

June 2011



2011 GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARDS

These prestigious awards annually honor the remarkable volunteers who serve disabled veterans and their families through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program. The awards are presented in memory of George H. Seal, a former DAV Director of Membership and Volunteer Services and leading organizer and administrator of the DAV VAVS program from 1952 until his death in 1977. This year's winners are:

DAV – J. T. Tate

Mr. J. T. Tate, a member of DAV Chapter 4, in Birmingham, Alabama has volunteered for 25 years and has accumulated 11,682 hours. It all began when DAV asked for volunteers and he heeded the call after just getting out of the service wanting to continue to work for veterans.

He arrives early at the Birmingham VA Medical Center (VAMC) refreshment station to make pots of coffee and share in the fellowship of veterans arriving for their appointments. Besides offering fresh coffee and plenty of friendship to the veterans he sees, Mr. Tate has volunteered in customer service, homeless veterans stand downs as well as serving as the VAVS Deputy Representative.

In addition to his VAVS duties, he is one of those dedicated volunteers who seek to help veterans at difficult times in their lives. Everyone he helps appreciate his sincere kindnesses.

DAV Auxiliary – Ada Perry

Ms. Ada Perry, an active member of DAV Auxiliary Unit 1, has served as a volunteer at the Lexington, Kentucky VA Medical Center for 11 years and has volunteered a total of 5,892 hours.

It all began for Ms. Perry who witnessed the care her late husband received at the Lexington VAMC and Nursing Home. They really were outstanding volunteers, so much so that she knew deep in her heart that she wanted to give back by volunteering too. Ms. Perry has overcome health obstacles of her own allowing her to relate all the more to the veterans and their families.

The first person veterans see and interact with when they visit the Lexington VAMC is Ada Perry and her fellow volunteers at the Information Desk. According to Greg Anderson,

Chief of Voluntary Service, Ada serves as an excellent ambassador for the medical center and their volunteer program.

Mr. Tate and Ms. Perry will be presented with their awards during the opening session of the 2011 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 6-9, 2011.

The DAV and Auxiliary can be proud of the service and dedication displayed by volunteers like J.T. and Ada and all the volunteers who each day, without fanfare or recognition, provide friendly service and compassionate support to disabled veterans. They are great people and they help make the DAV the great organization that it is.

2011 JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program was created to honor outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) and Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP). The scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have generously donated their time and compassion to sick and disabled veterans in their communities. 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 disabled veterans.

Candidates for the scholarships must be age 21 or younger and must have volunteered a minimum of 100 hours during the previous calendar year. The scholarship will be available for any accredited institution of higher learning, to include universities, colleges, community colleges or vocational schools, etc. In addition, the recipient must utilize the scholarship prior to reaching age 25.

Nomination forms are mailed to each Department Commander and Voluntary Service Program Managers at all VA medical centers across the country.

The 2011 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarships winners have widely divergent interests, but they have one thing in common – they honor those who defended our nation's freedom by donating their time to assist disabled veterans.

1st Place	Jack O'Sullivan, Hines, IL VAMC	\$20,000
2nd Place	Eliana Hernandez, Miami, FL VAMC	\$15,000
3rd Place	Michaela Wahl, Wichita, KS VAMC	\$10,000
4th Place	Britney Heinbaugh, Louisville, KY VAMC	\$ 7,500
5th Place	Aaron Clark, Washington, DC VAMC	\$ 7,500
6th Place	Justine Hatton, Lexington, KY VAMC	\$ 5,000
7th Place	Jason Schultz, Milwaukee, WI VAMC	\$ 5,000
8th Place	Angel Vargas, Ft. Myers, FL VAOPC	\$ 5,000

Mr. Jack O'Sullivan is an avid student of veterans. As a volunteer at the Edward Hines, Jr., VA Medical Center, outside of Chicago, he recognizes that veterans have insight and

knowledge that cannot be gained through reading history books. He says that veteran patients he's encountered are a living history lesson. This 19 year old is inspired by the stories of the veterans he spends time with. He has that rare combination of interest and empathy that comforts elderly patients in the cardiology department who need someone to listen to them.

A volunteer for more than five years, Jack has earned the respect of medical center officials. With over 800 hours of volunteer work, he is involved in a recycling project to reclaim silver from old heart catheterization films. Money from the project is returned to the VA medical center budget to be used to help more veterans.

Jack hopes to use the \$20,000 scholarship to attend St. Louis University to study medicine. His long-term goal is to become a cardiologist or orthopedic surgeon working with veterans. This outstanding youth volunteer carries a grade point average of 4.0 with a course of advance classes. His character and the way he values veterans is unique. He is a remarkable example of the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship winner.

The outstanding service provided by this dedicated group of young volunteers is inspiring to those veterans who are the recipients of their care and to the families of those veterans. They prove that our nation's youth care about veterans and the service and sacrifice they made for our nation. They have proven their desire to help disabled veterans and they clearly have gained a great deal from their association with our veterans. It is a privilege to have these young men and women working to assist our sick and disabled veterans. The tremendous response we have received for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program is growing. In the future, it will encourage increased volunteerism to help our nation's veterans.

Mr. Jack O'Sullivan will be presented with his scholarship during the opening session of the 2011 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 6-9, 2011.

The selection committee once again stated that all of the nominees are very special volunteers and it was a difficult job to choose a winner. Each nominee has been awarded a certificate of merit for outstanding volunteer performance in meeting the needs of disabled veterans.

Some of the benefits of volunteering at a local VA medical center may include: scholarships for college, job experience, healthcare career possibilities, providing assistance to hospitalized veterans, completing high school volunteerism requirements and community involvement.

Applications for the 2012 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program will be accepted between October 1, 2011 and March 1, 2012.

Know a youth that is interested in volunteering? Our Volunteer Registration Form, Nomination Form, or Essay Form, which can be accessed on http://www.dav.org/volunteers/jesse_brown_scholarship.html should be completed and mailed to: Disabled American Veterans, National Headquarters, Voluntary Services Department, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076.

**DAV HOSPITAL SERVICE COODINATOR
AND
TRANSPORTATION NETWORK**

The DAV donated vans where needed in order for DAV and Auxiliary volunteers to drive veterans to and from VA hospitals and clinics. Other grateful Americans are helping too.

Travel benefit cuts left many veterans with no way to get to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities for needed treatment. They're men and women who answered our country's call in times of war. Many lost limbs, sight, hearing, or good health.

They may live a great distance from a VA hospital, and because so many exist on small fixed incomes, they find that the cost of transportation to a VA hospital is just too high. They're left with two choices. They could go without the treatment they need, or skimp on food or other necessities to pay for transportation.

Veterans disabled in our nation's service should never face such dire options. So DAV and Auxiliary volunteers respond, driving veterans to and from VA hospitals and clinics. The DAV has also donated vans, where needed, to make the program work. Other grateful Americans are helping too. It's all part of the DAV Transportation Network, administered by DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) at the VA's 172 medical centers. These impressive numbers say it all about what the DAV Transportation Network has accomplished over these many years.

Year	Veterans Transported	Volunteer Hours	Miles Driven
1987	16,695	53,135	927,088
1988	101,991	279,930	5,272,635
1989	185,880	465,832	9,309,077
1990	269,487	644,757	12,798,012
1991	330,242	761,656	14,690,692
1992	375,361	823,742	16,686,285
1993	420,134	886,866	17,509,834
1994	421,302	904,486	16,634,661
1995	477,554	1,110,241	17,795,156
1996	518,889	1,011,442	19,368,975
1997	610,194	1,154,457	21,804,578
1998	654,256	1,245,378	22,660,146
1999	742,486	1,382,160	25,677,067
2000	781,253	1,397,558	26,870,281
2001	776,898	1,512,040	27,436,417
2002	767,292	1,607,234	27,700,443
2003	735,008	1,470,430	27,420,350

Year	Veterans Transported	Volunteer Hours	Miles Driven
2004	738,696	1,523,460	26,952,756
2005	754,037	1,556,871	28,115,570
2006	772,755	1,564,666	27,774,391
2007	736,081	1,557,303	27,255,057
2008	809,656	1,589,798	28,136,963
2009	727,708	1,603,369	27,667,515
2010	695,505	1,572,986	27,058,397
TOTALS	13,419,360	27,679,797	503,522,346

**DAV CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM
MAJOR LEAGUE UMPIRES VISIT VA MEDICAL CENTERS**

Retired Major League Baseball Umpire Larry Barnett entertained the veteran participants at the 2011 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic at Snowmass Village, Colorado, March 27 through April 1 and visited the following VA Medical Centers in June: Providence, Rhode Island; Manchester, New Hampshire and Newington, Connecticut.

Major League Baseball Umpire Jerry Layne visited the following VA Medical Centers in May and June: St. Louis, Missouri (John Cochran and Jefferson Barracks Divisions), Sepulveda, West Los Angeles, Long Beach and San Francisco, California; Washington, D.C.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Fort Thomas, Kentucky; Bronx and Manhattan, New York; VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (Aspinwall and Oakland Divisions), Pennsylvania; Houston, Texas; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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



MICHAEL J. WALSH
National Director of Voluntary Services

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