



# Disabled American Veterans Department of Florida Newsletter



By Al Linden, Executive Director

August 31, 2016

As of August 31, 2016 our membership was 61,164. Needed to make goal are 1,658 life members.

## State Commander Jack Johnson Message

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD IN ATLANTA WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED FROM FLORIDA. OUR ATTENDANCE HELPED OUR CANDIDATE, ANDY MARSHALL BE ELECTED TO 4TH JR. VICE COMMANDER. ALL CHAPTERS SHOULD HAVE THEIR YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORTS COMPLETED. IF YOU HAVE NOT COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 30TH, YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF YOUR BY-LAWS. IT IS ALSO A GOOD TIME FOR ALL CHAPTERS TO REVIEW YOUR BY-LAWS TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE CURRENT. SOMETHING AS LITTLE AS A CHANGE IN CHAPTER MEETING TIME, REQUIRES A CHANGE IN YOUR BY-LAWS. YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SHOULD BE IN PLACE AND SIGNING UP NEW MEMBERS. ALL CHAPTERS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED A QUOTA AND IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO MEET OR EXCEED YOUR QUOTA. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION ON MEMBERSHIP, FEEL FREE TO CALL ME. I AM HONORED TO BE PRESENTING A CITATION TO TWO MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS THIS EVENING IN OCALA.

## National Convention News

Andy Marshall of Florida was elected National 4<sup>th</sup> Jr. Vice Commander and Diane Franz was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> National Jr. Vice Commander of the DAVA at the National Convention. Richard Tolfa was elected National Treasurer by the National Board of Directors.

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

## Service School and Midwinter Conference

The Service School and Midwinter Conference will be held January 16-22, 2017 at the Lake Mary Marriott.

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
As Of July 31, 2016		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,300,087	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$110,346
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TOTAL LIABILITIES&FUND BALANCES	\$1,300,087	

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

**It doesn't cost much  
to show you care**



**about  
Disabled  
American  
Veterans**

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

## **SUBJECT: National Staff Appointments**

Below you will find all staff appointments announced during the National Executive Committee meeting held immediately after the close of National Convention. While I give my congratulations to all appointed staff for their proven dedication and commitment to our cause, special note should be given to a few that have taken on new positions and levels of responsibility: Deputy National Service Director for Training Scott Hope; Assistant National Communications Director Mary Dever and Assistant National Communications Director Bryan Lett.

Executive Director, National Headquarters Barry Jesinoski  
Executive Director, Washington Headquarters Garry Augustine

Inspector General Edward Hartman

National Service Director James Marszalek

National Legislative Director Joy Ilem

National Employment Director Jeff Hall

National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst

National Membership Director Doug Wells

National Communications Director Daniel Clare

National Human Resources Director Randy Reese

Deputy National Service Director Chad Moos

Deputy National Service Director for Training Scott Hope

Deputy National Legislative Director Adrian Atizado

Deputy National Communications Director Ashleigh Bryant

Assistant National Service Director Scott Trimarchi

Assistant National Service Director Justin Hart

Assistant National Service Director Steven Wolf Page 2, Staff Appointments from August 3, 2016

Assistant National Service Director Shane Liermann

Assistant National Legislative Director Paul Varela

Assistant National Legislative Director Shurhonda Love

Assistant National Legislative Director LeRoy Acosta

Assistant National Employment Director Robert Lougee

Assistant National Communications Director Steven Wilson

Assistant National Communications Director Charity Edgar

Assistant National Communications Director Todd Hunter

Assistant National Communications Director Bryan Lett

Assistant National Communications Director Mary Dever

Assistant National Human Resources Director Cody Van Boxel

Associate National Communications Director James Killen

**FROM:** J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant

## **VA Is Enforcing PIV**

We have enforced PIV-only login at nearly all VA facilities, and are now remediating any remaining enforcement issues with applications and systems not originally designed to support PIV. Thanks for your patience and cooperation as VA demonstrates its firm commitment to caring for our Veterans and protecting their information. PIV enforcement also moves us closer to a single sign on (SSO) environment. What does this mean to you? If you already have a PIV badge, it means that you will now use *only your PIV* to access the network, and in the future, any applications for which you had to previously remember *multiple usernames and passwords*.

The Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) is standing by with a quick reaction team to assist with any issues accessing the network or applications. **If you are having trouble with your PIV after you become PIV-enforced**, please call the National Service Desk at **855-NSD-HELP** (855-673-4357), select **Option 5**, then **Option 2**, or e-mail questions to NSD PIV Enforcement at [NSD.PIVEnforcement@va.gov](mailto:NSD.PIVEnforcement@va.gov).

**INCOME / EXPENSES VS BUDGET**  
**August 31, 2016**

	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	0.00	8,700.00	-8,700.00
6050 · Dues from National	149,080.00	140,000.00	9,080.00
6100 · Donation fr Service Fd-Principl	0.00	383,695.00	-383,695.00
6140 · National Fund Raisers	0.00	180,000.00	-180,000.00
6200 · Chapter & Unit 10%	13,336.84	40,000.00	-26,663.16
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	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
6330 · Lake Panosofkee	341.68	4,000.00	-3,658.32
6331 · Lakeland Bldg Mortgage	1,360.00	12,000.00	-10,640.00
6333 · Orange City Mortgage	0.00	13,000.00	-13,000.00
6350 · Drivers License Income	1,547.75	50,000.00	-48,452.25
6410 · 2015 Service Officer's	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00
6411 · Service Program Donations	0.00	100.00	-100.00
6450 · VAVS Donations	1,353.75	20,100.00	-18,746.25
6800 · Miscellaneous	49.99	1,000.00	-950.01

<b>Total Income</b>	170,110.01	877,275.00	-707,164.99
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<b>Gross Profit</b>	170,110.01	877,275.00	-707,164.99
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**Expense**

7000.2 · Convention Expense	1,835.94	16,100.00	-14,264.06
7030.1 · Midwinter Expenses	0.00	19,700.00	-19,700.00
7040.1 · Service Expenses	134,278.07	686,800.00	-552,521.93
7570.1 · Legislative Expenses	0.00	5,100.00	-5,100.00
8000.3 · VAVS Expenses	2,100.00	28,250.00	-26,150.00
8260 · Headquarters Expense	11,142.96	120,600.00	-109,457.04
9500.1 · Foundation expenses	118.34	725.00	-606.66

<b>Total Expense</b>	149,475.31	877,275.00	-727,799.69
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<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	20,634.70	0.00	20,634.70
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**Other Income/Expense**

**Other Income**

11001.4 · Testimonial Income	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
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<b>Total Other Income</b>	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
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**Other Expense**

11000.4 · Testimonial Expenses 2015	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
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<b>Total Other Expense</b>	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
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<b>Net Other Income</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00
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<b>Net Income</b>	<b>20,634.70</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>20,634.70</b>
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**MEMBERSHIP**  
**FOR**  
**Aug 31, 2016**

Chanter	Last yr	trial	part life	full life	total	Goal	% goal	needed	chanter name 8/31/16
001	1,906	8	146	1,707	1,861	1,779	95.95%	-72	JACKSONVILLE #1
002	11,164	1,307	985	8,474	10,766	8,479	99.94%	-5	EVERGLADE STATE #2
004	2,567	3	142	2,392	2,537	2,463	97.12%	-71	JOHN C MCCARTHY II #4
005	583	1	59	519	579	548	94.71%	-29	THE TALLAHASSEE #5
006	291	1	27	261	289	274	95.26%	-13	ST AUGUSTINE #6
007	849	2	241	623	866	741	84.08%	-118	W WASHINGTON #7
011	1,681	1	75	1,534	1,610	1,574	97.46%	-40	CLEARWATER #11
012	1,497	1	91	1,374	1,466	1,420	96.76%	-46	CORAL GABLES #12
013	2,503	0	106	2,341	2,447	2,396	97.70%	-55	BAY PINE HLDY ISL #13
016	2,777	1	161	2,548	2,710	2,629	96.92%	-81	CENTRAL #16
017	761	0	34	721	755	738	97.70%	-17	PANAMA CITY #17
018	1,780	1	141	1,621	1,763	1,682	96.37%	-61	MANATEE COUNTY #18
020	356	1	21	332	354	343	96.79%	-11	LAKE CITY #20
022	309	0	14	289	303	296	97.64%	-7	JACKSON COUNTY #22
023	2,151	3	92	2,012	2,107	2,056	97.86%	-44	AL GRAY #23
029	617	1	49	567	617	590	96.10%	-23	PEMBROKE PINES-MIRAMAR #29
030	1,303	0	102	1,178	1,280	1,228	95.93%	-50	SEMINOLE #30
032	1,361	2	92	1,203	1,297	1,244	96.70%	-41	J L GOLIGHTLY #32
038	1,502	1	189	1,290	1,480	1,388	92.94%	-98	ORANGE PARK #38
042	1,834	0	84	1,730	1,814	1,772	97.63%	-42	WEST PALM BEACH #42
049	322	0	21	296	317	305	97.05%	-9	RIDGE #49
050	238	1	9	222	232	226	98.23%	-4	CENTRAL BREVARD #50
057	445	5	28	401	434	413	97.09%	-12	CRESTVIEW #57
063	164	0	7	151	158	155	97.42%	-4	TRI-COUNTY #63
065	555	0	32	507	539	524	96.76%	-17	ZEPHYRHILLS #65
067	1,249	0	55	1,161	1,216	1,190	97.56%	-29	HERNANDO COUNTY #67
070	597	0	36	541	577	560	96.61%	-19	GERALD A SHONK #70
073	367	2	25	333	360	343	97.08%	-10	TAMARAC #73
078	1,205	0	58	1,112	1,170	1,141	97.46%	-29	NEW PORT RICHEY #78
082	1,120	0	54	1,055	1,109	1,082	97.50%	-27	R L COCHRAN JR #82
083	1,042	2	138	904	1,044	969	93.29%	-65	C W BYERS SR #83
084	1,282	3	68	1,184	1,255	1,213	97.61%	-29	GREATER DAYTONA #84
085	1,141	0	41	1,061	1,102	1,080	98.24%	-19	SOUTH MARION #85
086	632	0	69	553	622	587	94.21%	-34	JIM BOOE #86
087	759	2	39	706	747	723	97.65%	-17	SGT WM E HILL #87
090	891	1	75	807	883	845	95.50%	-38	GATOR #90
094	1,059	0	38	1,000	1,038	1,021	97.94%	-21	C GUSTAFSON #94
097	564	0	39	497	536	518	95.95%	-21	BEE RIDGE #97
098	243	1	12	229	242	233	98.28%	-4	EUCHEE VALLEY #98
101	809	0	43	754	797	774	97.42%	-20	VENICE GULF #101
108	658	0	61	605	666	633	95.58%	-28	JAMES D RADER #108
109	509	0	25	478	503	488	97.95%	-10	TITUSVILLE #109
110	507	0	31	476	507	490	97.14%	-14	SUN CITY CENTER #110
112	790	6	39	741	786	760	97.50%	-19	BAY AREA #112
113	710	1	39	653	693	673	97.03%	-20	PORT ST LUCIE #113
119	368	0	13	351	364	357	98.32%	-6	ANTHONY P DADDI #119
122	540	0	68	459	527	493	93.10%	-34	MARATHON #122
123	637	0	17	589	606	596	98.83%	-7	SPACE COAST #123
125	548	2	22	525	549	536	97.95%	-11	CPL P D LYON JR #125
126	179	0	8	169	177	173	97.69%	-4	SUWANNEE MEM #126
129	358	0	15	336	351	343	97.96%	-7	SO BREVARD BCHS #129
133	951	0	76	874	950	909	96.15%	-35	THE GOLD COAST #133
144	99	0	9	86	95	91	94.51%	-5	LA BELLE #144
148	834	3	81	752	836	795	94.59%	-43	AGNES M TAYLOR #148
150	945	0	34	948	982	961	98.65%	-13	ORANGE BLOSSOM GDNS #150
152	708	0	39	656	695	674	97.33%	-18	SOUTH PALM BEACH #152
155	367	0	14	344	358	350	98.29%	-6	SEBASTIAN RIVER AREA #155
158	201	0	33	187	220	202	92.57%	-15	CRYSTAL RIVER #158
159	20	0	20	0	20	11	0.00%	-11	Miami Springs Chapter #159
Dept. Total	62,405	1,363	4,382	55,419	61,164	57,077	97.10%	-1,658	



**Legislation  
FOR  
August 31, 2016**

## **VA provides service dog benefits to Veterans with mental health disorders**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it is piloting a protocol to implement veterinary health benefits for mobility service dogs approved for Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders.

“We take our responsibility for the care and safety of Veterans very seriously,” said VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. David J. Shulkin. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing appropriate, safe and effective, compassionate care to all Veterans. Implementing the veterinary health benefit for mobility service dogs approved for Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders may prove to be significantly beneficial for some Veterans. The Service Dog Benefits Pilot will evaluate this premise.”

VA has been providing veterinary benefits to Veterans diagnosed as having visual, hearing or substantial mobility impairments and whose rehabilitation and restorative care is clinically determined to be optimized through the assistance of a guide dog or service dog. With this pilot, this benefit is being provided to Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with a mental health disorder for whom the service dog has been identified as the optimal way for the Veteran to manage the mobility impairment and live independently.

Service dogs are distinguished from pets and comfort animals because they are specially trained to perform tasks or work for a specific individual with a disability who cannot perform the task or accomplish the work independently. To be eligible for the veterinary health benefit, the service dog must be trained by an organization accredited by Assistance Dogs International in accordance with VA regulations.

Currently, 652 Veterans with approved guide or service dogs receive the veterinary service benefit. This Pilot is anticipated to provide the veterinary service benefit to up to 100 additional Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with a mental health disorder.

The VA veterinary service benefit includes comprehensive wellness and sick care (annual visits for preventive care, maintenance care, immunizations, dental cleanings, screenings, etc.), urgent/emergent care, prescription medications, and care for illnesses or disorders when treatment enables the dog to perform its duties in service to the Veteran.

Additional information about VA’s service dog program can be found at

<http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/ServiceAndGuideDogs.asp>

### **DAV Elects National Officers for 2016-2017 at Atlanta Convention**

At its National Convention in Atlanta DAV elected National Officers for the upcoming year.

Elected as National Commander was David Riley of Alabama.

Elected as National Senior Vice Commander Dephine Medcalf-Foster of California.

Elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander was Dennis Nixon of Texas.

Elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Jer. Vice Commander was Stephen Whitehead of Minnesota.

Elected as 3<sup>rd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander was Donald Day of New York.

Elected as 4<sup>th</sup> Jr. Commander was Andy Marshall of Florida.



## David W. Riley is DAV's National Commander

Medically retired Coast Guard rescue swimmer and quadruple amputee David W. Riley of Mobile, Alabama, was elected National Commander of the 1.3 million-member DAV at the 95th National Convention.

He becomes the first quadruple amputee and the first Coast Guard veteran to assume the organization's highest post.

Riley, who served in the Army before his inter-service transfer to the Coast Guard, is a life member of DAV Chapter 7, Mobile, Alabama, where he has served at the local level supporting DAV service initiatives and as a volunteer at his local VA medical facility. He was named DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year for 2010. To learn more, [\*\*\*Click Here!\*\*\*](#)

### Veterans' appeals legislation moves forward in Congress

VA convened a workgroup in March consisting of DAV, other stakeholders and VA officials in order to seek common ground on a new framework for appeals. After months of intensive efforts, the workgroup was able to reach consensus on a framework of a new appeals system that could offer veterans quicker decisions, while protecting their rights and prerogatives. The number of appeals awaiting decisions has risen dramatically – to almost 450,000 – and the average time for an appeal decision is between three and five years, a delay that is simply unacceptable.

Before Congress took recess in July, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Congressman Jeff Miller of Florida, introduced H.R. 5620, the "VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016" to the Committee. This legislation could significantly improve the ability of veterans to receive more timely and accurate decisions on their claims and appeals for earned benefits.

H.R. 5620, which contains the new appeals framework, would make fundamental changes to the appeals process by creating multiple options to appeal or reconsider claims' decisions, either formally to the Board or informally within the Veterans Benefits Administration. The central feature of the legislation would provide veterans three options, or "lanes," to appeal unfavorable claims decisions; and if they were not satisfied with their decisions, they could continue to pursue one of the other two options. As long as a veteran continuously pursues a new appeals option within one year of the last decision, they would be able to preserve their earliest effective date. This legislation also allows veterans to present new evidence and have a hearing before the Board or VBA if they so desire.

"If faithfully implemented as designed by the workgroup, and if fully funded by Congress and VA in the years ahead, H.R. 5620 would make a marked improvement in the ability of veterans to get timely and accurate decisions on appeals of their claims," said DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. "We urge the House to swiftly approve this legislation and then work with the Senate to reach agreement on final legislation that can be sent to the President to sign this year."

## 2016-17 National Interim Committee Appointments and Commander Staff Appointments

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Staff Advisor</b>
Interim Constitution & Bylaws Committee	Robert Reynolds, Chair	Alexandria	VA	<b>Ed Hartman</b>
Interim Constitution & Bylaws Committee	Don Samuels		Gallatin	TN
Interim Constitution & Bylaws Committee	Gary Burns		Augusta	ME
Interim Constitution & Bylaws Committee	Wally Tyson		Palm Harbor	FL
Interim Membership Committee	Warren Tobin, Chair	Jamestown	ND	<b>Doug Wells</b>
Interim Membership Committee	Ronnie Maebry		New Haven	CT
Interim Membership Committee	Ed Kalk		Anacoco	LA
Interim Membership Committee	Brandi Hajek		Saint Clair Shores	MI
Interim Legislation Committee	Al Labelle, Chair	Marshfield	WI	<b>Joy Ilem</b>
Interim Legislation Committee	Jim Procnier		Alexandria	VA
Interim Legislation Committee	Gary Lucus		Powell	WY
Interim Legislation Committee	Howard Ray		San Antonio	TX
Interim Employment Committee	John Donovan, Chair	Conway	AR	<b>Jeff Hall</b>
Interim Employment Committee	Misty Summers		Broken Arrow	OK
Interim Employment Committee	Henry "Hank" Bardol		Reading	MA
Interim Employment Committee	Joe Hall		Mandan	ND
Hospital and Voluntary Services Committee	Kirk Johnson, Chair	Marina	CA	<b>John Kleindienst and Adrian Atizado</b>
Hospital and Voluntary Services Committee	Silva Royer		Biloxi	MS
Hospital and Voluntary Services Committee	Nachee Miller		Washington	DC
Hospital and Voluntary Services Committee	Jim Shuey		Omaha	NE
Interim POW/MIA Committee	Vince Darcangelo, Chair	Hermitage	PA	<b>Justin Hart Paul Varela</b>
Interim POW/MIA Committee	Wayne Stratos		Sharon	PA
Interim POW/MIA Committee	Dick Lovegren		Hillsboro	OR
Interim POW/MIA Committee	Eugene Weber		Rio Rancho	NM
Interim Women Veterans Committee	JoAnne Martinez, Chair	Alameda	CA	<b>Shurhonda Love</b>
Interim Women Veterans Committee	Rachel Fredericks		Troy	NY
Interim Women Veterans Committee	Greg Remus		Park Rapids	MN
Interim Women Veterans Committee	Lisa Kirk Brown		Bellingham	WA
<b>Commander Staff Appointments</b>				
National Chief Of Staff	Bill Baker		Enterprise	AL
Officer Of The Day	Deborah Walker		Mobile	AL
Sergeant-At-Arms	Chad Richmond		Pinson	AL
National Convention Chairman	Eddie Figueron		Alexandria	LA

### National Appointment

National Commander appointed Past National Commander Wally Tyson on the National Interim Constitution and Bylaws committee.

# Upcoming Events

- 26Feb

## 2017 Mid-Winter Conference

The Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Arlington, VA from February 26 – March 1, 2017.

[Event details](#)

- 29Jul

## 2017 National Convention

The DAV & DAV Auxiliary National Convention will be held in New Orleans, LA from July 29 – August 1, 2017.

[Event details](#)

- 25Feb

## 2018 Mid-Winter Conference

The Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Arlington, VA from February 25 – February 28, 2018.

[Event details](#)

- 14Jul

## 2018 National Convention

The DAV & DAV Auxiliary National Convention will be held in Reno, NV from July 14 – July 17, 2018.

[Event details](#)

- 24Feb

## 2019 Mid-Winter Conference

The Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Arlington, VA from February 24 – February 27, 2019.

[Event details](#)

- 03Aug

## 2019 National Convention

The DAV & DAV Auxiliary National Convention will be held in Orlando, FL from August 3 – August 6, 2019.

[Event details](#)

- 23Feb

### [2020 Mid-Winter Conference](#)

The Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Arlington, VA from February 23 – February 26, 2020.

[Event details](#)

- 31Jul

### [2020 National Convention](#)

The DAV & DAV Auxiliary National Convention will be held in Dallas, TX from July 31 – August 4, 2020.

[Event details](#)

- 24Jul

### [2021 National Convention](#)

The DAV & DAV Auxiliary National Convention will be held in Reno, NV from July 24 – July 27, 2021.

[Event details](#)

- 06Aug

### [2022 National Convention](#)

The DAV & DAV Auxiliary National Convention will be held in Orlando, FL from August 6 – August 9, 2022.

[Event details](#)

- 05Aug

### [2023 National Convention](#)

The DAV & DAV Auxiliary National Convention will be held in Atlantic City, NJ from August 5 – August 8, 2023.

[Event details](#)

## Ongoing Events

- [Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Night](#)

Military Appreciation Night is a salute to military heroes by Golden Corral Restaurants across the nation. The restaurants offer hundreds of thousands of veterans free meals. Meanwhile, DAV Departments and Chapters collect donations to help them serve veterans in their communities.

## **Carolyn Clancy, VHA Assistant Deputy Undersecretary for Health, Quality, Safety and Value**

Carolyn Clancy leads the strategic direction of the Veterans Health Administration as assistant deputy undersecretary for health, quality, safety and value.

She has previously held roles including the agency's interim undersecretary for health where she managed the nation's largest integrated health care system as well as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's director for 10 years.

Clancy currently leads more than 700 clinical and administrative professionals in the day-to-day operations of the VHA's performance, quality, safety, risk management, systems engineering, auditing, oversight, ethics and accreditation programs.

She collaborates with department leaders and veterans service organizations as well as the Congress and its constituents to help address the immediate and long term needs of the country's veterans.

The physician executive has contributed to the publication of eight academic text books as well as authored, co-authored and provided commentary on more than 225 scholarly journal articles.

She has also served on the National Quality Forum as a member of the board of directors, chair person of the AQA Alliance and as a member on the board of governors of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

### **DAV Priorities Wrap-Up of the 114th Congress**

When Congress returns to Washington after Labor Day, they will have less than four weeks to deal with unfinished legislative matters prior to the November elections. There may even be less time if one chamber of Congress decides to leave earlier than currently planned.

With the number of legislative days dwindling, key legislative priorities of the DAV have yet to be passed by Congress.

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. Congress must act to improve services for women veterans and ensure their unique transition needs are met. Several bills are pending in both the House and Senate to aid women veterans.

Caregivers: Today, only veterans severely injured on or after September 11, 2001 are eligible for comprehensive VA caregiver supports and services. Congress must pass legislation to expand the eligibility for VA's Caregiver Support Program to veterans of all eras.

Appeals Reform: Because VA's inventory of appeals continues to outpace its processing capacity, passing of reform legislation is needed to correct this unacceptable situation and modernize VA's appeal process.

Several bipartisan legislative measures are awaiting Congressional consideration that would address these problems. With elected officials now back in your home state, now is the time to call your elected representatives' district and state offices.

You can find your elected officials' **district** telephone numbers by entering your zip code [here](#). Please call them with this message:

**Ask for their commitment to pass legislation: 1) to ensure VA meets the unique needs of women veterans, including H.R. 1356 and S. 471; 2) to expand access to VA's comprehensive caregiver support program, H.R. 2894 and; 3) to modernize VA's appeal process, H.R. 5620. Also, please press for passage of S. 2921, the Veterans First Act, which contains many of these same provisions.**

**Glenn Sutphin, now the agency's interim head, will become the next permanent director of the [Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs](#).**

Gov. **Rick Scott** and the Florida Cabinet made the hire at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting.

Sutphin, himself a National Guardsman for over 30 years, was the only person interviewed for the position out of [more than 300 applicants](#).

He told Cabinet members he wants the state to focus on building more nursing homes for veterans and doing more outreach to let them know what benefits they're entitled to.

More and more service members, when they retire, want to stay or come to Florida, Sutphin said.

"I've spent my life helping people in uniform," he said. "What we have to do is network so everyone is getting the right information ... I don't mean emails; I mean getting out there and looking them in the face."

The vote for Sutphin was unanimous by Scott, Chief Financial Officer **Jeff Atwater**, Attorney General **Pam Bondi** and Agriculture Commissioner **Adam Putnam**.

He had been chief of staff and legislative affairs director of the state's Department of Military Affairs since 1999, according to his bio. That department includes the Florida Army National Guard and Air National Guard.

Sutphin was awarded more than "50 medals including the Legion of Merit and the Florida Cross, the highest award in Florida, for exceptional performance in outstanding service and achievement," the bio says.

The department's last head, **Mike Prendergast**, stepped down to run for Citrus County Sheriff as a Republican. He was Scott's first chief of staff.

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## **Veterans' Compensation COLA Act of 2016**

On June 28, 2016, Representative Ralph Abraham (LA), Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, introduced H.R. 5588-the Veterans' Compensation COLA Act of 2016.

This bill does not contain the round-down provision of previous years that reduced compensation and pension payments by millions of dollars-at the expense of disabled veterans and their families. Therefore, DAV strongly supports H.R. 5588. To learn more, **[Click Here!](#)** Then click on Advocay Campaigns and then click on DAV-Supported COLA Bill Introduced in the House. Take Action Today!

This bill, if enacted, would provide an increase, effective December 1, 2016, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for the survivors of certain disabled veterans