Disabled American Veterans

Blind Veterans National Chapter #1

WEB SITE: http://www.davbvnc1.com/contents.htm

July– August Newsletter

Editor: Dennis O’Connell - Bvnc1@optonline.net

**"IF I CANNOT SPEAK GOOD OF MY COMRADE,**

**I WILL NOT SPEAK ILL OF HIM OR HER."**

OFFICERS OF THE BLIND CHAPTER

Commander Ron Lester (AZ) (Phone (520) 741-1217

Senior Vice Commander Leonard Pope (NJ)

 1st Junior vice Commander Herschel Harris (GA)

2nd Junior vice Commander Richard Lane (VA)

3rd Vice Commander Dennis O’Connell, PC (NY)

Judge Advocate Jim Hogan PC (CA)

Chaplain Ron Lester (AZ) Phone (520) 741-1217 Email: ronlester45@gmail.com

Adjutant/Treasurer Paul Kaminsky (FL) (also webmaster) Phone 904 291-0576 Email: pkjax@kaminsky.com

PLEASE, if you know of a member who is sick or deceased contact one of the above members ASAPP.

R I P

Eldon Miller, Kalona, IA

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

My wife and I just returned from the 2018 DAV Convention, held in Reno, Nevada. There were no changes to the incumbent chapter officers, who will all serve another term. On the national level, all the incumbent officers moved up and a new woman was installed as the fourth junior officer.

We had some excitement personally during the convention, including locking ourselves out of the hotel room, having our credit card compromised, and sharing a flight with a women who had a medical emergency. Fortunately there was a medical doctor onboard the flight. The physician and flight attendants were able to stabilize her so we did not have to make an emergency landing.

I hope to give you a good report on the Family Care Act by the time the fall newsletter publishes.

**Chaplain’s Corner**

We live in a world where many of our veterans are aging. It seems the older we get, the lonelier we get because our friends and fellow vets are passing on. Unfortunately, many in this group feel they have no connections and commit, or contemplate suicide as an alternative to fear and loneliness. I encourage you to keep watch over your fellow veterans who may have recently lost spouses or friends. This is as simple as giving them a call or stopping by for a visit to let them know someone cares and is available to talk.

The prophet Elijah ran for his life on one occasion. He incurred the wrath of Jezebel, wife of King Ahab of Israel, after slaying her pagan prophets at the brook Kishon. When Jezebel heard this, she put out a death warrant on God’s prophet. When Elijah discovered this, he “ran for his life.” Elijah was exhausted from his contest with the false prophets; he was alone; he hadn’t eaten; he was disappointed with his ministry in Israel. In other words, he was a perfect candidate for fear. In that sense, Elijah was a lot like us. We can find ourselves overwhelmed with life at times and experience a desire to run.

Regardless of our fears, we can count on God to speak to us and comfort us—just as He did to Elijah (1 Kings 19:11-16)—and send us back to our tasks with new strength.

 Author Unknown

*Affliction is often that thing which prepares an ordinary person for some sort of an extraordinary destiny.* **C.S. Lewis**

May you be a blessing in all that you do. Go and be extraordinary!

In His Service,

Chaplain Ron Lester

From the Adjutant

We just finished another fun and productive National Convention. As noted above the Chapter Officers remained in their respective positions for their second terms. The first meeting of the Chapter was held on Friday July 13 at which time the floor was open to nominations for Chapter Officers. Reading of the minutes from the 2017 National convention was read and so was the Chapters financial report. The Financial Report is as follows:

DAV BLIND VETERANS NATIONAL CHAPTER #1,

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

Beginning Balance: $59,065.51

Income:

• Dues per Capita: $350.00

• Interest/Dividends: $23.27

• Donations: $10,256.00

Total Income: $11,669.27

Expenses:

• Index: $25.00

• Convention & Mid-Winter: $8,920.00

• Postage, Office Supplies & Printing: $218.39

• Charitable Contributions: $3,000.00

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• Other Expenses Includes:

 Caregiver Lunch,

 Website,

 Donor Award Braille Flags Framed,

 Bronze Braille Flags

 Installation/Appreciation Breakfast Reimbursement,

Total Other Expenses: $4,816.03

Total Expenses: $16,979.42

Net Income -$5,310.15

Ending Balance: $53,755.36

Checking Balance: $6,727.73

Savings Balance: $47,027.63

Ending & Total Bank Balances: $53,755.36

The Chapter Treasury nears the end of its mandated spend down operation resulting from a large bequest given the chapter several years ago. . This spend down requirement is why the Chapter must show a negative net income.

Commander Lester assigned members to National Committees. The second meeting of the Chapter was held also on Friday at 4:00 pm, at which time election of officers was held.

Saturday the Convention kicked off with a great surprise. Frankie Valli heard that the Disabled American Veterans were holding their convention in Reno and decided to put on a complete show for the convention attendees. The theater must have held at least 3,000 and every seat was probably filled. Complimentary beer, soda or bottled water was also included. It was an awesome evening listening to all their hit songs. Saturday and Sunday were filled with business meetings, committee meetings and seminars that left attendees inspired.

Monday morning was the Chapter’s Installation of Officers Breakfast with over 80 attendees. The newly re-elected officers were sworn in by the DAV National Chaplin Mike Dover. Visit the BVNC DAV Facebook page for some photos of the Convention and Breakfast. Monday evening once again held Fun Night with the LT. Dan Band rocking everyone’s socks off with another great performance.

This year’s National Officers were elected to the positions noted below:

Commander Dennis R. Nixon; Sr. Vice Commander Stephen “Butch” Whitehead; 1st Jr. Vice Commander Donald Day; 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Andy Marshall; 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Joseph Parsetich; 4th Jr. Vice Commander Nancy Espinosa; Judge Advocate Michael Dobmeier; National Chaplin Michael P. Dover

Next year’s convention will be in sunny Orlando, FL. The Blind Chapter's first business meeting will be held at9:00 am Friday, August 2 and will end Tuesday, August 6, 2019. The convention will be at the Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819. Room rates are $137 Single/ Double. Reservations can be made now by calling 407-996-9939 or 866-996-9939, Group Code: Disabled American Veterans. Hope to see you all there!

U.S. Army Blind Veterans Competed in Powerlifting at 2017 Rocky Mountain State Games (Jul 27, 2017)

The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) sent two powerlifters to compete in the 16th Annual Rocky Mountain State Games; Charles King (Philadelphia, PA), local athlete, Thomas Monroe (Pueblo, CO).

King, a post-Vietnam war veteran who was honorably discharged from the Army for health reasons has overcome depression, homelessness and cancer since losing his sight to acute glaucoma. King competed in his first powerlifting competition at 60 years old in 2010 and has competed in multiple international competitions since, including the 2015 International Blind Sports Association (IBSA) World Games in Seoul where he finished 4th overall in the Mall 100 kg division. Charles competed in the Male Masters 3B (age 65-69) Raw Men's with a lift of 120+ kg (266 lbs.).

Monroe served in the Medical Service Corps with the U.S. Army, active duty, from 1972 to 1975 and on reserve from 1975 to 1981. He experienced vision loss as a result of detached retinas and cataracts, and has competed for USABA since 2009. This year Monroe returns to Colorado Springs where he set several age-group records at last year’s State Games. Thomas Monroe also competed in the Male Masters 3B (65-69) Raw Men's with a lift of 93 kg (206 lbs.).

USABA proudly partners with Colorado Springs Sports Corp on the Rocky Mountain State Games each year. The event gives athletes an opportunity to compete against peers and challenge their level of skill.

For more information on the United States Association of Blind Athletes go to www.usaba.org.

***GOD BLESS AMERICA***!