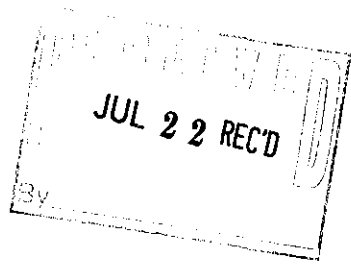


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July 20, 2009

Mr. Harold E. Webster, Commander
General Melvin J. Maas Chapter #17
Disabled American Veterans
P.O. Box 680
Temple Hills, MD 20757

Dear Mr. Webster:

The Constitution and Bylaws for General Melvin J. Maas Chapter #17, Department of Maryland, is hereby approved as of this date.

A copy of this document is being returned to Chapter #17, a copy is being sent to the Department of Maryland, and a copy is being retained in our permanent files here at National Headquarters for future reference.

Sincerely,

COP

MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER
National Judge Advocate

MED:as
Enclosure

c: Department of Maryland ✓

**GENERAL MELVIN J. MAAS MEMORIAL CHAPTER 17
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this Chapter shall be *General Melvin J. Maas Memorial Chapter 17*,
DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to build better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families and, in furtherance of that purpose, support the programs of the Disabled American Veterans as defined by the National Constitution and Bylaws and Regulations of the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Chapter shall conform to the requirements as set forth in the National Constitution Bylaws and Regulations. There shall be no associate, special or honorary memberships in this Chapter.

ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The administrative affairs of this Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Executive Committee in emergencies only and all other actions of the Chapter Executive Committee must be ratified by a majority vote of those Chapter members present and voting, at the next regular Chapter meeting.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander(s), Treasurer and any other elected Chapter officers. The Executive Committee cannot obligate the Chapter for more than \$250.00 without specific authorization from the members present at a regular meeting.

Section 3. At the time specified the Chapter Bylaws, the Chapter shall elect a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice-Commander(s), and a Treasurer. Such other officers as may be necessary to operate the Chapter may be appointed by the Commander, with the approval of the Chapter. Neither the Chapter Commander nor any Chapter Vice Commander may serve as Chapter Adjutant or Treasurer. In addition, the Chapter shall elect the appropriate number of delegates and/or alternates to the National and Department Conventions as well as to the Department Executive Committee (DEC).

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE

The executive power of the Chapter shall be vested in the Commander.

ARTICLE VI AUXILIARY

This Chapter recognizes a DAV Auxiliary, subject to such supervision as conforms with the National and Department Constitution and Bylaws of both organizations.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any Chapter meeting by a vote of two-thirds of those Chapter members present and voting, subject to approval of the Department and National Judge Advocates, and effective only after date of said approval, provided that any such amendment is read at two (2) meetings and that all Chapter members were notified of the proposed change prior to each of the two (2) meetings.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I ORGANIZATION

Section 1: This Chapter recognizes the National Organization known as Disabled American Veterans, incorporated by 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, Section 6.4. Paragraphs 5 and 6, of the National Bylaws.

Section 2. Governing body of this Chapter shall be the Chapter in session, as provided in the Constitution.

Section 3. Minutes of the meetings of the Chapter, including the Chapter Executive Committee, shall be kept and open for inspection by any Chapter member.

ARTICLE II

CHARTER

The Charter of the Chapter, issued by the National Executive Committee, is its authority to function and shall be displayed behind the Commander's station at all regular meetings.

ARTICLE III

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander(s) and any other elected Chapter officers.

Section 2. Meetings of the Chapter Executive Committee will be called by the Commander or at the request of a majority of its members, made in writing to the Commander.

Section 3. Appointed officers, committee chairman and other Chapter members may attend the Chapter Executive Committee meeting, but without the right to vote.

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

Section 5. The Chapter Executive Committee may act for the Chapter only in emergencies and at all other times shall recommend courses of action to the Chapter. The Executive Committee cannot obligate the Chapter for more than \$250.00 *without specific authorization from the members present at a regular meeting.*

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. Para 1. The Chapter shall elect annually a Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, one (1) or more Junior Vice-Commanders, and Treasurer; . . . Neither the Chapter Commander nor any Chapter Vice Commander(s) may serve as Chapter Adjutant or Treasurer.

Para 2. The Commander, with the approval of the Chapter, shall appoint the Adjutant and Chapter Committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee which shall be elected by the Chapter.

Para 3: Such other officers as may be necessary to operate the Chapter may be appointed by the Commander, with the approval of the Chapter.

Para 4. A Chapter officer report shall be submitted to the National and Department Headquarters within ten (10) days after installation of newly elected or appointed Chapter officers or in the event of any subsequent change in the Chapters officers during the membership year.

Para. 5: There shall be no voting by proxy or voting by absentee ballot.

Section. 2. 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.

Para 2. The Senior Vice Commander shall be the Membership Chairman and as such is responsible for campaigns to increase membership.

Para 3: The treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed and shall deposit any monies received as soon as possible. The Treasurer shall make a report on all chapter finances at each meeting and records shall be open for inspection to any member when a request is made in writing through the Executive Committee. An annual financial report, in accordance with the requirements of the National Bylaws, shall be submitted to the State Department and National Organization within ninety (90) days after the close of the accounting year of the Chapter.

Section 3, Para. 1: Upon election or appointment, and installation of the successor to any such Chapter office, all Chapter property in his or her predecessor's possession shall be surrendered to the newly installed officer.

ARTICLE V QUALIFICATIONS

Any person who is a member of this Chapter shall be eligible to hold any elective or appointed office in this Chapter, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI TENURE OF OFFICE

Section 1. Officers for the Chapter shall be nominated during ~~shall be nominated~~ during the January meeting and again immediately prior to the annual February election meeting.

Section 2. Elected and appointed officers shall be installed within thirty (30) days of their election or appointment. They shall serve for (1) one year or until the newly elected officers or appointed officers have been installed. The elected officers

shall turn over the property of the Chapter to the newly installed officer at the time of installation of the newly installed officer.

Section 3, Para. 1. Unexcused absences of any officer from three (3) consecutive meetings shall be cause for removal and the Commander is empowered to appoint a member to serve the unexpired term, subject to approval by the Chapter.

Para. 2. In the event the office of Commander is vacated for any reason, the Senior Vice Commander shall be elevated to Commander, the Junior Vice to Senior Vice Commander and the vacancy filled by appointment by the Commander subject to approval by the Chapter.

Section 4. It shall require a majority vote of those Chapter members present and voting to elect a candidate to any office. It shall also require a majority vote to elect delegates or alternates to the State or National Conventions.

ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. No new applicant shall be denied Chapter membership if he/she meets the membership eligibility requirements as set forth in the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2. Only members of the Chapter in good standing are eligible to vote on any motion or at any election.

Section 3: Members of another Chapter may secure a transfer of membership to this Chapter, with the approval of the membership of this Chapter.

Section 4. No Member shall be expelled or limited in any of the rights and privileges of membership, except as specified in Article 16 of the National Constitution Bylaws and Regulations. He/she shall have all the benefits of chapter, state department and national membership.

ARTICLE VIII

FINANCES

Section 1. The Treasurer or other designated Chapter officer shall deposit all monies in a timely manner in the name of the Chapter and shall countersign with the Commander or one other designated Chapter officer on all checks.

Section 2. The Treasurer or other designated officer shall be charged with handling normal finances in the operation of the Chapter.

Section 3. Membership dues shall be as provided in the National Bylaws.

Section 4. The Chapter shall have an audit committee composed of at least three members of the Chapter, excluding the Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Treasurer, Adjutant and Finance Committee Chairman, who shall conduct an annual audit and submit a financial report to the State Department, if the gross receipts excluding dues exceed \$10,000, shall submit a report to the National Organization within ninety days after close of the accounting year, which shall be the membership year commencing July 1 and ending June 30. All reports must be filed on forms provided by the National Headquarters and completed in accordance with the National Bylaws and regulations. The financial report shall be signed by the members of the Audit Committee certifying the accuracy of the statement. The Chapter will comply with Section 9.3: Financial Records, Reports of the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 5. The Chapter shall operate under a budget-approved by the chapter. A budget shall be developed by the treasurer, approved by the Executive Committee and brought before the chapter at the last meeting in June. The Chapter shall not adopt any budget, which provides for expenditures in excess of projected resources for the fiscal year involved, nor shall they approve any expenditure not included in the budget except by two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Chapter meetings dates, time and location shall be determined by majority vote of the Chapter in session.

Section 2.: The Chapter must hold at least four (4) regular meetings with a quorum present within a membership year except for the months of July, August and December.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Chapter may be called by the Commander whenever the Commander may deem it necessary, or when the Commander is requested in writing to do so by ten (10) or more Chapter members.

Section 4. Rules of Chapter meetings shall be as follows:

Rule 1. A quorum shall consist of 7 members present in good standing, of which at least two (2) must be elected Chapter officers.

Rule 2. Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, will shall govern the Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws, the Department Constitution and Bylaws, or the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Rule 3. Discussion of personal grievances shall not be in order on the floor unless introduced by the Grievance Committee or other Committees having the authority to consider any such matters.

Rule 4. Matters concerning only an individual member, with respect to his or her own personal interest, shall not be in order but may be taken before the proper committee.

Rule 5. Voting shall be by voice vote unless otherwise requested by at least seven (7) members.

ARTICLE X COMMITTEES

Section 1: All Chapter committees will meet at the call of the Chairman or Commander, or as otherwise provided in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2: Committees shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than seven (7) members (except as may otherwise be herein provided), including the Chairman. Committees shall be appointed by the Commander, with the approval of the Chapter, with the exception of the Nominating Committee which shall be elected by the Chapter.

Section 3: The Chapter shall have an Audit Committee composed of at least three (3) members of the Chapter, excluding the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Adjutant and Finance Committee Chairman. The Audit Committee shall conduct an annual audit in accordance with the requirements of the National Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1, Para. 1: These Bylaws may be amended at any Chapter meeting by a

vote of two-thirds of those Chapter members present and voting, subject to approval of the Department and National Judge Advocates, and effective only after date of said approval, provided that any such amendment is read at two (2) meetings and that all Chapter members were notified of the proposed change prior to each of the two (2) meetings.

Para. 2: A copy of this Constitution and Bylaws 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: To the extent to which any of the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws are, or may at any time become, inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and lawful mandates, decisions and regulations of either the governing State Department or the National Organization, as now in force or as hereafter amended or adopted, this instrument shall be deemed amended so as to conform thereto.

Section 2. All disciplinary actions will be handled in accordance with Article 16 of the National Bylaws and applicable Regulations of the National Executive Committee.

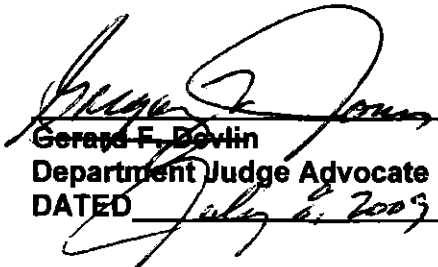
Adopted after the second and final reading this 28th Day of April 2009.



Harold E. Webster
Chapter Commander



George Harris
Chapter Adjutant



George F. Berlin
Department Judge Advocate
DATED July 2, 2009



National Judge Advocate
DATED 7-20-09

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.

DATE: 7-20-09

DAV National Judge Advocate