



# COMMANDER'S LETTER

## December 2020



Happy Holidays!

Yeah, I know, the holidays this year make it tough to be cheerful. But veterans tend to be a resilient bunch. We have seen more than most and tend to take hardship in stride more so than others. Most veterans learned to live with government restrictions placed upon them when they entered Boot Camp. The ones that didn't either washed out or suffered needlessly through their term of service.

The smartest advice anyone gave me prior to my entering the military was to, "Keep your sense of humor". I think that is the smartest advice we can give to anyone today who is having difficulty dealing with COVID restrictions. Sure, some government restrictions brought on by this pandemic do infringe on our rights and some are patently unfair. Like California, which considers visiting your relatives non-essential travel and is discouraged but, thanks to a judge's ruling, must allow strip clubs to remain open. It's crazy, I know. But is it worth getting your anger all fired up or taking your frustration out on others? I don't think so.

I am certain that once the pandemic passes, scholars will blast elected officials and government agencies for how they handled the crisis, and many in the legal community will opine on the injustices ignored by our courts. But right now, we are dealing with something we haven't dealt before and nobody really knows what the hell to do.

Scientists may know a lot about viruses and bacteria, but what do they know about people and civil rights laws? Store and small business owners are faced with irate people threatening them for having to wear a mask and knowing that if they permitted people to enter their store or business without a mask, they would likely be sued by some patron who contracted the disease and pointed the finger to their business. And please, don't get me started on elected officials. In the best of times, most of them remain clueless.

In short, we are in a situation that we vets can only describe as FUBAR.

We have all been in such situations before and we know that the best way to survive is to look out for our buddies, do what makes the most sense, and find time to laugh.

You remember back in basic training when they made us go into a shack filled with tear gas, remove our mask and recite one of the general orders or some other inane thing? Do you remember anyone waiting to go into that shack who mentioned they had a right to not wear that gas mask at all?

Well, we are all inside that shack again. And while taking off your mask won't bring about the immediate effect that tear gas brought to us, it will bring an effect. While the effect may be minimal to you, it could be fatal to your buddy. Keep that in mind, use common sense, and don't lose your sense of humor.

I want to wish you, your family and your loved ones my sincerest hope for a safe and peaceful holiday season, along with my very best wishes for all in the coming year.

Peace,

John F.

# GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

## DAV 84 Virtual Meeting in January

DAV Chapter 84 will be holding a virtual meeting on January 15th @ 6:30pm. The meeting ID is <https://meet.google.com/iar-fhck-vrh>. You will also be able to find the link on our website, as well as at the end of this newsletter.

Members will be asked to use our Online-Sign-Up-Form ([link](#)) to see an NSO. Instructions for that can also be found on our website and will be repeated during the meeting. You can also find this link at the end of this newsletter.

## Electric Scooter and Wheelchair Available

If you or a fellow vet are in need of either an electric scooter or wheelchair, please reach out to Commander John Fanning for details. Shown below are the scooter (top) and wheelchair (bottom).



## Important Dates



## January 2020

*\*Please call before attending any community events. It is likely that they will be postponed or canceled as a result of the coronavirus. You can find CDC coronavirus information at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus); AARP has additional resources at [aarp.org/coronavirus](https://www.aarp.org/coronavirus).*

### January 4 - Battle Body Retraining Group

10:00am

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
820 South Damen Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60612

### January 4 - Understanding Readjustment Group

11:00am

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
820 South Damen Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60612

### January 5 - Veterans Food Pantry

11:00am

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
820 South Damen Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60612

### January 7 - Veterans Food Pantry

10:00am

Edward J. Hines, Jr. VA Hospital  
5000 South 5th Avenue  
Hines, IL 60141

### January 7 - Hines Virtual Veteran Recreation Therapy Open Mic

12:30pm

Edward J. Hines, Jr. VA Hospital  
5000 South 5th Avenue  
Hines, IL 60141

## Important Dates (cont.)

### January 12 - Veterans Food Pantry

11:00am  
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
820 South Damen Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60612

### January 14 - Veterans Food Pantry

10:00am  
Edward J. Hines, Jr. VA Hospital  
5000 South 5th Avenue  
Hines, IL 60141

### January 14 - Hines Virtual Veteran Recreation Therapy Open Mic

12:30pm  
Edward J. Hines, Jr. VA Hospital  
5000 South 5th Avenue  
Hines, IL 60141

### January 19 - Veterans Food Pantry

11:00am  
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
820 South Damen Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60612

## Illinois Veterans Residing in State Veteran Homes Need Uplifting Messages

While we are all feeling the effects of the COVID quarantine, our Veterans living in one of the four homes operated by the Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs are feeling the pain more deeply than we. Nearly 1,000 Veterans reside in these homes and are unable to get out for day trips, or even come into contact with visitors.

You can help by organizing a letter-writing campaign, sending banners and other items to wish our state Veterans well during this crisis. Below is the list and contact information for our Veteran homes. If you can take the time to write or organize a writing campaign with school children or other groups in your community, please do. These Vets need to hear from you and have their spirits lifted.

### Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna

792 N. Main Street, Anna, Illinois 62906  
C/O: Anthony Barnett  
Anthony.Barnett2@illinois.gov

### Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle

1015 Oconor Avenue, LaSalle, Illinois 61301  
C/O: Susan Scully  
Susan.Scully@illinois.gov

### Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno

1 Veterans Drive, Manteno, Illinois 60950  
C/O: Dave Pedersen  
David.W.Pedersen@illinois.gov

### Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy

1707 N. 12th Street, Quincy, Illinois 62301  
C/O: Sara Colgrove  
Sara.Colgrove@illinois.gov

### Prince Home at Manteno

1 Veterans Drive, Manteno, Illinois 60950  
C/O Wali Lewis  
Wali.Lewis2@illinois.gov

# GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

## Veterans Day Appreciation with Terry Vorderer, Judge Advocate



November 13, 2020

Saint Linus School  
10400 S. Lawler Ave  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Principle Ms. Margaret Hayes,

A day before Veterans Day I found, on my front steps, a small package wrapped in Red, White and Blue Ribbon with a small American flag inserted in it. Upon opening it, I found a gift of candy and cookies along with an anonymous note from one of your 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The note read:

Dear Veteran,

For my 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies project, I chose to learn about the history of Honor Flight, Chicago. I noticed your Honor Flight Sign and I wanted to wish you a Happy Veteran's Day. I hope you can enjoy your Day O Honor. You are a true hero. I will be thinking about you while I do my research. Happy Veteran's Day!

With love and prayers,

A St. Linus Student

It was certainly awesome to see this expression of gratitude from one of your school's students. I read the letter into the minutes of the Village Bord meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Your leadership is to be commended. Please pass along appreciation to this anonymous student's teacher.

Respectfully,

Trustee Terry Vorderer

Copy: Fr. Mark Walter

November 13, 2020

Superintendent Dr. Paul Enderle  
Principal Dr. Sean McNichols  
5345 W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

On Veterans Day I was surprised to find an envelope on my front door from your Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students expressing their gratitude for my military service and to all the veterans who wore the uniforms of our country. More than 30 students took the time to express their appreciation in handwritten cards. It was certainly awesome to see such an expression of gratitude from the youth of our community. Your leadership in teaching your students the value of service, not only for veterans, but all the other fine charitable work done by District 123 makes me proud to be a resident in the District.

Please pass my appreciation on to your students and Teachers, Sofia Georgelos and Vince Mamolella.

Respectfully,

Trustee Terry Vorderer

Dear Veteran,

For my 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies project, I chose to learn about the history of Honor Flight Chicago. I noticed your Honor Flight sign, and I want to wish you a Happy Veteran's Day. I hope you are able to enjoy your Day of Honor next year. You are a true hero. I will be thinking about you while I do my research! Happy Veteran's Day!

With love and prayers,  
A St. Linus student

# HAPPY VETERANS DAY

~ ~ ~ MR. VORDERER ~ ~ ~



2020

**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED**

Happy Veterans Day

Mr. Terry Vorderer



Terry,  
We are missing having you at OLIHS today. We still wanted to Honor you. Thank you for your service and dedication to our Country!



# Certificate of Appreciation

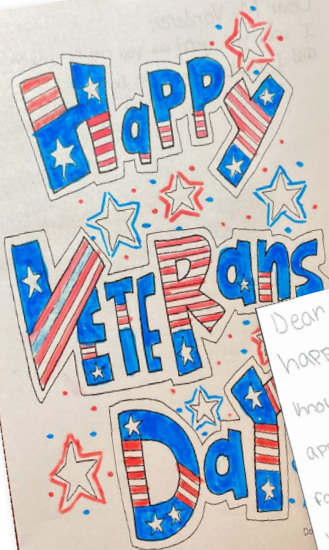
Presented to:  
**Terry Vorderer**



Branch of Service  
**United States Army**

IN RECOGNITION FOR  
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

OLIHS VETERANS DAY  
NOVEMBER 11th, 2020



To: Terry Vorderer

Dear Terry Vorderer,  
Happy Veterans Day! I hope you know how brave that we appreciate what you did for our country! It is very amazing how strong I mean you were a Police as of right now running you truly are a role model including me so thank you! and good for mayor in April!

We are very fortunate to know someone like you is out there!!!

-Amice W at OLIHS

Monday - Current Event Day #10  
\*Topic: Veterans Day

- Article 1: <https://www.minhilltimes.com/featured/the-importance-of-veterans-day-2020/>
  - Article 2: <https://wqwtv.com/news/with-honor-flights-suspended-due-to-covid-19-nonprofit-finds-a-new-way-to-honor-veterans/>
- Select one article to analyze or find your own article. Give a short 5 sentence summary or 5 facts:

This was our assignment this week.

\*Who is Terry Vorderer? READ BOTH ARTICLES  
<https://thereporteronline.net/?page-id=75047>

Terry Vorderer



RECORD reactions below.

Sentence Starter	Your Reaction
I learned that Terry ...	
I'm surprised that...	
A Question I have for Terry ...	
I believe Terry ...	

Thought you would enjoy seeing this.

# MAILBOX



National Headquarters  
3725 Alexandria Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076  
Phone: 859-441-7300  
Fax: 859-441-1416  
Toll Free: 877-426-2838  
dav.org

National Service & Legislative  
Headquarters  
807 Maine Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2410  
Phone: 202-554-3501  
Fax: 202-554-3581

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Department and Chapter Commanders and Adjutants

FROM: J. Marc Burgess  
National Adjutant

RE: **Sustaining Department and Chapter Operations during the Pandemic**

DATE: December 3, 2020

Over the course of the last nine months, National Commander Whitehead and I could not be more proud of the efforts of departments and chapters to ensure the vital and necessary business of our organization continues in your local communities. While most department conventions and conferences were cancelled during the last year, and too were the regular monthly meetings of chapters, the efforts of department and chapter executive committees have proven invaluable.

As a point of clarification for some, we all understand the **governing body** of each department is made up of chapter delegates assembled and voting during an annual department convention. The decisions made during the annual department convention guides the department until the next annual department convention convenes. Likewise, the **governing body** of each chapter consists of the members present and voting during a regular monthly meeting of the chapter.

DAV's **governing bodies** are not permitted to discuss and vote on issues "virtually" or remotely. All decisions of the **governing body** must be made in person as voting cannot be conducted by proxy or in absentia.

There are occasionally issues that require discussion and a decision between annual conventions of a department and the regular monthly meetings of a chapter. In all instances, those matters are to be discussed and considered by the executive committee of the entity. Unlike a **governing body**, the executive committee is in place to specifically address and vote on matters that require a decision following the adjournment of the **governing body** and the convening of the next meeting of such. Unlike the **governing body**, the executive committee is permitted to discuss and vote on issues electronically by way of email ballot, or virtually using online video conferencing platforms or teleconference calls.

Although the **governing body** of a department or chapter is not permitted to conduct official business of the entity virtually, we strongly encourage departments and chapters to embrace online virtual platforms to stay engaged with members and disseminate information related to the organization. We recently shared an example of how one chapter is successfully conducting online sessions in the May/June 2020 issue of *DAV Magazine* in the article titled, "Adapt and Overcome." These sessions have not only kept active DAV members engaged, but have also reintroduced the chapter to inactive members.

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A Century of Service to Veterans

**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED**

# MAILBOX

Department and Chapter Commanders and Adjutants  
December 3, 2020  
Page 2

While we are able to see a little light at the end of the tunnel and certainly look forward to resuming business as normal in the coming months, we must continue to prepare for the unknown. As we have always done during the last century of service as an organization, we will move beyond the pandemic better, wiser and more prepared to address the needs of those who have served and sacrificed in our nation's defense.

In closing, National Commander Whitehead and I salute each of you who is carrying DAV's torch in your local communities and ensuring the needs of our constituents are being addressed. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this memo, please do not hesitate to reach out to Inspector General Edward E. Hartman at our National Headquarters.

Sincerely,



J. MARC BURGESS  
National Adjutant

JMB:kb

c: National Line Officers  
National Headquarters Executive Director Jesinoski  
Washington Headquarters Executive Director Reese  
Inspector General Hartman



DAV84  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

# MAILBOX

## A Letter from Michael J. Maher

Have you ever considered the makeup of today's young people who serve in the military? Surely, part of their motivation comes from parents and their communities. But some explanation may be that they are the legacy of America's Greatest Generation. Our grandparents may appear frail and weak today, but their courage and strength meant everything when the world teetered on destruction. Our grandparents saved the world, returned home and then went back to work! Today's young people — and all of us — are what the Greatest Generation hoped for, what they fought for and what many died for. May we be worthy ...

Seventy-nine years ago, America was pushed into World War II by Japan's stupendously successful surprise attack on the U.S. Naval installation at Pearl Harbor on the U.S. territory of Hawaii. The attack killed 2,402 Americans, destroyed 188 American planes, damaged or sank 24 U.S. ships and catapulted America into war. (Attached above is a copy of President Roosevelt's Speech to Congress following the deadly attack.)

U.S.-Japan relations were bad before the Pearl Harbor attack — especially following Japan's invasion of China and military alliance with Germany and Italy. In response to perceived Japanese Pacific expansion, the U.S. moved its 7th Fleet from San Diego to Pearl Harbor only 18 months before the attack. That is where the 7th Fleet was moored when it was bombed.

In the summer of 1941, the U.S. embargoed all shipments of material to Japan in response to Japanese occupation of French Indo-China. Then, only four months before the attack, President Roosevelt seized all Japanese assets in the United States. At that time, Japan obtained raw materials and oil from three sources: #1) Indochina/Burma, #2) the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia/Malaysia/Sumatra); and, #3) the U.S. The U.S. embargo disrupted critical supplies for Japan's China and Korea occupations. Japanese war planners believed they could secure necessary materials by seizing Burma and the Dutch East Indies, but they were uncertain whether Japan could hold those territories against counterattack by American aircraft carriers. Thus, Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor was not just a bold, tactical strike. Japan's attack addressed the

strategic goal of securing access to necessary war materials by neutralizing the only force capable of reversing Japan's Burma and Indonesia occupations.

The brilliant architect of this strategy, Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, identified three goals for the Pearl Harbor attack: #1) Eliminate the U.S. Navy's ability to counter Japan's invasion of oil-rich Burma and Indonesia [successful]; #2) sink/cripple enough U.S. ships that it would take America years to re-build [largely successful — except for one mistake, explained below]; and, #3) destroy American appetite for war [unsuccessful]. Admiral Yamamoto hoped that a single, crippling strike on America's Pacific Fleet would undermine American resolve to fight a powerful enemy over tiny islands so distant from the U.S. mainland. Yamamoto's strategy was strictly business:

- Hold China/Korea;
- Eliminate the American aircraft carrier threat;
- Take oil/metals from the Dutch East Indies and Burma;
- Fortress Japan's Pacific islands against counterattack, then,
- Negotiate a 'settlement' (to retain occupied countries) before America could rebuild its fleet.

The Pearl Harbor attack was perfectly executed and wildly successful. Of 353 Japanese airplanes, only 29 were downed. The attack remains one of the most successful naval victories since England's defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo was assigned to execute Yamamoto's plan. Only three days before the attack, Nagumo's spies on Oahu had reported that American aircraft carriers remained moored at Pearl Harbor. With six Japanese aircraft carriers positioned 200 miles northeast of Oahu's Diamond Head, Nagumo's pilots undertook an extremely dangerous pre-dawn launch in the dark hours of Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941. After a two-hour flight, Nagumo's planes arrived at 7:52 a.m., with the morning sun rising directly behind them. Unfortunately for Nagumo, the American carriers had vacated Pearl Harbor one day earlier. This led to 'conspiracy speculation' about whether America had early

knowledge of the attack.

Nagumo's attack leader was 36-year-old aviation hero Lt. Cmdr. Minoru Genda. Only 60 minutes before Genda's attack, the USS Ward sank a Japanese midget submarine near the entrance to Pearl Harbor. Then, only 30 minutes before the attack, U.S. Army personnel detected the incoming Japanese planes. Unfortunately, reports of the submarine's sinking were handled routinely and the radar detection was misinterpreted as friendly planes scheduled to arrive from California. The swarming Japanese bombers were unexpected and almost invisible with the sun at their backs.

Nagumo's first wave attacked Kaneohe Naval Base (now Marine Corps Base, Hawaii) on the northeast side of Oahu. Because this base was closest to his task force, Nagumo needed to neutralize Kaneohe to ensure a "clean" escape route after the attack. Today, there is a bronze plaque marking the location where Marine Corps gunners downed the first Japanese aircraft of WWII. The plaque resides on a hillside running course where Marines still train. Immediately after hitting Kaneohe, the Japanese attacked U.S. Army installations at Schofield Barracks to the west, EWA and Bellows Field.

Nagumo's attack strategy called for three waves. The first bomb was dropped by Cmdr. Mitsuo Fuchida. In the excitement of the war's early moments, Fuchida's bomb missed. But pilots behind Fuchida did not. Unhindered by American fighters or counterattack, Japan's first-wave bombs hit the battleships USS Oklahoma, USS Utah, USS West Virginia, USS Pennsylvania, USS Tennessee, USS Maryland and the USS California.

Nagumo's second wave began 30 minutes later — but by then the advantage of surprise was lost and American marksmanship had improved: Almost 70% of downed Japanese planes came from the second wave. Nagumo's second wave included an armor-piercing torpedo bomb that struck the USS Arizona's deck, penetrated three floors and ignited one million pounds of gunpowder. The Arizona lurched straight up out of the water, then sank. It has not moved since. For days thereafter, desperate sailors trapped inside could be heard tapping on the metal hull, signaling



# MAILBOX

their location to would-be rescuers. But fuel-contaminated water around the stricken Arizona had ignited from the torches of Navy rescue divers. Navy personnel could still hear men desperately tapping their locations — after the order to halt rescue efforts. Eventually, all tapping ceased. Not a single man escaped.

Despite the urgings of squadron commanders to “finish the attack,” Nagumo cancelled the scheduled third wave because #1) the element of surprise was lost; #2) American marksmanship was improving; and #3) growing concerns about an American counterattack on Nagumo’s fleeing task force. In what may be the single greatest error in the Pacific Theater, Nagumo never bombed Pearl Harbor’s fuel and dry-dock facilities in the planned third wave. Only a few months later, Pearl Harbor’s undamaged dry-dock repaired the USS Yorktown, which would play a critical role in the Battle of Midway, turning the war in America’s favor.

Only four months after Nagumo’s attack — and while Pearl Harbor still smoldered — America was preparing a surprise attack of its own. The American plan called for 20 specially retrofitted B-25 bombers to launch from the USS Hornet and bomb Japanese installations — including Tokyo. The plan was to launch 400 miles from the Japanese mainland, drop payload, then proceed west to China, where U.S. pilots would link up with Chinese resistance fighters. The American plan employed the same aircraft carriers that Yamamoto had hoped to eliminate in the Pearl Harbor attack.

The American attack had problems. The number of planes (20) was reduced to 16 after learning that flight deck dimensions were shorter than reported. Then the USS Hornet was spotted at 600 miles from Japan — 50% farther than the planned launch point of 400 miles. Taking off at 600 miles meant planes might not reach the Chinese mainland. After being told this harsh fact, the 80-man attack squadron voted unanimously to proceed. With B-25s sandwiched onto the Hornet’s flight deck, the first pilots had the shortest runway, and thus the highest probability of crashing. Squadron commander Lt. Col. James Doolittle launched first. Eventually, every plane launched successfully.

All of the American planes reached Japan and dropped payload. But some planes were shot down over Japan. Of the captured airmen,

three were executed in a ‘war crimes trial’; one died of starvation/deprivation; and five were transferred to a Nanking (China) prison camp where they remained until freed by American troops in 1945.

After dropping his payload, Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Doolittle was unable to locate his Chinese landing field. He and his crew bailed out of their craft into a rainy night. Chinese resistance fighters and an American missionary named John Birch helped U.S. crewmen to avoid capture by Japanese soldiers, who had already occupied China. But Japanese retaliation was horrific for Chinese assistance to the downed American pilots.

While recovering in China, Doolittle confided that he expected to be court-martialed for losing all 16 aircraft, inflicting only minor damage on designated targets and not finding his landing field. Instead, Doolittle’s raid significantly bolstered the same American morale that Yamamoto’s strategy sought to destroy. President Roosevelt awarded Doolittle the Congressional Medal of Honor and promoted him to the rank of brigadier general. Doolittle flew additional combat missions in North Africa, for which he received additional medals. Other surviving members of the raid also went on to new assignments in Europe and North Africa. The last surviving member of “The Doolittle Raid,” Lt. Col. “Dick” Cole, died last year at 103 years old.

Doolittle’s raid surprised Japanese war strategists, causing them to alter the original plan of building a fortress “wall” along the western Pacific. Doolittle’s raid convinced Japan’s war planners that they needed a better defensive position — between Hawaii and Japan — to prevent against more American attacks. The Japanese identified Midway Island, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean (‘midway’) as their bulwark to keep Americans bottled up in the eastern Pacific — away from Japan. However, American cryptanalysts serving under Commander Joe Rochefort broke part of Japan’s Naval communication codes in early 1942. Using deciphered radio traffic, the Americans lured Yamamoto into the disastrous Battle of Midway only two months after the Doolittle Raid. Pivotal at Midway was the USS Yorktown, which had been repaired in only three days and refueled at Pearl Harbor’s undamaged dry-dock following the Battle of Coral Sea. Scout bombers from the Yorktown and USS Enterprise surprised Yamamoto’s Midway task force and in only a few mo-

ments, Japanese aircraft carriers Akagi, Kaga and Soryu were ablaze. After Midway, Japan failed to win another major naval engagement. The Battle of Midway ended in victory for U.S. forces because Doolittle’s men made 80 individual decisions, each risking his life to achieve their goal. Those decisions were Japan’s undoing.

Helping to trick Japan into disaster at Midway was merely the first significant war contribution by U.S. Navy cryptanalysts, which included (then) future Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. A year later, the Americans again deciphered a Japanese message, this time disclosing Admiral Yamamoto’s flight to the Marshall Islands. On April 14, 1943 — almost exactly one year after the Doolittle Raid — U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Chester Nimitz sent 18 aircraft from the U.S. Army’s 339th Fighter Squadron to intercept and kill Yamamoto. The mission was named “Operation Vengeance.” It was the longest-distance fighter-intercept mission until that time. Once again, individual pilots made dangerous decisions to achieve the greater good. Based on precise information from U.S. Navy cryptanalysts, the 339th’s pilots arrived exactly one minute early — after flying over hundreds of miles open ocean. Yamamoto’s plane was shot down above the Island of Bougainville. The Japanese lost Yamamoto and eventually lost the war.

When you ask, “Where do we find young people like Dick Cole and Doolittle’s 80 men or the pilots of Army Fighter Squadron 339?” I submit that they are not far off. History proves that each American generation produces another generation of heroes. We are the legacy of these heroes of the past. They strove, they fought, and many died for us. Those who survived are old and frail — but their courage and sacrifice remains and continues to inspire. Today’s generation of heroes is in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and at home on countless domestic bases. Merry Christmas to all of them.

Happy Holidays to all.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Maher, Partner  
Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP

# NSO REPORT



## Ben Fugate, 2nd Vice Commander

I will be online virtually with the link provided in this newsletter, and I will be able to have one-on-one video meetings, all to go over claims, questions, status, and other items.

In response to this unprecedented event, we are establishing a COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide a one-time payment of \$250 to service-connected disabled veterans who have lost employment or self-employment income.

If you are interested in applying, please go to <https://www.dav.org/covidrelief/>. This link will also be available at the end of this newsletter.

-Ben Fugate, NSO Supervisor

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## YOUR DAV84 OFFICERS

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TREASURER

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### John Fanning

COMMANDER

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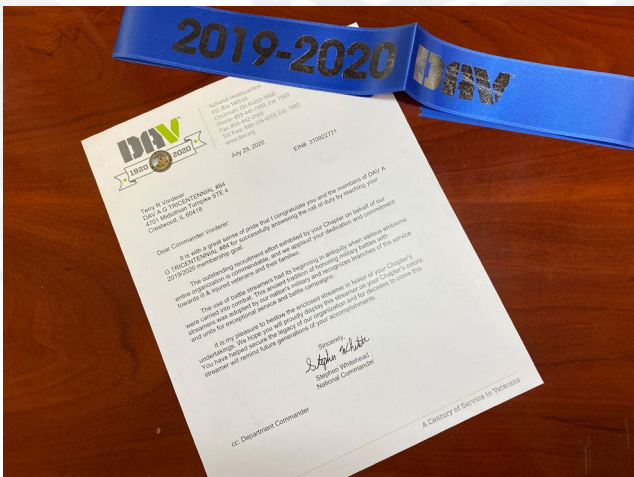
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**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED**

# 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

### DAV 84 Officers Vote to Suspend Forget-Me-Not Drive for Remainder of 2020

The Forget-Me-Not fundraising drive has been suspended for the remainder of 2020, in accordance with a motion unanimously carried by DAV 84 Officers at their November Meeting.

While the Forget-Me-Not fundraiser is an essential tool necessary to carry out the mission of DAV 84, the threat of exposure to our volunteers from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the reluctance of contributors to come in close contact with our volunteers makes undertaking the drive too difficult and dangerous.

Officers are looking at several suggestions that may offer an alternative fundraising method, but no final decision has been made.





[www.dav84.org](http://www.dav84.org)