

**Disabled American Veterans
Chapter 9
Information Letter
Or
Newsletter
March – April 2006**

Chapter Officers:

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From the Commander's desk:

The year is winding down to our annual election of new officers. It will be time to welcome the new Commander and officer who ever they may be. We will be having nominations at the March meeting with elections to be held in April.

To recap our past activities, we had successful Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with Santa Clause at the latter one. I thank all the families that enjoyed both of our annual events. And a special thank you to the Methodist Outreach Committee for providing and cooking the main course for both functions.

In April we will be setting up a booth at the Yuba/Sutter Home and Garden Show to be held on the 7th - 9th. We plan to provide information for veterans to get help, provide information about the DAV, sell some lapel pins and water bottle lanyards, and to possible have a raffle prize. We will need a crew of two to three to set up on Friday and two crews of three for each day to help with information, selling, and raffling. Crew members will get in free to the Show. Contact Billy Wagster, Stephanie Ruscigno or myself if you would like to help.

The real picture: Too many times we see what is happening on the national veterans sign as far as politics is concerned. Then we say to ourselves what is the use being in a veteran's organization when all this is going on concerning our benefits. I've got a news flash for you; it has been going on since our country's revolution against England. What has changed is the time and location but not the issues. Disabled American Veterans was formed to get ongoing medical care for our wounded and disabled in 1918. However, to get it going in the first place it took a grass roots effort by a few. We may not be able to change the minds of politicians on our own but we can do it collectively. This Chapter has been a grass roots effort to meet the needs of our veterans that require medical help, to help them adjust. Politics starts on the local arena and then goes higher. By being

a life member we have a voice through our national organizations as well as through our lobbyist. We vote on the grass root level and we help on the same level.

So many times we complain about what is happening on the national level—on not being able to do anything about it. But some never stop to think what can we do in our local communities about helping the disabled WWII veteran down the street, or the homeless veterans, or helping another veteran in need. We are in the business of “veterans helping veterans” because who else better knows the veteran but another veteran who understands and may have had similar experiences.

Every member that is in this chapter and nationally is important. The question is what you want to do with it... or not. If you do nothing but added to the collective voice of other veterans in the four major veterans organizations that is a step. However, if you want to get involved with another veteran on a one to one bases, that is the beginning of establishing help, understanding, and support. As is so many times quoted “you are either part of the problem or part of the solution”, but by doing nothing is like the apathy so many of my fellow Viet Nam veterans felt when we returned. Let us not let this happen again especially with our newest returning veterans.

E-Mail news: From time to time I get information sent to me about important issues that are coming up in congress and general FYI that you may be interested in. I also like to be able to communicate with you all to remind you of up coming meetings and events and to also exchange and or get ideas from you about how to better meet the needs of our membership as well as veterans. That being said, if you would like to stay connected please send me your present or new e-mail address.

Member Profile:

In future issues I would like to introduce fellow members to you both by e-mail and newsletter. So I will begin with me.

I am a U.S. Navy veteran. I joined in 1968 and became a Radioman. I spent two years in Hawaii. I went to Vietnam as a Radioman 2nd Class and was assigned to the Naval Advisory Group (NAG) out of Da Nang. I was the communications security officer and radio operator with Coastal Group 11 and the mouth of the Cau Viet River. NAG was a subordinate unit to Military Advisory Command, Vietnam as well as the Da Nang Naval Support Command. I left the Navy in Jan. 1972 to pursue a B.A. in Recreation Administration which I achieved.

I joined the DAV Chapter 122 in 1996 and since then I have been Jr. Vice and Sr. Vice Commanders for one year each and Commander of the same Chapter for two years. At the same time I was the District 12 Sr. Vice for six months then the Commander for another two and a half years. As you know I have been the Commander of Chapter 9 for two years and presently a state officer as an Alternate State Executive Committee Member. And last but not least I am a volunteer driver for the VA since June of 2005 serving the Yuba/Sutter Veterans.

Now lets us know about you!

VA Shuttle Van

The Shuttle Van is now operational 5 days a week with pick ups in Olivehurst and E. Nicholas. We leave the Marysville One Stop at 0700 A.M. We make stops at McClellan and Mather. If you need a ride, call to reserve your space at least 2-3 days minimum ahead of time.

We are also still looking for additional drivers to keep this service going. If you are interested call the Veterans Service Office. (749-4967).

Coming Meetings and events:

March 18th business meeting: Agenda Brief; nomination of officers, preparation for Home and Garden show on April 7 – 9. Possible fishing trip for wheel chair veterans and aid (fresh water fishing). Time: 1100 A.M.

April 7 – 9: Need volunteers for the Yuba/Sutter Home and Garden Show, we need your help.

April 15th Executive Committee meeting at 0930 at Methodist Church

April 15th business meeting: Agenda Brief- Election and installation of new officers. Time: 1100 A.M.

I hope to see you at our next meeting!

Yours in Service

Marvin Bottum, Commander