

Opening Words From Our Commander

Jerry Taylor

We as a nation often offer lip service to Veterans and their families. Many Veterans return from combat tours of duty and multiple deployments only to face barriers. A large number of these Veterans return with wounds we cannot see. More often than not the system that Veterans have defended fail to provide financial support, physical and mental supports that are needed. Veterans face societal barriers that make it almost impossible for Veterans to have a seamless transition into civilian life. NABVETS #96 uses a holistic approach to assist Veterans. 100% service-connected compensation is great! Compensation is only one part of the big picture. The holistic approach is important in military science and social science. The adage, "The whole is greater than the sum of it's parts", expresses the essence of the services needed by the Veterans we serve. Remember there is no one size that fits all. We have to adapt, adjust and improvise our VSO skills to successfully help Veterans and their dependents. Failure is not an option, at the end of the process it must be mission accomplished!

NAVETS Command

A Promise Made – A Promise Kept

To date, our NABVETS Command leadership have brought on 14 new Veterans Service Officers (VSO) and recertified 4 VSOs. In addition, they have 7 chapters that are requesting to come on board. (Omaha, Virginia, Dallas, Jacksonville, Fl., Greenville SC, Orangeburg SC, and Pittsburgh Pa.). VSOs are much needed down in the trenches where the heart breaking stories are told and the tears are shed when help is available for our Veterans and their families. Much appreciation goes out to our Leadership at the top. Thanks for hearing our needs and giving us the tools.

NABVETS Formal Training - Fully Engaged -



Shown above L to R: NABVETS National Vice Commander was in attendance and provided congratulations and signed training certificates to class participants and Mick Riddick-Chapter's 122 Commander & NABVETS Training Instructor.

This last training session started on January 27, 2023. Each Friday for the past 4 months, Services Officers learned their craft and are proficient in representing and advocating for Veterans before the Department of Veteran Affairs. NABVETS training program is intended to provide substantive recurring training primarily to those National Service Officers (NSO) and Service Officer Assistants assigned to NABVETS service offices and approved VA locations. The following in person training is provided on a recurring basis: **Basic Training** is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of all veterans' benefits programs administered by VA and includes substantial practical exercises and drills. Target audience are all new VSO's, Assistant VSO's who began volunteering for NABVETS within the previous year. NOTE: attendance is mandatory, at the request of NABVETS MD State Command.

Also, in the class are experienced NSOs, participating in a proficiency training option. This

NABVETS Formal Training - Fully Engaged – (con't)

training provides more advanced instruction on policy issues, management skills and updates pertaining to benefits administration within VA and NABVETS. Target audience: All NABVETS NSO's and Assistant VSO's. NOTE: attendance is optional.

The next training session will be held in the Fall of 2023. The specific dates and details of the Fall training session will likely be communicated closer to the scheduled time, so it would be beneficial to stay in touch with NABVETS Chapter 122 for further information.

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It's important to continue providing training opportunities for VSOs to enhance their skills and knowledge in representing and advocating for Veterans before the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA).



NABVETS Members of the last class

Shown above L to R: Charles Harding Jr., Chapter 96; Mick Riddick, Chapter 122 Commander & NABVETS Training Instructor; Mike Moses, Md. State Commander & Chapter 96; Fermon Reid, Chapter 122; Blonethea Vann, Chapter 122; and Walter Elmore, Chapter 122.

What We've Been Doing

The six-month journey of Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention ended on Saturday, April 15, 2023, with a Grand Finale, Gathering Around Lively Art (GALA) at the Arts'tination Art Gallery, 162 Waterfront Street, Oxon Hill, MD 20745, hosted by CTLDOM Group, Inc. Two of NABVETS Chapter 96 members (shown below), provided support towards this gathering.



L to R: Tiffany Daniel & Ora Crutchfield



DIVISION OF
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
AND ADULT LEARNING

On May 24, 2023, The Maryland Department of Labor - Veterans Service, sponsored a Veterans Resource Day, held at the American Legion Post 82 in La Plata, MD.

The event was designed to give each organization the opportunity to present the re-sources they provided to the Veterans and their families in Southern Maryland. 25 exhibitors participated, 40 veterans and their family members attended. 18 claims were established and processed by your team.

As quoted from George Hawley, "I have coordinated hundreds of events over the years and I witnessed networking between the exhibitors like I have never seen at past events.

Great job done by all."



Shown left is Mike Moses, a Veterans Service Officer, of NABVETS Chap. 96, assisting a Veteran.

What We've Been Doing (con't)



Shown above Left: Jerry Taylor, Representing "SMCIL", Southern Md. Center for Independent Living" and Commander of NABVETS Chapter 96. To his right is a veteran receiving assistance.



Charles Harding Jr., Representing "The Military Alliance Council (MAC) of Charles County", and a member of NABVETS Chapter 96. Getting ready to assist the next Veteran.

Claims Clinic

On May 19, 2023, three NABVETS chapters 096, 122, and 53, combined their efforts and conducted a Claims Clinic at Prince George Community College. These combined efforts are being conducted throughout the NABVETS organization. For more information of when the next Claims Clinic is being held at Prince George Community College, contact:

Mike.riddick@nabvetismd.org

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What We're Doing Now

POP-UP
& GROW

240-416-5448



Mike Moses (shown above) continue to educated Veterans and their families of benefits they've earned in the military, while at the Popup & Grow on weekends. In addition, Mike Moses, Jerry Taylor, Tiffany Daniel, and Charles Harding Jr., (shown below), all Chapter 96 members, continue to assist Veterans and the families on a daily bases.



Vision Update

It goes without saying, “We wear many hats” (i.e.) Many of us Veterans are members of other Veterans Service Organizations and or other organizations that support our Veteran population. That’s just the way we are, always wanting to give back. Starting with the 3rd Quarterly Chapters 0096’s Newsletter, we will be featuring “Unsung Hero or Shero” So without further ado, our first recognized Veteran is..

Tiffany Daniel “Shero”



Tiffany Daniel is an Army Veteran of 26 years (1986 – 2014). Some of her most memorable duty stations were Germany, Panama, and the JCS at the Pentagon. She is a Desert Storm and OIF combat Veteran. She is currently an Analyst, Inspirational Health and

Wellness Life Coach, a contributor and best-selling author, and Hostess for her very own podcast and talk show.

She is a member of the following organizations:

- Federally Employed Women (FEW)
- National Active and Retired Federal Employee Association (NARFE), Co-President of Chapter 1260 in Southern MD.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department Chaplain and Chair of the Women Veterans Committee
- National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS), Vice Commander of Chapter #96
- Azusa International Foursquare Gospel Church (AIFGC), Executive Pastor and Minister of Finance
- Catherine Foundation Pregnancy and Crisis Center, Case Advocate and Parenting Class Instructor
- Women Veterans United Committee, Inc. (WVUCI), Chair for the Board of Directors and Director of Health and Wellness
- Maryland Regional Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Advocate
- Baltimore/Chesapeake Region Blue Star Families Advisory Board Member Standards for Excellence Licensed
- Consultant, MD. Ambassador of Veterans for Revelation Wellness, Fitness Instructor

- Veteran Yoga Project, Yoga Instructor and State Coordinator.

Tiffany has two loving sons and four darling grandsons. She holds an BTh and MCE Degree in Seminary, Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, Institute of Integrative Nutritionist and Alumni, Crisis Intervention Stress Management (CISM) Chaplain, Mental Health First Aider, Cleveland Clinic Certificate in Behavioral Health and Wellness, Faith Institute Certified Life Coach and will be graduating in April 2023, for her Doctoral Degree in Christian Education from the Revival Bible College and Seminary.

Recent Events:

- Saturday, November 19, 2022, International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day;
- Saturday, December 17, 2022, Give An Hour, Social Emotional Learning;
- Saturday, January 20, 2023, Mental Health First Aid Course with EveryMind;
- Saturday, February 4, 2023, Mental Health Awareness workshop virtually, consisted of a Claims Clinic presented by NABVETS Chapter #096 of Southern MD;
- Friday, February 24, 2023, Day On the Hill, Suicide Awareness sponsored by the National VFW;
- Wednesday, March 8, 2023 Women Veterans Day in Annapolis hosted by the Black Caucus, Women Caucus, Hispanic Caucus, and Veterans Caucus;
- Wednesday, March 8, 2023; Veteran Yoga Project, Compassion Fatigue for Caregivers, First Responders, Spouses and Student Veterans, 7-week course;
- Saturday April 1, 2023 Easter Baskets for Youth in recognition of Suicide.
- Saturday, April 1, 2023 Our Team and volunteers gave out Easter Baskets on, at Melwood’s Easter Egg Extravaganza.
- The six-month journey of Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention ended on Saturday, April 15, 2023, with a Grand Finale, Gathering Around Lively Art (GALA) at the Arts’tination Art Gallery, 162 Waterfront Street, Oxon Hill, MD 20745, hosted by CTLDOM Group, Inc.

See photos of some of these and other events on next page



January event with Mission Continues in SE DC.



March, spending time with Mom at the VFW Commander's Testimonial Dinner



April, Melwood's Easter Extravaganza and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



February reading event at the Lexington Park Library w/Blue Star Families.



Donating to Charlotte Hall



January Kayaking with Team River Run, River to Recovery.

COMPASSION FATIGUE
Physically, Mentally and emotionally exhausted
Feeling of hopelessness
Difficulty concentrating
Loss of pleasure in life
Feeling overwhelmed
Apathetic behavior

March 6 2023 – April 17, 2023

I thank each of you for allowing me to serve another term as your Vice Commander. Some of my aspirations while serving in this position is to see a change that is long overdue. One of signature blocks reads Pray Until Something Happens (PUSH). Well, that's what I plan to continue to do, PUSH.

One of the biggest groups supporting Governor Moore are Veterans. Therefore, we are really looking for changes in areas such as retirement benefits, homelessness, mental health, aging in place, and healthcare to name a few.

Veterans in Charles County feel as though we are stuck in time as we visit our neighboring counties and see all the amenities in place for them. Our political leaders must hear our requests and support our needs as our veteran population has grown tremendously and as we all know; numbers speak volumes and with our growing numbers we will be a force to be recognized.

So, to my fellow comrades, don't get discouraged, yes we have work to do, and I plan to see you at the TOP!

Closings Remarks

Vice Commander Ch. 0096: Dr. Tiffany Daniel

Greetings,

As stated in our mission statement, we take great pleasure in empowering veterans to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity. Each of you has done such a phenomenal job and we just want you to know how much you are appreciated.

As a testament to your greatness, we are already hitting the ground running toward Convention in 2024. This reminds me of an old Army cadence that goes something like this "six months, no sweat. Twelve months better yet". We could go all the way just like this. Ha Ha, you get it ;-)

Please remember to take some "ME" and "Family" time, smelling the roses and enjoy every day.

Commander Taylor and I could not thank each of you enough. Thank you for helping our Chapter stay focused and leading from the front.

Dr. Tiffany Daniel
Vice Commander