



COMMANDER'S LETTER

October 2020



Greetings!

I want to begin by thanking the membership for their confidence in placing their trust in me and the other officers you elected to lead Chapter 84 in the coming months. I take the trust and responsibility you conveyed seriously, and plan to work hard to validate that trust. I know that I also speak for the rest of the Officers in conveying their gratitude and affirming their commitment to help us to grow Chapter 84, and to put the concerns of our members first and foremost in every decision we make.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a great impact on our chapter operations, but I am grateful that we have the knowledge and expertise to adapt and overcome this challenge embedded in our membership. Our Chapter website has been able to convey information to our membership, and the use of virtual meetings has assisted leadership in staying abreast of events and planning for our future.

In the coming months, we plan to put in place more tools to assist our membership and disabled Veterans who are in need of the DAV's assistance. Some of these plans include:

- An electronic and printed monthly newsletter (this being the first) informing our Chapter members of plans, events and news that is relevant and important to our mission and to all Veterans who require our services.
- Virtual webinars and educational meetings hosting a variety of topics relevant to our mission and to the betterment of all Veterans residing in Illinois.
- Upgrades to our current website allowing more relevant interactive communications with members and Veterans seeking assistance. These include:
 - Reliable and fast access to forms needed to submit to our NSOs and CSOs to assist in processing claims.
 - A storefront for members to purchase Chapter 84 items such as shirts, caps, jackets, coffee mugs and other items that they may want in order to show their pride in our Chapter, the DAV, and the service and sacrifice they made in serving and protecting the Constitution of the United States through their service in the armed forces.
 - Message boards that will allow our members to discuss current events and post job openings for our members.

- A listing of local companies and government agencies that offer discounts and other benefits to Veterans and service-disabled Veterans.
- A listing of companies in our "Honor Roll" that have supported Veterans and the DAV so that you can reward them with your patronage.
- Timely information about our membership and events that may impact upon disabled Veterans and their families.
- Resources for our members to protect themselves and their families such as financial planning, living wills, retirement planning and vacation packages that specifically cater to Veterans and their families.

Our first meeting at the Chicago South Elks Lodge in Crestwood was met with rave reviews and positive comments about the facility, the great folks who work there, and their outstanding service. Plenty of parking was available in their spacious lot, and their meeting room will easily accommodate far more members than our last meeting space. There are two bars within the facility. One will be reserved for our membership on meeting nights. We plan to offer an open bar for beer and wine following every meeting, along with food.

Our November meeting will take place Friday, Nov. 6th. In addition to dinner, there will be an open bar for beer, wine, soda pop and water. Hard liquor will be available at a very reasonable cost. Please remember to tip the bartender and other Elks Lodge employees who will be serving you.

As always, we will be observing safe practices during our meetings to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Make sure to bring and to wear a mask at all times that you are not seated. We also want to discourage crowding near the bar areas. Go up to the bar, get your drinks and then return to your table. Tony DeBella, our Sergeant-at-Arms, along with other Officers and volunteers, will be in-charge of ensuring that safe practices are followed by all in attendance during this meeting. Please be respectful of their directives, and keep in mind that their sole objective is to keep you and all others at the meeting safe. As Veterans, we all know the drill — what the Sergeant-at-Arms says, goes. No arguments, no disagreements.

We are also planning on having volunteers available to valet park the vehicles of disabled Veterans if necessary. If you require such service, simply pull your car to the entrance, and a volunteer will assist you from the vehicle, park your car for you and, at the end of the night, retrieve your car for you and deliver it to the entrance. There will be no charge for this service. A special area in the parking lot will be cordoned off for the valet service, so please be respectful of the spaces reserved for our disabled members vehicles.

In order to better process or review claims, our CSOs and NSOs are instituting a new process. When a Veteran comes to their first meeting, they will meet with a CSO who will briefly review their paperwork

and assist them in filling out the proper forms that allow our NSOs to act on their behalf with VA. On that first meeting, they will not meet with the NSOs, since there is nothing that can really be discussed with the Veteran until the proper paperwork has been filed and our NSOs have had the opportunity to access and review the Veteran's service record, medical records, etc. By law, our NSOs cannot review any of this until the Veteran signs documents that permit the NSO to act on their behalf.

The filed paperwork will then be reviewed by the NSOs and processed with the VA, allowing our NSOs adequate time to prepare, in advance, for the second meeting, when they will meet with the Veteran to discuss pertinent and relevant issues that need to be addressed, and to learn what information the NSO has obtained regarding the filing of their claim.

This new process should make it easier for members to have time with a CSO or NSO and not require them to wait long periods of time for a meeting. It will ensure greater efficiency during Veterans' meetings with our CSOs and NSOs as they address the important items that each Veteran must address and/or understand about their pending claim.

We are making progress in forming a Chapter 84 Auxiliary. We have volunteers who have stepped forward who want to take on this initiative, and they have my complete support. The consequences inherent in the disabilities that a Veteran suffers are typically shared by others. The Veteran's spouse, partner and/or children also are burdened by these consequences. They deserve a voice, and they deserve recognition for what they, too, endure. Formation of an auxiliary will allow for this to happen, and it will allow others who may want to help support the efforts of the DAV and its members an opportunity to help our Chapter and the DAV. I plan to meet with these volunteers very soon and to assist them in obtaining a charter for an auxiliary with the DAV national. If you know of anyone who may be interested in being a part of a DAV Chapter 84 Auxiliary, please have them contact me so that I can put them in touch with our volunteers. Auxiliary membership is open to anyone who supports the mission and goals of the DAV.

I sincerely hope that my messages in the future will be this long. I also wish to feature at least one message from each of our officers in upcoming issues of this newsletter. Please feel free to comment on anything in this letter. I am eager to hear from anyone regarding our Chapter, our plans and our mission.

Stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

John J. Fanning
Commander

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

Concealed Carry Classes Available

Chapter 84 has made arrangements with a local security firm to offer Concealed Carry Classes to members of our Chapter at a reduced price. Both first time concealed carry classes and renewals of existing concealed carry classes will be offered. These classes will be provided at the security firm in Crestwood. Members interested in participating in these classes should contact the Commander.

On an additional note, DAV 84 is also making arrangements with a local firing range for use by our members at a reduced rate. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact the Commander.

Veterans Needing Transport to VA Clinics or Hospitals

Veterans who need transportation to scheduled medical appointments are encouraged to notify Chapter 84. We will assist in providing you with transportation to and from your scheduled appointments. Contact the Commander for more information.

Meeting Guests and Speakers

DAV 84 is always interested in having a speaker at our monthly meetings who will inform our members of issues relevant to veterans and disabled veterans. It is not, however, our intention to have salespeople address our members. Speakers should be prepared to discuss general matters that affect veterans, disabled veterans and/or the families of veterans. Topics to be discussed must be approved by the Officers of DAV 84 prior to obtaining permission to speak to our membership. If you know of someone interested in speaking to our members, please have them contact the Commander.

Important Dates



October 2020

October 8, 15, 22 - Employment Services for Post 9/11 Veterans
9:30am
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Chicago, IL

October 12, 19, 26 - Battle Body Retraining Group
10:00am
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Chicago, IL

October 12, 19 - Understanding Readjustment Group
11:00am
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Chicago, IL

October 13, 20 - Veteran Food Pantry
11:00am
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Chicago, IL

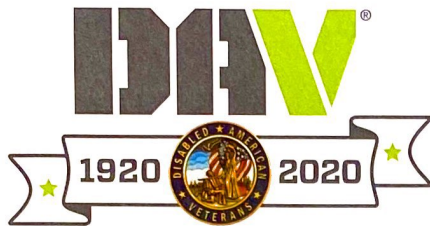
October 13, 20 - Phenix Legacy for OEF/OIF/OND and Transitioning Post 9/11 Veterans
1:00pm
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Chicago, IL

October 21 - Open Art Studio
1:00pm
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Chicago, IL

October 25 - Department of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars - District 4 Meeting
1:00pm
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Brookfield, IL

MAILBOX

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July 29, 2020

Terry R Vorderer
DAV A G TRICENTENNIAL #84
4701 Midlothian Turnpike STE 4
Crestwood, IL 60418

EIN#: 310922721

Dear Commander Vorderer:

It is with a great sense of pride that I congratulate you and the members of DAV A G TRICENTENNIAL #84 for successfully answering the call of duty by reaching your 2019/2020 membership goal.

The outstanding recruitment effort exhibited by your Chapter on behalf of our entire organization is commendable, and we applaud your dedication and commitment towards ill & injured veterans and their families.

The use of battle streamers had its beginning in antiquity when various emblems were carried into combat. This ancient tradition of honoring military battles with streamers was adopted by our nation's military and recognizes branches of the service and units for exceptional service and battle campaigns.

It is my pleasure to bestow the enclosed streamer in honor of your Chapter's undertakings. We hope you will proudly display this streamer on your Chapter's colors. You have helped secure the legacy of our organization and for decades to come this streamer will remind future generations of your accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Whitehead'.

Stephen Whitehead
National Commander

cc: Department Commander

A Century of Service to Veterans

MAILBOX

National Women Veterans United (NWWU)
SGT Simone A. Robinson
Military Women Veteran's Center
8620 South Pulaski (Lower Level)
Chicago, Illinois 60652
nwwu.org@gmail.com
Office (872) 731-2150
www.nwwu.org



March 03, 2020

DAV IL, Chapter 84,

Thank you for your 2020 donation of \$500 made to the National Women Veterans United (NWWU). Your donation not only assisted the support of military/women veterans and their families but also the general operation of NWWU programs at the SGT Simone A. Robinson Military Women Veteran's Center.

NWWU is a 501(C)(3) organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were exchanged for your generous donations. Please keep this correspondence for your tax records.

Again, thank you for your support.

Rochelle Crump
Rochelle Crump
President/Founder

Arthurine Jones
Arthurine Jones
NWWU Board Member/Parliamentarian

ONE VOICE * ONE VISION

MEET THE OFFICERS



Joe Bertucci, Treasurer

Joe Bertucci holds the position of Treasurer in DAV 84.

Joe was born and raised on the southside of Chicago and attended Lindblom High School prior to being called up in the draft to serve in the US Army in 1957. Joe served in the Second Armored Cavalry Regiment on boarder patrol in Amberg, West Germany at the height of the Cold War.

In September of 1958, while on patrol with his regiment, Joe suffered a severe injury that left him service disabled. Despite his injuries, Joe has led a remarkable and successful life, both professionally and personally.

In 1960 he married his beautiful wife Carole, and together they have raised three children, spending their time today spoiling their four grandchildren.

Joe worked for 48 years in the Insurance Industry and as a financial and tax advisor. He was an avid volunteer for local charities including Sertoma, and helped found the Sertoma Centre in Alsip, Illinois that serves people with disabilities. Today, Joe is the principal of Cove Management, which owns and operates a business center in Crestwood, Illinois.

He is a loyal, life-member of Chapter 84.

A large, faint watermark logo for DAV 84 Northern Illinois is centered in the background. It features an eagle with its wings spread, perched on a banner that reads "DAV84" and "NORTHERN ILLINOIS". The eagle is holding an olive branch and arrows. The logo is semi-transparent and overlaid on a large, faint American flag graphic.

DAV84
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

NSO REPORT



Ben Fugate, 2nd Vice Commander

Post-traumatic stress disorder impacts between 11 and 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans; approximately 12 percent of Gulf War veterans, and 15 percent of Vietnam veterans.

According to VA reports, in addition to veterans suffering from combat-related PTSD, roughly 1 in 4 female veterans and 1 in 100 male veterans have reported themselves to have been sexually assaulted during their time in service - an event that may also result in prolonged traumatic stress.

How do you know if you or a loved one is suffering from PTSD? Here are some of the symptoms that may indicate the presence of the disorder:

Reliving the event – Awake or asleep, a trigger can cause painful memories to surface and make the sufferer feel as though they are experiencing the event all over again.

Avoidance – Veterans will often avoid situations that remind them of the event. For example, some veterans avoid crowded places or loud, overstimulating situations. Some veterans will even avoid talking about the incident that affects them.

Persistent negative emotions – Veterans experiencing PTSD can be overwhelmed by negative feelings. A veteran may also feel difficulty establishing trust, experience feelings of guilt, shame, remorse, disinterest in previously enjoyable activities, or genuinely find it hard to feel happy.

Hypervigilance or hyperarousal – Veterans experiencing hyperarousal will feel constantly on alert and often uneasy in unfamiliar situations. For instance, they may prefer to find a seat facing the door in a restaurant, watch for dangerous people or objects in normal everyday situations, or feel the need to be near a point of egress. This can be distracting and make it difficult to focus or enjoy simple experiences, like dinner with family. Veterans with PTSD may also find it difficult to sleep or relax, be prone to anger or irritability, startle easily, act recklessly or abuse drugs or alcohol as a coping mechanism.

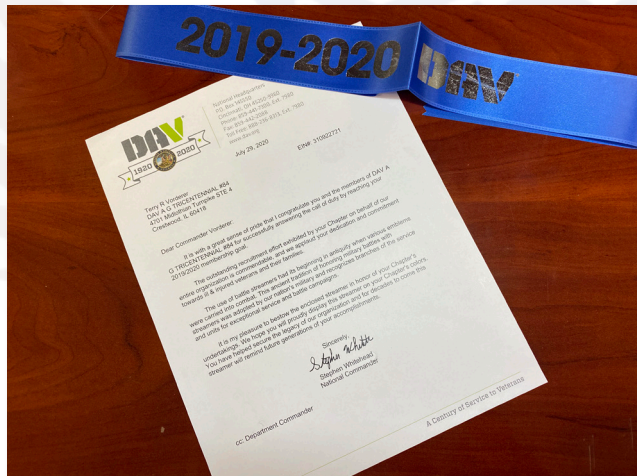
If you or a loved one experiences symptoms similar to those described above, you or they could be suffering from PTSD. Please come and speak to me or encourage your loved one to come speak with myself or one of my service officers. Like every discussion we have with any veteran, what is said will be held in confidence unless and until the veteran permits us to find them the help they need. There is real hope to be found in addressing and treating PTSD and suffering in silence is never necessary.

Remember, we are there for one reason and one reason only - to help you find the help you need and deserve.

AUXILIARY

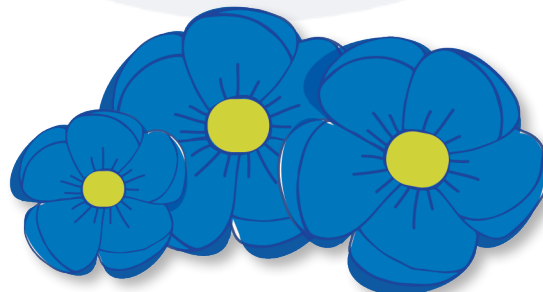
Did you know that our full chapter name is: Disabled American Veterans, Alfred Grajek Tricentennial, Chapter 84?

Alfred Grajek, who our chapter is named after, served in the Army Air Corp during World War II as a Radar Technician in the India-Burma Theater. Following the War, Al became an active member of several veterans' organizations including the DAV. He was named the 50th Imperil Golden Rodent of the National order of Trench Rats – an honorary order founded by disabled veterans following the first World War. Al was also a Department Commander of the DAV and played a significant role in bringing the Eternal Flame Veterans Memorial to Worth, Illinois. He was a long time barber and owned the Veterans Barber Shop originally in the Roseland area of Chicago, and then in suburban Worth. Al passed away of a heart attack while attending the dedication of the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. His name was adopted by our Chapter in honor of his work for veteran causes.



FORGET-ME-NOTS

While the COVID-19 pandemic has placed our major fundraising drive on hold this year, we are still seeking volunteers to begin our drive once things move forward. Remember that the Forget-Me-Not drive is a critical part of our Chapter, allowing us the financing needed to assist disabled vets and their families as well as pay for our meeting and other Chapter expenses. So please, go to the website at www.DAV84.org and sign in on the volunteer form so that we can contact you when conditions allow us to resume this important drive.



FORGET-ME-NOT

FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED