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VOLUNTARY SERVICES BULLETIN

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2013 GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARDS

This year marks the 36th anniversary of the George H. Seal Memorial Award, which is given annually by DAV in recognition of extraordinary volunteer dedication to the needs of ill and injured veterans through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program. Only DAV and DAV Auxiliary members enrolled as accredited VAVS volunteers are eligible for the George H. Seal Memorial Award.

This prestigious award honors the memory and accomplishments of the late George H. Seal, a World War II combat-injured paratrooper, who made many significant contributions during his lengthy career as a DAV National VAVS Representative and member of the VAVS National Advisory Committee.

Please join us in congratulating the 2013 George H. Seal Memorial Award recipients: Dennis Krulder of West Babylon, New York, and Melody Angelini of Forest Park, Illinois. DAV National Commander Larry Polzin will present the award at the Opening Session of the 92nd National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

About the Recipients:

DAV recipient, Dennis Krulder, is a Vietnam combat veteran and lifetime member of Chapter 95. As a DAV Hospital Service Coordinator, he regularly oversees 135 DAV volunteer drivers. In addition to this position, he is the DAV VAVS State Chairman, Department of New York Treasurer, President of the Calverton National Cemetery Support Committee, and has held various volunteer assignments in the VA Director's office.

Over the last 21 years, he has accrued more than 44,000 VAVS hours. He is known to be on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. His commitment to volunteering is unmatched.

DAV Auxiliary recipient, Melody Angelini, has been a member of the DAV Auxiliary for 37 years. Over the last 32 years, she has served as a regular scheduled DAV Auxiliary volunteer at the Blind Rehabilitation Center (BRC) in the Hines VA Medical Center

accumulating a total of 15,126 VAVS hours. Her dedication and enthusiasm for the BRC has recruited several volunteers including her daughter and granddaughter, who have grown up assisting veterans.

We are proud of the service and dedication demonstrated by volunteers like Dennis and Melody, who each day, provide friendly service and compassionate support to ill and injured veterans. These selfless individuals help make DAV a great organization.

2013 JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program was created to honor outstanding youth volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) and/or the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP). Scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have generously donated their time and compassion to ill and injured veterans. The DAV is deeply appreciative of Ford Motor Company for helping DAV recognize the thousands of hours these outstanding students have donated to care for and comfort veterans and their families.

The 2013 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarships recipients have widely divergent interests, but they have one thing in common – they honor those who defended our nation’s freedom by volunteering their time to assist service men and women.

The recipient of the top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship, **Max Freeman**, of Northport, New York, hopes to use the \$20,000 scholarship to study computer science at George Mason University. His goals are to join R.O.T.C., become a Military Officer, and to use computer technologies to help save the lives of our service men and women and to strengthen national security.

Max volunteered at the VA Voluntary Service program at the Northport VA Medical Center (VAMC) for five years and accumulated 1,200 hours. He performed various duties, such as assembling accessible personal computers for nursing home residents. With his love for music, he also entertained nursing home residents and worked on numerous special projects, including creating a music data base for surgeons while they perform surgery.

This outstanding young man is a five-time gold recipient of the President’s Volunteer Service Award for his contributions on behalf of veterans at the Northport VAMC. He’s also an academic honor student and teaches trumpet lessons to elementary school children. National Commander Larry Polzin will present the scholarship to Max at the Opening Session at Convention.

Other scholarship winners include:

Jonah Drapeau	Ann Arbor, MI VAMC	\$15,000
Michelle Wu	San Francisco, CA VAMC	\$10,000
Joseph Guggemos	Hines, IL VAMC	\$ 7,500
April Ritzer	St. Cloud, MN VAMC	\$ 7,500
Amanda Perez	West Haven, CT VAMC	\$ 5,000
Samantha Stamey	Cincinnati, OH VAMC	\$ 5,000
Jeralyn Westercamp	Iowa City, IA VAMC	\$ 5,000

The outstanding service provided by this dedicated group of young volunteers is inspiring to us all.

HOSPITAL SERVICE COODINATORS AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Since the inception of the Transportation Network Program, volunteer drivers have graciously donated **31,818,069 million hours** driving **571,540,591 million miles** providing **15,356,981 veterans** rides to and from VA medical centers or facilities for their appointments and treatment.

More than 190 DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSC) assemble corps of volunteer drivers and manage the transportation needs of veterans to and from VA medical facilities around the country. It is truly astonishing what our volunteers do to assist veterans in leading healthy and fulfilled lives.

This year, 128 vans were added to the Transportation Network to continue this great service to veterans. Ford Motor Company generously donated funds to be able to purchase an additional seven vehicles, which will be donated to VA hospitals for use in the Transportation Network.

CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

Major League Baseball Umpires Visit VA Medical Centers

Retired Major League Baseball Umpire Larry Barnett entertained veteran participants at the 2013 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass Village, Colorado, from March 31st – April 5th. In addition, he visited the following VA medical centers in May and June: Martinsburg, Clarksburg, Beckley, and Huntington, West Virginia; Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky; Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Major League Baseball Umpire Jerry Layne visited the following VA medical centers in May and June: Washington, D.C.; Bronx, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Phoenix, Arizona; Cleveland, Ohio; and Pittsburgh and Butler, Pennsylvania.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions about the information in this bulletin.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Minter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "R" and "M".

RON MINTER
National Director of Voluntary Services

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