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Disabled American Veterans Naomi Chapter 15 — Philadelphia, PA

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2013

Commander

- Samuel Blow Jr.
- (215) 782-1674

Senior Vice Commander

- Leonard M. Johnson
- (267) 254-9097

Junior Vice Commander

- Stephen D. Lacey

Adjutant/Treasurer

- Harding Byrd
- (267) 292-2082

Chaplain

- James K. Chappelle
- (215) 357-5785

Judge Advocate

- Richard D. Fields

Sergeant-at-Arms

- Charles B. Clarke

New Member Welcome

A hearty welcome to fourteen (14) new members of Naomi Chapter 15. Joining our ranks since the last issue of the Newsletter were Comrades Cathy P. Bennett-Santos, Divine K. Gahib, Darryl A. Green, Nathaniel J. Kelly, Vincent Leuzzi, Jon P. McWilliams, Neil A. Pancoast, George P. Parks, Edward H. Payne and Nicholas Zityniuk. Transferring in from other chapters were Comrades Reginald G. Boston, James E. Carr, David L. Holman and Susan V. Price. Welcome - **Come out and get involved.**



Sickness and Distress

Get well wishes to Comrades George Murphy, Donald Daniels, Ronald Daniels, Frank Beck, Julius Bennett, Eugene Alexander, Odessa Thrower and James Waddell who have been reported under the weather. We extend condolences and a last salute to the family and friends of Comrades Michael Carvajal, Eugene V. Ciecka, Thomas C. Dees, Frank E. Garofalo, John E. Grimes, William T. Jackson, Ralph J. Marchione and Reginald E. Wesberry. They will be sorely missed. If you hear of sickness or distress give Chaplain Chappelle a call at 215 357-5785

Mid-Winter Conference Trip On Tap

Naomi Chapter 15 will sponsor a one (1) day trip to Wash. DC on Feb. 26, 2013 in support of our National Commander's testimony before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. The trip will also allow all to schedule a meeting with their local congressional representative to lobby for their support of legislation of interest to veterans of America's wars. The bus will leave at 8:00 a.m from the parking area in the Olney Plaza at Front and Olney. Ticket cost will be \$50.00 ---- for further info call the chapter office and/or contact Leonard Johnson 267 254-9097

Newsletter Fund Donations

Commander Blow and the entire membership of Naomi Chapter 15 send our thanks to those who responded to our request for donations to our Newsletter Fund. Special thanks for generous donations from Comrades Harry Crafton, Francis O'Donnell, John Berry, Mike Hughes, Earl Rose, Raymond J. Kent, Earl H. Kelly, Marion McDonald, John Novack and Michael J. Dekowski.

Naomi Support for Hospitalized Veterans

Naomi is proud to announce the donation of \$500.00 to the Voluntary Services Program at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. Commonly referred to as VAVS, this program supports volunteer activities vital to the recovery of hospitalized veterans.

CLC Hospital Parties

Commander Blow recently announced chapter support for DAV sponsored events (hospital parties) at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center's Community Living Center (CLC). Formerly known as the VA Nursing Home, CLC services the short term care, rehab, chemo/radiation tx, respite stays and palliative/hospice care of eligible veterans. Scheduled events will appear in future newsletters.

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Care — Volunteer



M. L. King, Jr. Day
 January 21, 2013



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY REPORT

From The Commander's Desk

Greetings, though the year 2013 will undoubtedly offer many difficult challenges I am optimistic that Naomi Chapter 15 will continue to be there for disabled veterans in need. As a new Congress convenes this January



we must be ever vigilant, making sure the benefits we earned because of damage to body, limb and/or mind are not decimated. We must constantly remind our representatives in Washington that the well earned benefits enjoyed by disabled veterans should not be bundled with partisan targets labeled as candidates for the budget ax. We must remind Congress that any increase in funding of the VA budget must meet the increased needs brought by new users of the VA health system because of combat in Iraq, Afghanistan and other hot spots around the world. VA hospital parties, the VAVS program and the homeless veterans in our midst are among the targets of our efforts to support veterans in need. Any program we embrace will cost money, that means we will be asking for membership support. That support can be in the form of

the buying of a ticket, the giving of a donation to our Hospital Service Fund, or volunteering your service in any way. Any membership help will be acknowledged and appreciated. Another project on our 2013 agenda is increased membership attendance at our monthly chapter meetings. Come out and contribute — come out and be heard.

Health Info On The Internet

VA has an updated enhanced health portal specifically designed for veterans who are enrolled in a VA facility, registered on My HealthVet and have completed a one-time In-Person Authentication (IPA) process. Available 24/7, wherever there is internet access, are: 1. VA prescription refills (by name not just Rx numbers). 2. VA Wellness Reminders. 3. Secure Messaging with health care team (where available) Those registered can now download their personal info that is stored in My HealthVet from a new Blue Button, thereby making it possible for veterans to view, print or save info stored on the site. Further info is available at www.myhealth.va.gov. For answers to local questions contact your VA facility and ask for the My HealthVet Coordinator. The IPA process must be completed in-person at your local VA facility.

Support Our Troops

Chapter Meetings

Naomi Chapter 15 meets the fourth Monday of the month at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, University and Woodland Aves. The time is 3:00p.m. on the 3rd floor. If you have any questions please call or write either your Commander or your Adutant/Treasurer at the phone number/address listed on page 1.



Naomi Q & A

Q. What is DIC?

A. DIC stands for 'Dependency and Indenity Compensation'. It is a monthly benefit paid to survivors of deceased active duty military service members or veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease or who were rated totally disabled for a qualifying period

Q. Who are eligible survivors for DIC?

A. The surviving spouse and children who meet certain detailed critera are eligible survivors for DIC. The surviving parents may be eligible for an income-based benefit.

Q. How can I apply for DIC?

A. You file by filling out VA Form 21-534 (Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits for a Surviving Spouse or Child) Applications and further info are only a phone call away, see below.

VA Toll-Free Number
1-800-827-1000



Presidents Day
February 18, 2013

February Meeting — February 25, 2013