

**CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS**  
**of**  
**Ralph S. Tagg, Jr. Chapter 14**  
**Disabled American Veterans**  
**Hagerstown, Maryland**

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE 1 NAME**

**Section 1:1** The Name of this Chapter shall be Ralph S. Tagg, Jr. Chapter #14 Inc., Disabled American Veterans.

**ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE**

**Section 2:1** The purpose of this Chapter is to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served, and, in furtherance of that purpose, to support the programs of the Disabled American Veterans as provided in the National Constitution and Bylaws and Regulations of the National Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 3:1** Membership shall conform to requirements set forth in the National Constitution and By-Laws.

**ARTICLE 4 ADMINISTRATION**

**Section 4:1** The Chapter shall elect a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Officer of the Day and Sergeant At Arms.

**Section 4:2** This Chapter shall organize an Executive Committee composed and governed as specified in Article 3 of these By-Laws.

**ARTICLE 5 EXECUTIVE**

**Section 5:1** The executive power of this Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Commander.

**ARTICLE 6 AUXILIARY**

**Section 6:1** This Chapter recognizes a Women's auxiliary, subject only to such supervision as conforms with the National and Department Constitution and By-laws.

**ARTICLE 7 AMENDMENTS**

**Section 7:1** This Constitution may be amended at any Chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, subject to approval of the Department and National Judge Advocate and effective only after the date of this approval, provided the amendment is read at three (3) meetings and that all members were notified of the proposed change prior to each meeting.



## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE 1 ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1:1** This Chapter recognizes the National Organization known as DAV (Disabled American Veterans), incorporated by an Act of Congress and affirms its allegiance and subordination to the National Organization, its Constitution, Bylaws and all rules, mandates and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. Upon dissolution of the Chapter, the assets remaining after the payment of its debts shall be distributed as provided in Article 6 of the National Bylaws.

**Section 1:2** The governing body of the Chapter shall be the Chapter in session, except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws.

**Section 1:3** Records of all proceedings of the Chapter and Executive Committee shall be kept and open for inspection by any authorized member.

### **ARTICLE 2 CHARTER**

**Section 2:1** The Charter of this Chapter, issued by the National DAV, is its authority to function.

### **ARTICLE 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 3:1** The Executive Committee will be composed of the Commander who shall be the presiding officer; Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Chaplain, Officer of the Day, Sergeant at Arms, and two (2) other elected Chapter Members in good standing. The Adjutant is also a member of the Executive Committee, without the right to vote.

**Section 3:2** Members of the Chapter Executive Committee shall meet regularly. The meeting place and time shall be determined by the Chapter Commander. Special meetings shall be called by request of a majority of the Executive Committee Members in writing to the Chapter Commander.

**Section 3:3** Appointed Officers, other Committee Chairpersons and any Chapter member may attend the Executive Committee meetings, without the right to vote.

**Section 3:4** A majority of the members of the Chapter Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 3:5** The Executive Committee may act for the Chapter only in emergencies, at all other times shall recommend courses of action to the Chapter in session.

### **ARTICLE 4 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES**

**Section 4:1** Election or Appointment.

**Para, 1;** Annually the Chapter shall elect a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Officer of the Day and Sergeant at Arms.

**Para, 2;** The Adjutant, Chaplain and Judge Advocate shall be appointed by the Commander with the approval of the Chapter.



**Para, 3;** The Commander shall appoint Committees and such other Officers necessary to carry out the business of the Chapter.

**Para 4;** The Chapter shall elect a Nominating Committee consisting of at least 3 chapter members, at the next regular meeting following the Installation of Officers. No Elected Chapter Officer shall serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall submit their report at the February Meeting prior to nominations from the floor.

**Section 4:2 Succession and Duties of Officers.**

**Para, 1;** The Commander shall be the presiding officer at all Chapter meetings and, in his/her absence the duty will fall to the next highest officer in line of succession who is present. The presiding officer shall conform to procedures relevant to conducting meetings.

**Para, 2;** The Adjutant shall be responsible for the safe keeping of all chapter records.

**Para, 3;** The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed. He/She shall make a report on finances at each meeting. Records shall be open to any member when a request is made in writing through the Executive Committee. An Annual Financial Report, audited and approved by the Chapter Audit Committee, shall be submitted to the State Department and National Organization within ninety (90) days after the close of the accounting year of the Chapter, as required by the National Bylaws.

**ARTICLE 5 QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE**

**Section 5:1** Any person, who is a member, shall be eligible to any elected or appointed office in this Chapter, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution and Bylaws.

**ARTICLE 6 TENURE OF OFFICE**

**Section 6:1** Nominations for elected Chapter Offices shall be held at the February meeting following presentation of the Nominating Committee Report, and again at the March meeting. Elected and appointed officers shall be installed within thirty (30) days of their election or appointment and shall serve for one (1) year or until newly elected or appointed officers have been installed.

**Section 6:2 Absence and Vacancies.**

**Para, 1;** Unexcused absence of any Officer from three (3) consecutive meetings shall be cause for removal by the Chapter. The Commander is empowered to appoint a member to serve the remainder of any unexpired term, with approval of the Chapter.

**Para, 2;** In event the Office of Commander shall be vacated, for any reason, the Senior Vice Commander shall be elevated to Commander, Junior Vice Commander to Senior Vice Commander and the vacancy filled as outlined on Para, 1; of this Section.

**Section 6:3 Department Executive Committeepersons.**

**Para, 1;** The Chapter shall elect Department Executive Committee Members whose duties and term will be as prescribed by the Department Constitution and By-Laws.



## **ARTICLE 7 MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 7:1** Membership shall be as prescribed in Article 11, Sections 11.2 and 11.3 of the National ByLaws.

**Section 7:2** All Transfers shall be approved by the Chapter in Session.

**Section 7:3** Only Members in good standing are eligible to vote on any Motion or Election.

**Section 7:4** No applicant shall be denied Chapter Membership if he/she meets the eligibility requirements as set forth in the National Constitution and By-Laws.

**Section 7:5** Membership dues shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 11, Section 11.9 of the National Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 8 FINANCES**

**Section 8:1** The Treasurer or other designated officer shall deposit all monies in the name of the Chapter and shall countersign with the Commander or one other designated Chapter Officer on all checks. No Funds shall be issued in the Chapter name unless approved and verified by supporting documentation.

**Section 8:2** The Treasurer shall be charged with handling normal finances in the operation of the Chapter.

## **ARTICLE 9 MEETINGS**

**Section 9:1** Chapter Meetings shall be held at least once a month. Meeting dates to be set by a Majority Vote of the Chapter in Session.

**Section 9:2** The place and time of meetings shall be determined by the desires of the Chapter.

**Section 9:3** Rules of Chapter Meetings.

**Para, 1;** A Quorum shall consist of (7) members in good standing, of which at least (2) must be elected Chapter officers.

**Para, 2;** Robert's Rules of Order, Revised will govern except as hereafter specifically stated.

**Para, 3;** Discussion of personal grievances will not be in order on the floor.

**Para, 4;** Matters concerning one individual only, with respect to his/her own personal interest, may be taken before the proper authorities according to the Department and National Constitution and By-Laws.

**Para, 5;** Voting shall be by voice unless otherwise requested by at least seven (7) members, or considered by the Commander to be too close to decide.



**Para, 6;** The ruling of the Chapter Commander, (or other presiding officer), is final or binding upon the Chapter unless (1), Overruled by the Chapter upon an appeal from the decision of the chair, or (2), Reversed upon an appeal to the next higher governing body.

**Section 9:4** All Non-Budgeted expenditures or donation must be reviewed by the Chapter Executive Committee, prior to approval by the Chapter in session.

## **ARTICLE 10 COMMITTEES**

**Section 10:1** All Committees will meet at the call of the Chairperson or Commander.

**Section 10:2** Committees shall consist of not less than three (3) members, including the Chairperson.

**Section 10:3** The Chapter Commander shall be ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee.

## **ARTICLE 11 MISCELLANEOUS**

**Section 11:1** Amendments and Procedure.

**Para, 1;** These By-Laws may be amended at any Chapter meeting provided that all members were notified of the proposed change(s) and further that the proposed Amendment(s) shall have been read at two (2) meetings prior to approval. A majority vote of the members present and voting is required to approve any Amendment(s). Amendment(s) to these By-Laws shall be effective only after review of the Department Judge Advocate and approval of the National Judge Advocate.

**Para, 2;** A copy of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be properly affixed to the back of the framed Charter to prevent its loss, and in order that it may always be available for reference.

**Para, 3;** If at any time the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws become inconsistent with the provisions of the Department or National Constitution and By-Laws this instrument shall be amended to conform thereto.

These Constitution & By-Laws were revised at the regular Chapter Meeting, December 20, 2016.

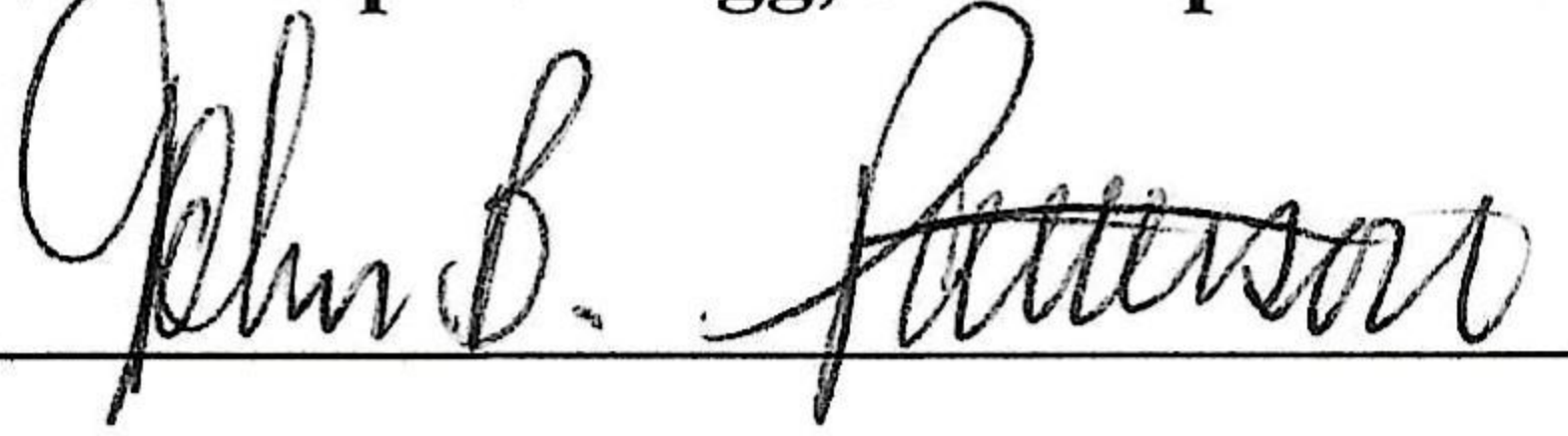
Submitted and verified by;

Gordon D. P. Fairman, Commander \_\_\_\_\_

Ernest C. Unger, Adjutant \_\_\_\_\_

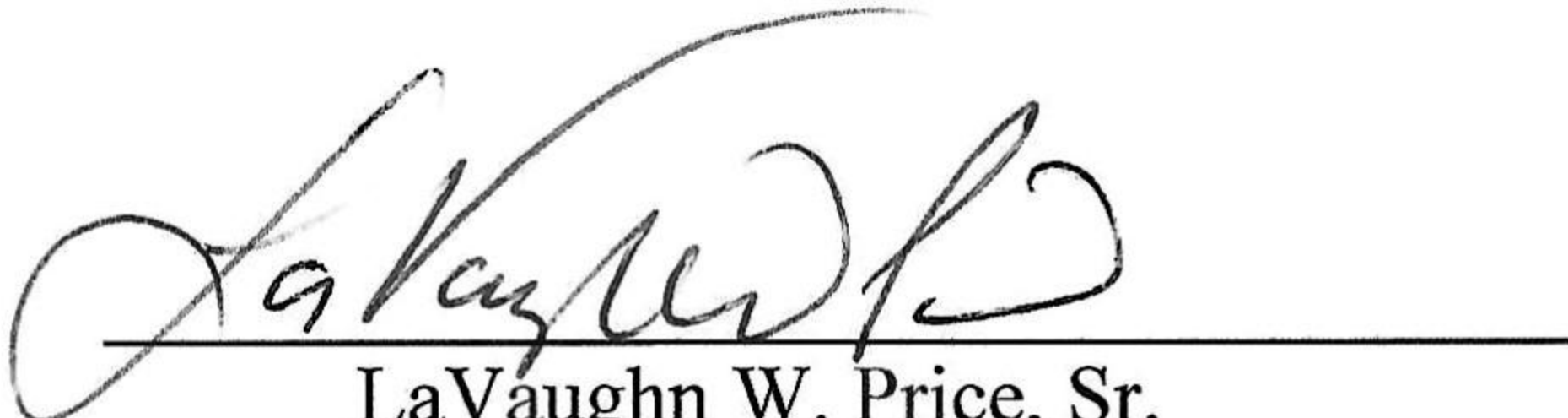


**Official: Ralph S. Tagg, Jr. Chapter Number 14 Signature page**



John B. Patterson  
Department Commander

DATE: 2/08/2017



LaVaughn W. Price, Sr.  
Department Adjutant

DATE: 2/8/2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerard Devlin  
Department Judge Advcaote

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

I CERTIFY that the within constitution  
and/or by-laws does not conflict with  
those of the National Organization,  
and to that extent, is approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael E. Dobmeier  
DAV National Judge Advocate

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_