changes regarding our fiscal year reports to be the same for all units. We also need to remember to file 990N with IRS. Thank you to the units who have already done this; remember to send copies to DAVA National headquarters, DAV Dept. of New Mexico, and DAVA Dept. of New Mexico. Keep original for your units.

Vicky Salazar, DAVA State Adjutant

(575) 313-1373



Members of Three Crosses Unit 38, Las Cruces (left to right: Barbara Wright, Anneliese Rauber, Jerry Hernandez and Elodia Bell) at their recent forget-me-not fundraiser at Sam's Club in Las Cruces.



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

Bullard, Leray, Chapter 3

Neff, James B, Chapter 5

Bailey, Robert J., Chapter 9

McLain, Lonny C., Chapter 9

Davis, Charles D., Chapter 10

Hassman, Eugene W., Chapter 10

Hernandez, Robert A., Chapter 10

Padilla, Salomon, Chapter 10

Wray, Matthew J., Chapter 10

Lanouette, William J., Chapter 14

(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)

NOTR Suspended

On August 18, National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster drafted a memo in which she ordered the immediate cessation of NOTR activities at all levels (imperial, sector and dugout) due to alleged abusive treatment of DAV members by NOTR at the recent National Convention held in New Orleans. This means there shall be no meetings, fundraising activities, expenditure of NOTR funds or any other event conducted in the name of the NOTR in any state. Commander Metcalf-Foster has called for a meeting in Hebron, KY on September 7th between the leaders of NOTR and national leadership to try and resolve the issue.

A Message From National DAV POW/MIA Interim Committee Member

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is normally the third Friday in September. This year it falls on September 15th and all across the nation, memorials will take place to remember all our POW/MIA comrades. The question is what is your Chapter or Department doing to remember our comrades on this day of recognition? Below, I have listed just some of New Mexico's information available to you at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's website at www.dpaa.mil.

As of June, 22, 2017, the following information was compiled from the above website. (From New Mexico, only the following is presented for your information, please visit the site mentioned above)

- **World War II** total still missing or unaccounted for: 73,119 From New Mexico: 599
- **Korean War** total still missing or unaccounted for: 7740 From New Mexico: 44
- **Vietnam War** total from New Mexico unaccounted for: 12
- **Iraq theater & other conflicts** total missing: 6 From New Mexico: 1

If there is any good news out of this, it is that DPAA-POW/MIA and many other organizations are making progress in searching for and recovering remains of our comrades.

From December 14, 2016 through June 22, 2017, 83 remains have been identified and returned home to the families for proper burial. Progress is slow because of funding issues and the lack of a National Director being appointed by Washington. Over the years, DNA and forensic procedures have improved so DPAA and others are continually identifying remains.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene (Gene) Weber
National DAV POW/MIA Interim Committee