



Disabled American Veterans Department of Florida Newsletter



By Al Linden, Executive Director

May 31, 2014

As of May 31, 2014 our membership was 60,748. The goal for life membership has been met. Keep working..

Commander Guy Diffenbaugh's Message

Greetings and accolades to you for all you do for Veterans and DAV. I have had a very enjoyable year as your Commander and it has been possible because of your service and accomplishments.

In my travels this month, visiting chapters, I have witnessed solid growth, commitment, and the spirit that makes us the best veterans service organization. I am pleased to report that we have made significant organizational gains in all areas. Remember, however our growth comes through our collective effort to recruit and provide service work. We also must remain forever vigilant in facing our adversaries that all to quickly forget about the commitment our Nation made to us.

With regard to the current issues in the VA, DAV has taken the position of wait and see what the results of the Office of Inspector General investigation yield before going for the throat of the hand that feeds us.

Plan to be with us at Department Convention, in Lake Mary, 27-28 June, for fellowship and to elect/support your new Department Officers. Thank you for your service and support of Veterans.

DAV DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

June 26 – 28, 2014

The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Florida Convention will be held from June 26-28, 2014 and the Lake Mary Marriott in Lake Mary, Florida. National Sr. Vice Commander Ron Hope will be the National Representative. The room rate is \$75 per night. The officers for 2014-15 will be elected. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Lake Mary Marriott at (407) 995-1100. Reservations must be made by May 14, 2014 or you will pay the regular commercial rate.

Look forward to seeing you there.

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.

BALANCE SHEET		
As Of April 30, 2014		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,227,878	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$127,713

TOTAL LIABILITIES&FUND BALANCES	\$1,227,878	

Bay Pines VAVS	\$1,050
Gainesville VAVS	0
Tampa VAVS	\$0
Lake City VAVS	\$2351
WPB VAVS	\$0
Miami VAVS	\$0
Orlando VAVS	\$2800
Eglin CBOC	\$0



about
**Disabled
 American
 Veterans**

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



Subject: news of interest

Good morning,

Lots of attention on new legislation we anticipate being introduced and a few Op-Eds from other “experts” on how best to handle the VA. There should be several bills on how to fix the VA in the coming days, with lots of talk about privatization. While other organizations might quickly jump on the band wagon for the piece of legislation of their choice, DAV will wait to see and study the language before supporting or speaking out against any of them. The devil is in the details and we have to know what the legislation does specifically before acting. In the mean time, we will continue to say that any resolution must address the underlying problem, which is lack of funding for a VA healthcare system that is overburdened. Take care.

Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee chairman introduces proposal to overhaul VA

Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman **Bernard Sanders** (I-Vt.) introduced a far-reaching proposal Sunday to overhaul health care for the nation’s veterans that would make it easier for the beleaguered Department of Veterans Affairs to hire and fire employees, lease new space for clinics and hospitals, and send veterans to outside providers if care isn’t available within 30 days

Republicans, including Sens. John McCain (Ariz.) and Richard Burr (N.C.), have announced plans to introduce a series of proposals as soon as Tuesday but have not specified what they might include.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/senate-veterans-affairs-committee-chairman-introduces-proposal-to-overhaul-va/2014/06/01/96b4e68c-e9c2-11e3-93d2-edd4be1f5d9e_story.html

Fixing the Veterans Administration

On Sunday, the chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, **Bernie Sanders (I-VT),** announced legislation to reform the VA. His bill hasn’t been introduced yet. Some of its provisions come from omnibus legislation that was reported out of the Veterans Affairs Committee earlier this year: S. 1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014. But let’s run down what it does, based on a release from the senator’s office.

Note: The remainder of the article provides some language at what the bill does.-SDW

<http://www.washingtonwatch.com/blog/2014/06/01/fixing-the-veterans-administration/>

Is the VA in Need of a Major Overhaul?

Joseph Violante, legislative director of Disabled American Veterans, said the group “wants to sit down with Congress and figure out how to make the system work better,” but cautioned against any effort to ratchet back the scale of how the VA interacts with veterans.

“I don’t think it’s too big to manage,” Mr. Violante said of the agency. “I think you need not only strong leadership in the secretary, but strong leadership in the under secretaries. And you need strong oversight to make sure the money being given to the VA is being spent wisely.”

<http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-545219/>

Broken VA System Is Nothing New

A VA memo, dated February, 2002, discussed the potential scandal regarding the waiting list and scheduling problems. The memo, which was **written by the then VA Deputy Under Secretary of Health, was ignored more than 12 years ago**

<http://www.military.com/military-report/broken-va-system-is-nothing-new?ESRC=miltrep.nl>

AtlantiCare's Macchiavelli, a disabled veteran himself, said his system is ready to help with VA problem

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said Sunday on “Face the Nation” that he supports giving veterans the option of seeking medical care from non-VA doctors.

“Why should a veteran have to get into a van and ride three hours to get to Phoenix in order to have routine medical care taken care of?” he said. “Why doesn’t that veteran have a card and go to the caregiver that he or she needs and wants?”

Dr. Tony Macchiavelli couldn’t agree more.

Macchiavelli is not only in charge of the Hospitalist Program at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, he is a disabled American veteran who learned to navigate the VA system after a serious injury ended his military career in 1985 — just two years after he graduated from West Point.

<http://www.njbiz.com/article/20140602/NJBIZ01/140609954/AtlantiCare's-Macchiavelli-a-disabled-veteran-himself-said-his-system-is-ready-to-help-with-VA-problem>

Adjutant Why Veterans Affairs Can’t Root Out Its Corruption

U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller, a Republican from Chumuckla, Fla., is the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A number of lawmakers, including me, are in the process of introducing legislation that would do just that. But those reforms will be impossible to implement if the people responsible for this corruption remain entrenched in the VA’s bureaucracy.

<http://time.com/2809158/veterans-affairs-scandal-eric-shinseki/>

State leaders say VA head’s resignation first step in solving problems –

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va., also refused to call for Shinseki’s resignation. He told reporters Thursday the problem with the system is a lack of resources, not inattention from its leader. “The problem is two-fold,” he said. “One is now that (post-traumatic stress disorder), traumatic brain injuries, all of those new ways of being injured and needing helped — all of these people are just flowing, as they should, just flowing into the Veterans Administration, and the Veterans Administration can’t handle the load. In the meantime, Congress, we’re not funding them. I’m not saying the Veterans Administration is a perfect bureaucracy. It’s not. But that’s the history of the last five years — not funding essential public services.” –

<http://www.charlestondaily.com/article/20140601/DM0104/140609966/1276#sthash.hhF50yuU.dpuf>

I Marc Burgess | National Adjutant

VA Contacts All Phoenix Veterans Identified in Interim Report, Will Announce Additional Actions This Thursday in Phoenix

WASHINGTON – At his first meeting with the leadership of Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) as Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Sloan Gibson today announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reached out to all Phoenix Veterans identified in the recent VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) interim report.

During a breakfast discussion with the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America, Acting Secretary Gibson outlined immediate steps taken to respond to the interim report, including announcing travel this Thursday to the Phoenix VA Health Care System. “No Veteran should have to wait for the quality health care they have earned and deserve. The Inspector General confirmed we have real issues when it comes to patient scheduling and access, and we have moved immediately to address those issues in Phoenix,” said Acting Secretary Gibson. “The Department has now reached out to every Veteran identified by the OIG to discuss individual medical needs and immediately begin scheduling appointments. Getting this right is our top priority, and taking care of the Veterans in Phoenix is a good place to start. The Department will also continue reaching out to Veterans nationwide to accelerate their access to care, and that is the message I intend to deliver in Phoenix, and across the country.”

Last week, OIG released an interim report on patient scheduling and access identifying approximately 1,700 Veterans in Phoenix, Ariz., awaiting health care who were not currently in the scheduling system. After accounting for duplicates and those Veterans who declined to provide contact information, VA called all 1,586 individual Veterans identified by the OIG as of 6:00 pm on Friday, May 30. For those Veterans that VA could not reach after several attempts or who had not provided phone details, VA sent letters via US Mail. VA identified that roughly 725 Veterans of the 1,700 identified by the OIG wanted care within 30 days.

VA will schedule all Veterans requesting care at the Phoenix VA Health Care System. If the Phoenix VA Health Care System is not able to promptly provide care using VA providers, VA will identify providers in the community through the VA’s non-VA care program.

BOOKS. VERY FEW CHAPTERS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE LEE GREENWOOD GIFT BOOK "GOD BLESS THE USA". WHAT AN EASY WAY FOR YOUR CHAPTER TO MAKE MONEY. YOU MUST HAVE BOOKS ON HAND AT YOUR CHAPTER, AND USE THEM EVERY TIME YOU HAVE A FUNCTION AT YOUR CHAPTER OR COMMUNITY. THE BOOKS WILL SELL IF YOU PRESENT. BOOKS COST YOUR CHAPTER \$1.50 AND CAN EASILY BE SOLD FOR \$5.00. 100 BOOKS SOLD WILL NEW YOUR CHAPTER \$350.00. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GET APPROVAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR PAY 10%. PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL ME AT dav150jack@gmail.com, Or 352-250-4743. I ALSO HAVE ABOUT 600 OF HIS BIOGRAPHY, SAME DEAL.

Membership

.THE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES, EVEN IF YOU HAVE MET YOUR QUOTA. OUR MEMBERS ARE PASSING DAILY, SO WE MUST CONTINUE TO REPLACE THEM. TELL A POTENTIAL MEMBER THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR SACRIFICE THEY HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO JOIN THE DAV. IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN, YOU DESERVE TO BELONG. REMEMBER THE 3 WAYS YOU CAN SIGN UP A MEMBER. OUR MEMBERS ARE ALL LIFE MEMBERS, SO THE EASIEST WAY TO JOIN IS TO PAY THE FULL MEMBERSHIP WITH THE CONVENIENCE OF YOUR CREDIT CARD AND NEVER PAY ANOTHER PREMIUM. THE SECOND WAY IS PAY \$40.00 NOW AND THE BALANCE TO BE PAID QUARTERLY OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD UNTIL THE FULL PREMIUM IS PAID. THE THRID METHOD IS GO TO THE DAV WEBSITE AND MAKE A \$10.00 REOCCURANT PAYMENT ON YOUR CREDIT CARD UNTIL IT IS PAID. LETS MAKE FLORIDA THE NUMBER ONE STATE IN THE NATION. THE POTENTIAL IS HERE, SNOWBIRDS WILL BE COMING DOWN IN GROVES AFTER THE HARSH WINTER THEY HAVE HAD. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP. CSO'S CAN EARN GIFT CERTIFICATES TO THE OUTBACK STEAK HOUSE. DO NOT BE LEFT BEHIND. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS EMAIL ME AT dav150jack@gmail.com or call 352-250-4743. The following chapters have not made goal: 1,5,6,30,38,63,67,70,126,129,133.

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has come a long way under the leadership of Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. Today and for decades to come, Veterans will benefit from the transformation begun in the past 5 years, driven by Secretary Shinseki's unyielding devotion to Veterans and unflagging commitment to bringing VA into the 21st century. In my time here at VA, I have come to understand and appreciate the dedication of VA employees and the genuine passion our people show, each and every day, for serving Veterans and their families. Wherever I go, I meet men and women who care deeply about our mission, who work enthusiastically to do the right thing for Veterans, and who strive with integrity to accomplish every task. I believe that to be true still today, and I am grateful to all of you for your professionalism and perseverance in this effort. I will depend on you and your admirable work ethic as we move forward.

Notwithstanding the vast body of great work we do for Veterans daily, there remains much more to be done. In some areas and specific instances, we have fallen far short of what Veterans have earned and deserve, and what the American people and their representatives rightly expect. Veterans' trust—the very foundation of our work—has been compromised. And so we will earn that trust back, one Veteran at a time, one American at a time.

To begin, we will sharply focus our care, our services, and our resources on Veterans and operate at all times with unimpeachable integrity. To that end, VA will move out immediately to get all Veterans off of waiting lists and into clinics for the care they have earned and deserve, while simultaneously fixing the underlying issues that impede Veterans' access. We are not waiting for anyone or anything to commence that work—we begin now. The President has made clear that his expectations are the same.

The large majority of VA employees expect accountability. Together, we will address instances of willful misconduct and breaches of integrity. They will not be tolerated, and I will use all authority afforded me to remove those who choose to put personal gain ahead of Veterans and professional responsibilities.

We will continue to depend on the faithful service of VA employees and leaders who place the interests of Veterans above and beyond all else; who serve Veterans with dignity, compassion, and dedication; and who live by VA's core values of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence.

Thank you for your dedication to Veterans and our mission to serve them.

Sloan D. Gibson

INCOME / EXPENSES VS BUDGET
April 30, 2014

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
6001 - Convention Income	5,307.50	5,500.00	-192.
6030 - Midwinter Income	8,156.00	5,500.00	2,656.
6050 - Dues from National	148,208.00	125,000.00	23,208.
6060.1 - Department Arcade Income	0.00	0.00	0.
6075 - Donated Funds for Vans	0.00	0.00	0.
6100 - Donation fr Service Fd-Principi	0.00	441,780.00	-441,780.
6140 - National Fund Raisers	176,668.75	200,000.00	-23,331.
6200 - Chapter & Unit 10%	42,718.62	15,000.00	27,718.
6300 - Department Publication	178.75	200.00	-21.
6303 - National Candidate Fun	0.00	0.00	0.
6310 - Chapter Closeouts	7,949.50	0.00	7,949.
6311 - Donations	0.00	0.00	0.
6315 - Orange City Income	19,847.18	0.00	19,847.
6330 - Lake Panosofkee	4,100.16	4,130.00	-29.
6331 - Lakeland Bldg Mortgage	12,128.49	16,150.00	-4,021.
6332 - Sarasota rent	3,431.25	0.00	3,431.
6333. - Orange City Mortgage	0.00	18,000.00	-18,000.
6334.1 - Sarasota Bldg Mortgage Payment	1,919.67	0.00	1,919.
6350. - Drivers License Income	50,531.24	60,000.00	-9,468.
6410 - 2012 Service Officer's	11,705.00	3,000.00	8,705.
6411 - Service Program Donations	8,542.16	2,000.00	6,542.
6412 - NSO Office Donations	0.00	750.00	-750.
6413 - Service Income	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.
6450 - VAVS Donations	13,473.82	14,000.00	-526.
6800 - Miscellaneous	34,601.28	5,000.00	29,601.
80005.4 - Commanders Testimonial Inc	2,115.00	0.00	2,115.
Total Income	566,582.37	931,010.00	-364,427.
50000 - Cost of Goods Sold	0.00	0.00	0.
Total COGS	0.00	0.00	0.
Gross Profit	566,582.37	931,010.00	-364,427.
Expense			
Printing & Publication-admin	0.00	0.00	0.
Testimonial Expenses	120.60	0.00	120.
7000.2 - Convention Expense	83.50	18,500.00	-18,416.
7030.1 - Midwinter Expenses	25,025.14	16,500.00	8,525.
7040.1 - Service Expenses	672,700.34	733,800.00	-61,099.
7570.1 - Legislative Expenses	2,391.87	3,000.00	-608.
8000.3 - VAVS Expenses	7,198.24	18,000.00	-10,801.
8260 - Headquarters Expense	37,168.50	126,210.00	-89,041.
8545 - chapter 30 trustee legal	28,375.90	0.00	28,375.
8562.2 - National Convention Expense	6,457.26	15,000.00	-8,542.
9470.2 - Sales expense Sarasota property	16,080.00	0.00	16,080.
9475.2 - Loss on Sale of Sarasota prop	127,035.20	0.00	127,035.
9500.1 - Foundation expenses	974.76	0.00	974.
Total Expense	923,611.31	931,010.00	-7,398.
Net Ordinary Income	-357,028.94	0.00	-357,028.
Other Income			
11001.4 - Testimonial Income	2,115.00	4,500.00	-2,385.
Total Other Income	2,115.00	4,500.00	-2,385.
Other Expense			
11000.4 - Testimonial Expenses 2015		4,500.00	-4,500.
Total Other Expense		4,500.00	-4,500.
Net Other Income		0.00	0.
	-357,028.94	0.00	-357,028.



MEMBERSHIP
FOR
May 31, 2014

Chapter	Last yr	trial	part life	full life	total	Goal	% goal	goal var	chapter name	
001		1,882	4	224	1,666	1,894	1,692	98.46%	-26	JACKSONVILLE #1
002	G	11,821	2,061	626	8,718	11,405	8,484	102.76%	234	EVERGLADE STATE #2
004	G	2,448	1	171	2,332	2,504	2,304	101.22%	28	JOHN C MCCARTHY II #4
005		547	0	72	486	558	495	98.18%	-9	THE TALLAHASSEE #5
006	G	268	0	24	248	272	247	100.40%	1	ST AUGUSTINE #6
007		479	0	227	376	603	401	93.77%	-25	W WASHINGTON #7
011	G	1,624	0	79	1,575	1,654	1,554	101.35%	21	CLEARWATER #11
012	G	1,431	0	92	1,359	1,451	1,340	101.42%	19	CORAL GABLES #12
013	G	2,473	0	96	2,379	2,475	2,346	101.41%	33	BAY PINE HLDY ISL #13
014	G	297	0	28	278	306	274	101.46%	4	JOHN D STROUD #14
016	G	2,670	1	220	2,513	2,734	2,497	100.64%	16	CENTRAL #16
017	G	683	0	33	671	704	653	102.76%	18	PANAMA CITY #17
018	G	1,571	0	150	1,493	1,643	1,469	101.63%	24	MANATEE COUNTY #18
020	G	336	0	25	319	344	314	101.59%	5	LAKE CITY #20
022	G	305	1	17	294	312	286	102.80%	8	JACKSON COUNTY #22
023	G	2,115	2	97	2,026	2,125	2,018	100.40%	8	AL GRAY #23
029	G	527	1	37	531	569	514	103.31%	17	PEMBROKE PINES-MIRAMAR #29
030	G	1,259	0	83	1,190	1,273	1,189	100.08%	1	SEMINOLE #30
032	G	1,272	1	73	1,223	1,297	1,191	102.69%	32	J L GOLIGHTLY #32
038		1,461	0	272	1,233	1,505	1,293	95.36%	-60	ORANGE PARK #38
042	G	1,757	0	86	1,699	1,785	1,678	101.25%	21	WEST PALM BEACH #42
049	G	286	0	23	282	305	273	103.30%	9	RIDGE #49
050	G	219	0	11	217	228	209	103.83%	8	CENTRAL BREVARD #50
057	G	371	1	33	376	410	363	103.58%	13	CRESTVIEW #57
063		164	0	12	154	166	156	98.72%	-2	TRI-COUNTY #63
065	G	513	0	30	499	529	479	104.18%	20	ZEPHYRHILLS #65
067		1,273	0	121	1,164	1,285	1,169	99.57%	-5	HERNANDO COUNTY #67
070		696	0	39	626	665	629	99.52%	-3	GERALD A SHONK #70
073	G	338	2	21	324	347	315	102.86%	9	TAMARAC #73
078	G	1,187	1	55	1,146	1,202	1,114	102.87%	32	NEW PORT RICHEY #78
082	G	1,023	0	71	1,009	1,080	977	103.28%	32	R L COCHRAN JR #82
083	G	824	0	119	771	890	746	103.35%	25	C W BYERS SR #83
084	G	1,330	0	76	1,246	1,322	1,244	100.16%	2	GREATER DAYTONA #84
085	G	583	0	16	551	567	550	100.18%	1	SOUTH MARION #85
086	G	547	0	60	518	578	509	101.77%	9	JIM BOOE #86
087	G	713	0	43	706	749	691	102.17%	15	SGT WM E HILL #87
090	G	809	0	79	759	838	750	101.20%	9	GATOR #90
094	G	1,046	0	39	1,014	1,053	987	102.74%	27	C GUSTAFSON #94
097	G	501	0	35	493	528	473	104.23%	20	BEE RIDGE #97
098	G	240	0	10	236	246	227	103.96%	9	EUCHEE VALLEY #98
101	G	772	0	45	740	785	734	100.82%	6	VENICE GULF #101
108	G	514	0	49	502	551	479	104.80%	23	JAMES D RADER #108
109	G	496	0	33	465	498	463	100.43%	2	TITUSVILLE #109
110	G	414	0	29	417	446	395	105.57%	22	SUN CITY CENTER #110
111	G	90	0	3	89	92	86	103.49%	3	PEACE RIVER #111
112	G	690	1	34	707	742	679	104.12%	28	BAY AREA #112
113	G	649	0	50	628	678	611	102.78%	17	PORT ST LUCIE #113
119	G	375	0	16	369	385	363	101.65%	6	ANTHONY P DADDI #119
122	G	440	0	23	416	439	413	100.73%	3	MARATHON #122
123	G	589	0	19	588	607	573	102.62%	15	SPACE COAST #123
125	G	515	0	27	507	534	498	101.81%	9	CPL P D LYON JR #125
126		175	0	9	164	173	165	99.39%	-1	SUWANNEE MEM #126
129		367	0	28	345	373	350	98.57%	-5	SO BREVARD BCHS #129
133		898	0	79	829	908	836	99.16%	-7	THE GOLD COAST #133
144	G	91	0	7	86	93	86	100.00%	0	LA BELLE #144
148	G	732	0	76	700	776	674	103.86%	26	AGNES M TAYLOR #148
149	G	567	0	31	540	571	520	103.85%	20	GREATER S OCALA #149
150	G	451	0	23	571	594	501	113.97%	70	ORANGE BLOSSOM GDNS
152	G	689	0	35	663	698	642	103.27%	21	SOUTH PALM BEACH #152
155	G	381	0	10	358	368	357	100.28%	1	SEBASTIAN RIVER AREA
158	G	0	0	21	13	34	0	0.00%	13	CRYSTAL RIVER #158
Dept. Total		59,784	2,077	4,272	54,397	60,746	53,525	101.63%	872	Dept



Legislation
FOR
May 31, 2014

Dependent changes in Benefits

The Rules Based Processing System (RBPS) automates the processing of disabled Veterans' requests to add family members or change their statuses. It will reduce processing time for changes to compensation benefits associated with a Veteran's family member status from months to days.

Veterans who have at least a 30-percent VA disability rating can use eBenefits to request a change in family member status to:

Add a spouse;

Add a dependent biological child or stepchild, and; Add a child (age 18 to 23) who is enrolled in an educational institution approved by VA.

From the VISN 8 Network Director

The Department of Veterans Affairs cares deeply for every Veteran we serve. Our goal is to provide the best quality, safe and effective health care our Veterans have earned and deserve. We take seriously any issue that occurs at any one of our VA health care facilities in Florida and elsewhere in the network -- and we have some important information to share with you.

As background, as the result of a consult delay issue VA discovered at two medical centers outside VISN 8, the Veterans Health Administration conducted a national review of consults across the VA system.

- Based on preliminary findings from the national review of consults initiated by VA, it was determined there were approximately 301,000 consults for Gastroenterology (GI) and GI endoscopy for FY 2010 and 2011 in VISN 8. In 2012, VISN 8 received a list of patients with new GI malignancies identified during FY2010 and 2011 from the cancer registry for review for evidence of harm related to wait time delays or delay in diagnosis.
 - This review resulted in the need for 14 patients to receive Institutional Disclosures. Of these 14 patients, 5 had died. Of these 5 patients who died, 2 deaths were determined, by a two level review, to not be related to the delays. Of the remaining 3 patients who died of their malignancy, 2 were from North Florida South Georgia VA Health System, and 1 from West Palm Beach VAMC.
 - First and foremost, we offer our sincerest condolences to families and individuals who may have been affected and lost a loved one.
 - Secondly, when an incident occurs in our system we aggressively identify, correct and work to prevent additional risks. We conduct a thorough review to understand what happened, prevent similar incidents in the future, and share lessons learned across the system. In VISN 8, we have taken a number of steps to greater strengthen our consult process and prevent a similar delay at any of our hospitals.
 - We continue to diligently monitor and track the consult management process (which includes not only GI consults, but all consults) through various mechanisms to avoid delays or potential adverse events:
 - VISN and local consult management teams have been established in our facilities with subject matter experts including Information Technology (IT), Medical Administration, and Clinical representatives-- to monitor and track processes for consults, implement revised business rules for immediate and future care and validate data
 - Processes have been strengthened to track high risk consults and for identified immediate and future care.
 - Monitoring and data validation of the consult processes is conducted daily and weekly. VISN 8 is currently piloting a clinical tool for healthcare providers, as an additional resource, to validate abnormal test results to ensure timely follow-up care
- To reiterate, any adverse incident for a Veteran in our care is one too many. You have my promise we will continue to do our very best to provide the best care possible to the Veterans we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

Joleen Clark

New ID Cards for Vets Enrolled in VA Health Care

VA is introducing a new, secure identification card called the Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC). VHIC replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was introduced in 2004. VA is committed to providing the high quality, safe and effective health care Veterans have earned and deserve, and part of this effort includes ensuring the personal security of Veterans. As part of a phased rollout, on February 21, 2014, VA began issuing the newly designed, more secure VHIC to newly enrolled and other Veterans who were not issued a VIC. Starting in April VA will begin a replacement effort to automatically mail the more secure VHIC to Veterans who have the old VIC. All Veterans who are enrolled and have the old card should have their new replacement card by July. VA expects to complete mailings of the replacement VHICs by July. To ensure receipt of the new VHIC, enrolled Veterans should make sure that VA has their correct mailing address. The new VHIC is distinguished by additional security features and will have a different look and feel. The Social Security number and date of birth were removed from the barcode and magnetic strip. Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC displays the Veteran's Member ID and branch of service emblem, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID which reflects the Veteran's enrollment in VA health care. The VHIC is for use in VA medical facilities and does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA medical facilities. Detail view of the front of the - See more at:

<http://www.va.gov/health/NewsFeatures/2014/February/New-ID-Cards-for-Vets-Enrolled-in-VA-Health-Care.asp#sthash.nR4qfhjx.dpuf>

National Director of Volunteer Services Change

This is a heads-up that for personal reasons Ron Minter will be relocating to his home in Waco, TX, where he will serve as a Senior Associate National Service Officer. Current Deputy HR Director John Kleindienst will be Acting Director of Voluntary Services. Voluntary services (VS) inquiries that cannot be addressed by the VS support staff should be directed to John at jkleindienst@dav.org or 859 442 2056. Direct all National Convention inquiries to Amberly Jackson, Assistant to the National Adjutant at ajackson2@dav.org or (859) 442-2045. Thank you and take care.

As you are likely aware, Secretary Shinseki has decided to resign his position as the head of Department of Veterans Affairs.

We honor Secretary Shinseki's service to our country as a combat-disabled veteran and public servant, and respect his decision to resign and allow new leadership to address this crisis with new solutions.

Ultimately, a change in leadership does not address the root of the VA health care system's problems of access and appropriate funding levels. On behalf of DAV's 1.2 million members, we implore the President to quickly identify and nominate, and the Senate to rapidly consider and confirm, the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In the meantime, DAV stands ready to work closely with Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson to implement solutions necessary to ensure all veterans can access the health care they need.

We also hope that a newly appointed Secretary continues to build on the progress made during Secretary Shinseki's tenure in addressing the claims backlog, reducing veterans' homelessness, and improving access to mental health care.

While this crisis is deeply disturbing, we hope the issues uncovered serve as a wakeup call to focus America's attention on the need to fulfill the sacred promises made to the men and women who so honorably served our country."

Our Communications Department is standing by to help should you need assistance with media. If you are approached on this, or any other issue, please contact Charity Edgar, Associate National Director of Communications at cedgar@dav.org, (202) 314-5221 or cell at (202) 641-4822.

Thank you for your continued service to those who've served.

Joseph Johnston
DAV National Commander

FLORIDA OUTREACH 2014

(as of March 10, 2014)

June 3, 2014 (Tuesday)

9am to 5pm

The Villages #150 VA Outpatient Clinic
1950 Laurel Manor Drive, The Villages, 32162

Miguel Cintron / David Vann

(MSO)

August 18-August 19, 2014 (Mon/Tue) ??am to ??pm

(no mail out)

Shriners Convention

Michael Heath (443) 994-3677

NSO***/ NSO*******

November 8, 2014 (Saturday) 11am to 3pm

HARLEY DAVIDSON (Gator)

(Make contact by October 24)

1745 US Hwy 441, Leesburg, 34748

Peggy (352) 267-3190 peggy@gatorharley.com

David Vann / Michael Tolliver

(MSO)