



# The Joshua Tree

September 23, 2025

## STANDING STRONG FOR HIGH DESERT VETERANS

**Jonathan Dvareckas**, USAF, Ret., joined by his wife Laura, spoke to the Rotary Club of Victorville this week about their nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 92 (DAV92). Since its founding in 1920, DAV has been dedicated to empowering veterans to lead high-quality, independent lives with dignity and respect. Locally, the “Bill Kinnard” Chapter was established in 1975, carrying forward this proud mission in Victorville and across the High Desert as part of a network of over one million members nationwide and 54 chapters across California.



DAV92 provides critical support to veterans through advocacy, service, and community programs. They assist with VA claims, free of charge, making sure veterans get access to healthcare, disability compensation, and other benefits they have rightfully earned. Plans are underway to expand services further, including offering no-cost transportation to medical appointments, which can be a major barrier for many veterans in rural and underserved areas.

For more than a century, DAV has stood as a lifeline for men and women who wore the uniform, ensuring that their service and sacrifices are honored in tangible ways. That legacy continues today at the local level, where DAV92 has become an anchor in the High Desert, not only protecting veterans’ benefits and rights, but also responding to the everyday challenges that veterans and their families face.

The chapter also operates a food pantry, distributes clothing and hygiene items, and offers family support services. These efforts often make the difference between stability and crisis for veterans struggling with unemployment, housing insecurity, or mental health challenges. But just as important as these resources is the sense of camaraderie DAV92 fosters—veterans supporting fellow veterans, building bonds that go beyond programs and policies.

The impact of this work is measurable and meaningful. In the High Desert, thousands of pounds of food are distributed annually, providing nourishment and peace of mind to veterans and their families. Volunteers donate over 1,000 hours of service each year, dedicating their time and energy to outreach, support, and community events. And in moments of crisis, DAV92 is there to provide emergency assistance, helping veterans through sudden hardships with compassion and urgency.

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### This Week’s Functionaries

**Invocation:** Bill Edwards

**Flag Salute:** Jonathan Dvareckas

**4-Way Test:** Ben Tafoya

**Fine Master:**



## BILL'S BANTER

Thank you to  
Jonathan Dvareckas  
for coming by and

sharing a  
lot of great  
information  
on DAV92!  
You and  
your wife  
Laura are



doing so much to help High Desert  
Veterans and their families. The work you  
are doing is truly awe inspiring.

Teacher Mini-Grants have now officially  
opened! School administrators have been  
contacted, and many grant requests will  
be coming in very soon. As always, we  
will be asking club members and leaders  
in the community to help read grant  
applications, but most importantly, we  
need your generosity so we can award  
grants to many of our educators in the  
High Desert. Donation commitment  
sign ups are now open. Please give  
generously.

As a reminder there will be no noon  
meeting next week as we will have our  
"5th Tuesday" evening meeting, this  
time at Viva Maria's on Highway 18 and  
Rancherias in Apple Valley. We will meet  
at 5:30pm during Happy Hour and will  
have a room set aside for us. See Ben  
Tafoya for more info.

*Bill Edwards*

## Dvareckas...

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Yet the mission is larger than numbers. It's about dignity, respect, and ensuring that no veteran is left behind. Too many still face pressing challenges such as homelessness, food insecurity, unemployment, and untreated mental health struggles. DAV92 works tirelessly to bridge the gap between government resources and the real needs of local veterans, stepping in where others cannot.

Jonathan and Laura emphasized that DAV92 is not just about helping veterans survive—it's about helping them thrive. By restoring independence, building pathways to stability, and strengthening family support systems, the organization is equipping veterans with the tools they need to lead full and meaningful lives after service.

But DAV92 cannot do this work alone. They are calling on the community to partner in this mission. Rotary and other community members are invited to:

- Organize joint service projects such as food, clothing, or holiday drives.
- Volunteer time to assist with distribution or outreach.
- Provide sponsorships to sustain critical relief programs.
- Connect veterans with business and employment opportunities.

This shared vision of "Service Above Self" unites Rotary and DAV92 in ensuring that veterans receive the dignity, respect, and support they have earned. By working together, we can continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Thank you for standing with us in service to our veterans! Together, we can make a difference.

For more information, visit: [DAV92.org](http://DAV92.org)

# UNITE FOR GOOD

## Big Blue Poker Chip



*Jim Murray had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, and did it! He left the meeting \$500 richer!*

*We will begin again Oct. 7 with 14 chips and \$200 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.*

## Raffle

**Chris Ackerman** donated a pair of Victor Valley Transit thumb drives that went to **Alyy Martinez** and **Laura Dvareckas**. Laura and **Jim Cox** also took home sets of a Raymond James water bottle and lanyard from Alyy.

## Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed **Karen Jessen** from the Rotary Club of Apple Valley, and **Laura Dvareckas** joined her husband **Jonathan Dvareckas**, our speaker this week.

Our stand-ins this week were **Alyy Martinez** for **Angel Espino**, and **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

## Rotary Awards



Look at all of our Awards from District Governor Gilda Moshir! Last week during our special 3pm meeting with the Apple Valley Club, Governor Moshir, presented our Club with the following awards:

**Gold Award** - For outstanding focus on the well being of our members.

**Silver Award** - For making significant impacts by uplifting lives in our community.

**Bronze Award** - For encouraging high ethical standards and integrity.

**Bronze Award** - The impact of youth engagement and empowering young leaders.

It's such an honor to be recognized for the hard work we do!





**VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS**

**Board of Directors**

President 2025-2027 .....	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028 .....	<b>Please be Interviewed</b>
Immediate Past President/Club Service .....	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants .....	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Youth Services/Ethics Essay .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership .....	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service .....	Ryan McEachron
Community Service .....	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service .....	Angel Espino
<b>Members-at-Large:</b> Bob Basen, Ron Boyd, Steve Murray, Ron Boyd, Rob Kilpatrick	

**Positions & Committee Chairs**

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Scholarships .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Special Billing .....	Esther Mears <b>(TBD)</b>
Public Service Awards .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Teacher Mini-Grants .....	Angel Espino
Special Projects.....	Rob Kilpatrick
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K .....	Brad Letner
Grants.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Food Baskets.....	Bill Edwards
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Programs .....	Mike Page
Fundraising .....	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship  
at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley  
Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville

**Make-up Days and Locations**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

**Calendar Dates**

**Oct 6** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:30pm Board Meeting  
On ZOOM

**Upcoming Programs**

**Sept 23:** Jonathan Dvareckas **TOPIC "Serving Those who Served: The Mission of Disabled Americans Chapter 92"**  
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**Sept 30:** **5th Tuesday Evening Meeting**  
Viva Maria's Mexican Restaurant  
5:00pm  
20162 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA

**Oct 7:** Chris Ackerman, Sr. Marketing Manager/PIO, VVTA **TOPIC "Craft Talk: Scenes from the Cutting Room Floor"** (Page)

**Oct 14:** **OPEN**

**Oct 21:** **OPEN**

**Oct 28:** Craig Garrick, President, AVCom **TOPIC "TBA"** (Page)

**Nov 4:** **TEACHER MINI-GRANTS**

