

Since its inception more than 90 years ago, the DAV has been dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families. Recently, a new Chapter, Clark County Chapter 101, was opened in Sellersburg, and already the members have responded to the call of a fellow disabled veteran in New Albany. This veteran, disabled and unable to construct a fence that was needed to enclose his service dog, was grateful for the local chapter's help.

The service dog helps the veteran with his daily needs in the home and is invaluable to the daily life of the veteran. Once he received the service dog, he was told he needed to build a privacy fence to keep the other dogs away from his service dog. Not only could the veteran not afford to build the fence, but he could also not build the fence himself. This is when the local DAV Chapter stepped in to help.

The Clark County Chapter constructed the fence over two weeks with the help of 10 members of the new chapter. The DAV paid for over half of the project.

"Chapter 101 is growing everyday. We currently have 56 members and climbing. We are a 501 c(4) located at the American Legion Hall in Sellersburg," stated James "Rick" Phillips, DAV District 5 Indiana Junior Vice Commander.

The group began the fence job on April 1 and completed construction on April 10.

"We had a total of 10 men working on the project, most days there were two to four men. We couldn't have done it without the help of everyone. The veteran was a nice man and we were glad we were able to help him," Phillips added.

According to Phillips, there were also two men from the Salem Chapter of the DAV (Chapter 72) who traveled down to help construct the fence.

Phillips concluded, "We just stepped out and did what we could do to help. This will be the norm for this new chapter. We will go out of our way to help another veteran."

The DAV is a nonprofit association of some 11.2 million U.S. Military Veterans who suffered some degree of disability while serving in time of war or armed conflict.

They provide free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and service earned through honorable military service provided by the department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of the U.S. Government.

The DAV provides outreach concerning its program services to American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families. Representing the interests of the veteran, their families, the widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as State and Local Government.