



DAV Chapter # 1, PO Box 994, Reno, NV 89504-0994

Oct – Dec 2007



DAV Chapter Commander Fred E. Wagar accepts a donation in the amount of \$4,765.00 from Jeannie Hunt, President of World Wings Tahoe Chapter.

The World Wings Organization is made up of retired Pan Am flight attendants. While Pan Am is no longer an airline, the organization still continues and raises funds to donate to various programs that they feel are worthy. This year, they chose DAV Chapter # 1 as their organization to support with a wonderful donation. The only condition for the donation was that it be spent on programs that will affect veterans in the local area. The DAV was more than happy to oblige and appreciates the wonderful support of World Wings Chapter. The DAV would especially like to thank Ms. Hunt for presenting the check to the Chapter at the June meeting. The DAV is looking forward to this partnership as long as the World Wings Chapter is willing to consider us in their generosity.

THANK YOU WORLD WINGS TAHOE CHAPTER!



Volunteer of the Year, DAV Chapter #1 Member, Joe Smith receives the George H. Seal Memorial Award from National Commander Brad Barton at the DAV National Convention in New Orleans, LA.

Joseph Smith, a regularly scheduled volunteer for 11 years and a member of DAV Chapter 1 in Reno, Nevada transports patients within the VA medical center to their medical appointments. With over 10,300 hours, all new escort volunteers are asked to work two days "shadowing" Joe as their on-the-job training. He has a direct effect on brightening the morale of patients with ambulatory problems. When Joe escorts a patient, he is a friendly presence that helps allay the patient's anxiety. It gives the patients great comfort to know there is someone looking after them.

Joe was shocked when told he was being presented the Seal Award and thought he was getting a pin or something and was very happy and honored with this year's recognition. He's known to say, "veterans have their needs and I try my best to help them."



Larry Schweigert wins annual DAV Chapter # 1 Raffle!!

Chapter Commander Fred. E Wagar presents Mr. Larry Schweigert with the 2007 Polaris Quad, which was won in DAV Chapter # 1's Annual Raffle. Larry purchased a ticket when visiting relatives in Reno. He is from Chino Hills, CA. When reached by telephone to advise him that he won, he originally thought it was a practical joke being played on him by a relative in Reno. Thanks to Larry and all of the supporters who bought tickets for the sold out event.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

The fiscal outlook for disabled veterans is the most promising in recent memory. President Bush signed a supplemental spending bill, H.R. 2206, on May 25, which increased the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) fiscal 2007 budget for veterans programs by \$1.8 billion. On June 6, the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (Milcon/VA) Committee approved a spending bill that would provide a significant increase in funding over fiscal 2007 levels. The draft bill would provide \$87.7 billion in total funding to the VA, \$3.8 billion above the Administration's fiscal year 2008 budget request and \$9.9 billion more than was enacted in fiscal 2007. The measure would provide \$43.29 billion in discretionary funding and a \$6 billion increase in VA health care. It would also enable VA to hire 1,000 new claims processors to help reduce the backlog of pending veterans' disability claims. The Senate Milcon/VA Subcommittee approved their spending bill on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, and the full committee approved it on Thursday, June 14, 2007. The full House and Senate are expected to vote on the bill soon; however, significant obstacles loom ahead. On May 31, White House budget director Rob Portman said he would recommend that the President veto any bill that exceeds the administration's budget request for that measure.

Have you signed up to get automatic updates on legislative issues? You can get updates on legislative issues by visiting the legislative site at www.dav.org or by going to <http://capwiz.com/dav/home>. Go online today and register to receive your automatic legislative updates on issues that affect all disabled veterans and their dependents.

Dan Trabke – Legislative Chairman



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THOUGHTS FROM THE COMMANDER:

While our Chapter did not meet during July and August, that doesn't mean that we haven't been busy. Our biggest event of the year was held on August 25th at Sportsmen's Warehouse. We raffled off a Polaris 4-wheeler. This was a 500cc, fuel injected vehicle and 2500 tickets were sold. Mr. Larry Schweigert of Chino Hills, CA, won the 4-wheeler. Congratulations to Mr. Schweigert.

The Chapter officers have continued to meet throughout the summer months to ensure that all of our activities keep rolling. On August 4th, Department Commander Jane Overy met with some of the Chapter members from Chapter 1 and Chapter 7 of Carson City. She encouraged all members in both Chapters to become more involved and I hope that all of you will follow her advice. We have a great Chapter and some wonderful members. We try to make the meetings enjoyable and as always, Leon Gravelin, our Entertainment Chairman and "Chief Cook" provides a great meal after every Chapter meeting.

I would ask that each of you consider coming to our meetings, which are held the 3rd Monday of each month at the American Legion behind the post office on 4th and Prater in Sparks. Meetings begin at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow. I try and keep the meeting to less than an hour and put out as much information as possible regarding veterans' benefits, legislative issues and other matters important to you as members. At the end of the meeting, door prizes are given away. So, come to a meeting and who knows you may go home with a prize.

I want to take a moment to thank all the members who have assisted in the various activities that our Chapter has undertaken since I became commander. Your involvement does not go unnoticed. Whether you spent time sitting in the hot sun, selling raffle tickets, assisting with bingo at the VA Medical Center, asking for donations through our Forget-Me-Not drive, or assisting with the veterans' feeds at the Vets' Center, it is greatly appreciated.

I am looking forward to getting back to our regular meeting schedule. SEE YOU THERE!

Fred E. Wagar
Chapter Commander

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Our Chapter currently has 1,270 full paid life members and 100 partial paid members. The goal for our Chapter for the year, set by National is 1,315 full paid life members. We are currently 45 members short of goal, which places us at 96.58% of goal. We need everyone's assistance in signing up members this year.

To assist with membership recruitment, the DAV Department of Nevada and Chapter # 1 have partnered to offer a special membership package. New members, who pay for a full paid life membership, will receive a \$40.00 discount (\$20.00 from the Department and \$20.00 from the Chapter). Those members who are already partial paid members will receive a \$20.00 discount (\$10.00 from the Department and \$10.00 from the Chapter) when they pay the balance of their membership in full. We feel that this is a great opportunity for those members who want to become part of an organization that is serving disabled veterans and their dependents.

COST FOR MEMBERSHIP:

| Age | Life Amount | Discount | Obligation |
|---------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| 40 or Younger | \$250.00 | \$40.00 | \$210.00 |
| 41 thru 60 | \$230.00 | \$40.00 | \$190.00 |
| 61 thru 70 | \$180.00 | \$40.00 | \$140.00 |
| 71 thru 79 | \$140.00 | \$40.00 | \$100.00 |
| Over 80 | Free | | Free |

Those members who cannot afford to pay a full life membership are still able to pay \$40.00 down and will be billed quarterly until the Life Amount is paid in full (no discount).

We ask that every member of our Chapter consider asking other disabled veterans to join our ranks. Numbers speak loudly when we are contacting our Congressional delegations concerning issues that affect disabled veterans. When testifying before State and National legislative bodies, it is much more impressive when our leaders speak on behalf of a large body of membership.

We ask for your assistance in not only becoming an involved member yourself, but ask someone else to join this great organization as well.

Dave Meidinger, Senior Vice, Membership Chairman

President Urged to Name Strong Leader, Veterans' Advocate to Top VA Post

WASHINGTON—President Bush must waste no time in filling the post of Secretary of Veterans Affairs with a person who will make meeting the needs of our nation's veterans a national priority, said the Disabled American Veterans.

"It is absolutely vital that the person selected to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs be thoroughly versed in all aspects of veterans affairs," said DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman. "With the urgently needed funding increase for veterans programs and services being delayed yet again, a flood of wounded and injured from Iraq and Afghanistan coming to the VA for health care and other earned benefits and the huge backlog of pending disability compensation claims, the VA needs a strong leader who can immediately take charge of the department."

"This is no time for the President to fill such an important position with a 'placeholder' for the remainder of his term," said Gorman. "The VA faces significant challenges stemming from recommendations by two federal commissions that could completely alter the veterans disability benefits system. That makes it imperative that the VA have a leader who is committed to doing what is right for our veterans, instead of bowing to the political whims of the moment. What's needed is a Secretary who can guide the VA toward serving veterans more effectively and more compassionately, now and in the future."

This is especially important as our nation is at war. Those men and women who will be leaving the military to join the ranks of America's proud veterans deserve nothing but the best from the country they served and protected, often at great personal sacrifice," Gorman said. "The VA already faces many challenges in serving the current population of 24 million veterans," Gorman said. "Those men and women returning from the war in the Middle East and elsewhere will continue to add to the VA's workload, presenting the department with new challenges in the future." The 1.3 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation's disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

For more information on this and other legislative issues, visit www.dav.org.



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HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Many times in the last few months, questions have been asked on how to make donations to the Disabled American Veterans. Here is some guidance on where you can donate and how to do so.

Donations can be made in several ways. The easiest method that most people consider is giving a direct donation to the Organization. However, there are other ways of donating as well. Many veterans and/or their dependents will request that upon the veteran's death donations be made to the DAV in lieu of flowers. We also have veterans who leave a financial donation as part of their will. No matter which way is chosen, every dollar is appreciated and used to assist disabled veterans and their dependents.

Questions are always asked as to what level a person should donate. There are basically three levels; the local Chapter, the Department (State) and the National Service Foundation. If you donate to Chapter # 1, the money stays locally and is used for local Chapter programs. Donations to the Department are used at the Department's discretion and will be used for various programs in the state. The final method is to donate to the National Service Foundation. While it would appear that this may be the least favorable for the local organization, the Foundation is actually a very productive use of funds for the Organization.

Chapter # 1 and the Department were extremely fortunate in obtaining funds from the National Service Foundation for a van donated by Chapter # 1 to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to carry veterans from Hawthorne and Carson City to the VA Medical Center. Additionally, funding was provided to hire a 1/2 time Department Service Officer to work out of the VA Medical Center in Reno to assist veterans in filling claims.

No matter how you chose to donate, your generosity is always greatly appreciated. For further questions on how to donate, please feel free to contact the Disabled American Veterans at 775-321-4895.

MEMBER BENEFIT—For the Holidays it's Hickory Farms Discounts

The tradition, taste and All-American appeal of Hickory Farms is now available to DAV Members for 15 percent off the regular cost. Brighten someone's day with one of Hickory Farms' innovative gifts or timeless classics. Hickory Farms has a wide assortment of classic beef and cheese gifts, premium fruits, steaks, seafood, desserts, snacks, nuts, and so much more. Visit www.dav.org/hickory_farms.asp or call 1-800-222-GIFT. The DAV receives a 3% commission from the total purchases made, which helps support DAV service and programs.



FORD MOTOR COMPANY PARTNER RECOGNITION

Ford Motor Company has invited the DAV to join their Partner Recognition Program. The program offers members the opportunity to purchase or lease eligible vehicles at Ford Motor Company's

X-Plan pricing (S-Plan pricing for Mazda vehicles). Eligible vehicles include virtually all Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, Mazda, Volvo, Jaguar and Land Rover products (Certain vehicles may be excluded). This can mean savings of hundreds, even thousands of dollars for our members. Participating in Partner Recognition is easy. Members and employees interested in taking advantage of this opportunity will need our Partner Code, (DAVET). Next, log on to www.fordpartner.com or call 1-877-XPLAN-00 (U.S.) or 1-877-294-7554 (Canada) to obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Finally, visit a participating dealer and identify yourself as a Partner Recognition Program participant.

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

- Fred E. Wagar – Commander
- Dave Meidinger – Senior Vice Commander
- Bart Daniels – Junior Vice Commander
- Paul Gulas – Adjutant
- Connie Backes – Treasurer
- Richard Scheuer – Judge Advocate
- Andy LePeilbet – Chaplain
- Eric Arentz – Department Executive Committeeman

CHAPTER MEETINGS:

3rd Monday of each month at the American Legion on 4th and Prater in Sparks, NV (behind the Post Office)
6:00 PM – Meeting
7:00 PM – Supper

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE

5460 Reno Corporate Drive
Reno, NV 89511
775-321-4895 – Phone
775-321-4899 – Fax

For information on DAV Chapter # 1 and other issues, please call 775-321-4895

THEY DIDN'T FORGET THEIR DUTY PLEASE DON'T FORGET THEM

The history of DAV Forget-Me-Not Drives dates back to February 24, 1926. This was the first time DAV members ever sold the little cloth flowers. That initial DAV Forget-Me-Not drive was held to raise money to support DAV services and provide assistance desperately needed by veterans disabled in World War I. DAV wasn't the first veterans' organization to support some of its humanitarian work through the sale of artificial flowers to the public. In doing so the DAV joined a movement that later became an international tradition now shared by veterans organization all around the world. The idea of using small artificial flowers in this way appears to have grown out of an image carried home from World War I by soldiers who had seen spring flowers sprouting among the graves of fallen comrades and allies. It was an image laden with the symbolism of new life and growth resulting from the sacrifices made by so many.

DAV Chapter # 1 will have their Forget-Me-Not Drive at the Wal-Mart Stores on Pyramid & Spanish Springs and McCarran & 395 and Sclaris on South Virginia on October 27th. Please stop by any of these locations to assist in fundraising or simply by giving in support of our local DAV projects.

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. To assist with this project, please contact Junior Vice Commander Bart Daniels at 425-5842.