

**FALL 2007 NEWS LETTER**  
**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**  
**CHAPTER 9**  
**MARYSVILLE, CA 95901**  
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**[www.davchapter9.org](http://www.davchapter9.org)**

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From the Adjutants Desk:

This past year we have had a lot of things happen, some successful and some new venues that need the creases worked out, but were none the less a hit.

To review the year we will start with some of our past and future events.

We received the California State Departments highest recruitment award this year for the second straight year in a row. The recruitment award: **Harry E. Wentworth Memorial Award for the Largest Percentage Gain in Life Members** as well as another award for **The Largest Numerical Gain of Members in a Chapter with 50 – 300 members**. These accomplishments could not have been done without your participation. Thank you all for your continued involvement in this Chapter.

For a little wrap up of this past year we have had a few new events that you may not be aware of.

Feb. 21: we had a Hike to Heal in the Buttes for some of our returning veterans as well as some of older veterans to help them decompress a little from their wounds through the beauty of the Sutter Buttes. We partnered with MMF (Middle Mountain Foundation), whose new executive director is a Coast Guard veteran. This looks like an annual event that we will be putting on. Starting this event was the National Congressional Medal of Honor Remembrance Day, which we were the only veteran's organization that honored these courageous men and women with a small ceremony at the Sutter Veteran's Hall.

April 5-7: We had a Forget – Me – Not campaign Co-Chaired by Tom Mack and Mike Payne. This was very successful, thank you to our volunteers.

April 28: "DAV Presents Blue Grass in the Valley" with performances from Mountain Laurel and the Anderson Family. Chaired by Bert Johnson.  
We had raffle prizes and food sales at Franklin Hall at the Fairgrounds.

June: Was the State DAV Convention in Bakersfield. Attended by Commander Stephanie Ruscigno and Adjutant Marvin Bottum.

August: National DAV Convention was attended by Commander Ruscigno in New Orleans.

Now this has brought us up to speed for the rest of 2007.

**Oct. 5** will be our first annual Gold Tournament to held at Beale AFB,s Coyote Run golf course. This will be a scramble tourney with the best and worst ball in play. This event will cost \$100 which includes a) green fees, b) golf carts, c) a sleeve of balls, d) bag lunch, e) soft drinks and bottled water, f) hole in one prizes with the biggest one being \$10,000 cash, g) a free rescue wedge, worth \$125, for all participants and last but not least an awards banquet featuring tri-tip and ham with rum raisin sauce.

We are looking for players and hole sponsors for this program. I am enclosing entry forms to all of you to share with others. You need not have a foursome to play; we will match you up with other players. All entries need to be in by Sept. 21. The event committee members are: Lane Noyes, Mike Payne, and Bob Logan with some help from some other members of the Chapter.

**Oct. 13** will be one of the biggest events in the north valley. It is the Torch of Freedom. This event is to honor all of our World War II veterans past and present. At this event we will have Bands from all the services, Navy drill team, Army simulators, a USO show, History Channel interviews with veterans, refreshments, activities for kids and some VIP's that will be there other than our WWII vets. We will need your help on this so please call the Commander or Marvin King Jr.

**Nov. 3:** We will be having our second Town Hall meeting at the Yuba County Board of Supervisors chambers. This will be a question and answer session for all and we will be honoring the veteran of the year at that time.

**Nov. 11:** Veterans Day Parade in Marysville. This year we will be marching in one large group with other veterans groups to show solidarity as veterans. I hope you can make it.

**Nov. 17:** Will be a Thanksgiving Dinner and Awards Night open to all members and their families. This year it will be held at the Moose Lodge on Walton Ave. in Yuba City.

### **Membership adjustments:**

We have been having problems in getting a hold of you by phone as well as e-mail addresses changes. If you have a new phone number, new e-mail address, or a new address please contact me by letter, phone, and/or e-mail. My e-mail address is [mac3b@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mac3b@sbcglobal.net)  
Please stay in contact so that we can get in contact with you.

## Commander's Column

Hello comrades,

It has been an interesting year to be sure and the best is yet to come. As Marvin has briefed you, we are wearing out our volunteers who are greatly appreciated. What Marv failed to mention is that he and our JAG Tom Mack are on the state DAV committee for volunteers as well as the VA Volunteer Service Representatives. Marv has logged over 20,000 miles alone this year driving the VA van. That is over 1500 hours. Many weeks Marv is the only one driving since Tom's daughter has taken ill requiring his paternal care as she has fought brain cancer – and winning. We have another major DAV volunteer, Jessie Harpool who was sidelined by a cardiac problem. All vets should give kudos to these men who are responsible for transportation to VA appointment, a critical lifeline for medical care in this area. If any of you can do so or knows anyone to volunteer, this is an excellent opportunity for service to others.

The biggest event we have going is the Torch of Freedom. The etiology of this was the constant request for help from family members who needed assistance during time of great sorrow only to discover there is no great database of DD214s. In speaking to others we determined that there are a lot of older vets who do not know that they are entitled to VA benefits and if so, have not a clue what they are. The last Town Hall opened up some discussion and (not exactly what I want to be remembered for being called Ms Vet death) taught all that the funeral honors program by the California National Guard's state honor guard is beyond words. Dignity, professionalism are but two adjectives.

For those that were not there, the first Town Hall we honored the first (and thankfully the only) fallen Iraqi war hero for Sutter County, Spc Harley Anders. We had the guard provide the flag folding, rifle salute, bugler, bagpipes and presentation, which is available to all. Accompanying this we had the heads of the state and federal VA cemetery systems. Information that was appreciated and that we still receive calls about.

The Hike to Heal we owe a debt of gratitude to Margit Sands who owns the Dean Ranch and is a member of MMF graciously donated her land's use. Her son is an F-16 pilot. The naturalist who led the hike has a brother who is a Vietnam vet who literally disappeared from life in SF, obviously suffering devastating PTSD. Only 3 sightings of him in the last decade. There is a lot we can do to help those with PTSD. We never know who is affected but all know that families suffer as well. That is why we are so motivated to give the Torch of Freedom a Herculean effort to reach veterans and let them know we care, as does the community and what is available with the VA and service organizations.

The most exciting news from the convention in New Orleans is that the WW2 Museum there is helping us in our exhibits for the Torch of Freedom. They are scanning posters and photos and giving us video clips as well. The children's activities the museum is donating for our use is in teaching the children in both their schools and at Beckworth Park include the original broadcasts from WW2 and how to make their own, what are codes and how to use them to send messages, and more. Panchito has a sister out of Houston, TX called Special Delivery. The Mitchell B-25 bomber is best known for its part in Jimmy Doolittle's Raiders. The public is going to hear what those engines sound like! Thanks national DAV!

Knowing that the Y-S outstanding vet of the year 2007 trained on a B-25 (and crashed one) leads me to mention that the next Town Hall is on combat injuries. We have a speaker on the expansion of the

Oakland VA, a surgeon general, former Army nurse, and others. New information will be there, which is why we dropped two speakers and have changed the date twice. This is the final change, speakers are not. Late breaking is always a priority. Yes, we shall have our elected representatives brief us on current legislation. Million-dollar question, who is going to fill the shoes of our first outstanding vet of the year? Eric Hellberg is pretty formidable with big shoes to fill. Keep on nominating! Three areas: 1. Military service, 2. Community service, and 3. Service or advocacy for veterans. Easier will be to nominate the outstanding disabled veteran of the year... Narrowing it down to a single winner is the most challenging part!

For the Torch of Freedom. We need to have as many veterans in the classrooms as humanly possible. We need POC's for every school. IF we do not educate the youth, who will? Those of you who answered your country's call know what it is all about. You all know that it is better to learn history from those who made it or at least were there. Please, give our youth the opportunity to learn what service in the armed forces is all about. Teach them what patriotism is all about. This precedes the Torch of Freedom as they need to know the difference between WW2 and Vietnam, how to march (left from right), a demo on radios, what "These Colors Don't Run" means and why the flag patches look wrong on uniforms (if we have them run with a flag they can see how it flies going forward and that we do not retreat) and what each fold of the flag represents as well as the ceremony they will see at Beckworth Park at the Guarding of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We shall be back on Bob Harlan's Radio Show, "Talking Things Over with Bob Harlan" talking about communications progressions from radio packs to satellites. Battles of WW2. More on what we shall have at the event. Just today I learned we can get a Harrier Jet with coordination. Same with a MEU. What an excellent opportunity for vets to talk with their friends and families the then and now with real assets! They can share with other generation of veterans and the active duty on what they are feeling and do. This event is a massive outreach to veterans as well as an educational venue for all.

Please seek to find all WW2 vets to honor and their memorabilia. If you know a sportsman who has a quad, or a golfer with their own cart, ask them to let us use it for the elderly and disabled.

If you can help with the set up of the historical display tents, please give any of us a call. If you want to play on the Army's simulators, we will have special time for the volunteers, too. IF you need or want an Army dog tag and do not want to wait in any line, well, ask! The Army is accommodating us. The Navy has a photographer so you can get photos of the kids in face paint or at the basic marching graduation ceremony. It will be a multigenerational celebration truly.

When our Town Hall, Golf Tournament, Forget-Me-Not, Torch of Freedom and Parade participation is over, then you can look forward to a sit down luncheon/awards banquet, Thanksgiving and then a Christmas dinner with Santa Claus. We also will properly thank the city of Marysville then.

Thanks for your patience! Steph Ruscigno (cell: 315-8990, email: slruscigno@gmail.com)