



# *SUMMIT* 2011 National Training Summit on Women Veterans



## Disabled American Veterans

*Building Better Lives for  
America's Disabled Veterans  
and their Families*



**Gidget Rizzo**

*National Service Officer (NSO)*

*Supervisor of the DAV National Service Office in Roanoke, Virginia*

# Disabled American Veterans



- 1.2 million members, all wartime disabled
- 100,000 Auxiliary members
- 260 DAV National Service Officers across the country – NSOs assist veterans in filing claims for disability compensation and other earned VA benefits
- DAV National Appeals Officers provide representation at VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals
- All services provided free of charge to all veterans
- Rigorous 16-month training program
- Women veterans serve in all levels of the National organization
- DAV National Women Veterans Advisory Committee

# Disabled American Veterans



- DAV Transition Service Officer program serves active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who are transitioning back into civilian life
- NSOs provide outreach through Veterans Informational Seminars
- DAV Mobile Service Offices provide outreach to veterans throughout the country including rural areas
- National Legislative Program – includes resolutions related to women veterans

# Disabled American Veterans



- DAV's Transportation Network provides rides to thousands of veterans to and from VA hospital appointments each year
- DAV Hospital Service Coordinators at nearly all VA medical centers – program now in its 25th year
- Mary Bencivenga, DAV National 2nd Junior Vice Commander, in line to become DAV's first female National Commander
- Stand Up for Women Veterans campaign generates greater public awareness and support for strengthening federal policies to provide comprehensive services to women veterans



# Disabled American Veterans



DAV serves our veterans with pride, and honors all generations of service

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**“Honoring the dead  
by helping the living”**

**Dawn M. Jirak**

*Assistant Director, Veterans Health Policy*

*National Veterans Service*

*202-608-8346*

*djirak@vfw.org*





## **TROOP SUPPORT/FAMILY ASSISTANCE**

- **Unmet Needs Program**
- **Operation Uplink**
- **Military Assistance Program**

## **TRANSITIONING**

- **Benefits Delivery at Discharge**
- **Quick Start**
- **Education**
- **Job Assistance**



## **POST MILITARY ASSISTANCE**

➤ **VA Claims & Benefits**

## **COMMUNITY**

➤ **Voice of Democracy**

## **NATIONAL HOME**

## **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE**

## **WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE**

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## **AMVETS**

**American Veterans working for a better  
America and for you**

**Crystal Dickerson**

*National Service Officer (NSO)*

*Office Manager in Roanoke, Virginia*



# AMVETS



- **Serving Veterans**
  - **Helping communities**
  - **Supporting youth**
  - **Promoting patriotism**
- That's a promise.**

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
HEALING HEROES  
CAREER CENTERS/EMPLOYMENT  
NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS**

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# AMVETS



- **AMVETS ADOPTED RESOLUTION 11-12 WHICH SUPPORTS FOR DATA TRACKING RELATED TO WOMEN VETERANS AS THEY TRANSITION FROM ACTIVE MILITARY TO VETERAN STATUS. WE BELIEVE THIS IS NOT CURRENTLY COLLECTED BY DOD OR VA BEYOND THE BASIC GENDER DIFFERENCE DATA.**
  
- **DATA COLLECTED BY THE VA COULD BE A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR AGENCY'S ALIKE IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO ENSURE A PROACTIVE RESPONSE THAT MEETS WOMEN'S NEEDS IS ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE INCREASED NEEDS ARISES.**
  - **THE COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT WOMEN VETERANS EQUAL TO THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS HAS BEEN EXPOUNDED BY MANY AT THE VA VIA THE CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS, THE CONGRESS AND VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.**
  
  - **AMVETS BELIEVES THAT WHEN OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS RETURN FROM THE BATTLEFIELD THEY SHOULD HAVE ACCESTO THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF CARE POSSIBLE AND ENTITLEMENTS**

# AMVETS



## VA Claims Requirements

In order to be successful with a VA claim for benefits, the following three conditions must be met:

You must have a current diagnosis of a chronic condition due to DISEASE, INJURY or AGGRAVATION of a pre-existing condition; and there must be a complaint of and /or evidence of occurrence in-service; and there must be a nexus or link between your current disability and your military service.

**NOTE:** The VA will not grant service connection for symptoms such as:

Pain  
Leg Cramps  
Abnormal PAP  
Blood in urine  
Low Platelets  
Positive PPD test  
Certain Lab Results  
Also did you know:

Women account for 20% of the United States Military  
Approx. 250,000

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**Thank you!**