

Assorted Info

- ⇒ Our chapter link to the OKDAV.ORG webpage is located under LINKS or at <http://okdav.org/ch44>
- ⇒ Dave Taylor is in need of more drivers. If you are interested in being a transportation driver, contact Dave at 918-625-0719.
- ⇒ Million Veteran Program—The Veterans Affairs (VA) Research and Development program launched the Million Veteran Program (MVP), an important partnership between VA and Veterans to learn more about how genes affect health, to improve health care for Veterans.
 - One blood draw and a survey to be taken at home
 - Muskogee is a MVP collection site
 - <https://www.research.va.gov/mvp/veterans.cfm>
- ⇒ Are you eligible for Tricare? To find out more, go to: <https://tricare.mil/>
- ⇒ Army veteran becomes first woman to lead DAV — Delphine Metcalf-Foster
- ⇒ William Craig Johniken was elected National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary at the 2017 National Convention in New Orleans, LA

- Craig is eligible for membership through his wife, Teresa, a service-connected disabled veteran and DAV member since 1995, and his son, Tim, also a service-connected veteran

- ⇒ Have you joined the DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) yet? Get up-to-the minute information on advocacy campaigns that need your attention!

- To join, visit: <https://www.dav.org/can/>

- ⇒ Facebook Links: (type in the Search bar)

- DAV
- OK DAV (Disabled American Veterans)
- DAV44
- Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary

- ⇒ DAV5K—Register now—Sat 4 November

- Join Eagle Ops for largest Tulsa team

- ⇒ Have you seen the kneeling soldier Jerry Pendergraft made for our building?

- These silhouettes grace our building
- Jerry will make you one for \$200



L-R: Ron Elliot, Jerry Pendergraft, CJ Masters

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Upcoming Events

FUNDRAISING

Bluegrass & Chili Festival @ Claremore Expo

September 7th (4 PM—9 PM)

September 8th (4 PM—9 PM)

September 9th (11 AM—9 PM)

RAFFLES

Chapter Raffle: 308 rifle and Golden Corral 26 Dinners (times 2)

Tickets are 6 for \$5 — Drawing to held on 13 November 2017

Auxiliary Raffle is a beautiful homemade quilt. Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$20

Shop @ the Meeting

Show your chapter pride with a Chapter 44 T-shirt

Chapter T-Shirt—\$20 (sold @ Chapter Bldg)

Can Koozies—\$3 ea or 2 for \$5

Pins: Branch Seal—\$3

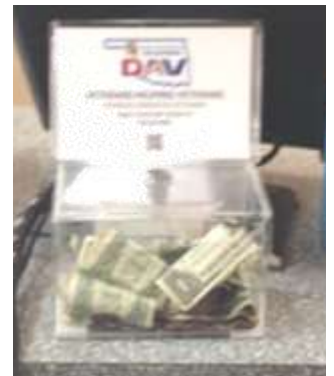
Branch Seal Stickers—\$3

Bumper Stickers—\$4

Branch Tote Bags—\$10

Branch Watch Caps—\$10

(These items also sold at the Chapter.)



**Sign up for
DAV CAN,
[www.dav.org/
learnmore/
legislation/join-
action-network-
takeaction](http://www.dav.org/learnmore/legislation/join-action-network-takeaction).**

TAPS
Remembering the ones
we lost in 2017



- Paul, Harry J
- Stafford, Gary W
- Sullivan, Dudley
- Tanner, Donald R

WELCOME
New members in 2017

- Mark Lester----- Jan
- Robert Olson----- Jan
- Mark Stork----- Jan
- James Wildman----- Jan
- Leonard Crane ----- Feb
- James Hix ----- Feb
- John Lauser----- Feb
- Richard Saltmarsh----- Feb
- Aiesha Ronje ----- Mar
- Joseph Chuck ----- Apr
- Jerry Kibby ----- Apr
- Michael Miles ----- Apr
- Christopher Baldwin ----- May
- George Fritts----- May
- Gregory Patrick ----- May
- Charles Tedder----- May
- Jan Wilfong----- May
- Daniel McLerran ----- Jun
- Richard Stangand ----- Jun
- Larry Wilkinson----- Jun
- James Baughn ----- Jul
- Joseph Brausen----- Jul
- Kenneth Crowley ----- Jul
- Arlon Forbus ----- Jul
- Marcus Lutz ----- Jul
- Louis Monks----- Jul
- Johnathon Shepherd ----- Jul

2017 Meeting Info

- ⇒ Financials—thru 31 July, 2017:
- Ending Savings Account: \$23,967.32
 - Ending Checking Account: \$9,514.76

⇒ **STATISTICS** (January 2017 thru July 2017)

- Emergency Grants:
35 Grants totaling \$18,468.76
- Membership:
473 Total membership
- Service Officers:
926 Average phone calls received
1550 Veterans seen at the chapter office
3462 Volunteer hours during service officer work
- Transportation:
95 Veterans transported
6176.2 Miles driven
393 Volunteer hours
- LVAP (Local Volunteer Assistance Program)
2820.75 Service Officer volunteer hours
376.50 Fundraising volunteer hours
631.25 Outreach volunteer hours
1369.25 Veteran Assistance volunteer hours

⇒ Do you have the LVAP App for your computer or phone?

- <http://okdav.org/members-only/>
- Click on “LVAP Mobile Application Platform” link
- When you click the link it will install an app called “App Sheet” Open that app once and it will install the DAV LVAP app.
- If you have questions or problems loading this app, call Ann @ 918-740-1150
- Should you input your own LVAP hours, please list your First name, Last name, Ch44 and then the number of hours performed.
- Please send me an email, text, or log-in at the Chapter building with your volunteer hours. (annschermer@hotmail.com)

⇒ 18 members attended the 2017 Chapter Service Officer Training for re-certification or new certification

- ⇒ Three chapter veterans have come together to create “Feed the Vets”
- 80+ pounds of food is being brought into

the DAV chapter building weekly and going out just as fast

- VFW & American Legion have bought freezers to join in this effort
- More drivers with SUVs or trucks are needed to help fill these freezers
- Contact Rusty Goodman at 918-851-1998

⇒ Chapter 44 and Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank held two food drives this year.

- May 30th and Aug 23rd
- Over 150 veteran families and community families in need were assisted with these food drives.
- We had 55 volunteers for the 2nd drive that included the RSU Women's Soccer Team.

⇒ Chapter 44 has formed a Honor Guard and is waiting on rifles

- Tommy Sellers, HG Commander

⇒ New Signage is still on track, more to come

⇒ OKDAV has an opportunity to have their own Oklahoma car license plate.

- Find your application at the Chapter bldg

⇒ The White House Veterans complaint line is open 1-855-948-2311

- Answered 24/7

Dr. Shulkin Talks at DAV National Convention

Secretary Shulkin's Top 5 Priorities:

1. Greater Choice: Veteran CARE Program
 - Clinically based decisions on when and where Veterans receive care, always involving the Veteran and their Provider
2. Modernize Systems
 - EMR (electronic medical record) interoperability and IT modernization
 - Infrastructure improvements and streamlining services
 - The VA has numerous facilities dating back to 1895 that can be sold and have these funds reinvested
3. Improve Timeliness of Services
 - Access to care and wait times
 - Decisions on Appeals
 - Performance on disability claims
 - Coming Soon:
 - Decision Ready Claims (DRC)
4. Focus Resources More Efficiently
 - Strengthening of foundational services
 - Million Veteran Program
 - TBI
 - PTSD
 - Prosthetics
 - VA/DOD/Community coordination
 - Deliver on accountability and effective management practices
 - Ridding VA of bad employees
 - Veteran Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017
 - Transparency of Accountability
 - <https://va.gov/accountability/>
5. Suicide Prevention
 - Data: 2001-2017
 - Civilian Adults—up 23.9%
 - U.S. Veterans—up 31.1%
 - Adult Males—up 2.6%

National Convention



- Veteran Males—up 29.7%
- Adult Females—up 40.1%
- Veteran Females—up 62.4%
- Use of recent VA services vice non-use:
 - U.S. Veterans: up 5.4% / up 38.4%
 - Veteran Males: up 8% / up 35.5%
 - Veteran Females: down 2.6% / up 81.6%

⇒ Decline in Veterans Homelessness

- Data—2010 to 2016
- Total homeless veterans down 47%
- Sheltered homeless veterans down 39%
- Unsheltered homeless veterans down 57%

⇒ Housing First

- Remove barriers
- Help find permanent housing *quickly*
- No unnecessary prerequisites
- Coordinated assessment and entry systems

⇒ Veterans Treatment Courts

- Justice involvement
- 461 Veterans Treatment Courts in 47 states
- Two out of three veterans successfully complete treatment
- VA and community embrace

⇒ Employment

- VOWS, Veterans on Wall Street
- Heroes Work Here, Wat Disney Co
- DAV/Recruit Military Job Fairs
- Goldman Sachs
- 10,000 Veterans Hired, AT&T
- Citi
- HSBC

⇒ President's 2018 Budget, \$186.5 Billion

- 3.6% increase in total funding

- 7.1% increase in discretionary VHA funding to improve access
- 6% increase for mental health
- 7.1% increase for women-specific healthcare
- 9.1% increase for the HUD-VASH housing program

⇒ NO to Privatization and YES to Veterans' Choices

- 5.7% increase in Medical Services
- 8.3% increase for Community Care

VHA

(Veteran Health Administration)

⇒ VA is the LARGEST integrated health system

⇒ Sponsors Winter Sports Clinic along w/ DAV

⇒ 9+ million enrolled veterans served

⇒ 100,000+ veterans work at VHA

⇒ Improving access for Same Day Service in primary care and mental health in all facilities

⇒ Veteran on-line appointment scheduling

⇒ Improving access via telehealth visits

⇒ Moving from VA CHOICE to Veteran CARE - *Coordinated Access & Rewarding Experiences*

- This move is still in planning stages

⇒ Improving efforts with Caregivers

⇒ Providing support to those with Prosthetics and Sensory needs

⇒ Using modernized systems

- Better Electronic Health Records (EHR)
- Improving Interoperability (the extent to which systems and devices can exchange data, and interpret that shared data) in the VA and community providers
- Creating efficient workflows; increasing time with the patients

- Streamlining and optimizing our healthcare system
- ⇒ Implementing a “Whole Health” approach to patient care
- ⇒ 10,000+ published articles by 3,500+ VA Researchers dedicated to improving Veteran health
- ⇒ Leveraging the promise of precision medicine
- Million Veteran Program (MVP)
 - Using innovation to improve veteran health care
- ⇒ State Commander, Linda Miller accepts the award for the 2016 LVAP, District 2
- ⇒ Oklahoma logged 182,000+ hours for this award; Chapter 44 was a big contributor



Test Your Knowledge about Veterans

Question: What percentage of veterans believe they had the support they needed when they re-entered civilian life?

- A. 14%
- B. 38%
- C. 56%
- D. 78%

Answer: 38% - Only 38% of veterans say that when they re-entered civilian life, they felt they had the support they needed. DAV is working to change that with its Transition Service Office Program that has been running for 16 years. DAV’s TSO’s are specifically trained in providing benefits counseling and assistance to service members filling initial claims for VA benefits. In 2016, DAV’s TSO’s file 24, 692 claims on behalf of veterans.

Question: What major problems do veterans face when they come home from war?

- A. Finding a job?
- B. Navigating the confusing claims process to get the benefits they deserve?
- C. Coping with the emotions and physical wounds they developed overseas?
- D. All of the above?

Answer: D. All the above .Veterans face many hardships when they’re transitioning back to civilian life, but they are not alone. DAV helps connect veterans to meaningful employment opportunities ... provides free, professional assistance in obtaining VA and other government benefits earned through service ... and links veterans with services and rehabilitation programs that address their physical, emotional and financial needs.



Thank you for taking our quiz. As you’ve learned, not all veterans feel supported when re-entering civilian life.

Chapter 44 understands the hardships veterans face both during and after service because we are an organization of **veterans helping veterans**. We have been in their shoes. However, we receive no government funding and rely solely on donations to provide our services to all veterans.



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Caregiver Support Line

With VA's Caregiver Support Line, assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

- Tell you about the assistance available from VA.
- Help you access services.
- Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.
- Just listen, if that's what you need right now.

If you're just getting started with VA, calling the Caregiver Support Line is a great first step to take to learn more about the support that's available to you.

H.R. 1472: Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017

- This bill expands eligibility for the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to include members of the Armed Forces or veterans who are seriously injured or who became ill on active duty prior to September

11, 2001 (currently, limited to service after September 11, 2001).

- Services to caregivers of veterans under such program are expanded to include child care services, financial planning services, and legal services.

- The bill terminates the support program for caregivers of covered veterans on October 1, 2022, except that any caregiver activities carried out on September 30, 2022, shall be continued on and after October 1, 2022.

- The bill authorizes the transfer of entitlement to post 9/11 education assistance to family members by veterans who are retired for a physical disability or who are seriously injured veterans in need of family caregiver services, without regard to length-of-service requirements.

- The VA is authorized to pay monthly special compensation to seriously injured or ill veterans in need of personal care services and to their caregivers.

- Flexible work schedules or telework are authorized for federal employees who are caregivers of veterans.

- The Public Health Service Act is amended to designate a veteran participating in the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers as an adult with a special need for purposes of the lifespan respite care program.

- An interagency working group is established in the executive branch to review and report on policies relating to the caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

- The VA shall provide for studies on members of the Armed Forces who commenced service after September 11, 2001, and veterans who have incurred a serious injury or illness, including a mental health injury, and their caregivers.



White House Veteran's Complaint Line
1-855-948-2311



**May 30th
Food Drive**

Breaking down
the food goods
into individual
sacks.



**Aug 23rd
Food Drive**

Breaking down
the food goods
into individual
sacks.



Silhouettes made
by DAV supporter
Jerry Pendergraft



Silhouettes placed
in ground courtesy
of Doug Narron



Feed the Vet

DAV freezer
(left)

VFW freezer
(right)

Feed the Vet
crew:
Glen Stockinger
Joe Brausen
Rusty Goodman

