

June 2012



2012 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 – MaryAnn Keckler, a member of Chapter 67 in Brooksville, Florida, is a Navy veteran who served from 1959 to 1962. She will receive the DAV Seal Award for her volunteer work in the spinal cord injury, polytrauma and recreational therapy units, as well as for organizing special events at the Tampa VA Medical Center.

Over the past 15 years, she has amassed more than 5,700 hours volunteering seven days a week, using a motorized wheelchair to get around the sprawling hospital.

DAV Auxiliary – Patricia Davis, a member of Unit 19 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin has more than 21,000 hours volunteering over the last 12 years. She will receive the DAVA Seal Award for her work with the Transportation Network, serving as a recreation volunteer and chairing the VA Voluntary Service Executive Committee at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center.

Ms. Davis averages 45 hours a week at the Zablocki VA Medical Center. As Transportation Network coordinator, she has 152 volunteer drivers who last year drove 402,000 miles transporting 16,131 veterans and donated 38,888 hours behind the wheel.

Ms. Keckler and Ms. Davis will be presented with their awards during the opening session of the 2012 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012.

The DAV and Auxiliary can be proud of the service and dedication demonstrated by volunteers like MaryAnn and Patricia 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.

2012 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 2012 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	Christina Mae Hess, Martinsburg, WV VAMC	\$20,000
2nd Place	Kelsey Arline Lewis, Boise, ID VAMC	\$15,000
3rd Place	Karstin Paulus Patterson, Long Beach, CA VAMC	\$10,000
4th Place	Christopher Tinker, Birmingham, AL VAMC	\$ 7,500
5th Place	Jessica M. Kelsey, Fresno, CA VAMC	\$ 7,500
6th Place	Denise Powell, Biloxi, MS VAMC	\$ 5,000
7th Place	Devon Turney, Louisville, KY VAMC	\$ 5,000
8th Place	Aleshya Catrese Richardson, Washington, DC VAMC	\$ 5,000

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 among our youth to help our nation’s veterans.

Ms. Hess will be presented with her scholarship during the opening session of the 2012 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012.

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.

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 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. 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
2004	738,696	1,523,460	26,952,756
2005	754,037	1,556,871	28,115,570

Year	Veterans Transported	Volunteer Hours	Miles Driven
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
2011	720,867	1,595,799	27,225,208
2012 (as of 2/29/12)	102,932	207,622	3,452,276
TOTALS	14,243,159	29,483,218	534,199,830

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

Retired Major League Baseball Umpire Larry Barnett entertained the veteran participants at the 2012 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic at Snowmass Village, Colorado, March 25-30, and visited the following VA medical centers in June: Lebanon, Pittsburgh (University Drive Campus and H. J. Heinz Campus), Butler and Erie, Pennsylvania.

Major League Baseball Umpire Jerry Layne visited the following VA medical centers in May: Bronx and Manhattan, New York; Jesse Brown and Hines, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; St. Louis (John Cochran and Jefferson Barracks), Missouri; and Cleveland, Ohio.

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



RON MINTER
National Director of Voluntary Services

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