



National Headquarters
3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076
Phone (859) 441-7300
Fax (859) 442-2088
Toll Free (877) 426-2838
www.dav.org

VOLUNTARY SERVICES BULLETIN

October 2013

DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Ford Motor Company began donating vehicles to DAV in 1996, and once again, continued their support of DAV through the donation of another seven new E-350 passenger vans at the 92nd National Convention in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013.

This year's recipients were VA medical centers in the following areas: Birmingham, Alabama; Shreveport, Louisiana; Jackson, Mississippi; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Charleston, South Carolina; Fort Meade, South Dakota; and Houston, Texas.

Ford Motor Company has donated a total of 171 vehicles to DAV, representing a value of more than \$3.7 million. Ford is honored to support injured and ill veterans by partnering with DAV on many programs, including the DAV Transportation Network. This partnership dates back through nine decades, and it is amazing what this partnership has produced.

2014 DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VAN GRANT PROGRAM

Information will be forwarded to all National Officers, Departments and Chapters, Supervisory National Service Officers, and Hospital Service Coordinators regarding the 2014 Van Grant Program. Pricing information along with the minimum share amounts for Chapters and Departments will be included in the announcement. Please carefully review the van grant criteria and fully and correctly complete the application forms provided with the announcement. The completed applications must be received by **December 6, 2013**. We expect that delivery will be made in the spring of 2014. Please note that payments for the approved grants must be received by **April 1, 2014**. No vehicle(s) will be released prior to receipt of payment.

DAV DRIVERS ARE HOMETOWN HEROES

Selected earlier this year to be highlighted in a special feature named, "Hometown Heroes," volunteer drivers of DAV's Transportation Network (DAV TN) in Billings, Montana, were nominated because of their extraordinary commitment to bettering their community. Nexstar Broadcasting television channels 4 (Fox) and 6 (ABC) produced and ran videos of people or organizations deemed as "Hometown Heroes." This special feature was sponsored by Archie Cochrane Ford. To watch the video produced by Nexstar featuring the Billings, Montana DAV TN, please view the following link: <http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/play/4222560>

Mr. John Tiry is the DAV Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC), a Life-member of DAV Billings Chapter 10 and Air Force veteran. He coordinates the DAV TN program in the entire eastern half of Montana with rides reaching into Sheridan, Wyoming and the Dakotas. HSC Tiry's busy office is often the scene of volunteer drivers checking manifests and maps or weekly schedules in preparation of the veterans they will transport.

Mr. Ernie Flynn, a blind Vietnam-era Army veteran and also DAV Life-member, is a part of the team of volunteers who assist HSC Tiry. Flynn's commitment to veterans is evident by the many national awards he's achieved and for his untiring volunteer service over the years.

In 2011, the Billings DAV TN drivers drove over 186,000 miles and transported over 4,700 veterans to their VA medical appointments. In 2012, they drove 196,000 miles and transported 4,900 veterans. Now, in 2013, they anticipate being at or near 200,000 miles and transporting 5,000 veterans. These amazing numbers coupled with their dedicated compassion for veterans is why DAV volunteer drivers of Billings DAV TN were chosen as "Hometown Heroes."

28th NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORT CLINIC

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic promotes rehabilitation by instructing severely ill and injured veterans in adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, and providing an introduction to other adaptive activities and sports.

When: March 30–April 4, 2014

Where: Snowmass Village (near Aspen), Colorado. Snowmass is renowned as a premier winter destination and has the finest skiing in the majestic Rocky Mountains.

Who: Participation is open to male and female military service members and veterans with spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, certain neurological problems, and other injuries. Veterans with inpatient or outpatient status at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility receive first priority. Nearly 400 veterans throughout the nation participate, along with more than 180 ski instructors, including several members of the U.S. Disabled Ski Team and many other volunteers.

All DAV Departments and Chapters are asked to encourage the participation of your local VA medical center and injured and ill veterans in your area.

Registration packets were mailed to all VA medical center Recreation Therapy Service offices nationwide in September. If you know of any seriously injured or ill veterans who can benefit from this rehabilitation clinic, please assist them by ensuring that they complete an application at their local VA medical center so they can be considered. Participant registration deadline is **November 30, 2013**. Only applications received by mail will be considered.

Why: The Winter Sports Clinic provides profoundly injured veterans opportunities for self-development and challenge. Participants have an opportunity to develop winter sports skills and take part in a variety of adaptive workshops.

Hosts: DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The event is sponsored by various corporations, organizations, and individual donors.

Events: Adaptive skiing in sit-skis, mono-skis, and bi-skis; instruction in adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing for stand-up skiers; alternate activities include scuba diving, rock climbing, wheelchair self-defense, sled hockey, snowmobiling, and various additional programs, seminars, and activities.

Sponsor Contact: Ron Minter, DAV National Director of Voluntary Services
(859) 442-2347, Fax (859) 442-2088, rminter@dav.org

CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

Major League Baseball Umpires Visit VA Medical Centers

Retired Major League Baseball Umpire Larry Barnett visited the following VA medical centers in July through September: Lexington (Cooper and Leestown Divisions) and Louisville, Kentucky; Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Grand Island, Nebraska.

Major League Baseball Umpire Jerry Layne visited the following VA medical centers in July through September: Tampa, West Palm Beach, Miami and Orlando, Florida; Dallas, Texas; Jesse Brown and Hines, Illinois; Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Los Angeles, Sepulveda, Palo Alto, San Francisco and San Diego, California; Phoenix, Arizona; and Seattle, Washington.

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



RON MINTER
National Director of Voluntary Services

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