



(516) 887-7100 Fax (516) 887-7175

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, INC.
200 Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook, New York 11563



June 2008 Newsletter

PASSING THE TORCH

Theodore A. Barbuto, Department Commander

"Today, we need a nation of Minutemen, who are not only prepared to take arms, but citizens who regard the preservation of freedom as the basic purpose of their daily lives, and who are willing to consciously work and sacrifice for that freedom." - John F. Kennedy

It has been an amazing year. Since our last newsletter, I have continued to carry our message of service. Our Anniversary Dinner at the El Caribe was a commemorative event. Many of our members enjoyed a delicious meal, fantastic music and the fellowship of being with one another again. Debbie and I found out how to shop in an hour when our luggage didn't arrive with us! Thank you to Tom and Helen Mazza and Anthony and Gloria Mirando for helping to save the day for us!

It was an honor to attend a ceremony in Norwich, NY as DAV Voluntary Transportation was extended to the Chenango and Southern Madison County areas. The main hub will be in Norwich, New York. I, along with Frank Caputo, Syracuse HSC and Robert Hawes, Voluntary Services was pleased with this expansion of services promoted by DAV Cortland Chapter 153 and VFW Post 2782. Congratulations on this feat.

Congratulations to DAV Auxiliary Unit #88 Lt. Vibert O'Fryer on their 60th anniversary. They continue to work alongside their parent chapter, DAV Chapter 88. They are the oldest active auxiliary unit in the United States according to Past National Adjutant Maria Tedrow. They celebrated their anniversary on June 7, 2008. We thank them for all they continue to do to help assist the Disabled American Veterans Department of New York and their families. I wish them many more years of continued success, service and comradery.

At this time I would like to thank the members of the New York State Disabled American Veterans, the State Department, our Auxiliary and all of my comrades that have supported me and my family during my year as your Department Commander. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside each of you. Thank you for the encouragement, hospitality and friendship. I will continue to do all that I can to serve the Disabled American Veterans as we continue our mission for care for our brothers and sisters injured in the line of duty as well as our families.

I wish our next Commander well and congratulate him as he continues the work of leading this great organization as his predecessors have entrusted him to do. It has been a wonderful experience that I will never forget.



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God Bless each of you and God Bless the Greatest Country in the world, the United States of America.

CALL TO THE CONVENTIONS

Sidney Siller, Sr., PDC; Department Adjutant

One of the most interesting events that occurs in the summer season is the notice of the Annual Disabled American Veteran Department of New York, and the National Department Conventions. The necessity of annual meetings is too many of our younger members probably rationalize that it is less important than it is to those of us who have been participants for many years. The issue of why we need to meet is not solely for the purpose of electing our leaders for the coming year, or a narcissistic opportunity to engage in praising each other; as it is to give meaning and renewal to our mission.

There are some of us who feel the financial costs of sending delegates, is channeling money in the wrong direction. That partying, epicurean dinners, and profligate bar escapades are not how progress and dedication are achieved. I can assure you that DAV New York and National DAV expenditure of funds for these conventions is executed in a measured and careful manner.

The need to have conventions meets the need to deal with old as well as new issues.

For example, what will be the thrust on preventing retrenchment and review of Congress's latest attempt to unfairly review old compensation cases? Surely, this issue alone is enough to involve the most vocal of us who sees no need to convene, either locally or nationally – even if we could ever figure out a way to do it electronically from our bedroom or car, we would lose the intangible element of human contact.

Then, there are the current issues, such as TBI cases; “supposedly” increasing veteran suicides statistics; lack of improved health care for our women veterans; and of course realistic analysis of the state of rehabilitation of the homeless.

If that is not enough to cater to the most cynical of us, then how about the fraternal side of enjoyment? I for one enjoy doing the hard work of a convention; exhausting as it can be. But, I must confess, I enjoy the many friendships I have formed with so many.

A year ago someone at the National Convention asked those of us from WWII to stand. I looked around and saw about 25 men stand. What a shock to see so few left in that Great Hall. I for one look forward to seeing all of them again. Why? Because we still need each other. So be there!



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ALL NATIONAL CONVENTION (GO-ERS) DELEGATES

If you are attending the National Convention in August, please note that the **DAV District Meetings for our District** will be held on **Friday, August 8, 2008 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm and it is imperative that you be there.** Check the Convention Agenda for the meeting room location.

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT YOUR 2008 DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

You'll need delegate credentials to represent your Department, Chapter or Auxiliary Unit during the 87th DAV and Auxiliary National Convention at Bally's in Las Vegas, Nev., "so don't leave home without yours."

"It's important for all DAV and Auxiliary delegates attending our National Convention to obtain proper credentials to be seated as voting delegates representing their Department, Chapter or Unit," National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson said. "Having proper credentials maintains the integrity of our convention system and guarantees the most accurate representation of the will of the membership of this great organization."

National Membership Director Anthony Baskerville stressed the electoral process is the key to the future of the DAV and Auxiliary, adding the National Membership Department is prepared to assist anyone in order to make the process of obtaining credentials as easy and accurate as possible.

Details of the credentialing process are mailed to all Departments, Chapters, Auxiliary State Departments and Units well in advance of the National Convention. The April Membership Memo is scheduled to include all necessary forms needed for credentialing. The forms must be signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the delegate's appropriate Department or Chapter or Auxiliary State Department or Unit. All subordinate organizations of the DAV should select delegates and alternates as soon as forms arrive and be sure to get the lists of delegates and alternates to National Headquarters before the July 11 deadline.

Remember, conventions are for guests too. Be sure to register guests attending the National Convention to ensure they will have registration badges permitting them to attend many business sessions and lots of planned social functions.



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The 87th DAV and Auxiliary National Convention at Bally's Las Vegas will certainly be a fun-filled, exciting event you won't want to miss. Get your credentials, and join us for a great convention.

VETERANS BENEFITS EXPIRATIONS

Source: NAUS: May 30, 2008

Many of your earned benefits have an expiration date. Below are several of the more important ones to remember. Make sure you know take advantage of your benefits before they expire.

Tuition Assistance: \$4,500 a year that expires as soon as you transition from Active Duty.

Montgomery GI Bill for Active-Duty (MGIB): 10 years from date of last discharge or release from active duty.

Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP): 10 years from date of last discharge or release from active duty.

Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR): 14 years from the date of eligibility for the program, or until released from the Selected Reserve or National Guard. Some extensions are available if activated.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VocRehab): Generally, 12 years after separation from service or within 12 years of being awarded service-connected VA disability compensation.

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI): Coverage ends 120 days after separation or can be extended up to 1 year for totally disabled veterans.

VA SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

Suicidal ideas and attempts to harm oneself are the result of problems that may seem like they can't be fixed. The Department of Veterans Affairs has set up a toll-free National Suicide Prevention hotline staffed seven days a week, 24 hours a day. If you feel you are in crisis, call toll-free **1-800-273-TALK** and tell them you are a veteran. You'll be immediately connected to



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VA suicide prevention and mental health professionals. All calls are confidential. The new VA suicide prevention web site is located at <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans>.

ROLLING THUNDER RIDE TO SUPPORT THE DAV

Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 New York is holding their 4th Annual Motorcycle Ride to support the Disabled American Veterans on Sunday, July 27, 2008. This is a 3-Borough Ride to the Vietnam Wall in Manhattan.

All are welcome to ride. Join the ride and support Rolling Thunder as they support you and your comrades.

The cost of the ride is \$20.00 per bike (\$25.00 with passenger). You will receive a free pin with each paid admission. Free breakfast is available. Sign in starts at 9:30 am at the West Shore Little League located at 340 Walker Street, Staten Island, NY 10303. If you need directions, I have them here at Headquarters.

The Run leaves at 12:00 pm sharp and helmets are a must.

For additional information e-mail SPORTSTERHOG@AOL.COM OR NICKYJOHN1@YAHOO.COM or call Mike at 347-680-9678 or John at 347-598-6749.

The following letter was sent to Honorable James B. Peake, Secretary U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on April 25, 2008:

Dear Secretary Peake:

I read with great interest the recent news release that the Department of Veterans Affairs has mounted a concerted effort to inform combat veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan about the VA's medical services and other benefits. Just when does the VA plan to do the same for combat veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the first Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia and every other conflict?



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This latest announcement serves to reinforce the perception that the VA is evolving into a two-tiered system: one that pull out all the stops when it comes to outreach and service to this newest generation of veterans, but also one that pays relatively scant attention to veterans from previous generations who have served and sacrificed for our nation as well.

Mister Secretary, the VA must not favor one generation of veterans over another. To do so, no matter how well intentioned, does a grievous disservice to all veterans.

Respectfully yours,

David W. Gorman

DAV Executive Director

New York Tuition Awards

TUTION AWARDS

The State of New York's Veterans Tuition Awards are made for full-time and part-time study for eligible veterans admitted to an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution, or in an approved vocational training program in New York State. For the 2008-09 academic year, awards will be set at 98 percent of tuition or \$4,287.50; whichever is less. For more information, visit the [New York State Division of Veterans Affairs](#) website.

CHAPTER OFFICERS - PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

Please take care when filling out the **Chapter Officer Report** and the **Chapter Recommendation For Committees Form**. Make sure the names and addresses are **legible**. Do not forget to include the correct zip codes.

TAPS

Department has been notified that the following comrades have been called into final formation above:

Arthur G. Molinski, Chapter #179, 3/25/08

Jerome J. Kowalski, Chapter #19

Nicholas Ambrosiano, Chapter #19

Marshall L. Barton, Chapter #19



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Murray W. Adler, Chapter #19

George A. Byrd, Chapter #19

Dennis R. Casey, Chapter #19

David M. Loftus, Chapter #19

Vito L. Michielli, Chapter #19

Department and the membership extend deepest sympathies to the family members, friends and comrades of these fallen heroes. May each one rest in honor.

Please feel free to call, write or e-mail davny@optonline.net Headquarters if you have a loss in your Chapter that you would like to include in this column.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2008 National DAV Convention

August 9, 2008 to August 12, 2008

Bally's Hotel Las Vegas

South Las Vegas, NV