



# Disabled American Veterans Department of Florida Newsletter



**By Al Linden, Executive Director**

February, 2017

As of February 23, 2017 our membership was 62, needed to make goal are life members.

## State Commander Jack Johnson Message

Membership should be at the top of your agenda. More veterans move to Florida every year than any other state, so we don't have a lack of prospects just a lack of recruiters. A chapter commander has not had a successful year, if there chapter has not met their membership goal. Receive special recognition from the podium at the department convention for meeting your most important goal.

Attached please find the legislative goals passed at our national convention. Please arrange a meeting with your local congressman and provide them the list. We currently have 1.3 million members, so they should be willing to meet with you.

**: David Shulkin, Veterans Affairs Secretary, Named to 2017 Wash100 for Reform & Healthcare Access Leadership.** Executive Mosaic is pleased to announce David Shulkin, secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as an inductee into the 2017 edition of the Wash100 — Executive Mosaic's annual selection of influential leaders in the government contracting arena. Shulkin was confirmed by the Senate through a unanimous vote in February and has pledged to lead the VA's reform and transformation efforts, as well as help boost veterans' access to healthcare services in the private sector.

## Talking Points for Congress on page 10

Also be reminded that **Chapter Annual Financial Reports are due by September 30 each year.** **Chapter Officers Reports** are due within 10 days after installation each year or when changes are made. ALL chapters make \$50,000 and less and do not file any other IRS form must file a N990 by November 15 each year. Last year 4 chapters failed to do so and their tax exempt was removed and it cost them over \$400 to get it

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
As Of Dec 31, 2016		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,339,642	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$179,822
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TOTAL LIABILITIES&FUND BALANCES	\$1,339,642	

Bay Pines VAVS	\$2304
Gainesville VAVS	\$1000.00
Tampa VAVS	\$1950
Lake City VAVS	\$2225
WPB VAVS	\$1000
Miami VAVS	\$2200
Orlando VAVS	\$7550
Eglin CBOC	\$0



**about**  
**Disabled**  
**American**  
**Veterans**

**on your next**  
**drivers license application,**  
**then they know you care!**

## Secretary of Veterans Affairs



The Honorable Dr. David J. Shulkin was nominated by President Trump to serve as the ninth Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) and was confirmed by the United States Senate on February 13, 2017.

Prior to his confirmation as Secretary, Dr. Shulkin served as VA's Under Secretary for Health for 18 months, leading the Nation's largest integrated health care system, with over 1,700 sites of care serving nearly nine million Veterans.

Before he began his service with VA, Dr. Shulkin held numerous chief executive roles at Morristown Medical Center, and the Atlantic Health System Accountable Care Organization. He also served as President and CEO of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Shulkin has held numerous physician leadership roles including Chief Medical Officer of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Temple University Hospital, and the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital. He has also held academic positions including Chairman of Medicine and Vice Dean at Drexel University School of Medicine. As an entrepreneur, Dr. Shulkin founded and served as Chairman and CEO of DoctorQuality, one of the first consumer-oriented sources of information on quality and safety in healthcare.

A board-certified internist, Dr. Shulkin is also a fellow of the American College of Physicians. He received his medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, and he completed his internship at Yale University School of Medicine and a residency and fellowship in General Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Presbyterian Medical Center. He also received advanced training in outcomes research and economics as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Shulkin has been named as one of the "50 Most Influential Physician Executives in the Country" by *Modern Healthcare*. He has also previously been named among the "One Hundred Most Influential People in American Healthcare." He has been married to his wife, Dr. Merle Bari, for 29 years. They are the parents of two grown children.

### **SUBJ: COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR DAV 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

DATE: February 14, 2017

In 2020, DAV will celebrate 100 years of dedicated service to our nation's veterans, their families and survivors. As part of this special occasion, it is our sincere hope that a commemorative stamp will be issued to recognize this significant milestone. Therefore, we are calling upon all DAV and DAVA members and supporters to contact the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and request that a stamp be issued to commemorate this important time in DAV's history.

Unfortunately, there is no availability to send emails, limiting our ability to fully leverage our Commander's Action Network system. All requests for consideration for a commemorative stamp must be in the form of a letter and mailed through the United States Postal Service. Therefore, we have prepared a sample letter, which also requires the writer to include information on what the DAV has done for them or their family, i.e., assistance with claims or appeals, transportation, disaster relief, hospital visits, provided an outlet for you to help others, etc.

The committee will meet in April 2017 and it is extremely important that we inundate their office with letters of support for a DAV commemorative stamp. The Committee receives thousands of requests each year, so we need our letters to make a memorable impact. Accordingly, we will have space available at our Mid-Winter conference for DAV members to write their letter to the committee.

We also call upon each of you to help us generate letters from our members and supporters across the country. Between now and April, we hope you will find time at your department and chapter meetings to have those members in attendance write a letter and that you will make available paper, envelopes and stamps for them to accomplish this task. It is important that each letter be sent in a separate envelope and that each individual includes a description of why they became a member and what DAV has personally meant to them.

Additionally, we hope that Benefits Protection Team Leaders will send out this message and encourage your grassroots network of followers to send a letter of support for a commemorative stamp. If each of us does our part to generate significant numbers of letters to the committee. I believe we can accomplish our goal.

# INCOME / EXPENSES VS BUDGET

Feb 28, 2017

Actual	Budget	Difference
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Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
	6001 • Convention Income	1,540.00	5,680.00	-4,140.00
	6030 • Midwinter Income	4,353.00	8,700.00	-4,347.00
	6050 • Dues from National	245,159.49	140,000.00	105,159.49
	6100 • Donation fr Service Fd-Principl	0.00	383,695.00	-383,695.00
	6140 • National Fund Raisers	93,607.50	180,000.00	-86,392.50
	6200 • Chapter & Unit 10%	45,738.94	40,000.00	5,738.94
	6310 • Chapter Closeouts	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
	6311 • Donations	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
	6315 • Orange City Income	10,500.00	0.00	10,500.00
	6330 • Lake Panosofkee	2,391.76	4,000.00	-1,608.24
	6331 • Lakeland Bldg Mortgage	8,160.00	12,000.00	-3,840.00
	6333. • Orange City Mortgage	0.00	13,000.00	-13,000.00
	6350. • Drivers License Income	21,510.32	50,000.00	-28,489.68
	6410 • 2015 Service Officer's	12,625.00	10,000.00	2,625.00
	6411 • Service Program Donations	1,075.99	100.00	975.99
	6450 • VAVS Donations	22,965.50	20,100.00	2,865.50
	6800 • Miscellaneous	34,320.78	1,000.00	33,320.78
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>503,948.28</b>	<b>877,275.00</b>	<b>-373,326.72</b>
	<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>503,948.28</b>	<b>877,275.00</b>	<b>-373,326.72</b>
Expense				
	7000.2 • Convention Expense	4,205.00	16,100.00	-11,895.00
	7030.1 • Midwinter Expenses	11,830.71	19,700.00	-7,869.29
	7040.1 • Service Expenses	572,192.65	686,800.00	-114,607.35
	7570.1 • Legislative Expenses	0.00	5,100.00	-5,100.00
	8000.3 • VAVS Expenses	13,940.00	28,250.00	-14,310.00
	8260 • Headquarters Expense	34,050.35	120,600.00	-86,549.65
	8562.2 • National Convention Expense	13,907.82	0.00	13,907.82
	9500.1 • Foundation expenses	792.84	725.00	67.84
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>650,919.37</b>	<b>877,275.00</b>	<b>-226,355.63</b>
	<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-146,971.09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-146,971.09</b>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
	11001.4 • Testimonial Income	4,615.00	5,000.00	-385.00
	<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>4,615.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>-385.00</b>
Other Expense				
	11000.4 • Testimonial Expenses 2015	5,373.29	5,000.00	373.29
	<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>5,373.29</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>373.29</b>
	<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-758.29</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-758.29</b>
	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-147,729.38</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-147,729.38</b>



**MEMBERSHIP**

**FOR**

**Feb 23, 2017**

Chanter	Last yr	trial	part life	full life	total	Goal	% goal	needed	chanter name	2/23/17
001		1,906	8	151	1,730	1,889	1,779	97.25%	-49	JACKSONVILLE #1
002	D	11,164	1,822	977	8,497	11,296	8,479	100.21%	18	EVERGLADE STATE #2
004		2,567	3	144	2,421	2,568	2,463	98.29%	-42	JOHN C MCCARTHY II #4
005		583	1	60	527	588	548	96.17%	-21	THE TALLAHASSEE #5
006		291	1	27	265	293	274	96.72%	-9	ST AUGUSTINE #6
007		849	2	244	641	887	741	86.50%	-100	W WASHINGTON #7
011		1,681	1	73	1,553	1,627	1,574	98.87%	-21	CLEARWATER #11
012		1,497	1	94	1,395	1,490	1,420	98.24%	-25	CORAL GABLES #12
013		2,503	1	107	2,372	2,480	2,396	99.00%	-24	BAY PINE HLDY ISL #13
016		2,777	1	173	2,572	2,746	2,629	97.83%	-57	CENTRAL #16
017	D	761	0	38	739	777	738	100.14%	1	PANAMA CITY #17
018		1,780	1	153	1,650	1,804	1,682	98.10%	-32	MANATEE COUNTY #18
020		356	1	21	333	355	343	97.08%	-10	LAKE CITY #20
022		309	0	13	290	303	296	97.97%	-6	JACKSON COUNTY #22
023		2,151	3	91	2,035	2,129	2,056	98.98%	-21	AL GRAY #23
029		617	1	51	577	629	590	97.80%	-13	PEMBROKE PINES-MIRAMAR
030		1,303	0	101	1,195	1,296	1,228	97.31%	-33	SEMINOLE #30
032		1,361	2	97	1,220	1,319	1,244	98.07%	-24	J L GOLIGHTLY #32
038		1,502	1	194	1,312	1,507	1,388	94.52%	-76	ORANGE PARK #38
042		1,834	0	84	1,753	1,837	1,772	98.93%	-19	WEST PALM BEACH #42
049		322	0	23	297	320	305	97.38%	-8	RIDGE #49
050		238	1	9	223	233	226	98.67%	-3	CENTRAL BREVARD #50
057		445	5	30	411	446	413	99.52%	-2	CRESTVIEW #57
063		164	0	7	153	160	155	98.71%	-2	TRI-COUNTY #63
065		555	0	33	516	549	524	98.47%	-8	ZEPHYRHILLS #65
067		1,249	0	58	1,171	1,229	1,190	98.40%	-19	HERNANDO COUNTY #67
070		597	0	38	546	584	560	97.50%	-14	GERALD A SHONK #70
073		367	3	25	341	369	343	99.42%	-2	TAMARAC #73
078		1,205	0	56	1,125	1,181	1,141	98.60%	-16	NEW PORT RICHEY #78
082		1,120	0	50	1,078	1,128	1,082	99.63%	-4	R L COCHRAN JR #82
083		1,042	2	136	931	1,069	969	96.08%	-38	C W BYERS SR #83
084		1,282	3	68	1,204	1,275	1,213	99.26%	-9	GREATER DAYTONA #84
085		1,141	0	40	1,071	1,111	1,080	99.17%	-9	SOUTH MARION #85
086		632	0	75	559	634	587	95.23%	-28	JIM BOOE #86
087		759	2	39	715	756	723	98.89%	-8	SGT WM E HILL #87
090		891	1	73	815	889	845	96.45%	-30	GATOR #90
094		1,059	0	33	1,006	1,039	1,021	98.53%	-15	C GUSTAFSON #94
097		564	0	39	505	544	518	97.49%	-13	Bee Ridge #97
098		243	1	11	230	242	233	98.71%	-3	EUCHEE VALLEY #98
101		809	0	53	760	813	774	98.19%	-14	VENICE GULF #101
108		658	0	66	625	691	633	98.74%	-8	James D. Radar
109		509	0	27	484	511	488	99.18%	-4	TITUSVILLE #109
110		507	0	31	489	520	490	99.80%	-1	SUN CITY CENTER #110
112		790	6	36	756	798	760	99.47%	-4	BAY AREA #112
113		710	1	40	662	703	673	98.37%	-11	PORT ST LUCIE #113
119		368	0	15	353	368	357	98.88%	-4	ANTHONY P DADDI #119
122		540	0	70	469	539	493	95.13%	-24	MARATHON #122
123	G	637	0	22	598	620	596	100.34%	2	SPACE COAST #123
125		548	2	25	531	558	536	99.07%	-5	CPL P D LYON JR #125
126		179	0	8	169	177	173	97.69%	-4	SUWANNEE MEM #126
129		358	0	17	337	354	343	98.25%	-6	SO BREVARD BCHS #129
133		951	0	80	893	973	909	98.24%	-16	THE GOLD COAST #133
144	G	99	0	8	91	99	91	100.00%	0	LA BELLE #144
148		834	4	78	775	857	795	97.48%	-20	AGNES M TAYLOR #148
150	G	945	0	38	978	1,016	961	101.77%	17	ORANGE BLOSSOM GDNS #150
152		708	0	40	666	706	674	98.81%	-8	SOUTH PALM BEACH #152
155		367	0	14	347	361	350	99.14%	-3	SEBASTIAN RIVER AREA #155
158		201	0	31	196	227	202	97.03%	-6	CRYSTAL RIVER #158
159		20	0	21	1	22	11	9.09%	-10	MIAMI DORAL #159
160	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	POLK COUNTY #160
Dppt		62,405	1,881	4,456	56,154	62,491	57,077	98.38%	-923	



**Legislation  
FOR  
Feb 28, 2017**

### **Leading Veterans Service Organizations Release 30th Edition of the Independent Budget for the 115th Congress**

Today DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) released The Independent Budget Veterans Agenda for the 115th Congress. The collaborative report, now in its 30th edition, outlines legislative and policy issues for the veterans' community and this year immediately precedes the annual funding recommendations for the programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Topping the list of six critical issues for the 115th Congress to address is the need to "strengthen, reform and sustain the VA health care system."

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/leading-veterans-organizations-release-30th-edition-independent-budget-214100513.html>

### **Health Care 'Choice' For Veterans Could Leave Many Without Options**

By GARRY J. AUGUSTINE on February 8, 2017

Unfortunately, the frequent use of the term choice — without any clear definition or specifics — has only added to the complexity and confusion of this debate. To help clarify matters, DAV recently launched a new video, "Putting Choice in Context," along with accompanying social media and grassroots efforts, to educate veterans and policymakers about what choice could really mean.

[http://taskandpurpose.com/health-care-choice-veterans-leave-many-without-options/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=tp-today&utm\\_content=button](http://taskandpurpose.com/health-care-choice-veterans-leave-many-without-options/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tp-today&utm_content=button)

### **Editorial: Assisting veterans after the storm (w/video)**

In the aftermath of January storms, we were quick to realize, one group in particular needed additional help: our military men and women.

Last week, Disabled American Veterans sent representatives from Atlanta, to hand out \$250 vouchers to veterans who suffered storm damage.

We found veterans camped out for hours and hours at the Civic Center to find out if their name would be called so they could receive aid.

The need was great, but the DAV only had so many vouchers.

After our stories aired, and the DAV witnessed the overwhelming need first hand, they issued more vouchers to help Albany-area veterans.

We applaud the DAV and their support to help our military men and women.

However, we feel like more needs to be done.

We call on other organizations to step up and help veterans impacted by the devastating storms.

As they risked their lives so we could be free, the least we can do as a community, is make sure they are taken care of now in their time of need.

<http://www.walb.com/story/34448870/editorial-assisting-veterans-after-the-storm>

### **VA Office in Dire Need of Volunteer Drivers to Take Veterans to Medical Appointment**

The VA office currently has three volunteers in its Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network. The county has somewhere between 8,000 and 9,000 veterans, she said.

"But we really need volunteers because without them, some of our veterans cannot make it to their appointments. And, sometimes we have to say we're sorry, we don't have a driver ... so this is why I'm asking the community."

<https://gantdaily.com/2017/02/08/va-office-in-dire-need-of-volunteer-drivers-to-take-veterans-to-medical-appointments/>

### **Public Law 114-242, the Federal Aviation Administration Veteran Transition Improvement Act of 2016 (S. 2683)**

In 2015, Congress enacted the Wounded Warrior Federal Leave Act which makes up to 104 hours of paid sick leave available to newly hired veteran federal employees with service-connected conditions rated 30 percent or higher. However, certain federal personnel policies do not automatically apply to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) without a legislative change. This new law allows veterans with a disability rating of 30 percent or higher who are hired by FAA and TSA to access additional paid sick leave during their first year on the job for the purposes of receiving medical care related to their service-connected condition.



### **Shulkin promises problematic VA workers will be fired**

Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin promised to crack down on underperforming employees in his first televised interview since being sworn into the post last week.

“When you have one or two or three people who really aren’t doing their job, they bring everybody down,” he said during [an appearance with Fox News host Pete Hegseth, taped Sunday](#).

“And so the very best thing I know from my private sector experience is you’ve got to deal with that, you’ve got to get them out of the system, because it helps not only the veterans, but the people who work in VA who are trying to do the right thing for veterans.”

The interview, which will be shown in sections on the "Fox & Friends" morning show throughout the week, is the first real public comments from Shulkin since he became the first non-veteran in American history to oversee the federal veterans agencies.

He promised to work with Congress on new accountability legislation but also to be an advocate for VA workers, calling them “the best people in health care.”

Hegseth, an Iraq War veteran who was under consideration from President Trump for the VA secretary post, in the interview accused former VA Secretary Bob McDonald of being more interested in maintaining the status quo at the department than firing troublesome employees. Shulkin pushed back on that accusation, saying: “What I heard (McDonald) saying is that it’s very important to have a due process. You don’t want to arbitrarily fire people.”

But he also promised different results than his predecessor.

“Watch us,” he said. “People who don’t show up to work, who do cocaine or who are watching porn at work are going to be fired, because I’m not going to tolerate it, and they’re going to be out of our system. Watch our results there.

“But remember, the vast, vast majority of our employees are dedicated. They could be working anywhere in health care, but they choose to be working at VA. And I’m going to support them, I’m going to be standing behind them.”

Shulkin was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, one of only a few non-controversial Cabinet picks by Trump. He was President Barack Obama’s pick to lead VA health programs for the last 18 months and still sees patients as part of his VA duties.

### **Public Law 114-814, the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (H.R. 5099)**

Allows VA to carry out a five-year pilot program in order to assess the feasibility of accepting up to five donations of real property from an outside entity by formal agreement without paying rent, fees or other means or forms to compensate the donor.

DAV Resolution 126, Support modernizing VA infrastructure.

In preparation for our 2017 Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C., DAV has prepared a preview of the talking points we will be providing for your use in meeting with your elected officials. The preview information may be helpful to you in scheduling appointments with your Representatives or Senators. **Full Talking Points for each of these topics will be posted [here](#) on Friday, February 3, 2017.**

#### **Reform of VA Health Care**

The 2014 access-to-care crisis and aftermath highlighted the need for significant budget and policy reforms of the VA health care system. With the current veterans “choice” program set to expire this year, efforts must move from debating what’s next for VA to create the future VA health care system America’s veterans deserve.

DAV recently launched a new video entitled, “**Putting Choice in Context**,” to educate veterans and policymakers about what “choice” could really mean for veterans and VA health care. With a new President, VA Secretary and Congress in place, it’s critical that any debate about “choice” consider the cost, impact on VA and the resulting consequences for veterans, particularly disabled veterans.

#### **Fiscal Year 2018 VA Budget**

VA began the current FY 2017 with a number of Congressional mandates without the required funds to implement them and its FY 2018 advanced funding woefully inadequate. We will provide the most up-to date budget information at DAV’s Mid-Winter Conference with a call to action to ensure VA receives a sufficient budget to meet the needs of ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors.

#### **Family Caregiver Support and Services**

Last Congress, DAV’s work resulted in measureable progress to expand the eligibility for comprehensive caregiver supports to veterans of all eras. However, legislation was not enacted to correct this inequity. We will renew our efforts in the 115th Congress to ensure veterans of all eras and their caregivers have access to these important services.

#### **Women Veterans**

DAV’s special report—*Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home* identified gaps in benefits and services across the federal landscape for women service members and veterans. A recent Government Accountability Office report offers additional recommendations to improve women’s health programs and comprehensive primary care services for women veterans.

#### **Appeals Reform**

With the help of DAV and other veterans service organizations, VA is working to address its unacceptable backlog in disability compensation appeals. We will continue our focus and efforts on the enactment of legislation for appeals reform in the 115th Congress.

DAV’s official talking points for 2017 Mid-Winter Conference will be posted [here](#) on **Friday, February 3, 2017.**