Disabled American Veterans

Blind Veterans National Chapter #1

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

September–October 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)

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

WELCOME ABOARD

Harold Sayre, Carrollton, VA

R I P

Harold “Eddie” Humphrey PC, Moore OK

Velven Wooldridge, Jacksonville, FL

CORRECTION FROM LAST ISSUE:

I met Eldon Miller, Kalona, IA at the National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament last month, and my R I P last issue about his demise was in error.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

It is a great honor to serve as the Commander for the next year. Thank you all.

This summer has been a busy time between conventions and keeping up with all the appointments. The DAV convention was a wonderful time of seeing old friends and meeting new people and making new friends. Our Blind Chapter number one met on the 13 of July at 9 Am review of the last year minutes and our financial reports which Adjutant Paul Kaminsky emailed prior to the convention.

Our next order of business was to appoint delegates to different committee meetings. It was my opportunity to serve on the nomination committee... This committee met several times to review and interview those that are running for national office. This committee is made up of 21 districts and a seat for the the Blind chapter (  
District 99) which makes 22 votes for the new candidates for national office. We recommended that all the candidates move up and then we had several new candidates that we reviewed for JR. Office numbers four... The Commander of the National board can only serve one year; therefore that position is vacant. .

In the Blind Chapter Number one we can only serve as the Commander for two years and they have to roll off to another person.

The Blind Chapter number one met again at 4 PM we met for election of officers

On Monday morning we had our annual Breakfast with many friends and supporters of the Blind Chapter. We had the installation of the officers. At the close of the breakfast we had the parade of checks. We appreciate all those Districts and friends that support the blind Chapter.

The Blind Chapter met for the last time at about 10am after the breakfast.

This was the time to appoint members to the committees they were to serve on for the next year.

A word from the Chaplain

We are having some weather this year around the nation from fires to Hurricanes many places that have had never ending rain that have impacted many lives.

Which brings me to the story in Mark the fourth Chapter (Mark 4:35-41).

You may be impacted by one of these storms like the Disciples were having with the waves coming up as they were trying to cross the Sea of Galilee. Can you see these men in a little boat with waves rocking the boat from side to side with water coming over into the boat? They were so afraid that they were going to die. They went to Jesus and cried to Jesus that they were about to go under. Here Jesus was asleep in the bottom of the boat. As Jesus awoke he saw the fear in these men. He asks them where is your faith: He spoke to the wind to be still. The wind stopped and the sea became calm.

I know many of you are going through storms in your life. I believe you can have peace during the storms of life. It may be in your Health or family problems or many other things, we can lean on Jesus and He can speak to the storm and we can have the peace that pasts all understanding. Just as these Disciples did not understand the love of Jesus. We have that love that can fill our hearts and no matter how big the storm we can have peace.

May the Peace of God be with you this day.

VA Medical Marijuana Update 35 ► Dems Press for In-Depth Medical Research (year old article-Editor)

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been credited with major medical advancements since its research office was created in 1925 -- the cardiac pacemaker, shingles vaccine and the first successful liver transplant topping its list of accomplishments. Now, a group of lawmakers want VA researchers to turn their attention to marijuana. Lawmakers on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs – led by the highest-ranking enlisted soldier to ever serve in Congress – are calling on the VA to initiate research into the efficacy of medical cannabis. In a letter Thursday to VA Secretary David Shulkin, the lawmakers cited the country’s opioid crisis and the growing demand from veterans and major veterans service organizations that want cannabis available as a treatment option for chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder.

VA research into medical marijuana, the lawmakers wrote, is integral to the advancement of health care for veterans and the nation. "There’s the possibility research can help inform not just veterans’ care, but everyone’s care,” said Griffin Anderson, press secretary for Democrats on the committee. Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN) is the ranking Democrat on the committee and a retired command sergeant major with the Minnesota Army National Guard. He’s one of nine Democrats and an Independent who signed the letter 26 OCT. The others are: Reps. Mark Takano (D-CA).; Julia Brownley (D-CA).; Ann Kuster (D-NH).; Beto O’Rourke (D-TX); Kathleen Rice (D-NY); J. Luis Correa (D-CA).; Kilili Sablan, I-Northern Mariana Islands; Elizabeth Esty (D-CT)., and Scott Peters (D-CA).

The letter marks the first instance that the leadership of veterans’ affairs committee in the House or Senate has urged a VA secretary to conduct research on medical marijuana, Anderson said. Only recently, medical marijuana was thought of as a “fringe issue” by staff of committee Democrats. The timing of the letter was based on Shulkin’s comments regarding medical marijuana in May, followed by months of advocacy from groups such as the American Legion. During a “State of the VA” address at the White House, Shulkin – who is also a practicing physician -- acknowledged there was some evidence marijuana could be effective as a medical treatment and said he was open to learning more about it.

“The secretary expressed interest to look into this. I think he was speaking from a personal standpoint, but it was on a public stage,” said Megan Bland, a staff member for committee Democrats. “When you look at that, and take the veterans’ suicide rates, the opioid crisis and the complexity of post-traumatic stress disorder, it just makes so much sense that if there’s a solution, we should explore it.”

Since May, the American Legion has strongly advocated for more research into medical marijuana. At its national convention in August, the organization adopted a resolution urging the VA to allow doctors to discuss and recommend medical marijuana in states where it’s legal. That’s in addition to a resolution that the group passed the previous year asking for marijuana to be removed from the list of Schedule I drugs, which include with heroin, LSD, ecstasy and others designated as having no medical use.

The Legion has been supportive of research in Phoenix, Ariz., that is the first federally approved study of marijuana’s effects on veterans with PTSD. Louis Celli, a leader within the Legion, said the organization is trying to prove to lawmakers that medical marijuana is a politically safe topic. Celli described the letter that lawmakers sent Thursday as “the beginning of the snowball.” He noted it carried weight being led by Walz, whom Celli called a “major player in the veteran community.” “The U.S. government has to address this issue… they can’t turn a blind eye and pretend it’s not coming to critical mass,” Celli said. “If veteran research could lead the way for a national, medical shift in the efficacy of cannabis and start that dialogue, that’s good for America.”

Staff for Democrats on the House committee found no regulatory barriers that would prevent the VA from immediately researching medical marijuana. Bland said the VA already possesses a Schedule I license, which is required by the Drug Enforcement Administration to study marijuana. Lawmakers asked Shulkin to respond to their letter by 14 NOV, with either a commitment to develop research into medical marijuana or a detailed reason for why the VA can’t. “Everything we looked at suggests the VA can pursue this tomorrow,” Bland said. “And if they can’t, we want them to tell us why they can’t, with the idea that hopefully we’d be able to help them overcome those barriers in the next year.” [Source: Stars & Stripes | Nikki Wentling | October 26, 2017 ++]

Veterans Day 2018: November 11

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary marking the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day as a way to honor those who served in all American wars. The day honors military veterans with parades and speeches across the nation and a remembrance ceremony takes place at the Tomb of the Unknowns Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

***GOD BLESS the UNITED STATES of AMERICA***!