



91st Annual Convention June 2023

Committee Reports



Disabled American Veterans(DAV)
Department of Virginia
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June 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 91st Department Convention
FROM: PDC Denice T. Williams
Subject: Report of the Joint Leadership Council Representative

This report is for the period March 20th through June 7th, 2023

As Chair of the Joint Leadership Council of Veteran Service Organizations (the JLC), I attended weekly legislative meetings, caucuses, and networking events while the General Assembly was in session from January 11- February 25, however the Governor reconvened the GA on April 12. At the conclusion of all sessions, four of the six JLC Initiatives for 2023 were passed and some will become effective July 1, 2023. Those successful bills include:

- Constitutional amendment to expand tax relief for surviving spouses of military service members to also include "Died in the Line-of-Duty." NOTE: An identical resolution must pass the 2024 General Assembly in order to be on the ballot in the November 2024 General Election.
- Elimination of Spouse/Dependent and Guard/Reserves burial fees in State Veteran Cemeteries.
- Free admission to Virginia State Parks for members of the Virginia National Guard.
- Virginia National Guard income tax exemption increased from \$3000 to \$5500 and pay grade eligibility increased to O6.

Additionally, the bill for special issuance for women veterans license plates was passed. Thanks again to DAV Department of Virginia, Social Media Committee and the members who supported the petitions.

I also had the opportunity to represent JLC and the Governor at ceremonies such as the groundbreaking for the new Memorial Honor Guard Corps Building at the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. This building will house Honor Guard volunteers throughout the year to ensure every veteran buried at Horton receives the final benefit of honors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice Williams



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June 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Rita Aberegg, Audit Chairman

Subject: Report of the Audit Committee

This report is for the period March 20, 2023 through June 7, 2023

The Audit Committee has not met since the Fall Conference of 2022. Stephen Perkins has reviewed all vouchers since then and the Audit Committee will not meet to review those that have been submitted while we are at the Annual Convention.

The Audit Committee has reviewed the Quarterly Distribution Reports of those chapters receiving funds from the Thrift Stores. We intend to review any discrepancies with the pertinent personnel of each chapter, to ensure the funds received are being used for Service to Veterans. This is a Work in Progress and the committee is open to suggestions on how we can make filing these Quarterly Reports as easy as possible.

I look forward to meeting with many of you and I'm always available if you have questions about your Chapter Financial Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Aberegg



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May 31, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 91st Department Convention
FROM: James Smith Jr., Awards Committee Chair
Subject: Report of the Awards Committee

This report is for the period March 18th through June 5th, 2023,

The awards committee is working to wrap up the current award period. The committee is working to propose 3 new DAV awards at the convention. If approved, the guidelines for these awards will be added to the current awards guide. Once completed it will be sent to each Chapter Commander and Adjutant and be available on the Department website at virginiadav.org under the administration tab, and forms.

The proposed awards:

- **John Wesley King II Excellence in Leadership Award**
- **Department Outstanding Golden Corral Volunteer Award**
- **Department Outstanding Golden Corral Volunteer Award by Chapter**

The awards committee has completed discussion of award nominations submitted by chapters. The following results are submitted:

Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year (Al Bartraw Jr. Award)- Denice Williams, Chapter 22

Lifetime Achievement Award(Charlie Craft Award)- John C. Simmons , Chapter 22

Once the convention is completed, we will be open to accept awards for the Fall Conference after July 15th.

The following Awards can be nominated for to be presented at Fall Conference:

- Outstanding Chapter of the Year
- Outstanding Community Service by a Chapter (W. Pat White Award)
- Outstanding Community Service by a Member (W. Pat White Award)
- Outstanding Volunteer Service (Emmanuel N. Vlattas Award)
- Outstanding Chapter Service Officer (Phyllis B. Simmons Award)

The following awards will be based reports from the National Membership System:

- NSO Membership Recruiter of the Year
- Membership Recruiter of the Year

Membership Award for Chapter/Highest Numerical Increase
Membership Award for Chapter/ Highest Percentage Increase

The Committee would like to submit the proposal for a vote on June 15th . We look forward to seeing Chapters submit members and others that deserve to be recognized.

Respectfully submitted,

James Smith Jr.

James Smith Jr., Ed. D

Chair, Dept. Awards Committee



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June 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 91st Annual Department Convention 2023
FROM: Shawn B. Ware, Chair
Subject: Report of the Employment Committee

This report is for the period March 20, 2023 through June 7, 2023.

The committee continued to work closely with the Chapters, Department Service Commission (DSC) Committees, and the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists to foster relationships, share employment resources and information, and assist our veterans in the local communities. The committee's webpage and Facebook page continue to serve as valuable resources to communicate and share information.

On the legislative side, we identified and submitted three employment-related legislative proposals (resolutions) for consideration during Department Annual Convention: 1) Support Prompt Payment of Contracts to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses; 2) Support Legislation Enhancing Government-Wide Goals for Participation by Small Businesses Owned and Controlled by Service-Disabled Veterans; and 3) Support Outreach to and Employment of Women Veterans.

I would like to thank our committee members: Will Bible (60), Sha'ron Dorsey-Monroe (2), La Juanda Gray-Parks (2), Brandi Taylor (50) and PDC Lisa Gregory (7, Ex-Officio) for their support and work on this committee. I would also like to personally thank everyone else who provided support, feedback, and encouragement along the way. I am thankful for the opportunity, and it has been my pleasure to serve you all and our fellow veterans on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn B. Ware



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June 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 91st Annual Convention - 2023
FROM: David Cuff, Chair
Subject: Report of the Finance Committee

This report is for the period March 20, 2022 through June 7, 2023.

The Finance Committee met on June 12th in the Department Headquarters and/or via Zoom Meeting to prepare a draft budget for the 2023-2024 accounting year. Treasurer Cox will present a draft budget based on financial data from the prior two fiscal years and year-to-date data. All budget guidelines will be reviewed, and changes made as appropriate. The committee will meet, if necessary, prior to the convention to finalize the draft budget and budget guidelines for presentation at the 4th DEC.

On June 15th the committee will meet with our investment advisors for the annual meeting per the budget guidelines.

I hope that the convention will be productive and enjoyable for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cuff



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June 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 91st Department Convention
FROM: Shamala B. Capizzi, BPTL committee chair
Subject: Report of the Department BPTL committee

This report is for the period from March 18, through June 5, 2023.

Greetings,

Committee report will discuss the BPTL committee chair overview of activities and/or events.

On August 25, 2022, completed DAV Legislative Webinar which was hosted by DAV National Legislative department.

On November 10, 2022, attended a VSO roundtable hosted by the U.S. Attorney's office as a department representative and discussed disability-based discrimination faced by veterans within the Eastern District of Virginia.

On January 2, 2023, sent BPTL newsletter to BPLT committee members to share with their chapter Commanders of pending DAV resolutions.

On February 26, attended the Benefits Protection Team workshop at Mid-Winter 2023.

On February 27, 2023, hosted the Department Commander's coffee with attendance of 28-chapter members and one congressional representative from Rep. Connelly's office and NAACP - Arlington representative.

Year in review and moving forward

As the BPTL committee chair expectations were not defined by the Department and required tools were not furnished either to the chair or a committee member i.e., constant contact information however improvements for the upcoming year will be created and established within the committee. Major goal for the committee is to increase Virginia members and official representatives' attendance to Commander's

coffee at Mid-Winter. Also, committee member's conduct resolution writing workshops to members at local chapters within Virginia.

Respectfully submitted

Shamala B. Capizzi



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June 6th, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 91st Department Convention
FROM: Lisa Gregory, Chair Department Homeless Committee
Subject: Report of the Department Homeless Committee

This report is for the period March 18th through June 8th, 2023

Greetings,

During this period the Committee continues to utilize local, state and federal resources to assist with temporary housing for Homeless Veterans and working to get them connected to the proper resources to meet their needs. This information may sound repetitive to many, but it is important since some needs of Homeless Veterans can be outside the scope or monetary amounts DAV Chapters can offer.

We ask that Chapters try to connect Veterans with 211 or the Homeless Veteran Hotline at 1-877-4AID VET. Many of the pandemic services are starting to go away and we are seeing an increase at a level that is beyond our scope and what the Veteran may be able to maintain and sustain on their own.

Chapters that have assisted outside the Department scope have been Chapter 5 (\$600), Chapter 7 (\$1,100), Chapter 13 (\$2,070), Chapter 20 (\$500), Chapter 22 (\$400), Chapter 24 (\$500) and Chapter 26 (\$1,800), Chapter 27 (\$850) and Chapter 50 (\$500). Total reported by these Chapters alone was roughly \$8,300 in assistance to 31 Veterans and family members. For the year the Department assisted 22 Veterans with over \$10,000 in assistance.

I would like to thank the Committee members that have assisted all year with phone calls and investigations. They are Walter Moseley, Chapter 2, Francine James, Chapter 6, Samuel Watkins, Chapter 28 and Tyrele Felder, Chapter 33. I also wish to thank those on the ER committee, especially Kass Benson, Chapter 6, for all the hard work she has done in coordinating resources between the two committees.

Thank you for all you do everyday!

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Gregory, Chair Homeless Committee



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FOR: 91st Department Convention
FROM: Women Veterans Committee
Subject: Report of the Department

This report is for the period March 18th through June 5th, 2023.

Greetings,

Throughout this period, this committee has held events within a few different regions engaging women veterans throughout the department as well as from other Veteran Service Organizations.

On 15 May 2023, our third Quarterly Joint Zoom Meeting was held. Aside from the committee members, new chapter WV committee members from Chapters 50 and 28 were in attendance. Upcoming events like the 75th Anniversary of Women Veterans (12 Jun 2023), being held at the Virginia War Memorial were discussed.

Hampton Roads:

2 Joint Round Tables: Hosted by LaShawn Boyer

22 Apr 2023 - Of 12 participants (in descending order), Chapters 13 and 34 plus one potential new member were in attendance where some of the following topics were discussed:

- - Lifesaving Benefit of Involvement
 - Power to Change Lives
 - Enduring Legacy of DAV Scholarships
 - Caregiving
 - How Landlords Can Help End Veterans Homelessness
 - Five Steps to take to Participate in Accepting the Housing Choice Vouchers
 - Strengthening Programs & Services for Disabled Women Veterans
 - Advocating for Women Veterans Legislation
 - Ending Sexual Assault & Harassment

20 May 2023 – Guest speaker, ER Chair, Kass Benson, came and discussed the different resources available to assist veterans. Of the 10 attendees (in descending order), Chapters 13, 5 and 6 plus one from the American Legion participated. The following are a few of the resources mentioned.

- - Handouts provided for Crisis Hotlines and other agencies.
 - National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
 - 211 Virginia
 - Salvation Army of the Virginia Peninsula
 - Thrive Peninsula
 - American Red Cross of Virginia
 - Air Force Aid Society
 - Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society
 - Mission United (United Way) Information
 - Volunteers of America Chesapeake
 - United Way's Quick Guide for Rappahannock

Central Virginia: One Joint Round Table was attempted May 13, 2023, but overcome by events and will be rescheduled: date TBD. This will be hosted by Michaun Harrison.

NoVA: Memorial Cleaning (27 May 2023)

Shamala Capizzi (Ch. 10/Arlington, WV Cmte) hosted a scrub down of American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial at 150 Washington Ave SW in DC . Of 15 participants, 3 were women vets. As they work with the National Park Service, these are additional dates for all to consider participating: June 24, July 22, August 19, September 16, and October 28.

There is also a virtual open resource for Suicide Loss Survivors' Group the 2nd Thur @ 6pm of each month. For detailed information, we will further disseminate the flyer.

Respectfully submitted,

Women Veterans Committee



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June 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 91 st Department Convention
FROM: Jeff Ogilvie
Subject: Report of the Incarcerated Veterans Committee

This report is for the period March 5th, 2023, through June 5th, 2023

The Incarcerated Veterans Committee is made up of four (4) members and 1 Chairman:

Joel Courtemanche, Chapter 15
Meredeth (Murdock) Conley, Chapter 24
Lisa Oliphant, Chapter 3
Deborah Saunders, Chapter 3

Since our last report at Spring Conference, the Committee accomplished the following:

1. We have been in contact via Zoom 3 times and emailed each other multiple times.
2. Joel has been trying to get back into Coffeewood and talking to the Program Manager, We have been in contact with various Facilities Program Managers from these facilities Coffeewood, Hainesville, Rappahanok, Virginia Department of Corrections. Green Rock Correctional Center

We have been invited by Virginia Veterans and Family Services VVFS to attend the monthly graduation of Incarcerated Veterans that are living at home and are still being monitored by the courts.

I have attended 3 times to the Veterans Court Docket so far. The first Thursday of every month.

Deborah Saunders has been in contact with a Veteran James Brown for the past 2 years.

Lisa Oliphant Has been in contact with the Roanoke County Jail and is speaking with a Captain that is the Warden about information she can bring to the Veterans. Claims, Homelessness, Employment.Etc

Lisa was also in contact with Bland County Correctional Facility with a Lt. Luther on what she can do for Veterans that are Incarcerated. Still not able to go in there.

We also have been helping via the phone and email a Veteran that is incarcerated at the Green Rock Facility to help him with his disability claim so that his family can get his disability money while he is locked up. Waiting on a reply from Roanoke what his status is.

Our Committee is in touch with (VADOC) Virginia Department of Corrections

Mr. Williams, Marshall/

Fredericksburg Office, District 21 Probation & Parole Helps with getting into facilities.

Paula Orellana, M.S./

Casework Counselor, Virginia Department of Corrections, Helps us stay in contact with Veterans that are Incarcerated through email.

Mr. David Wingfield/

VADOC, Veterans Program Manager, Virginia Department of Corrections

Programs, Education and Reentry Division

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Ogilvie

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DAV Department of Virginia
Commander



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June 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR: 91st Department Convention

FROM: Officer or Committee

Subject: Report of the Department

This report is for the period March 18th through June 5th, 2023

Greetings,

1. The Social Committee meetings held
 - March
 - Virginia Department Calendar Fundraiser submissions
 - Building your Social Media Campaign
 - How often to Post
 - Using hashtags – Twitter
 - Hubspot – Nonprofit pricing
 - Best Practices from Chapters
 - Website Management
 - April
 - Mailchimp and Constant Contact
 - May
 - Calendly app
 - QR Codes
 - Transcription app – Otter.ai
2. Events / Chapter Visits / Assistance
 - Chapter 28 – March
 - Women's Memorial Celebration / Arlington – March
 - Women's Kick off celebration – Hampton – March
 - Chapter 20 – March Women's Day Event – March
 - Chapter 21 – Mental Health Awareness Panel - May
 - Chapter 13 - Social Media Presentation – May

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Stewart

Dr. Marcia Stewart



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8 June 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Kassandra O. Benson, Chairperson, Dept Emergency Relief Committee

Subject: Report of the Emergency Relief Committee

This report is for the period March 20th, 2023 through June 7th, 2023

Chapter ER Funds expended per the reports received: \$7,982.79

- Funds assisted minimum of 17 veterans & 7 Dependents
- Needs primarily included: Rent/Mortgage Assists and Utilities
 - The following seven (7) Chapters responded to call for data: 3, 5, 6, 13, 17, 22, and 50.
 - One (1) chapter of the seven (7) had no expenditures.
 - Two additional chapters acknowledged receipt for the Call of Data, but no data sent.

Assistance by Chapters (as reported) for this period:

DAV Chapter 3:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$706.85
Total Veterans or Dependents Assisted: Not Reported
Types of Assist: Rent & Utilities

DAV Chapter 5:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$2,230.05
Total Veterans Assisted: 3; Total Dependents: 1
Types of Assist: Rent & Utilities

DAV Chapter 6:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$2,404.15
Total Veterans Assisted: 4; Total Dependents: 5
Types of Assist: Rent & Utilities

DAV Chapter 13:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$1,249.29
Total Veterans Assisted: 5 Total Dependents: 1 (at least)
Types of Assists: Rent, etc

DAV CHAPTER 17:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$0.00
Total Veterans Assisted: N/A
Types of Assist: N/A

DAV CHAPTER 22:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$976.45
Total Veterans Assisted: 3; Total Dependents: Not Reported
Types of Assist: Utilities & Thrift Store

DAV Chapter 50:

Total Amount Dispersed: \$416.00
Total Veterans Assisted: 2
Type of Assists: Rent (for at least 1)

NOTE: All other Virginia chapters not listed here did not forward me any info or only sent an acknowledgement of receipt by the time I completed this report. will be contacted and offered the chance to provide their numbers for historical purposes. Any assistance after 7 June and through 15 June 2023 can be included in an ADDEMDUM Report to be uploaded before end of convention.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Platform to Track Veteran Assistance Across Virginia:**

-- Held a Zoom Meetings with DAV Homeless Chairperson (Lisa Gregory), upcoming DSC (PDC Cynthia Bailey) and DAV Chapter 21 Commander (Marcia Smith) to discuss a platform called MONDAY.COM that may be a viable tool to use to track the veterans DAV assists across the state for the purposes of seeing any misuse of resources, but also to validate the footprint of our assistance. I had a second meeting with Marcia Smith to become more familiar with the program and to begin setting up a baseline of information. This platform will be introduced during my Emergency Relief briefing and I will work with a few voluntary chapters to begin familiarizing them with the system for future use and implementation if Department approves.

Draft Policy Guide for ER/Homeless Program: To standardize a minimum of information & standard process

- Nearing closure of a draft for review by DSC, Adjutant, and committee members to vet before presenting to chapters for input.
- I continue to get requests from chapter CSOs/chaplains for guidance before they act on some of my requests. A guide of minimum requirements is at the top of my list of tasks right along with the tracking platform.
- Requests for internal ER/Homeless Application Familiarization Training are increasing. I plan to work in a quarterly session with CSOs/Chaplains to have candid discussion of their needs and to address questions. This will aid in focusing the guide as well.

Community Partnerships:

- Continuing to keep our community partners abreast of what the DAV is and is not capable of doing in terms of financial support, especially on a long-term basis.

-- Pushing for more face-to-face meetings with other veteran organizations & agencies within the VA Hospital to understand their assistance and how we can work better together.

-- I continue to receive invites to Continuum of Care Meetings in the Tidewater area. In the future, I will ask some of the chapter CSOs/Commanders and ER/Homeless Committee members if they'd like to attend for the purposes of continuity and education.

Shout out to my committee members chapters for your hard work in this process and who continued to fill the gap in vetting the requested need by our fellow veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

"Kass"

KASSANDRA O. BENSON

Service Officer, DAV Chapter 6 (Hampton, VA)

Chair, DAV Dept of Virginia Emergency Relief Cmte

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Disabled American Veterans (DAV) - Fulfilling the Promises!



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June 07, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Irby Cotton II / Membership Committee

Subject: Report of the Membership Committee

This report is for the period August 15, 2022 – June 7, 2023

Established National and Department goals - Spoke with and exchanged correspondence with Department Commander Francis Mitchell

Membership Roles and Responsibilities -To ensure all Chapter Membership Chairs were aware of their roles and responsibilities for 2022-2023, the Department Membership Committee hosted two (2) sessions. September 3, 2022 - 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Completed September 8, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Department Fall Conference - Delivered Membership Presentation, set up a Membership informational table to answer Chapters' questions, distributed brochures, literature and interviewed DAV members about the Conference.

Golden Corral – National Commander Visit - Event Posted on Twitter. Recruited potential members / explained claims information / emergency relief / homelessness / job fairs etc.....

Chapters Visited and /or Assisted with Membership

- Chapter 2
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6
- Chapter 7
- Chapter 17
- Chapter 15
- Chapter 21
- Chapter 22
- Chapter 30
- Chapter 26
- Chapter 27
- Chapter 28
- Chapter 33
- Chapter 34
- Chapter 50
- Chapter 13

Membership Initiatives

- **Chapter Visits/Zoom**
 - o September 3, 2022
 - o September 8, 2022
 - o October 27, 2022
 - o November 17, 2022
 - o December 3, 2022 – Chapter 34

- o February 4, 2023 – Chapters 30 and 33
- o February 7, 2023 – Chapter 27
- o February 23, 2023
- **Events - Twitter and Facebook Posts**
 - o November 14, 2023 - Golden Corral
 - o February 28 – March 1, 2023, Mid-Winter Conference
 - o March 3, 2023 - March Madness Kick-Off – Guy Fieri
- **Electronic Business Cards**
 - o Virginia Chapters
 - o 6th District Chapters
 - o Other DAV Chapters
 - o Potential New Members
- **6th District Photo** at the 2023 Mid-Winter Conference – Included with report
- **The Department's 91st Annual Convention scheduled for 15-18 June, 2023**

Membership Committee Meetings

- September 3, 2022
- September 8, 2022
- October 27, 2022
- November 17, 2022
- January 26, 2023
- February 28, 2023
- March 23, 2023
- April 27, 2023
- May 25, 2023
- June 22, 2023 (Post)

Goal: To achieve a successful March Madness (Pre and Post)

Plan: To achieve the 2022--2024 goal, the team will seek to complete the following:

1. Establish Communications with Commanders, Adjutant, Sr. Vice or Membership Chair, and Membership Committee Member in each Chapter
2. What town, city, or county is your Chapter Located
3. Total number of members in Chapter
4. Total number of Veterans in the Chapter's jurisdiction
5. Has your Chapter received a Hot List?
6. Do you have the most up-to-date membership list
7. Do you have the most up-to-date zip code list
8. DAV Membership Eligibility
9. Chapter Membership goals and achievements

10. Chapters Mentoring other Chapters
11. March Madness
12. Chapters with locations to meet and where
13. DAV New Member Orientation Guide
14. Constitution and Bylaws – Responsible for Membership
15. Identify Members in Chapter with Recruiter Experience
16. Stress the importance of 2023 Critical Policy Goals to Membership/current and potential new members
17. Make Potential New members of Job fairs yearly conducted by DAV
18. We have 13 chapters who have reached 100% or higher and all but 1 at 95% or better.
19. We are setting up tables with membership QR codes and information about MyDAV.org /Manual and joining the DAV.

The tables set up outside the conference rooms are where we will assist DAV members with getting on MyDAV.org and how to maneuver through our website to areas involving membership. We plan to discuss the importance of Veteran's Death Benefits. Wills, Claims, Notary, Power of Attorney (JAG) We will conduct a brief summary of our year in review(30-45 minutes) at our June 2023 conference of the 22/23 year and how to move forward making changes needed to improve for 23/24.

Irby Cotton II

2023 Mid-Winter Conference 6th District



Maryland, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia

Webinar – Membership Department: How We Can Serve You

Webinar – New Membership Goals

Webinar – Understanding DAV Membership Eligibility

Weekly Membership Report