

**NEWSLETTER**  
**July - August 2008**  
**Disabled American Veterans**  
**Blind Veterans National Chapter**  
**40 Seward Avenue, Toms River NJ 08753-6626**  
**732 244 7057 Jim2447057@comcast.net [www.davbvnc.com](http://www.davbvnc.com)**

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**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Please let the Blind Chapter Chaplain know if you are sick, hospitalized or you know of one of our members who is. Contact Reverend Anthony Martino 25016 87th Street, Unit 2 Salem Wisconsin 53168. 847 736 2111

[Deaconmart@wi.rr.com](mailto:Deaconmart@wi.rr.com)

**Welcome Aboard**

**Glenn Koski**  
**Gary Traynor**  
**Paul Kaminsky**

**Deceased**

**Fred Martinez**  
**May He Rest in Peace**

**DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**Delegates and Alternates**

The membership of the Blind Veterans National Chapter by mail ballot elected the following to represent the Chapter at the DAV National Convention being held from August 8, 2008 through August 12, 2008 in Ballys Casino Hotel in Las Vegas NV. Delegates and alternates will be assigned to a committee at the 0900, August 8th meeting.

**Floyd Britting**  
**Anthony Martino**  
**Richard Holden**  
**Dennis O'Connell**  
**Gerard Boucher**  
**Terry Livingston**  
**Paul Kaminsky**  
**Stephen Moffitt**

**NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**CREDENTIALS PROCESS REVISED**

In an effort to make registration smoother, faster and more accurate, the credentials registration process is undergoing some key changes at this year's National Convention.

As usual, Chapter Commanders and Adjutants will designate delegates and alternates and provide full names and membership code numbers of participating representatives. The yellow 2008 National Convention delegate and alternate delegate credentials form should be returned to National Headquarters as soon as possible. Once these forms are received, delegates and alternates will be notified by letter of their status as delegates. That notification will serve as convention credentials for those key individuals.

Each delegate and alternative will be asked to bring that letter to convention and present it at the DAV Registration

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Desk. A bar code on the letter will be scanned to confirm the credentials and attendance will automatically be registered in the database as a convention badge is printed out for the delegate or alternate. Blue delegate and pink alternate forms will no longer be required.

The goal of these changes is to speed up the registration process and make it more accurate through the use of available technology.

### **RECRUITERS REMINDED TO OBTAIN ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION**

As recruiters push to renew our ranks, it is important that they obtain and provide complete information on all applicants. Full dates of birth, dates of service, and complete information for applications is necessary and critical. Recruiters need to ensure that every piece of information required in the application is provided in full.

Ironically for recruiters, one of the most common gaps in the information provided on applicants is the sponsor code that gives recruiters credit for their prospective members. By ensuring that the Membership Department gets all the required information, you expedite your applicant's membership and ensure you get the credit for your efforts!



DAV WASHINGTON UPDATE  
Saluting the Flag by Vets

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The following is from a USN list and is quote in part . . .

Here is the actual text of section 594 of Public Law 110-181 (you can get it from the archives of Congress if you wish, but this is a direct extract from the law itself, not a "translation" of it.

### **SEC. 594. CONDUCT BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS OUT OF UNIFORM DURING HOISTING, LOWERING, OR PASSING OF UNITED STATES FLAG.**

Section 9 of title 4, United States Code, is amended by striking "all persons present" and all that follows through the end of the section and inserting the following: "all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

### **VA Insurance Premium Reduced**

Veterans and military personnel with life insurance policies managed by the VA will see a reduction in their premiums, thanks to improved investment earnings and a reduction in non-combat claims. The premium cuts, which become

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effective July 1, affect military personnel covered by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and veterans covered by the Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI).

Premiums for basic SGLI will be 6.5 cents per month for \$1,000 of coverage, down from 7 cents per month for \$1,000. VGLI premium rates also will be reduced for veterans aged 30 to 64, who make up 85 percent of those insured under the program. Premium rates for those under age 30 are already competitive.

For more information about the new premium rates, visit the VA insurance Web site at [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov), or call the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance at 1-800-419-1473.

### **VA Boosts Veteran Hiring**

The VA has announced the creation of a Veterans Employment Coordination Service to oversee the Department's program to recruit new veterans into its workforce, especially recently disabled combat veterans.

The new office will work with military transition programs, veterans service organizations and others to promote careers in the VA. Efforts to assist severely injured veterans have already begun with the VA's participation in local career fairs targeting veterans of the Global War on Terror.

About 31 percent of VA's 260,000 employees are veterans, and nearly 8 percent are service- connected disabled

veterans. VA ranks first among non-Defense agencies in hiring disabled veterans and is second only to the Department of Defense in the overall number of veterans on the workforce. Last year, VA hired more than 9,000 veterans.

### **VA Services** **Housing Aid Homeless Vets**

The Departments of Veterans Affairs Housing and Urban Development have announced \$75 million in federal aid to provide permanent supportive housing for an estimated 10,000 homeless veterans nationwide.

HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program will provide local public housing agencies with approximately 10,000 rental assistance vouchers specifically for homeless veterans in their area. In addition, local housing agencies will link with VA medical centers to provide supportive services and case management to eligible homeless veterans.

Last year, the VA provided health care to more than 100,000 homeless veterans and other services to over 60,000 veterans in its specialized homeless programs.

Traveling Nurses to Staff Hospitals  
A new VA "Travel Nurse Corps" has been created to deal with a nationwide shortage of nurses and to improve the quality of care for veterans. Under this program nurses will be assigned to travel and work throughout the Department's medical system.

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Initially up to 75 registered nurses may be temporarily assigned to medical centers and clinics to help fill staff vacancies.

The three-year pilot program is also designed to establish a potential pool for national emergencies and serve as a model for an expanded VA travel corps with nurses who have varying specialties. The program is designed to reduce the use of contracted nurses, thus preserving resources that can be used elsewhere to care for veterans.

To learn more about VA's Travel Nurse Corps, visit the Web site at [www.travelnurse.va.gov](http://www.travelnurse.va.gov).

### **Agent Orange & Hype Hypertension linked to Agent Orange**

In a recent release, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies determined that limited or suggestive evidence exists that exposure to Agent Orange can lead to the development of high blood pressure (hypertension). The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has not yet added hypertension to the list of presumptive conditions or diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange, but this report from the IOM requires the VA to consider adding hypertension to the list. It is recommended that in-country Vietnam veterans who develop hypertension file a claim for the disability now.

"A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties." Harry S. Truman

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## **NATIONAL CHURCH CONFERENCE F OF THE BLIND (NCCB)**

NCCB will be holding it's annual convention in Saint Louis, Missouri from September 13 thru 18, 2008 at The Hilton St Louis Frontenac.

For additional information or membership/convention package please check out the website at <http://www.thenccb.com> or call 970-895-2352

### **VA's Planned Sites for New Outpatient Clinics**

**Alabama** (2) -- Marshall County, Wiregrass  
**Alaska** -- Matanuska-Susitna Borough area  
**Arkansas** (2) -- Ozark, White County  
**California** -- East Bay-Alameda County area  
**Florida** -- Summerfield  
**Georgia** (4) -- Baldwin County, Coweta County, Glynn County, Liberty County  
**Indiana** (2) -- Miami County, Morgan County  
**Iowa** -- Wapello County  
**Louisiana** (5) -- Lake Charles, Leesville, Natchitoches, St. Mary Parish, Washington Parish  
**Maine** -- Lewiston-Auburn area  
**Minnesota** (2) -- Douglas County, Northwest Metro  
**Missouri** -- Franklin County  
**New Mexico** -- Rio Rancho  
**North Carolina** (2) -- Robeson County, Rutherford County  
**North Dakota** -- Grand Forks County  
**Ohio** -- Gallia County  
**Oklahoma** (4) -- Altus, Craig County, Enid, Jay  
**Tennessee** (3) -- Giles County, Maury County, McMinn County  
**Texas** (5) -- Katy, Lake Jackson, Richmond, Tomball, El Paso County  
**Virginia** (3) -- Augusta County, Emporia, Wytheville  
**West Virginia** -- Greenbrier County

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER**

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