

FEBRUARY 2010



2010 GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARDS

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 in December 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.

There is still plenty of time to submit nominations for these awards. In doing so, think of your nominations as an act of kindness toward deserving individuals that wouldn't be recognized if YOU hadn't stepped up to the plate. Make your volunteers stand out -- send in your submission today.

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 26, 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 should be completed and mailed to: Disabled American Veterans, National Headquarters, Voluntary Services Department, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076.

2010 DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VAN GRANT PROGRAM

The 2010 van grant applications have all been evaluated. This year we will be purchasing 103 Ford Explorers and E-350 vans that will provide needed transportation services to disabled veterans unable to get to VA medical centers and clinics for medical care. As in the past, the National Organization, in partnership with the DAV National Service Foundation's Columbia Trust fund, and the generous support of many Departments and Chapters, will be donating these vehicles to the VA to be used in the DAV Volunteer Transportation Network.

The Departments will soon be receiving notices advising when the vehicles will be available for pick up from National Headquarters. We expect delivery to begin in April and to be concluded by June. Those Departments who have a balance due on their van grant requests should forward it to Nancy O'Brien, Director of Foundation and Workplace Giving. No vehicle will be released to Departments until the balance is paid. If you are not sure of the amount of any balance please feel free to contact me here at National Headquarters.

On behalf of those who use the transportation network and those who drive the vans, I thank you for your support of this valuable program.

MAJOR LEAGUE UMPIRE VISITS VA MEDICAL CENTERS

Retired Major League Umpire Larry Barnett visited the following VA medical centers in February: Lake City, Gainesville, Orlando, Bay Pines and Tampa, Florida.

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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