

DECEMBER 2009



**2010 GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARDS**

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**2010 JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The 2010 George H. Seal Memorial Awards and the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program announcements were mailed this month to all DAV Department Commanders and Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program Managers across the country. These awards are presented annually by the Disabled American Veterans in recognition of the extraordinary dedication of DAV and DAV Auxiliary and the outstanding young volunteers serving disabled veterans through the VAVS program.

***George H. Seal Memorial Awards***

Only DAV and DAV Auxiliary members enrolled as accredited VAVS volunteers are eligible for this prestigious award that will be presented to the two winners at the DAV National Convention. Each winner receives a trophy replica, and their names are engraved on the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy, which is permanently displayed at DAV National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky. In addition, the VA medical facility represented by each winner is awarded a plaque, and all individual nominees receive an attractive Honorable Mention Certificate.

The award honors the memory and accomplishments of the late George H. Seal, a World War II combat-disabled paratrooper who made many significant contributions during his lengthy career as National Director of Membership and Voluntary Services and as DAV's National VAVS Representative and a member of the VAVS National Advisory Committee.

You are a strong influence on volunteer nominations because of your close contact with the many fellow DAVers you serve with. Therefore, DAV Department Commanders may submit nominations for these awards. Submittal of nominations of a DAV or DAV Auxiliary volunteer must first be signed and certified by the Voluntary Service Program Manager at the facility where the candidate volunteers. Nominations must be received no later than February 25, 2010.

Go ahead and make a difference by helping that special DAV/DAVA volunteer to be recognized either through this national program or through your Department or Chapter.

### ***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) program. 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.

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.



### **ELIGIBILITY**

- Scholarships can be awarded to any volunteer who is age 21 or younger and has volunteered for a minimum of 100 hours at a VA medical center during the previous calendar year. All volunteer hours must be credited to the Disabled American Veterans.
- Scholarships can be used at any accredited institution of higher learning; to include universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational schools, etc.
- Scholarships must be utilized in full prior to the recipient attaining the age of 25, or within 6 years of receiving the scholarship, whichever is later.
- Immediate family members of the DAV national organization are eligible to receive a scholarship.
- Nominations for this award may be submitted by the Voluntary Services Program Manager at the VA Medical Center, DAV Department Commander, or the student may complete a self-nomination form which is available on-line. If you are submitting your own nomination, please include an essay discussing "What volunteering at a VA medical center means to you." (Essay should be 750 words or less).
- All nomination packets should include a nomination form, essay, and any supporting documentation which you would like to have considered by the Selection Committee.
- Applications for the 2010 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program will be accepted between September 1, 2009 and February 25, 2010.

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](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, Kentucky 41076.

### **DAV NATIONAL COMMANDER'S SERVICE MEDAL (NCSM)**

Opportunities have always existed for individuals to assist veterans and their dependents – and members of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Auxiliary have always answered that call. We see examples of this each and every day aimed at meeting the main objective of our organization to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their dependents. With this in mind, I am pleased to welcome Cadets of the Army JROTC Program to our ranks and provide them with the opportunity to receive the DAV National Commander's Service Medal (NCSM).

With the approval of the Department of the Army the NCSM will be awarded to any Army JROTC Cadet who contributes a minimum of 100 hours of voluntary service to DAV through a Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program or through the DAV Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) during a calendar year.

Every Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in the nation has a VAVS Program for Cadets to enroll in and start accumulating volunteer hours, just like any other DAV volunteer. Their assignments could include visiting hospitalized veterans; working in one of the many specialty clinics such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, orthopedics, etc.; escorting patients through the facility; working at the information desk; or simply reading the newspaper for a blind patient or resident of the nursing home. The opportunities are plentiful.

In addition to volunteering at a VAMC, we will recognize the volunteer hours provided through the LVAP as well. We realize there are several Cadets who might not live in close proximity to a VAMC and would not have the same opportunity to qualify for the NCSM. The LVAP allows for volunteers to perform a variety of activities for local veterans or their families in their communities. Activities such as yard work for an elderly or disabled veteran; assisting a veteran with their grocery shopping; visiting a shut-in veteran or any other activity deemed to benefit a veteran or their family will be considered. Additionally, assisting local DAV chapters and DAV state departments with fundraising activities would qualify. Hours for this program are maintained and reported through DAV state departments.

An added incentive for each Cadet who receives the NCSM is the opportunity to receive a scholarship through the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program. These scholarships recognize the efforts of America's youth who give of their time in order to better the lives of disabled veterans and their dependents. Each year, DAV awards \$80,000 to 12 deserving young men and women through the program. To date, we have awarded \$658,000 to 103 recipients. The criteria to be considered for a scholarship, parallels the criteria to receive the NCSM. For complete details on the JBMYS, please visit the following link:

<http://www.dav.org/volunteers/Scholarship.aspx>.

I believe this is an excellent opportunity to reinforce the mission of Army JROTC, "To motivate young people to be better citizens" in addition to "building better lives for America's

veterans.” We are pleased to partner with Army JROTC and we will also be working with the other branches of service to gain their approval for the NCSM to their cadets as well.

### **2010 DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VAN GRANT PROGRAM**

The 2010 DAV Transportation Network (TN) Van Grant Program application deadline was Friday, December 4, 2009. The DAV ColumbiaTrust is in the process of reviewing all submitted applications.

When the applications are approved, those Departments that have submitted applications will receive notification of van approval with further instructions.

### **MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL UMPIRES VISIT VA MEDICAL CENTERS**

*Former Major League Baseball Umpire Larry Barnett* visited the following VA medical centers in November and December: Kerrville, San Antonio, Waco, Bonham and Dallas, Texas.

*Major League Baseball Umpire Jerry Layne* visited the following VA medical centers in December: Gainesville, Lake City, Orlando, Tampa, Bay Pines, Miami and W. Palm Beach, Florida and Decatur and Augusta (Uptown/Downtown Divisions), Georgia.

### **2010 NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC**

The 24th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (NDVWSC) will be held in Snowmass Village, Colorado, March 28 – April 2, 2010.

This year we are encouraging DAV Departments, Chapters and Auxiliary Units to take part in the clinic by becoming a sponsor. For the past several years there have been some Departments, Chapters and individuals that have generously supported the clinic as sponsors, whether it be as clinic sponsor or raising funds for a seriously disabled veteran who could benefit from this rehabilitative clinic.

There are many benefits of sponsorship. Clinic sponsors provide financial support to make it possible for disabled veterans to journey from throughout our nation to experience the unique program of hope and renewal that is the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. The event is cosponsored by the Disabled American Veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as corporate and organizational sponsors. Sponsors not only support the clinic, many, often with their families, visit with veterans at the clinic and stay from start to finish. They pitch in as instructors and volunteers, getting to know veterans, cheering them on and awarding medals to participants at week's end.

The six levels of sponsorship and their benefits are described below:

<b>Sponsor Benefits</b>	<b>Host</b> \$30,000+	<b>National</b> \$20,000- 29,999	<b>Gold</b> \$10,000 – 19,999	<b>Silver</b> \$5,000 – 9,999	<b>Bronze</b> \$2,500- 4,999	<b>Contributions</b> to \$2,499
Name featured in DAV Magazine (circulation: 1.2 million)	*	*	*	*	*	
Ski lift tickets	*	*	*	*	*	
	(10 tickets)	(8 tickets)	(6 tickets)	(4 tickets)	(2 tickets)	
Event Jackets	*	*				
	(10)	(8)				
Event Fleece Vests			*			
			(6)			
Tickets to March 27 awards reception	*	*	*	*	*	
	(10 tickets)	(8 tickets)	(6 tickets)	(4 tickets)	(2 tickets)	
Logo printed on exclusive banner (individual banners for each gift level)	*	*	*	*	*	
Ad in commemorative booklet	*	*	*	*	*	
	(1 page)	(1 page)	(1 page)	(1/2 page)	(name only)	
Trophy at awards reception/dinner	*	*	*	*	*	
Custom Web Page	*	*	*	*	*	
News releases to media in your area	*	*	*			
Opportunity to offer product sampling	*	*	*			
Opportunity to display company banner	*	*				
Logo printed on official clinic ski bib	*	*				
Name featured in event publicity	*	*				

Anyone interested in attending the event as a sponsor should contact me at (859) 442-2065 or [mwalsh@DAVmail.org](mailto:mwalsh@DAVmail.org). Letters may be sent to Mr. Michael J. Walsh, National Director of Voluntary Services, Disabled American Veterans, National Headquarters, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076.

### **NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS PROGRAM**

Daytime actor and Emmy nominee James Reynolds is chairman of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 2010 National Salute to Veterans.

Mr. Reynolds, best known for his long running performance as police officer Abe Carver on the popular "Day's of Our Lives" led VA's annual patient recognition program inviting the public to

visit and honor hospitalized veterans during National Salute Week, February 8-14, 2010. He serves as the national spokesperson for more than 131,000 volunteers serving veterans at VA facilities across the nation.

Reynolds was born and raised in the small farming community of Oskaloosa, Kansas. During high school, he performed in many school plays and played football, basketball and track.

Following graduation, he joined the Marines and was assigned to an information service office in Hawaii as a reporter. He was sent to Vietnam and served for almost a year with a variety of units in and around Chu Lai, adding battlefield reporting to his combat duties. A wound ended his military service. Mr. Reynolds enrolled in Topeka's Washburn University, majoring in pre-law and journalism. Advised that the best place on campus to meet girls was the theatre department, he began auditioning and performing in plays – discovering a passion for acting.

He used his journalism background to land jobs with newspapers such as the Topeka Daily Capitol and the Colorado Springs Sun where he wrote about theatre, film and music. That allowed him to report on his passion while pursuing acting as a career.

In 1974, he landed his first television commercial and a featured role in "Mr. Majestyk," with Charles Bronson. He moved to Los Angeles, amassed an impressive list of primetime television and motion picture credits, and became one of the foundation blocks of "Days of our Lives." He has logged more hours on television than any other African-American actor in the U.S. – averaging over a 100 hours of airtime each year for 25 consecutive years.

Mr. Reynolds received an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for his role as Carver, as well as NAACP Image Award nominations for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Daytime Drama Series. He was also nominated for an NAACP Theatre Award for his work in the theatrical production "Buffalo Soldier."

Mr. Reynolds is deeply committed to charitable works such as the Ronald McDonald's House and touring with the USO. He has been to Cuba, the Mediterranean, Kuwait and Afghanistan to meet and show support for troops overseas. In 2007, he was honored by the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP Veteran Affairs and Armed Services Committee for his contributions to the United States Armed Forces.

The purpose of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program is to pay tribute and express appreciation to hospitalized veterans; increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center; encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and to become involved as volunteers.

The week of February 14 each year is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, more than 98,000 veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliarys, and nursing homes

During the National Salute, VA invites individuals, veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of

activities at the VA medical centers. The activities and events include special ward visits and valentine distributions; photo opportunities; school essay contests; special recreation activities and veteran recognition programs. The week provides an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within the medical center.

### **NATIONAL SALUTE FOR VETERAN PATIENTS VALENTINES FOR VETERANS CONCERTS**

In addition to the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, Help Hospitalized Veterans will be helping to sponsor a series of concerts that will recognize veterans by some of this nation's best entertainers.

Listed below are the National Salute for Veteran Patients Valentines for Veterans Concerts. Volunteer participation may be coordinated with the host site coordinator:

**VAMC Baltimore, MD** -- R. David Edwards - Host Site Coordinator, *Little Anthony and The Imperials*: Sunday, February 14, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m., Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall 410-605-7101

**VAMC Battle Creek, MI** -- Nancy Babcock - Host Site Coordinator, *Lee Greenwood*: Monday, February 15, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m., W.K. Kellogg Auditorium, 616- 966-5497

**VAMC Charleston, SC** -- Carolyn Martell - Host Site Coordinator, *Aaron Tippin*: Friday, February 12, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m., Charleston Area Convention Center, 843-577-5011

**VAMC Chicago (Hines and Jesse Brown), IL** -- Trent Ward, Barb Hunt and Bob Gronko - Host Site Co-Coordinators, *The Chi-Lites*: Saturday, February 6, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m., Auditorium Theater, 708-202-2523, 312-569-6109

**VAMC Cleveland, OH** -- Lovel Henderson - Host Site Coordinator, *The Chi-Lites*: Friday, February 19, 2010, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, 216-791-3800

**VAMC Fayetteville, AR** -- Carol Kick - Host Site Coordinator, *Aaron Tippin*: Thursday, February 11, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m., Walton Arts Center, 479-444-5060

**VAMC Kansas City, MO** -- Melissa Jacobson - Host Site Coordinator, *Lee Greenwood*: Sunday, February 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., The Folly Theater, 816-922-2026

**VAMC Memphis, TN** -- Mary Kay Campbell - Host Site Coordinator, *Aaron Tippin*: Saturday, February 13, 2010, Minglewood Hall, 901-577-7248

**VAMC Prescott, AZ** -- Ame Callahan - Host Site Coordinator, *Lee Greenwood*: Friday, February 12, 2010, Yavapai College Performance Hall, 928-776-6013

**VAMC St. Louis, MO** -- Marcena Gunter and James Rocky Buchanan - Host Site Co-  
Coordinators, *The Temptations featuring Dennis Edwards*: Sunday, February 14, 2010 @  
3:00 p.m., The Fabulous Fox Theater, 314-894-6530

**VAMC Wichita, KS** -- Susan Lee - Host Site Coordinator, *Aaron Tippin*; Monday,  
February 15, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m., The Cotillion, 316-634-3064

If you have any questions regarding the concerts, please contact Help Hospitalized Veterans'  
Special Events Liaison: Frank Cimorelli, 928-771-2071 (Office), 928-848-7803 (Cell), or  
[frankcimorelli@live.com](mailto:frankcimorelli@live.com)

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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