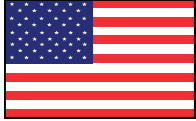




# Disabled American Veterans Pacesetter



THE VOICE OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
CHAPTER 20, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA  
4896 KEMPSVILLE GREENS PKWY, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462  
MAIN PHONE: 757-519-9931 LOUNGE AREA: 757-233-7009  
Virginia Beach Thrift Store pick up: 757 461-4938  
WEB ADDRESS: WWW.BEACHDAV.COM



## MARCH/APRIL 2008

### MARCH

Breakfast @ 0800 & XO Meeting @ 0900.....Saturday the 8th

St. Patrick's Day Dinner.....Saturday the 8th

(Dinner @ 1800, social hour 1700-1800 (see inside for details))

Dept. Spring Conference @ Lynchburg.....the 13th through the 16th

Chapter/Unit Meeting.....Tuesday the 18th @ 1930

**\*NOMINATIONS FOR FY 08/09 OFFICERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED  
AT THIS MEETING**

Clean up @ the Veterans' Memorial.....Saturday the 29th @ 0900

### APRIL

XO Breakfast @ 0800 & XO Meeting @ 0900.....Saturday the 12th

Chapter Dinner.....Saturday the 12th

(Dinner @ 1800, social hour 1700-1800).....Saturday the 12th

Chapter/Unit Meeting.....Tuesday the 15th @ 1930



**\*\*\*ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THIS MEETING**

Clean up @ the Veterans' Memorial.....Saturday the 26th @ 0900

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:  
(BEACHDAV.COM) BY THE 1ST OF THE MONTH...GIVE OR TAKE A  
COUPLE OF DAYS. GET A HEAD START ON WHAT'S GOING ON!

### COMMANDER

Gerald "Jerry" Lupejkis  
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### SR. VICE COMMANDER

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### JR. VICE COMMANDER

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tjwheeler1@verizon.net

### CECS

Laura Richter  
Bill Tilton

\*\*\*\*\*

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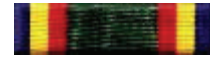
CHIEFKOCHIS@GMAIL.COM OR  
CALL OUR SR. VICE AT ABOVE #.

# Commander Jerry Lupejkis



A Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon has been awarded to those who participated in the Battle of Eniwetok. The Secretary of the Navy citation reads:

For service as follows:



“For outstanding heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault and capture of Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands, from February 17 to 22, 1944. As a unit of a Task Force, assembled only two days prior to departure for Eniwetok Atoll, the Twenty-second Marines, Reinforced, landed in whole or in part on Engebi, Eniwetok and Parry Islands in rapid succession and launched aggressive attacks in the face of heavy machine-gun and mortar fire from well camouflaged enemy dugouts and fox-holes. With simultaneous landings and reconnaissance missions on numerous other small islands, they overcame all resistance within six days, destroying a known 2,665 of the Japanese and capturing 66 prisoners. By their courage and determination, despite the difficulties and hardships involved in repeated reembarkations and landings from day to day, these gallant officers and men made available to our forces in the Pacific Area an advanced base with large anchorage facilities and an established airfield, thereby contributing materially to the successful conduct of the war. Their sustained endurance, fortitude and fighting spirit throughout this operation reflect the highest credit on the Twenty-second Marines, Reinforced, and on the United States Naval Service.”

All personnel attached to and serving with any of the units listed below, during the period February 17 to 22, 1944, are authorized to wear the **NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION** Ribbon:

Twenty-second Marines, Second Separate Pack Howitzer Company; Second Separate Tank Company; Second Separate Engineer Company; Second Separate Medical Company; Second Separate Motor Transport Company; Fifth Amphibious Corps Reconnaissance Company; Company D, Fourth Tank Battalion, Fourth Marine Division; 104th Field Artillery Battalion, U.S. Army; Company C, 766th Tank Battalion, U.S. Army; Company A, 708th Provisional Amphibian Tractor Battalion, U.S. Army.

In addition, Alabama Governor Bob Riley has issued a Certificate of Remembrance for The Battle of Eniwetok:

This certificate is presented in remembrance of the members of the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard who died in World War II at the Battle of Eniwetok on February 17—February 22, 1944. As Governor of the State of Alabama, I do hereby posthumously commend these brave servicemen who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, justice and liberty. May God continue to bless our soldiers, veterans, and heroes in times of peace and war.

\*\*\*\*\*

Also, please read the poem I provided on the next page.

Veterans helping veterans,

Commander Jerry Lupejkis

## DO YOU JUST BELONG?


Are you an active member,  
The kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?  
So you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the flock,  
Or do you meet in private  
And criticize and knock?  
Do you take an active part  
To help the work along?  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind that just belongs?  
Do you work on committees,  
To this there is no trick,  
Or leave the work to just a few,  
And talk about the clique?  
Please come to the meetings often,  
And help with hand and heart.  
Don't be just a member  
But take an active part.  
Think this over, members,  
You know what's right from wrong.  
Are you an active member,  
Or do you just belong?

—Anonymous



## Sr. Vice Commander

3

**HELP!!!** As of 20 February 2008, our Chapter still needs 74 more members to pay their life memberships in full by 30 June 2008 so that we can make our chapter goal. Now I know it is **MY** responsibility to make goal; and due to some other **DAV** responsibilities, and some serious, time-consuming, personal crises, I haven't been able to put in as many hours as I did last year...and because of that, we are lagging behind. I know...I know...I can see you all playing your invisible violins. Seriously, we have been getting many new members, but that is not what makes our yearly goal. It is fully, paid-up life members. That is where we get our money from National. Now...how are we supposed to get members to pay their memberships in full? It's a good question. All I can do at this point is **BEG!!!**  We started this fiscal year with 34 fewer members than we had the previous year. If any of you are having real financial hardships, like I've said before, I do not expect you to create more of a hardship.... by any means. At his point we need 18.5 members per month to pay their memberships in full. We have until 30 June. If you want to know your balance, just email me at: [chiefkochis@gmail.com](mailto:chiefkochis@gmail.com) or go to the website listed below. For a very long time, we have been the 2nd largest chapter in the state. I would sure like to be the 1st! **GO TEAM GO!!!**

### **MAKE YOUR PAYMENTS ONLINE!!!**

Go to: [www.davmembers.org](http://www.davmembers.org)

You will be able to update your personal information (change of address, etc.), request transfers and make payments toward full-life membership. Once there, you will have to know your **DAV** membership number. Your default password will be your birth date typed exactly as the instructions read. You will then be prompted to immediately change your password. Once that is complete, highlight "Make/Receive Payments" (don't click on it). Directly to the right of it, click on "Payment Submission." It can fool you because when you put your cursor over it, the arrow disappears. Just click it, you will have to fill out an online form, including all your payment information. Potential members can also sign up online.

If you would like to volunteer at the VA Hospital in Hampton or the VA Clinic in Virginia Beach, contact Judith Curtis at the Volunteer Office at 722.9961. Orientation will be at the hospital every Wednesday and Thursday from 1-3 in building 10, room 501.

At this time, I would like to express my deepest condolences to Tom James' family. Tom passed away the morning of our meeting day, February 19th. He was an icon in our chapter and a complete wealth of knowledge. If you ever wanted to know anything about anything pertaining to our chapter, or the DAV in general, you could always go to Tom to get the right answer. It just won't be the same without him. Rest in peace Tom...see you later, and thank you for your dedication and hard work. God Bless you and your family.

With deep appreciation and respect,

Diana S. Kochis

## Jr. Vice Commander

On March 8th, we will host a St. Patrick's Day Dinner with corned beef, cabbage, boiled potatoes, soda bread, etc., all prepared by Ed & Shirley Adams. Desserts and appetizers will be provided by Unit 20. Judd French will provide the music for this event. Thanks to all of you. This dinner will be held one week earlier than usual due to the upcoming Spring conference on 13-16 February 2008.



April 12th will be Italian Night at the chapter. Vince and Ruth will be cooking Italian...they always do a great job. Thanks to both of you! Unit 20 will provide the desserts and appetizers. Thanks ladies!



Bobby Twiford,  
Jr. Vice Commander

## Service Officer

4

**VA seeks POWs:** VA officials are seeking former POWs and their family members who currently are not using VA benefits and services. These veterans/family members are urged to contact the VA to find out if they are eligible for health care, disability compensation, and other services. According to Jim Nicholson, former VA Secretary, "One of the VA's highest priorities is meeting the needs of former {POWs}. They are extraordinary men and women who have endured captivity, suffered extreme deprivation, and sacrificed their own freedom for all Americans.

VA officials estimate more than 25,000 former POWs are alive today. If you know a former POW who might be eligible for VA services, be sure to have them call the VA at 800.827.1000 or visit: [www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/pow/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/pow/index.htm) or you may allow Chapter 20 to start this inquiry for you. Call our Service Officer(s) at 757.519.9931 ext. 3.

FY 2008 Defense Authorization Act includes substantial improvements affecting virtually all segments of the military community. Key provisions include:

- **Concurrent receipt:** Authorizes full, immediate concurrent receipt for disabled retirees with at least 20 years of service deemed "unemployable" by the VA. The new benefit increase will not begin until Oct. 1, 2008, but at that point, eligible retirees will receive lump-sum payments for retroactive benefits all the way back to Jan. 1, 2005. Another very important provision extends eligibility for combat-related special compensation to all military disability (chapter 61) retirees with less than 20 years of service who suffer from combat or operations-caused conditions.
- **TRICARE Fees:** Prohibits increases of TRICARE fees including pharmacy co-payments for FY2008.
- **Military Pay Raise:** Authorizes a 35% pay raise in January 2008 for active duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel versus the 3% raise proposed in the administration's defense budget proposal.
- **Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP):** Authorizes a special payment of \$50 a month to survivors of members entitled to retired pay (or survivors of Guard and Reserve retirees who dies before age 60) whose SBP annuities are reduced by VA survivor benefits,

effective Oct. 1, 2008. That amount will increase by \$10 each year for five years. The new law also adopted at MOAA-proposed provision requiring the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to implement simplified and more sympathetic recoupment processes to assist affected survivors.

- **Wounded warrior care:** Requires comprehensive plan for care, management, and transition of wounded servicemembers by July 1, 2008. Requires recovery, medical and non-medical care case managers for recuperating servicemembers and establishes maximum caseloads for each.
- **Wounded warrior family support:** Authorizes medical care, training and job-placement service for family members of recovering servicemembers with a serious injury or illness. Authorizes leave (from civilian employers) for family members of injured military personnel.
- **DoD/VA electronic records:** Requires establishment of a joint interagency office as single authority to develop, implement, and administer a fully interoperable electronic DoD/VA health record. Requires development of a process to send electronic records necessary to support eligibility for VA benefits, including the form DD-214, from DoD to the VA.
- **Follow-on TRICARE eligibility:** Authorizes continuation of active duty-level TRICARE coverage for servicemembers separated or retired from the armed forces for a serious injury or illness when care is not reasonably available through the VA. Expires Dec. 31, 2012.
- **Disability retirement:** Requires DoD—by July 31, 2008—to develop a standardized process for medical and physical disability evaluations that takes into account timely decisions, provides uniformity between services and provides servicemembers with advice and counsel. Requires DoD to ensure disability rating awards include all conditions that render a servicemember unfit for duty in determining disability ratings for military disability retirement purposes (rather than merely selecting the single least-disabling condition, as sometimes occurred in the past). Requires three pilot programs use of the disability rating assigned by the VA, use of a joint DoD/VA rating system, and use of a single DoD Website for accessing disability evaluation information.
- **Wounded warrior separations review:** Requires review of all disability separation cases between Sept. 11, 2001, and Dec. 21, 2009, in which a rating of 20% or lower was assigned. Review is to be

conducted upon request of servicemember or 5 next of kin or by the service's own initiative.

- **Disability severance pay:** Eliminates the requirement to deduct VA disability compensation from disability severance pay amounts awarded by the parent service. Increases the minimum disability severance pay to 12 months of basic pay and raises the maximum award to 38 months of basic pay. (Note: The increases only apply to separation pay awarded for combat-related injuries).
- **VA Health Care:** Authorizes five years (versus two) of automatic VA health care eligibility for servicemembers who serve in a combat theater.

Source: Military Officer February 2008

We sincerely appreciate the thoughtfulness of those veterans who call in a timely manner to cancel appointments. Your consideration enables us to use the open appointment time(s) to assist other veterans. We remain dedicated to providing timely and efficient professional service to all veterans requesting our assistance.

Bertha G. Myrick

Terrell J. Wheeler Jr.

Wayne L. Dupree

Paul R. Karch

Samuel L. Jones

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## Women's Representative

Stories from the Revolution tell of women "manning" cannons as their husbands fell in battle. While women serving as paymasters and top-secret document handlers have carried side arms since WWII, the military hesitated to train servicewomen with weapons because laws restricted combat-related assignments. In 1975, the Army began requiring women to take individual weapons training and the USCG followed in 1985. In the early 1970s, maintenance positions began opening to women in missile systems. Titan crews opened to women in the mid 1970s and the Minuteman crew followed in 1986.

In WWI, a few nurses served on hospital ships—even more during WWII. Until the 1970s, non-nurses were banned from shipboard duty. The USCG was the first to integrate ships and end gender-based restrictions; then the USN began to integrate non-combat ships. In 1993, the US lifted the ban on combat vessels. Now, submarines are the only all-male ships.

Source: Women's Memorial 2007 Special Edition Calendar

Veronica Staples,  
Women's Committee

Clean-up at the Tidewater Veterans' Memorial Park will be the last Saturday of the month at 0900. After the clean-up, we go to the Beach Pub for breakfast—Vicki STILL pays!

Adopt-a-Spot—next clean up is on March 29th and again on April 26th.

Bill Hons  
Chaplain

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHAPLAIN

### TAPS



Tom James  
George J. Lattimore  
Henry W. Merritt  
David Alan Pitzer

MAY THEY REST  
IN PEACE!

### SICK CALL

Al Sequin



### PRAYER OF PROTECTION

The light of God surrounds me,  
The love of God enfolds me,  
The power of God protects me,  
And the presence of God watches over me,  
Wherever I am, God is,  
And all is well!

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom James has been our Finance Officer for 20 plus years. He's been a friend to our Chapter, the Dept., and to the DAV in general. He really cared about the disabled veterans and contributed much on their behalf. He was proud of our Chapter and worked hard to make it the best in the state. Tom is a hard act to follow. It will take a big person to fill his shoes. Rest assured, you cannot be replaced. Rest in peace Tom. We will all miss you



Where is everybody? A little rain never hurt anyone. Am I late? Dang it! I wanted to see who got canned...as in "garbage can." I'm all dressed up with nowhere to go. Ahh...I'll just go home and have some of Lucette's home made soup. Bunch of wussies!

BOB  
aka Dad



# Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary



Now that winter is nearly over and we are getting ready to start the spring season, we hope everyone had a safe and healthy winter. Several of our members were busy traveling and have returned back home. We look forward to seeing you in the coming few weeks.

On Saturday, Feb. 9th, we had "Soul Food" for our monthly dinner. Thank you to Laura Alexander and Elizabeth Sayer for making the awesome "country style ribs" and "spareribs" for our meats., along with chicken. Everyone brought in other soul food dishes. Thank you to everyone for the different dishes.

Saturday, February 16th was our annual Bingo Bash at the VA Hospital. Our chapter and unit took chicken for the patients. Other chapters were asked to contribute other foods.

On March 8th, we will be having our "Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner." Shirley and Ed Adams will be chairing this. This is always a special dinner and the food is so good. We hope to see you there.

This year our "Spring State Conference" will be held in Lynchburg. Several of our members plan to attend this conference.

We look forward to seeing more of our members at the upcoming meetings. We would like to get our attendance back up. There are a lot of things coming up in the spring months. Come and find out what will be going on with Unit 20.

PLEASE CHECK FRONT PAGE FOR ALL FUNCTIONS, DATES & TIMES.

Ivy Stoliker  
Commander Unit 20



## UNIT 20 OFFICERS

### COMMANDER

Ivy Stoliker  
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ivy2868@cox.net

### SR. VICE CDR

Elizabeth Sayer  
425-8782

### JR. VICE CDR

Laura Alexander  
523-9743

### ADJUTANT

Kathy Tilton  
473-9154

### CHAPLAIN

Susan James  
497-6917

### March Birthdays

Peggy Wheeler, the 4th  
Adrina Grillo, the 15th  
Lynn Lennox, the 22nd

### March Anniversaries

Adrina & Patrick Grillo, the 12th,  
Betty & Pierre Dispenette, the 12th,  
Cidney & James Rodrigues, the 21st,  
Elizabeth & Merritt Hitchings, the 28th

### April Birthdays

Ruth Holt, the 10th

### April Anniversaries

Gina & Ted Shure, the 1st

**THE PACESETTER  
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
CHAPTER 20  
48796 KEMPSVILLE GREENS PKWY  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462-6463**

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America is # 1  
Thanks to our  
Veterans

**WE MISS YOU TOM!**



**THOMAS JAMES  
1926—2008**