



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

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

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



MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER

May 2009 Newsletter
Volume 17 Number 11

Membership Status as of 5/1/09

Trial Members 2,509

Part Life Members 2,703

Full Life Members 49,724

Total Members 54,936

Goal for Full Life Members (100%) 49,606

WHERE DID OUR YEAR GO?

Robert J. Finnerty, Department Commander

Where did our year go? It seems like June of 2008 was last week. Time just flew by. Talking about flying, did you hear about the fly bys in lower Manhattan? It brought back memories of 9/11. People were running in all directions. The government kept it a secret until the 911 operators in New York and New Jersey were overflowing with calls. Question is...what other surprises are we in for?

Let us not forget our duties on Memorial Day. Let's remember those who fell. Young veterans returning from overseas need our help to find themselves again. Encourage them, their friends and families to participate in your activities for the day.

Remember, parade and post our colors, proud and openly. Enjoy our Memorial Day and remember our vets, deceased and living.

On a different issue, an article in the *NavyTimes* stated, "anyone receiving veterans disability compensation would be allowed to shop in military commissaries and exchanges" under a bill introduced by Dan Burton, R-Ind. Shopping privileges would also extend to families of the disabled veterans under the same conditions as families of retirees. There would be no limits on the number of shopping trips.

This bill, HR1818, has some hurdles granting access to go on base. The local stores would sure be against it. Write or email your congressperson and US Senators and ask them to support this bill.

Last month (April), I toured Syracuse VAMC along with PDC Ted Barbuto. The way they treated us was fantastic. My next and last tour will be St. Albans VAMC this month.



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See you all at the El Caribe 88th Anniversary Dinner Dance and at Hudson Valley in June. Until then, God bless our fighting troops and all of our veterans.

“DON’T TREAD ON ME!”

Sidney Siller, Department Adjutant

Is a slogan that rings with every patriotic letter in its expression of individual liberty and freedom. If anyone unjustly maligns our returning troops; it severely damages every veteran, especially disabled veterans.

When it comes down to the bottom line, there is no generational difference; all wartime eras stand as one. A direct blow to “the best of the best,” our returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan when they were called...”recruitment fodder for extremist and terrorist groups.”

What occurred was a report released initially April 2009, by the US Department of Homeland Security, officially published as a document titled “Right Wing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment.” This report warns “the return of military veterans facing significant challenges reintegrating into their communities could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups or lone wolf extremists...carrying out violent acts.”

The report contains no empirical evidence or hard data. Nada!

The report makes an issue that “Rightwing extremists will attempt to recruit and radicalize returning veterans” who “possess combat skills.” This assumes that our returning men and women are zombies and subject to manipulation of extremist leaders.

In eight and a half pages of anti-veteran opinion, totally without proof or hard evidence, the report attempts to connect our veterans to anti-semitism, racism, individual economic failure, and among other things, can’t be trusted with weapons.

The fact is that a FBI report on “White Supremacy Recruitment of Military Personnel Since 9/11,” found all of 19 individuals claiming to be veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who have connections to extremism between 2001 and 2008.

The Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, released this report over the red flags raised by her own agency’s Civil Rights Section; arguing that she was “the U.S. Attorney for Arizona in the 90’s when Timothy McVeigh bombed the Murrow Building in Oklahoma City – and unfortunately he was a vet – that’s where he got his training.”



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In the storm created by the report, Secretary Janet Napolitano stated she...“owed an apology...” to those offended by the report.

However, she in fact did not publicly retract the slanderous report that reminded many of us the insults leveled at Vietnam veterans.

Following the foregoing events, it was reported by the National Commander David Rehbein of the American Legion, that Secretary Napolitano apologized to him.

As you all know, I am a non-partisan basher of politicians that slander; character demean; and deny the rights, privileges, and benefits due veterans. Especially disabled veterans.

An official report of our government that is patently dishonest to our newest greatest generation is an assault on all of the veteran community. This attack is no different to me than the failures that have taken place at the VA in connection with the colonoscopy failures resulting in HIV and hepatitis; or the destruction of VA records; or the stolen laptop records.

In the DAV, whenever one generation of veterans is innocently damaged by our government, we must stand together. When one disabled veteran is denied his rightful benefits; all are denied. When one veteran returns from Iraq and Afghanistan is tread upon, all of us from every war is tread upon. So let us all vow once again - Don't tread on us!

2009 – 2010 CHAPTER SERVICE OFFICER CERTIFICATION TRAINING

DAV National Service Officers from the New York City, Albany, and Buffalo National Service Offices are pleased to be conducting the 2009-2010 Annual Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification Training at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa, 400 Granite Road, Kerhonkson, NY, 12446. This year training will be held on **Monday, June 29, 2009, starting at 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, June 30, 2009, starting at 2:00 p.m. until completion**, in conjunction with the DAV Department of New York's Annual Convention.

Although all are encouraged to attend this training, certification and training materials will be limited to Department Service Officers and newly elected or appointed Chapter Service Officers for 2009-2010. NSO Supervisor Bryan Held has sent official



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notification and instructions to each Chapter regarding this training. **It is vital for this information to be shared at Chapter meetings and the registration information properly completed and returned as soon as possible.**

To date only 12 Chapters have replied to the DSO/CSO training request. Please DO NOT WAIT TO GET THESE IN as we an accurate count for supplies.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this training, please contact NSO Supervisor Bryan Held at (716) 857-3354.

FUNERAL MOTORCYCLE ESCORT

Please be advised that when a Western New York former combat veteran passes away, if the family of that veteran would like a funeral motorcycle escort and/or flag line by the Patriot Guard Riders, they may request it from David Cullen who is the NY PGR Assistant State Captain. David Cullen can be reached at home (716 938-6111) or cell (716- 907-4679).

The Patriot Guard Riders was founded in 2005 by a chapter of the American Legion Riders in Kansas. More information about the Patriot Guard Riders can be found at <http://www.patriotguard.org/> or at <http://www.pgrny.org/>

VA WELCOMING VETS HOME WITH NEW WEB SITE, BLOG

VA News Release April 20, 2009

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched its new “Returning Veterans” Web site -- www.oefoif.va.gov -- to welcome home Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, Veteran-centric Web site focusing on their needs and questions.

“VA is entering the world of Web 2.0, because that’s where this generation of Veterans is already communicating,” said Dr. Gerald M. Cross, VA’s Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Health. “We’re opening our doors to them virtually to let them know what they can expect when they step through our doors in reality.”

The Web site will feature videos, Veteran stories, and a blog where Veterans are encouraged to post feedback. The site also will restructure the traditional index-of-benefits format found on other VA pages into question-based, categorized, and easily navigated links by topic. This will allow Veterans to find benefits of interest easily and discover related benefits as they explore.



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“We hope our returning Veterans find this site easy and helpful, but also engaging,” Dr. Cross said. “As the site grows, we will be linking to Veterans’ blogs and highlighting more of their own stories from their own views. We are their VA, so we are eager to provide a forum for Veterans to discuss their lives.”

INDY 500 FLYOVER HONORS DISABLED VETERANS

Dav News Release 5/1/09

Disabled American Veterans will be honored by a special flyover of two vintage B-25 Mitchell bombers at the 2009 Indianapolis 500 Mile Race.

The B-25s—*Special Delivery* and *Take Off Time*—are fully restored, World War II-era aircraft. These warbirds will twice pass over the Indianapolis Motor Speedway during the NATIONAL ANTHEM prior to the beginning of the race.

“The DAV is honored by the Indianapolis Motor Speedway’s decision to use the world’s most prestigious auto race as an opportunity to turn the national spotlight on our wounded veterans,” said DAV National Commander Raymond E. Dempsey. “It still amazes me to think about the brave men who flew these awesome aircraft into battle.”

“It is fitting that we honor our nation’s wounded veterans with this extraordinary flyover,” said Joie Chitwood, President and COO of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. “The sacrifices of these brave men and women have made for their country make them true heroes.”

While modern military aircraft are standard for such flyovers, the IMS chose the venerable B-25 “War Dog” as a symbol of the courage and can-do spirit of our veterans and active duty military throughout history.

DAV National Adjutant/CEO Arthur H. Wilson said that this special tribute comes at a crucial time in the fight for preserving the benefits and vital medical care for our veterans, including those returning from the battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“In these tough economic times, our wounded veterans unfortunately can get lost in the shuffle. The DAV is fully dedicated to preventing this from happening and recognition from the Hulman-George family and the IMS is deeply appreciated,” Wilson said.

The B-25 Mitchell is a twin-engine, medium bomber that saw extensive action in all theaters of World War II. The aircraft is perhaps best known for the Doolittle Raid, America’s first counterstrike after Pearl Harbor during which Lt. Col. James “Jimmy”



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Doolittle led a squadron of sixteen B-25s from the aircraft carrier USS *Hornet* on a daring, top-secret daytime raid on Japan.

“It’s a rare opportunity for folks to see one of these aircraft flying—let alone two at the same time,” said Larry Kelley, a warbird owner and enthusiast who will pilot *Take Off Time*. “This truly is a unique tribute to the brave men and women from all wars who have been injured in defense of our freedom.”

The 2009 Indianapolis 500 will be broadcast nationally in High Definition on ABC on Sunday, May 24. ABC will start its coverage with a pre-race show at noon (ET); live race coverage starts at 1 p.m. Check your local listing for details. For more information, check www.Indy500.com.

Established in 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway has long prevailed as an icon of motorsports excellence. Beginning in 2009, the Speedway celebrates its Centennial Era, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the facility in 2009 and the 100th anniversary of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race in 2011.

DAV AND COUNTRY KITCHEN PARTNER TO HELP OUR HEROS

DAV News Release 4/29/09

MADISON, Wisconsin – After valiantly serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of our nation’s brave men and women are returning home to face yet another battle.

Of the more than 700,000 new veterans, many are in need of critical medical care and other benefits that can help heal their wounds and aid their entry back into civilian life. Once home, our newest veterans fight each day to receive the quality health care they need, secure a job in a struggling economy and find affordable housing. Many of the 3 million disabled veterans, who served in World War II, Vietnam and other major conflicts, are fighting the same battle years after returning home - to receive adequate health care and the support they need to provide for themselves and their families.

Each year, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the leading provider of free one-on-one assistance to veterans, helps over 250,000 **veterans from all generations** receive the help they need to win this battle at home. DAV helps veterans receive important medical care, provides veterans with transportation to and from hospitals, assists them and their families with disability, education and housing benefit claims, and care for homeless veterans.

With the expected growth in new veterans as more troops are brought home, DAV and Country Kitchen have partnered to heal, hire and house our nation’s newest heroes.



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Beginning May 1, Country Kitchen will launch its “Help a Hero” campaign, collecting donations at participating locations nationwide. Funds collected at Country Kitchen locations will be used to provide critical care and support to our nation’s heroes.

“We have always placed a high value on the sacrifices made by the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces to keep our nation safe, said **Chris McGrath, Vice President of Marketing for Country Kitchen International** “Partnering with DAV gives our customers the opportunity to thank veterans for their service and to help ensure our veterans receive the care and support they justly deserve.”

“We are honored to partner with Country Kitchen to help meet the growing needs of our veterans,” said DAV National Adjutant and CEO Arthur H. Wilson. “Every dollar their customers donate will help us achieve our mission to build better lives for veterans and their families.”

Country Kitchen has the following locations in New York: East Setauket, Massapequa, Patchogue and Smithtown. A new location in Pelham Manor will be opening soon.

UPCOMING MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE STOPS IN NEW YORK

May 23, 2009 Gowanda Harley-Davidson, 2535 Gowanda Zoar Rd, Gowanda
10 am – 4 pm. For more information call 716-857-3354

May 26, 2009 Northport VA Medical Center, 79 North Middleville Rd, Northport
10 am – 4 pm. For more information call 212-807-3157

May 27, 2009 Northport VA Medical Center, 79 North Middleville Rd, Northport
10 am – 4 pm. For more information call 212-807-3157

May 28, 2009 DAV Department of New York, 162 Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook
10 am – 4 pm. For more information call 212-807-3157

May 29, 2009 DAV Department of New York, 162 Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook
10 am – 4 pm. For more information call 212-807-3157

June 4, 2009 Stewart International Airport, 1180 First Street, New Windsor
3pm – 10 pm. For more information call 212-807-3157

June 5, 2009 Stewart International Airport, 1180 First Street, New Windsor
10 am – 10 pm. For more information call 212-807-3157



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June 6, 2009 Stewart International Airport, 1180 First Street, New Windsor
10 am – 10 pm. For more information call 212-807-3157

June 7, 2009 Stewart International Airport, 1180 First Street, New Windsor
10 am – 6 pm. For more information call 212-807-3157

June 13, 2009 Brunswick Harley-Davidson, 1130 Hoosick Road NY 7, Troy
11 am – 3 pm. For more information call 518-626-5690

June 15, 2009 Walmart, 3222 State Route 11, Malone
10 am – 6 pm. For more information call 518-626-5690

June 16, 2009 Plattsburgh VA Outpatient Clinic, 80 Sharon Avenue, Plattsburgh
10 am – 6 pm. For more information call 518-626-5690

June 17, 2009 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6196, 32 Luzerne Road, Queensbury
10 am – 6 pm. For more information call 518-626-5690

June 18, 2009 DAV Oneonta Chapter #200, 279 Chestnut Street, Oneonta
10 am – 6 pm. For more information call 518-626-5690

June 19, 2009 Fonda VA Outpatient Clinic, 2623 State Highway 30A, Fonda
10 am – 6 pm. For more information call 518-626-5690

VETERAN JOB ASSISTANCE

Source: Military.com article 20 Apr 09

The Military Order of the Purple Heart launched a new website at www.vetsjobs.net to assist Veterans in obtaining Federal employment. The website offers a video, "How to Get a Federal Job," that walks Veterans through the process of applying for federal employment. The site also includes links to USAJOBS, the official website for federal jobs, the Department of Labor and the Office of Personnel Management. An additional source is the largest veteran job board in the world at the Military.com Career Center website www.military.com/Careers/Home/0,13373,,00.htm.

MEMORIAL DAY - SHOW YOUR PRIDE

To show their pride in military service and teach younger generations about the value of serving our nation, veterans across the country are urged to pin on their military



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medals on Memorial Day, May 25. Wearing their medals demonstrates the deep pride our veterans have in their military service. It also reminds all American citizens -- especially the young -- about the sacrifices our veterans have made for their freedom. Veterans are encouraged to display their medals no matter what they are doing on Memorial Day, but especially when attending public events.

In Loving Memory

On every soldier's tombstone
should be a message of honor, respect and love:

"In loving memory
of one who loved his country,
who fought against evil
to preserve what is right and true and good.

In loving memory
of one who is a cut above the rest of us,
who had the surpassing courage,
the uncommon strength,
to do whatever had to be done,
persevering through hardship and pain.

In loving memory
of one who was brave enough
to give his life, his all,
so that those he cared about
would remain safe and free.

In loving memory
of a unique and treasured soldier
who will never be forgotten."

By Joanna Fuchs

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Department of New York's 88th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, May 17, 2009
El Caribe Country Club
Brooklyn, New York

Department of New York Convention

June 28, 2009 to July 1, 2009
Hudson Valley Resort



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Kerhonkson, New York

Rehab Cruise XVII

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Nautical Empress

Freeport, NY

Buffalo Bisons DAV Day at the Ballpark

Sunday, July 19, 2009

Coca-Cola Field

Buffalo, NY

For information call (716) 857-3354

2009 National DAV Convention

August 22, 2009 to August 25, 2009

Sheraton Hotel Denver

Denver, CO 80202