

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, 5 ALAMO
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
CHAPTER Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2025

The February 2025 Chapter meeting was held at Rolling Oak Baptist Church, 6401 Wenzel Road, San Antonio, TX 78233.

Meeting Opened: Commander, Joseph Harrison, Jr. opened the meeting at 10:02 am.

Opening Prayer: Chaplain, Clyde Bragg, Jr.

Pledge: Sr. Vice Commander Keven Lomax, Sr.

Officers present:

- Commander, Joseph Harrison, Jr.
 - Sr Vice Commander, Keven Lomax, Sr.
 - Jr. Vice Commander, Karla Jordan
 - Adjutant, Kathleen Kaberides
 - Treasurer, Gwendolyn Thompson
 - Judge Advocate, Gwendolyn Thompson
 - Chaplain, Clyde T. Bragg, Jr.
 - Sergeant-At-Arms, Rickey Vasquez
 - Officer-of-the-Day, Donald Smith
 - Immediate Past Commander, Kathleen Kaberides
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- **Officers excused:** None.
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- **Officers absent:** None.

There was a quorum for conducting business.

Reading of minutes:

Reading of minutes from December 21, 2024, Chapter meeting.

Motion: Dispense with the reading of December 21, 2024, Chapter meeting minutes because members were provided with a hard copy of the minutes.

- Motion made by: Bob Broff
- Motion 2nd by: Lorenzo Nastasi
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

Motion: To approve December 21, 2024, Chapter meeting minutes:

- Motion made by: E. G. Mais
- Motion 2nd by: Ann Gayer
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

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Reading of minutes from January 21, 2025, Executive Committee meeting.

Motion: Dispense with the reading of January 21, 2025, Executive Committee meeting minutes because members were provided with a hard copy of the minutes.

- Motion made by: Don Smith
- Motion 2nd by: Bob Johnson
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

Motion: To approve January 21, 2025, Executive Committee meeting minutes:

- Motion made by: Henry Hernandez
- Motion 2nd by: Jeff Berg
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

Reading of minutes from February 3, 2025, Executive Committee meeting.

Motion: Dispense with the reading of February 3, 2025, Executive Committee meeting minutes because members were provided with a hard copy of the minutes.

- Motion made by: Priscilla Mayfield
- Motion 2nd by: Earl Sonnemaker
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

Motion: To approve January 21, 2025, Executive Committee meeting minutes:

- Motion made by: Jean Ingram
- Motion 2nd by: Clyde Bragg, Jr.
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The members were provided the handouts, and it goes through January 31, 2025.

- The treasurer explained the handouts to the members.
- Bank reconciliation report and Bank Statement as of December 2024.
- Bank reconciliation report and Bank Statement as of January 2025.
- Financial report by category line item through January 2025.
- Credit card purchases and payments (statement) through January 2025.

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Chaplain's Report:

Reports of sickness and distress and added Willie Noles whose wife passed away; Nick Cellini; Wayne Lund; Bob Broff and James Tucker to the prayer list along with continued prayer requests.

Introduction of new members: James Tucker, US Army; David Pleasant, US Army; and Chris Poole, US Navy; Cheryl Young, USMC Retired; and Hazel Wong, USAF.

Transfers: Alexandra Ayala – US Army; Natanael Ayala – US Army; Rick Martinez – US Army.

Motion: To approve the transfer requests from Alexandra Ayala, Natanael Ayala, and Rick Martinez.

- Motion made by: Guido Libertiny
- Motion 2nd by: Larry Whatley
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

First Time Attendees: Felipe Reyes – guest of Anna; and, Jim Rauch, USN

Sergeant-at-Arm's Report:

There was a total of 52 members present. We also had 9 guests present.

Communications: Adjutant Kaberides read the following correspondences:

- Email from Adjutant Johniken on January 22, 2025, from the Department of Texas approving *Forget-Me-Not Fundraisers on April 2 and 22, 2025 at Sam's Club.*
- MSD Report from Manny Mendoza was received letting us know that they had 136 burials in the month of January 2025, with a total of 46,557 since the MSD was established.

Reports:

- **Membership Report:** Sr Vice Commander Lomax, Sr. – Full Lifetime members/Total members are 5,606/5,819; Goal is 100.95% - we are over our goal by 55 members.
- **Benefits Protection Team Lead:** Commander Harrison, Jr – spoke about Legislative Victories for 2024; the importance of CAN and that anyone may sign up for CAN to support legislation that the DAV is fighting for. He also needs one (1) more committee member.
- **Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP):** Jr. Vice Commander Jordan reported that she had 15 members report hours for the month of January; if you send an email for her, please place LVAP in the subject line; the Department of Texas has established an award now for the most LVAP hours

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for chapters and an individual. The period covered is 7/1/2024 through 4/30/2025. LVAP pins received this month were Larry Whatley- 2,000 hours and Wayne Lund- 3,000 hours.

- **Women Veterans Advocate**: Co-chair, Priscilla Mayfield spoke regarding the upcoming Bingo social for women veterans here on February 22, 2025. She requested volunteers to help set up. Member Bob Broff asked about possible transportation for five (5) elderly female veterans at Patriot Heights and new member, James Tucker offered to pick them up as he does Uber driving and would donate the trip for them. Priscilla emphasized that this event was to recruit more females into the Chapter.
- **V.G. Clark Cancer Relief Fund**: Judge Advocate Gwendolyn Thompson explained that this was a fund established in 1969 by one of our founding members of the Chapter. It is for veterans undergoing cancer treatments or in hospice, which is continued care, who have a financial hardship. The veteran may receive \$250/month, if approved, up to six months if the cancer is active (receiving treatment). We currently have two (2) veterans coming up in their 6-month period. A veteran does not have to be a DAV member to apply. Last year, 29 letters were sent to various non-profit Veterans Service Organizations. This year, we've reached out to 60 organizations. Gwendolyn has forms and this is considered direct veteran assistance.
- **Hospitality Report**: Rickey Vasquez reported that we received a \$200 donation in the form of a check and \$100 donation in cash. Thank you to Ray for the donated donuts. There are always opportunities to help on the Hospitality Committee as we need 2 in the kitchen for coffee and lunches.
- **Lead Chapter Service Officer**: Larry Whatley reported that at last month's NSO Seminar in Schertz we had 4 Chapter Service Officers (CSO's) support the event. No Claims Day was held at the church this month due to it being Valentines Day. Next month, the Chapter will host our Claims Day on March 14th. Jr. Vice Commander Jordan also stated that everyone needs to set up a va.gov account with and ID me account before then.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Motion: Motion for the Commander to approve the appointment of E.G. Mais as the Veterans Assistance Committee Chair.

- Motion made by: Kathleen Kaberides
- Motion 2nd by: Rickey Vasquez
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

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Motion: Motion to approve participation as volunteers at the 3rd Annual Freddie Aquiles Golf Tournament on March 30, 2025. We participated in the past and received a donation of \$1,300 plus.

- Motion made by: Donald Smith
- Motion 2nd by: Ann Gayer
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

Judge Advocate Gwendolyn Thompson presented a review of the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws (1st review). All members received hard copies with all recommended changes noted. This was presented for discussion only and the Judge Advocate advised all to please read the document and the recommended changes. She also explained the process that the changes must be presented to the members at two chapter meetings before a motion may be made.

Motion: To approve revisions and revised forms to the Chapter Standing Rules. Hard copies of the Chapter Standing Rules with recommended revisions were given to each member present.

- Motion made by: Karla Jordan
- Motion 2nd by: Jean McNeal-Ingram
- Any discussion? No
- Motion passed.

Review of the Catalyst Calendar handed out to members today with all upcoming Chapter events announced through 2026 of which we are currently aware.

Good-of-the-Order:

- Thank you to the eight (8) volunteers at the Sam's Club Fundraiser on January 16, 2025, at the Forget-Me-Not Fundraiser at Sam's Club.
- There will be a Veterans Resource Fair at Northwest Vista College on March 5, 2025, from noon – 2:00 pm.
- The deadline for scholarship applications to be submitted for DAV National Scholarships is February 28, 2025.
- There will be a retiree event at Wilford Hall, Lackland AFB on March 1, 2025, from 8:00am – noon.
- There will be a Vet Café at Legend Oaks West on February 28, 2025, at 10:30 am. Wonderful opportunity to visit with veterans who would love the camaraderie. Point of contact is Al Owens.
- 2025 National convention will be held in Las Vegas in the Paris from Saturday, August 9 to Tuesday, August 12, 2025. Room rate is \$159 for single/double.
- **50/50 Drawing: \$121** won by Mr. Dave Pleasant.
- **Birthdays and anniversaries** for the month of February – Anniversaries – Peter and Kathy Kaberides – 40 years; Ray – 37 years; Nate Ayala – 21

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- years. Birthdays – Bob Broff; Dave Pleasant; Nancy Taylor; Eddie Galvez; and Nate Ayala.

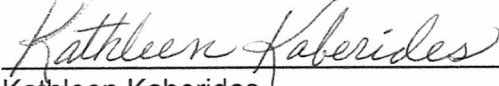
Upcoming Chapter events:

Next Meeting **March 15, 2025**, at **Rolling Oaks Baptist Church, 6401 Wenzel Road, San Antonio, Tx 78233.**

Memorial Service: A moment of silence for our departed comrades.

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Clyde T. Bragg, Jr.

Meeting adjourned: at **11:27 am.**

 Date 26 February 2025
Kathleen Kaberides
Adjutant, DAV Alamo Chapter 5

 Date 26 February 2025
Joseph Harrison, Jr.
Commander, DAV Alamo Chapter 5