



Cpl. William F. Reardon
Disabled American Veterans
Chapter 57 Newsletter

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CHAPTER OFFICERS
508 -828-1808

Commander	Mort Morin
Sr. Vice Commander	Leroy Crossman
Jr. Vice Commander	Bruce Crossman
Adjutant	Paul Waldron
Treasurer	Martin Fox
Chaplain	Louie Demers
Officer of The Day	William Laliberte
Sergeant At Arms	Stephen Horton
Service Officer	John Fielding
Service Officer	Mort Morin
Legislative Officer	Martin Fox
Armorer	Frank Arditia

January / February 2008

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Page 1

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We've had several overt displays of our members involvement in Chapter activities. Our first and most successful was your participation in the Forget-Me-Not drives that we've had for the last five years. We've had members in front of and actively interacting with the public in several communities. As a consequence the Chapter has raised over \$50,000 and already given most of it back to "disabled wartime veterans, their widows, their orphans and their dependents".

Our second involvement has been with our adoption of the chronic psych ward patients in Building 2 at the Brockton VAMC. During our regular visits we've brought food, drink, canteen books, activities and more important we have brought interaction to patients who can usually benefit from communicating with others than their ward mates and attendants.

Our third display has been as a result of our individual activities as a Chapter member. There are quite a few Chapter jackets showing up on the streets. This is because the wearer has gotten involved in Chapter activities. Attendance at meetings, volunteering at CHAPTER functions at ceremonies, parades and VAMC affairs for example all go toward earning a Chapter jacket. This is in its third year of operation. The first year we purchased about a dozen jackets with the DAV logo on the back and Chapter specific embroidery on the front. The second year we had a few more members earning their jacket. This year we will be including issuing the Chapter jackets to some of our newer members from the former Middleboro Chapter 36 who have been actively supporting our CHAPTER activities.

Last year the Chapter began an Awards Program to further recognize CHAPTER activities. Almost all of our members have a DAV fore and aft cap. Most of our officers and many of the members have the semi-official uniform of navy blue blazer, grey pants, white shirt and blue DAV tie. In recognition of their service to the CHAPTER and our clients we began issuing Award Ribbons to be worn on either the cap or jacket. These ribbons are not to be confused with military awards; consequently, when worn on the jacket are worn on the right side rather than over the heart. However, they are a public display of our members actively working at our CHAPTER activities. Activities for another organization, even though it may be for the same audience (such as VAMC) does not count for a CHAPTER award.

As your Commander I feel every honored that you have been putting forth all this effort and time to serve our fellow wounded warriors and their families.

CHAPTER 57 PARTICIPATES IN TAUNTON
AND MIDDLEBORO VETERANS DAY
TRIBUTES



Commander Morin and Quartermaster Norm Willoughby at the Middleboro Veterans Memorial Park prior to ceremonies.

Chapter 57's Color Guard and Banner Carriers participated in the Veterans Day activities in both Taunton and Middleboro this year. The ceremonies were held on separate days and allowed the participation of many members in both places.

The Taunton Ceremonies began with a breakfast at 9:00am to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Taunton Area Vietnam Veterans Association. This was a successful event for the TAVVA and included various speakers, including Mayor Charles Crowley of Taunton. At 11:00AM all veterans groups assembled on the Green at the WW I Doughboy Statue, where the remembrance ceremonies began. The groups moved in turn to the WW II Monument, Korean Monument, Vietnam Monument and to the Desert Storm Monument. At each place a different Veterans Organization conducted the ceremony.

The following day found our members in Middleboro for the Veterans Day Ceremonies. The assembly area was in the Town Hall Parking lot at 9:30AM. The parade began at 10:00AM with our Chapter 57 the first group in the parade. Three of our members were able to walk the entire route of the parade. They were Fernand Medeiros, Treasurer; Martin "Pete" Fox and our intrepid gregarious Greg Sullivan. The rest of the contingent was content to ride in the vehicles, generously provided by METRO FORD of Raynham. Following the Parade the members participated in the ceremonies at the Veteran's Memorial Park. Commander Morin and Quartermaster Willoughby placed a wreath at the Former DAV Chapter 36 Memorial, during the ceremonies.

PRIZE DRAWING UPDATE

We have two different monetary prizes at each meeting. The first is a door prize with a chance being given to every member in attendance. It is \$25.00 for some lucky attendee at the meeting. Secondly, we have a Membership drawing which requires the member to be in attendance or forfeit the prize. The names of each individual member are maintained in a jar. One name is drawn at each meeting. This drawing is progressive, in that, the amount is increased each month until won by a member who is in attendance.

PRIZE DRAWINGS

\$25.00 Attendance Door Prize:

- November – Bruce Crossman
- December – No Drawing

Membership Prize

(If not present the prize is forfeited).

- November – Bradford Natho
- December – No Drawing

CH. 57 CALENDAR

Meetings are held the

Third Tuesdays Except July & August

Meeting time - 6:30PM

**Elk's Lodge 119 High St.
Taunton, MA.**

MEETING DATES :

- January 15, 2008 - Regular Meeting**
- February 19, 2008 - Regular Meeting**
- March 18, 2008 - Regular Meeting**

**RECENTLY DEPARTED
COMRADES**

Major Edward Parks, US Army

Christine Parks, DAVA, Treasurer

**Cpl. Arthur F. "Archie" Henrique
USMC**

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 *

Just taking 10 seconds to wish you a Happy New Year! Looking ahead with a joyous heart to a new year of peace, prosperity and happiness. Isn't that what a new year holds for many people. It is a time of HOPE.



As we journey through life it is like going down an un familiar road. Each turn we come upon offers the unknown. We HOPE that the turn will bring new and beautiful scenery. It is a case where we are usually satisfied and our HOPE is realized. But then again there are turns that can dash our dreams. I'm sure we have all seen how HOPES can be destroyed as we travel along life's road.

Think of all the wonderful curves you have taken in your life's journey. All of the HOPES you have realized. There is an Irish song that talks of the "Rocky Road To Dublin" In our progress, we sometimes encounter these rocky roads and skid off in another direction. This sometimes causes some powerful feelings.

Some of the feelings, when HOPE is dashed, may include, sadness, frustration , resentment, anger and many others. When this happens we use the traction of HOPE to get back us back on the road with renewed energy.

Sometimes, people can negotiate the rocky roads by themselves. Others that have lost some of the tread because of despair need some help to get back on the right track and to recognize HOPE again.

We have all seen those in need of some sand under their tires and many have been there ourselves. We in the DAV are kind of like the barrels of sand along the roadways. Take the time to become one of the grains of sand that can restore HOPE to our comrades this NEW YEAR.

**Call 1-508-824-4920 or 1-774-526-3212.
to notify me about the sickness or death of
members God Bless until next edition!**

WALK ALONG WITH US

It is really great to see the new people coming in to meetings and taking an active role in the Chapter. We have been seeking volunteers for several projects and activities and people are responding.

Our Chapter's work must go on. We have clothing to purchase and personal care items for distribution to Veterans Centers as well as the VA Hospitals. You would be with other members during these volunteer assignments.

Our 2008 VA Medical Center parties are scheduled. We hope to see some new faces this year at these events. This means a lot to the hospitalized Veterans please volunteer its only 11/2 hrs. a month out of your time, that's not asking a lot of you to put a smile on someone's face. All parties begin at 6:30 pm in Bldg. 2. Meet at the front entrance of the building.

Jan. 22, 2008

Feb. 26, 2008

Mar. 25, 2008

Apr. 22, 2008

May 27, 2008

June 24, 2008 Ice cream social last event for 2007/2008 year.

It is hoped that with new members volunteering we will have the benefit great new ideas and find better ways of doing what we do

For more information call Mort Morin at 508- 828-1808 and help us in our commitment to Disabled Veterans.

As your Commander I feel every honored that you have been putting forth all this effort and time to serve our fellow wounded warriors and their families. I've been able to take an awful lot of praise from within and without the DAV community as a result of your actions. Keep up the good work.

James N. Perry, Proprietor

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OUR CHAPTER'S OWN TV SHOW
"THE FIFTY SHOW"

The 57 Show Reaches a Milestone
 By Kimberly Matthews 1/4/08

On January 15, 2008, "The 57 Show" (The Chapter 57 D.A.V. cable program) will have reached a milestone. They will be taping their 30th episode. As I have said in the past, it has been my pleasure working with this group of individuals. Month after month, they put together a program that is interesting and informative. They work very hard, but they play hard too. Shooting day is always a lot of fun. There is never a shortage of laughs on the set (and usually at someone's expense!) The show reaches 10 communities and provides a great public service by relaying important information to veterans across Southeastern Massachusetts. I would like to say "Cheers" to The 57 Show. Congratulations on your 30th episode!

Note: "The 57 Show" episode #30 with guest Ellen Pothier of Masspro will air throughout the month of January and in early February. Please check your local cable access schedules for days and times. The program airs in Taunton (local Channel 15) on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.

THE REWARDS OF GIVING

The short article below is one that was found on an internet site; [www. Charityguide.com](http://www.Charityguide.com) It has a lot of information but the quotes below are one of the highlights!

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can seriously help another without helping himself. Charles Dudley Warner, 1873

A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives roses. Chinese proverb

I am a recipient of unconditional love; I am a volunteer! Shanterra McBride, Empower Program

You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love.

Henry Drummond

Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns. I am thankful that thorns have roses. Alphonse Karr

Maybe you can think of some others, but this is a start toward getting motivated!

AGAIN and AGAIN

Half the year has already gone by!!! Since installation we've had parades, ceremonies, cookouts, holidays, dinners, meetings, wakes, funerals, operations and some of you have even had births. We've looked for old comrades, we've welcomed new comrades and we still have to keep on the ~o. It's time to start thinking of new elections.

This is a never ending cycle. Elections - no sooner than we elect officers, install them than it becomes time to consider whether we ought to replace them. Consider all of the things that have happened since you cast your ballot. Have the individuals that were elected measured up to your standards, needs and goals? Have they exceeded your hopes? Are they on an upgrade, improving as time goes by, or have they disappointed you by showing little signs of meeting the needs of the organization? Whatever-

You have only a few months, a few meetings, before nominations, elections and installation. Please give serious thought to your choice of officers for the next year. You want individuals who can meet your immediate needs running the Chapter and you want individuals who will be in a position in a year or two to take over from your immediate choices. There must be progression. You cannot keep the same individuals in the same spots for the rest of your life.


People get old, people get ill, some loose their drive, others loose interest. We have a number of offices that must be filled by election; commander, senior vice commander, junior vice commander, treasurer, chaplain and delegates for example. We have a number of positions that can be filled by election and/or appointment; adjutant, quartermaster, officer of the day, sergeant at arms, armorer, etc. Some of these positions functions are not even within the Chapter; for example, we have delegates to the Department Executive Committee and to the District 7 Council In these latter two offices the individuals may actively represent the chapter or do nothing except occupy space. You may never know which because they may be attending meetings that we aren't at. Of course, this also applies if you don't come to Chapter meetings.

Begin reviewing your goals for officers, consider if you're satisfied or maybe you can do a better job. Nominations for office will be coming up in March. You should be giving serious thought to who you want to run your Chapter. We need a few of our good people to come to the fore and really get involved!

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VA AID AND ATTENDANCE COMPENSATION

Elderly veterans who are in need of a care provider, but cannot pay for it, may be eligible for Aid and Attendance -- a little-known monthly pension benefit administered through the Department of Veteran Affairs. Wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing homes and assisted-living facilities may be eligible for the benefit. To be eligible, a veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service (one day of which must be during war time) and have an honorable discharge.

What are Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits?

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in **addition** to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

1. The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment, **OR**,
2. The veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**,
3. The veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**,
4. The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

Housebound is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:

1. The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, **OR**,
2. The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling. A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time.

How to Apply for Aid and Attendance and Housebound:

1. You may apply for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits by writing to the **VA regional office having jurisdiction** of the claim. That would be the office where you filed a claim for pension benefits. If the regional office of jurisdiction is not known, you may file the request with any **VA regional office**.
2. You should **include copies of any evidence**, preferably a report from an attending physician validating the need for Aid and Attendance or Housebound type care.
3. The report should be in sufficient detail to determine whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable.

In addition, it is necessary to determine whether the claimant is confined to the home or immediate premises. Whether the claim is for Aid and Attendance or Housebound, the **report should indicate how well the individual gets around**, where the individual goes, and what he or she is able to do during a typical day. For more info call the VA at 1-800-827-1000

VETERANS VISION EQUITY ACT

The U.S. House of Representatives passed The Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act of 2007. The legislation allows veterans who receive disability compensation for impairment of vision in one eye to be eligible to receive additional compensation for impairment of vision in the eye that is not service-connected. Additional provisions in Bill Number **H.R. 797** include extending authorization of the veterans' work study program until 2010 and allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to furnish a government headstone or marker for the grave of certain veterans buried in private cemeteries. The bill must return to the Senate for concurrence.

Modifies the standard for awarding disability compensation to veterans for loss of vision to require payment of compensation for impairment of vision (currently, blindness) involving both eyes due to a service-connected and non service-connected disability. Defines such impairment as a visual acuity of 20/200 or less or of a peripheral field of 20 degrees or less. Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with information for comparison with the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes with respect to individuals under age 65 in order to determine eligibility for certain veteran benefits and services.

Requires:

- (1) independent verification of information so acquired prior to terminating, denying, or reducing a benefit or service; and
- (2) the opportunity for an individual to contest negative findings. Extends, through June 30, 2009, VA authority to provide an educational allowance to persons performing qualifying work-study activities.
- (3) Authorizes the Secretary, in lieu of furnishing a headstone or marker for the grave of certain individuals buried in a private cemetery, to furnish a bronze representation of the letter "V" to be attached to a headstone or marker furnished at private expense.

MANUFACTURER PRODUCT RECALL

Ford is recalling some 2008 Focus, Expedition, F250 and F350 vehicles for failing to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, 'Occupant Crash Protection.' The driver air bag module may not have been properly assembled. This condition may prevent the driver air bag from properly deploying and reduce occupant protection in the event of a crash. Dealers will replace the driver air bag module. The recall began on November 20, 2007.

HIGHWAY FATALITIES

We are killing ourselves and others at an alarming rate. According to a preliminary report from the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 43,200 died on the nation's highways in 2005, up from 42,636 in 2004. Drive safely, respect others and use your seat belts

Can you imagine that it is more dangerous on our nation's highways than it is in Afghanistan or Iraq. It is time for people to drive a little saner, respect the other guy and slow down. Somebody must care for you and want you around awhile.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Here we are again, another New Year and full of resolutions, by everyone we meet. The list runs the gamut from weight loss to making a million dollars! It seems to me that everyone has some kind of goal. Sometimes it seems that people simply throw out reality in making their resolutions.

Let see now, some of those that have been heard are:

1. **I'M GOING ON A DIET!** That's good, I think What kind of diet? How much do you want to loose or maybe gain! You didn't say. You need to be specific. I'm going on a diet and loose or gain ten pounds in four months. With the specifics you have placed the resolution in the realm of a goal to be accomplished in a specific time.
2. **I GOING TO GET RID OF MY DEBT!** Great but again be specific. I'm going to reduce what I owe by 10% each quarter of this year. Make a budget to help do this.
3. **I'M GOING TO QUIT SMOKING!** Right not if you don't have a plan. Develop your plan, set a date, seek help or go cold turkey, but stay on your plan.

With specifics you can measure your progress. Many people work better under pressure. Resolutions don't put pressure on because they are vague. Specific goals do the most good. Good luck on your New Years SPECIFICS! **Forget Resolutions!**

LET'S NOT FORGET THE PAST

January

- 14 - 1943-Churchill and Roosevelt met in Casablanca
- 17 - 1991-Desert Storm Air War begins
- 27 - 1973- Vietnam Peace Accord signed
- 28 - 1915-U.S. Coast Guard's birthday
- 28 - 1973-Peace in Vietnam was announced
- 30 - 1968- Viet Cong launch the Tet Offensive

February

- 1 - National Freedom Day
- 4 - 1941- USO was incorporated
- 14 - 1778-The flag (USS Ranger) in France, Capt. John Paul Jones) receives its first foreign salute
- 19 - 1945-Battle of Iwo Jima began
- 23 - 1945-Mr. Suribachii Iwo Jima, flag hoisting by U.S. Marines photographed.
- 23 - 1991-Desert Storm Ground War starts
- 27 - 1991-Desert Storm Ground Ware ended after 100 hours. (Of course we're still fighting it).

CHRISTMAS PARTY A HIGHLIGHT OF 2007



Our annual Chapter Christmas Party and Awards Event was held at the Holiday Inn in Taunton on December 15th. The planning committee consisted of Steve Horton, Sgt. At Arms, Pete Fox, Treasurer, Norm Willoughby, QM and Frank Ardita, Armorer. The committee is to be congratulated for the excellent affair that the put together.

This year there was even a visit from Jolly Ole Santa himself! This was a surprise to all including the committee. It seems Santa was visiting another event, when he heard of our party and decided to pay a visit as he knew some of our people by name! Maybe he was checking to see if they were being naughty or nice! He knew our Commander, so things went well.

There were awards for those that took part in our recent Forget-Me-Not Drive. These included the Ribbons for first timers and numbers to attach to the ribbons for those with two years and more. In addition to these awards there were Awards for those that have assisted Chapter 57. Patricia Horton of the DAV Auxiliary was presented a Certificate, Metro Ford and Ocean State Job Lots received Plaques as did Patrick Hughes, of Taunton Community Access and Media Ink (TCAMI), for their wonderful contributions to the Chapter. Kim Matthews of TCAMI was presented with a gift certificate. Congratulations to all of you who have contributed so much to the Chapter and helping to make it a success.

After the cheese, crackers and fruit, the meal consisted of roast beef, fish, vegetables, potato an array great deserts. Of course no meal is complete without coffee and tea, which was also available.

The company and conversation contributed to a wonderful afternoon. The prize drawings were an added extra.

It must be mentioned that an award for Outstanding Service was presented to Adjutant Paul Waldron. This totally caught him off guard! It was accepted for all members for their Outstanding Service. He said, "It is gratifying to see all of the members working so hard".



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CHAPTER 57 DONATES TO HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS



Chapter 57 Treasurer Martin "Pete" Fox (Left) presents our Chapter's donation to John Gonsalves, President of Homes For Our Troops (Waldron Photo)

Chapter 57 voted, unanimously, at our regular meeting, held in November, to donate \$1000.00 to HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS. (HFOT) This organization provides houses to some of America's most severely wounded veterans from our present war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.

President John Gonsalves stated in an interview he had the idea of helping our wounded warriors after watching a news piece on television. He has really done something! Founding HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS, a Taunton based organization.

HFOT has completed over twenty homes and is now in the process of building more than twenty others. The homes are done in a manner that takes into account the special needs of the intended occupant. This may include doors that open by blowing into a tube on a wheelchair, ceiling track systems to help move the person from room to room and many other types of assists.

The first home that was completed in Massachusetts was in Middleboro. Presently one is under construction in Plymouth. There are others underway in various other states.

John Gonsalves is without a doubt a kind, compassionate and caring individual who saw a need and set out to meet it! He is not a member of the DAV, but he is certainly doing the work that is a mandate for the DAV and that is helping to "BUILD BETTER LIVES FOR AMERICA'S DISABLED VETERANS."

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NATIONAL ADJUTANT ANSWERS CBS NEWS CRITICISM BASED ON AIP RATING REPORT

Dear Friends of the DAV:

As National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans National Organization, allow me to express my sincere appreciation for your generosity. As contributors to the DAV, you truly make a difference in the lives of this country's sick and disabled veterans each and every day. As a non-profit organization, the DAV relies upon strict ethical standards to ensure that the maximum amount of the funds contributed by a generous American public are used to directly support disabled veterans and their families.

As such, we feel the recent CBS News report "**Are Charities Shortchanging Veterans,**" contains incomplete and misleading information about the DAV's fundraising efforts. The rating system referred to in the report comes from the American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP). In recent years, there have been a great number of organizations and publications that "rate" charities. Rather than engage in an individual evaluation of each and every rating service, DAV has elected to make a complete submission to the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, a respected and established independent organization. We are pleased to report that the DAV meets all their stringent standards. You can access their full evaluation, our annual reports and other financial information by clicking on the links below.

I sincerely hope you are reassured that your monetary contributions to the DAV are an investment that reaps great rewards for the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed for our nation. The trust and loyalty of those who support DAV with their warmhearted contributions is very important to us in determining the policy direction of our organization.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR H. WILSON
National Adjutant

Please see the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance report on the DAV at the following website.
<http://charityreports.bbb.org/Public/Report.aspx?CharityID=1692>

Please see the related articles on the last page. If you have access to a computer then check out the website above. Another Congressional Hearing on this topic is scheduled for 17 January.

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HUMOR - HUMOR - HUMOR
AGE ACTIVATED ATTENTION DEFICIT
DISORDER

Recently, I was diagnosed with Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder (A. A. A. D. D.) This is how it manifests:

I decide to wash my car.

As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the hall table. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the trashcan under the table, and notice that the trashcan is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the trash first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the trash anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my checkbook off the table, and see that there is only one check left .

My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so, I go to my desk where I find the can of soda that I had been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the soda aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

I see that the soda is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the soda, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye -- they need to be watered.

I set the soda down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't. remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I splash some water on the flowers, but most of it spills on the floor.

So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of soda sitting on the counter, the flowers aren't watered, there is still only one check in my checkbook, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what the hell I did with the car keys.

Continued – top of next column

(A. A. A. D. D.) continued

Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

Growing older is mandatory.

Growing up is optional

Laughing at yourself is therapeutic!

LESSON IN TACTFULNESS

The Captain called the Sergeant in. "Sarge, I just got a telegram. Private Jones' mother died yesterday. You better go tell him and send him in to see me."

So the Sergeant calls for his morning formation and lines up all the troops. "Listen up, men," says the Sergeant. "Johnson, report to the mess hall for KP. Smith, report to Personnel to sign some papers. The rest of you men report to the Motor Pool for maintenance. Oh by the way, Jones, your mother died, report to the commander."

Later that day the Captain called the Sergeant into his office. "Hey, Sarge, that was a pretty cold way to inform Jones his mother died. Couldn't you be a bit more tactful, next time?" "Yes, sir," answered the Sarge.

A few months later, the Captain called the Sergeant in again with, "Sarge, I just got a telegram. Private McGrath's mother died. You'd better go tell him and send him in to see me. This time be more tactful."

So the Sergeant calls for his morning formation. "Ok, men, fall in and listen up. Everybody with a mother, take two steps forward ----- NOT SO FAST, McGRATH!"

IN LINE

"Well," snarled the tough old sergeant to the bewildered private. "I suppose after you get discharged from the Army, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come an spit on my grave."

"Not me, Serge!" the private replied. "Once I get out of the Army, I'm never going to stand in line again!"

CONFUCIUS SAYS

"Man who want pretty nurse, must be patient.

"Man who stands on toilet is high on pot."

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**GOVERNMENT QUESTIONS CHARITABLE
GROUPS FUNDRAISING**

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing to examine whether all the charitable groups raising money for the purpose of helping our nation's veterans are genuinely serving that need. Although a large number of charities are fulfilling their mission, serious questions have been raised about some groups.

In the opening statement, Senator Henry A. Waxman stated "...The Committee has learned that a disturbing number of groups are raising millions of dollars in the name of helping veterans but keeping most of the donations for themselves. Instead of using the money to provide financial assistance or help veterans obtain care, these groups and the professional fundraisers they employ blatantly line their own pockets.

Information provided to the Committee and covered by CBS NEWS was by testimony of The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP) and Charitywatch.org a nonprofit charity watchdog. They ranked various veterans groups in fundraising and the amount of money actually spent on veterans. Of the twenty three groups there were five A or better. The majority were in the D and F range. The information is misleading. The DAV received a Grade of D on this AIP report. The DAV replied in a letter that can be seen on Page 6 of this newsletter. You can see Chapter 57's figures in the column to the right. Take a real look at what is done!

CHAPTER 57 FUNDS 7/1/06 - 6/30/07
FUND RAISING & DONATIONS

Annual Forget-Me-Not Drive -----	\$15,502.00
Contributions for Newsletter Ads. -----	1,825.00
Other Donations -----	<u>5,284.00</u>
TOTAL -----	\$22,611.00

EXPENDITURES

Fund Raising supplies and costs -----	\$ 1,269.00
Administrative and Postage -----	771.00
Charitable and Service to DAV's -----	13,491.00
Chapter Programs for Members -----	5,038.00
Salaries & Consultant Fees -----	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL -----	\$20,569.00

UNENCUMBERED

Account Balance	TOTAL -----	\$ 2,042.00
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Fund raising costs were **5.6%** of contributions.

Administrative & Postage costs were **3.4%** of contributions

Expenditures equal **91%** of the total monies raised.

Unencumbered equals **9%** of the total raised.

A total of **82 Cents** of every dollar that was spent went to Local DAV Veterans, programs, events, activities and programs.

We even had money left over to begin the new year.

With a record like this Chapter 57 should rate a five star rating among charities. At the least an A+.

And, don't forget we do a TV Show at no cost!!!

Come and join us. ----- We can use your skills if you would like to help. ----- Will you walk with us???

**Cpl. William F. Reardon Chapter 57
Disabled American Veterans
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Taunton, MA 02780**

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