

DECEMBER 2010



2011 GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARDS

2011 JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The 2011 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, 2011.

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 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 six years of receiving the scholarship, whichever is later.
- Family members of the DAV national organization employees are eligible to receive a scholarship.
- Nominations for this award may be submitted by the Voluntary Service Program Manager at a VA medical center, DAV Departments, Chapters and other subordinate units, such as the Auxiliary, or the student may complete a self-nomination form which is available on-line. In addition, the DAV and DAVA Representatives and their Deputies and Hospital Chairpersons are also encouraged to submit a nomination.
- All nomination packets should include a nomination form, the student's essay discussing "What volunteering has meant to me" (essay should be 750 words or less) and any supporting documentation which you would like to have considered by the Selection Committee.
- Applications for the 2011 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program will be accepted between December 1, 2010 and February 25, 2011.

You are urged to solicit recommendations and information from the VAMC Director, Service Managers and other staff members directly involved with the VAVS Program in your facilities for these very worthwhile awards. The Nomination Form, or Essay Form, which can be accessed on www.dav.org under Voluntary Services and should be completed and mailed to: Disabled American Veterans, National Headquarters, Voluntary Services Department, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076.

2011 DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VAN GRANT PROGRAM

The 2011 DAV Transportation Network (TN) Van Grant Program application deadline was Friday, December 3, 2010. The DAV Columbia Trust 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.

A reminder that DAV Transportation Network vans, in most cases, are not equipped to transport veterans in wheelchairs. In the most optimal situation, of course, the DAV Transportation Network would be able to accommodate veterans in wheelchairs, as well as any other veterans requiring

transportation to and/or from a VA medical facility for treatment. Unfortunately, the optimal situation doesn't always exist; however, fortunately, an alternative does. Please let me explain:

1. Least important, but still certainly a factor, is the cost of fitting all of our vans with wheelchair lifts and the other equipment necessary for on-loading, off-loading, and safe transportation. Considering there are 2,368 vans in the fleet nationwide, this expense would be staggering and would significantly reduce the funds available to purchase the van themselves.
2. Wheelchair lifts and other accommodating equipment would take up considerable interior space on the vans, causing a substantial reduction in the space available for other riders. In most areas around the country, our vans are full or nearly full as they make their rounds to and from VA medical facilities. Therefore, devoting a large amount of the space inside a van to wheelchair accessible equipment would have the unfortunate effect of denying transportation to other veterans who also need our services.
3. Most importantly, our Transportation Network vans are driven by volunteers, not paid staff. The vast bulk of these volunteers are members of the DAV, therefore disabled veterans themselves, and most are also in their retirement years. We simply cannot expect older disabled veterans to consistently have the strength and/or physical ability to do the physical and mechanical tasks associated with on-loading and off-loading wheelchair patients, while assuming the responsibility for veterans' safety.
4. Finally, other alternatives are available to veterans who need transportation to the VA for care but cannot use our program because they are in wheelchairs. Controlling law and VA regulations provide for the transporting of certain wheelchair or other mobility impaired veterans at VA's expense. Arrangements for this special mode of transportation vary from one VA facility to the next but are provided. Therefore, for more information on how a veteran in a wheelchair can avail himself or herself to such alternative transportation, we suggest that you contact your DAV Hospital Service Coordinator.

We hope the explanations above were helpful in explaining how the DAV is making every effort to utilize the freely provided services of DAV volunteers to transport the largest possible number of veterans to and from the VA in the safest possible environment.

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: Cincinnati, Dayton and Cleveland, Ohio (Wade Park and Brecksville Divisions).

Major League Baseball Umpire Jerry Layne visited the following VA medical centers in December: Lake City, Gainesville, Tampa, Bay Pines and Orlando, Florida.

2011 NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

The 25th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (NDVWSC) will be held in Snowmass Village, Colorado, March 27 – April 1, 2011.

As in the past, 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, either as a 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. Simply put, making miracles happen!

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

Sponsor Benefits	Host \$30,000+	National \$20,000- 29,999	Gold \$10,000 – 19,999	Silver \$5,000 – 9,999	Bronze \$2,500- 4,999	Contributions 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 Vests			*(6)			
Tickets to March 26 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	*	*	*	*	*	
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. 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.

On behalf of the DAV Voluntary Service Staff, I would like to wish the corps of DAV
Hospital Service Coordinators, DAV VAVS State Chairmen, VAVS Representatives and volunteers
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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, reading "Michael J. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

MICHAEL J. WALSH
National Director of Voluntary Services

MJW:lrd