

Headquarters News

DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

Congratulations to the State Departments that have achieved 2012-2013 membership quota.

**New Mexico
North Carolina
South Carolina
Vermont**



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From the Desk of National Commander, Donna Adams.....

Happy Spring to everybody! I hope your weather is beginning to understand the concept of the season. This is the time of year that all our local, state, and national officers are working hard to get reports filed, meet membership deadlines, make convention arrangements, and prepare for the next fiscal year. I know that all help is appreciated, so if you have a couple of hours why not call your adjutant and ask, "Is there anything I can do to help?"

March arrived with a trip to Elkhart, Indiana. The State Department of Indiana held a very successful fundraising event to help fund an upcoming retreat for female veterans. The DAV and Auxiliary have partnered in this effort and it's so encouraging to see the two organizations working together. They have made arrangements with a local resort to provide a weekend of services specific to women veterans and are hoping to raise enough money to provide everything at no cost to the veterans attending. And I want you to know that I even helped in their effort by collecting \$48.00 in donations for telling one of my lame jokes. I want to thank Commander Karla Schwartz and everyone in Indiana for making me feel so welcomed and giving me the opportunity to participate in your great event.

From Indiana I went right to Cary, North Carolina, for the annual VAVS Conference. Our National VAVS Representative Ann Glende and Deputy Shirley Ashmore did a great job of representing us and I'm sure we'll be hearing more from them about the conference. The night of the banquet, we were entertained by *Re-Creation*, a song and dance group that travels the country visiting VA medical centers and state nursing homes with wonderful numbers to lift the spirits of our hospitalized veterans. I was able to make some good contacts for our Auxiliary and really enjoyed the programs presented by various people.

With State Conventions starting, I know that you're all busy and I look forward to seeing a lot of you in my travels. In the meantime, keep up the good work and thank you for all you do to support our programs.

Mae Holmes

By Susan Miller, National Mae Holmes Chairman

By now all units should be filling out their reports. Please remember to make four (4) copies of your Mae Holmes report. You must send three (3) copies to your state adjutant; one for judging at your state convention, one for the District N.E.C., and one for the National Mae Holmes Chairman. The fourth copy is for your unit records.

I feel that the Mae Holmes report is the most important report. By looking at it, you have the history of what your unit has accomplished for the membership year. Remember to attach a copy of the "report only" if totals on the other reports are over \$1,000.

Read the report carefully. The directions tell you when to attach copies of the other reports. If your totals on the other reports are over \$1,000 and you do not attach a copy of the report, the Mae Holmes report will not be judged.

I look forward to receiving many, many reports.

Americanism

By Frances Costa, National Americanism Chairman

What is the Medal of Honor? The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States.

It is generally presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress. On December 9, 1861, Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced S.No.82 in the US Senate, a bill authorizing the production and distribution of "medals of honor." On December 21, 1861, the bill passed and President Lincoln signed the bill and the Medal of Honor was born. President Lincoln said: "Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure."

As of November 2012 the statistics show that there were 3,459 recipients and of those 81 are living and 19 are double recipients. More than 60% of the Medals of Honor awarded since the beginning of World War II have been awarded posthumously. The Medal of Honor is the only military decoration worn around the neck (other medals are worn over the left breast, normally on formal military uniforms). One woman was awarded the Medal of Honor for her actions during the Civil War. Her name was Dr. Mary Walker and she cared for wounded Union soldiers on the battlefield and for the sick and wounded after she was captured and became a prisoner of war. Because she was a contract surgeon and not a member of the military, her Medal was rescinded by a board of review in 1917. It was reinstated during the administration of President Carter.

Medal of Honor recipients will attest to this: Extraordinary events motivate ordinary people to do extraordinary things. On and off the battlefield, crises form the stage on which valorous action takes place. But extraordinary acts are possible only if ordinary people rise to the challenge of the moment and if society values sacrifice.

Colonel Jack H. Jacobs: Recipient of the Medal of Honor and Chairman of the Congressional Medal of Honor Curriculum Development Project emphasizes that the Project demonstrates with crystal clarity that our young citizens, those who will carry our democracy into the future, can be taught the importance of service to the community and the qualities of courage, commitment, sacrifice, patriotism, integrity, and citizenship that made this nation great.

I have just started to read about the Butler Medal which honored African American Civil War Soldiers. It is amazing how much history there is in our nation and how much we still do not know. I will be reading more on this and hopefully will have the opportunity to follow up in the future.

I look forward to reading the National End of Year Americanism Reports that will be coming soon. Hopefully we will see some good reports and that our Units and Departments have done some awesome Patriotic things within their communities including our school systems.

National Convention Delegate Listing

The yellow delegate listing forms are being sent to units and state departments. At the next unit business meeting, elect delegates to represent the unit at the national convention in Orlando, FL. (Elect even if there is a remote possibility of their attendance.) State departments will elect their delegate and alternate at state convention. Write the delegate/alternate names and membership numbers on the form and send to DAVA National Headquarters no later than July 5, 2013.

As the convention approaches, each member identified on the yellow form will receive a bar-code letter which will serve as their credential and must be brought to the national convention and presented at the time of registration.

New for 2013!!!! Preregistration will be available for all attendees. The above-referenced bar-code letter will provide log-in information for preregistration.



**2013 National Convention
Hilton Orlando Hotel
Orlando, Florida
August 8–13, 2013
6001 Destination Parkway
Orlando, FL 32819
407.313.4300—\$124 S/D**

VAVS

Ann Glende, National VAVS Representative

It's been a busy few months for Representatives and Deputies with holidays, salute to hospitalized Veterans, and activities in between. As a friendly reminder, if you are a Representative or a Deputy, it's important that you attend the quarterly VAVS meetings at your local VA Medical Center. There is a lot to learn and take back, and it's important that as representatives of the DAV Auxiliary you have a voice in what is going on with the volunteer program.

I had the pleasure of attending this year's National Advisory Committee meeting in Cary, NC. It was an honor to have my deputy,

Shirley Ashmore, and National Commander Donna Adams as well as my mom attend with me. We learned a great deal about various programs at the VA, including the "BlueButton" program (also known as My Health Vet), hospice programs, youth volunteering, and much more. This year, the NAC Volunteer of the Year (female) was also one of our own DAV Auxiliary Members, Miriam Daley from Massachusetts. Miriam is a past George H. Seal Award winner (2008) and an extremely dedicated member of the DAV Auxiliary and her local VA Medical Center. She volunteers almost daily, and is will-

ing to take on any task that is presented to her. Unfortunately Miriam was unable to attend the meetings, so Laura Balin, from Washington, DC, headquarters, will be presenting her the award in April. I was so pleased that Miriam was selected as she so deserved this award.

Please remember to recruit new volunteers for your local VA and surrounding clinics. We need to make sure we are ensuring our nation's heroes are taken care of every day, and that begins with each of us "having the heart" and not only volunteering ourselves, but finding others to assist us as well!



Hospital (Non-VA)

By Linda Bailey, National Hospital Chairman

It's planting time for DAVA. We should use Creativity seeds to insure our Veterans in Non-VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Housebound are not forgotten! Before we start spreading seeds let's make a plan to include all DAVA Unit Members / junior members.

Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Valentine's Day are gone, now spring has sprung and beautiful blooming plants can bring sunshine into our Veterans' lives. At your next Unit meeting, take some time to talk about Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and House Bound Veterans in your area.

- * Set up a committee (call it your Unit's **Sunshine Committee**).
- * Pick at least one Non-VA Hospital, Nursing Home or House Bound Veteran each month to visit.
- * Plan to either do flower pots for Hospitalized Veterans or Flower Beds at your local Nursing Home /House Bound Veterans home (contact your local nursery to see if they will donate the plants, pots and potting soil).
- * Have your Junior Members to write a special note to attach to flower pots and decorate pots.
- * If you do a flower bed, have the Junior Members make a sign, on a water resistant board, to post in the flower bed honoring the Veteran for their Service. (Attach a small American Flag!)

Many of our DAVA and Junior members took the pledge at Fall Conference to visit Veterans for the Hospital (Non-VA) let's remember our PLEDGE!

Remember goodie bags with personal hygiene, puzzle books, and pens to help our hospitalized Veterans pass time.

Former Hospital Chairman Kim Stake talked about taking sewing red, white, and blue ribbon together with a coin or plastic button saying **Veteran!** Imagine the smiles you would receive placing this around a Veteran's neck.

A visit and smile are the best gifts you can give to our Veterans in Non VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and House Bound.

Remember the seeds of creativity we plant today will bring a wonderful harvest tomorrow!





DAVA AUXILIARY

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Follow Us!



The Key is Understanding

New Auxiliary Unit Chartered

**Sgt. E. L. Randolph #57
Burnsville, North Carolina
Chartered March 28, 2013**

**2013 National Fall Conference
Hilton Netherland Plaza
35 W. 5th Street ~ Cincinnati, OH 45202
513.421.9100
October 3-6
\$119 Single/Double
\$144 Triple
\$169 Quad**

Recruiter News



Snow Globes are personalized with the recruiter's name inscribed.

March recipient:

Ginger Bish, North Carolina #43



Sign up a new DAVA senior member and you are eligible for the monthly recruiter drawing of \$25.

Reminders

- **Camp Corral** — Local units can volunteer to help sign in the campers at any of the 18 Camp Corral locations across the country. For more information go to www.campcorral.org.
- **Quota Members**—During April, May, and June, new annual senior members paying their normal unit annual dues will be processed as Quota members meaning they will be paid through June 30, 2014. The Mae Holmes eligibility deadline has passed, but the units have until June 30, 2013, to make quota for the year.
- **Elections** — It's that time of year for most units. Remember to notify all senior members in writing no less than ten days prior to election. Emails and newsletters are acceptable communication methods (do not exclude those who do not have online access). In order to vote or be elected/appointed to any unit position, members must be in good standing for the duration of their respective terms.
- **Officer and Financial Reports** are available online at www.davauxiliary.org under the *Membership/Resources* tabs.
- **990-N ePostcard** — Even though it has been stated in this publication many times, each unit and state department are required to file the annual 990-N ePostcard. This is an IRS requirement. Failure to file for three consecutive years results in the revocation of the unit's exempt status. After filing, send confirmation to state and national headquarters.