

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | April 2018



## Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for making 2017-2018 Quota!

Iowa  
Nevada  
Oregon  
Vermont  
West Virginia

## Inside this issue:

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier	1
Legislative	2
Financial Report	2
Winners!	2
Volunteers in Action	3
National Convention	3
Junior Pre-Registration	3
New Unit	4
Reminders	4
Veterans Crisis Line	4

## National Commanders Lay Wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns



On Saturday, February 24, 2018, DAV Auxiliary National Commander Craig Johniken visited Arlington National Cemetery to represent the organization at an annual wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Also known as "The Tomb of the Unknowns," this monument is dedicated to U.S. service members who have died in combat without their remains being identified. At this time, service members include those who served in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. There was one individual selected from the Vietnam War who was later identified through advances in mitochondrial DNA testing.

His remains were exhumed and reunited with his family. Instead of adding another unknown soldier to the Vietnam War crypt, a crypt cover has been replaced, bearing the inscription, "Honoring and Keeping Faith with America's Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975."

Since 1937, the Tomb has been guarded 24 hours a day, seven days per week by members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment. "The Old Guard" is the oldest active infantry unit in the military, keeping watch over the memorial every day, including when the cemetery is closed and in inclement weather.

According to [www.tombguard.org](http://www.tombguard.org), the guards' actions are in a series of 21. This refers to the 21-gun salute. "The guard will stop on the 21st step, then turn and face the Tomb for 21 seconds. They then turn to face back down the mat, change the weapon to the outside shoulder, mentally count off 21 seconds, then step off for another 21 step walk down the mat. They face the Tomb at each end of the 21 step walk for 21 seconds. This process is repeated until the Guard Change ceremony begins."

This year, DAV Auxiliary National Commander Craig Johniken asked DAV National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster, a disabled U.S. Army veteran, to join him in this ceremonial presentation.

"It is a humbling experience to stand before the Tomb as a powerful remembrance of those who lost their lives for our freedom," said National Commander Johniken. "This small tribute to honor their sacrifices and heroism is a reminder that our service members, past and present, can never be forgotten or ignored. It puts a great perspective on the need for organizations such as DAV and DAV Auxiliary, and being able to share this special day with DAV National Commander Metcalf-Foster was a privilege I will never forget."



## **Legislative** by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Legislative Chairman

Thank all of you for the cards, calls, e-mails and especially prayers for me during my recent hip replacement surgery on March 12. I have already gone for my first check-up and my surgeon said I am doing great. I can drive, exercise, and begin my normal routine. I am feeling very blessed, so please, keep those prayers coming, they work!

As I said in my last report, most of you will be planning conferences and conventions soon, so I am again asking that all Unit and State Legislative Chairmen start making plans to prepare to sign up members for the DAV Commander's Action Network (CAN). If possible, set up a table with a laptop and get volunteers to help sign up new members. Also, be prepared to give handouts to all members and supporters explaining how they can sign up other family members and friends. It's important that we **Keep the Promise** and fight for the interest of America's injured heroes, their widows and children on Capitol Hill.

The important DAV Critical Policy Goals for 2018 (listed below) should be stressed and discussed during your local Chapter and Unit meetings and state conventions. Using CAN to communicate with your legislators is a priceless tool!

1. Comprehensive Support for Caregivers of All Eras
2. Strengthen and Modernize the VA Health Care System
3. Defending Our Benefits and Protecting our Future
4. Improve Services and Recognition for Women Veterans
5. Support Sufficient Funding for Veterans Benefits and Health Care

Please continue to educate the public about the great sacrifices and needs of our veterans making a transition back to civilian life.

Please visit "Take Action" on the DAVA main website and/or DAV "Help DAV" then "Advocate" to explore the many bills that are pending to improve medical and compensation benefits for our veterans and their families.

Please let me stress again: there is no better time than now to flood your elected politicians with veterans benefit support letters letting them know we are strong, united, and we vote! Also, try to attend your local meetings held by your elected officials and remind them of some of the needs of their local veterans and their families.

Thank all of you that are participating in CAN and for signing up new members. May God bless you, our troops, our veterans, and may God forever bless and keep us **"America Strong."**

### **Newly Revised Financial Report**

The newly revised annual financial report and instructions are now available online at [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org). Units and state departments utilizing the electronic version will need to print **four** copies of the report to satisfy mailing requirements. Also, each report must include a copy of the schedules/attachments for the required lines as outlined on the report.

All units and state departments will receive the financial report and instructions by postal mail in April for the financial period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. Please remember the due date for this report is September 30, 2018.

### **Winner! Winner! Winner! Winner! Winner!**

**Congratulations to Tracey Mashburn from Indiana Unit #23!** Her name was drawn to receive \$500 cash for recruiting one new paid senior member between January 1 and March 31.

**Congratulations to Paul Janecek from Iowa Chapter #2!** His name was drawn to receive a \$50 gift card to the DAV Store for recruiting one new junior life member with a \$10 down payment!

## Volunteers in Action



Members of Miles Meredith Unit #7 in Paducah, Kentucky, have had a busy year finding creative ways to make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families throughout their community. Whether it is playing bingo at the McCracken Rehabilitation Center and passing out quarters and gift bags or participating in local parades by decorating floats, you'll be sure to find a smiling DAV Auxiliary member ready to take on any task no matter the size.

To bring joy and fun to the veterans at Hanson's Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson, Kentucky, the Unit held a costume bingo event, where DAV and Auxiliary members dressed up, played bingo, and passed out quarters for prizes.

The Unit also took several large bags of bird seed to the facility for the feeders. The event went so well that at Christmas another bingo party was held. This time, volunteers dressed up as cowboys and cowgirls. "Many have forgotten how special it is to honor our community and veterans," said Unit Commander Eva Hayden. "They welcome us with open arms. I am in awe of the work our Auxiliary does."

To continue to raise awareness of DAV and DAV Auxiliary, members took DAV magazines to waiting rooms at VA Hospital and doctor offices. They attached the card of the DAV Chapter Service Officer and encouraged veterans to reach out for assistance. They also collected supplies for the Veteran Satellite Clinic in Paducah, Kentucky, which they now do three times per year. They collect crackers, cups, napkins, creamer, sugar, and coffee for waiting areas.

At a community level, they make sure that local schools are taken care of by donating school supplies to teachers for special projects and participating in the "Pop Top" program.

This unit exemplifies the meaning of commitment that DAV Auxiliary members make to veterans, their families, and the community, and we thank them for their hard-work and dedication.

*Have a story to share? Send it to us—DAV Auxiliary, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY, 41076, or by email—dava@dav.org. Don't forget to send photos!*

### **2018 National Convention Tentative Agenda**

7/12 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting  
7/13 - District Meetings  
7/14 - Joint Opening Session  
7/14 - Auxiliary Opening Session  
7/14 - Financial Reporting Seminar  
7/14 - National Commander's Reception  
7/15 - Memorial Service

7/15 - Auxiliary Convention Committee Meetings  
7/16 - Auxiliary Second Business Session  
7/16 - Forget-Me-Not Luncheon  
7/16 - Fun Night  
7/17 - Auxiliary Final Business Session  
7/17 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting  
7/17 - Introduction of National Officers and Dinner

Don't forget to return the pre-registration form for any junior attending national convention. This will guarantee that the junior receives a t-shirt once they arrive. Additional t-shirts will **not** be available!

### **2018 National Convention Junior Pre-Registration**

*The following junior will be in attendance at the 2018 National Convention in Reno, NV.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

State and Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Child (circle one)

*This form must be returned to DAVA National Headquarters no later than **May 15, 2018**.  
3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 -Fax:859.442.2095 -email: dava@dav.org*



*Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.*

## DAV AUXILIARY

**Craig Johniken,**  
National Commander

3725 Alexandra Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076

**Patricia Kemper,**  
National Adjutant

Phone: 877.426.2838  
Fax: 859.442.2095  
E-mail: [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org)  
[www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org)



**"You've Got a Friend"**

**WELCOME**

### ***New Auxiliary Unit!***

Redgranite #51  
Redgranite, Wisconsin  
Chartered March 19, 2018

Follow us on Social Media  
for news and information  
on the DAV Auxiliary.



## **Sponsors Welcome!**

Sponsorships are available for the 2018 National Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. This is an opportunity for a business or organization to say thank you to disabled veterans and their families, and to provide a memorable Fall Conference experience for our deserving members.

Currently, these sponsorships are available:

- ⇒ Signature Sponsor (\$5,000)
- ⇒ Special Event Sponsor (\$2,500)
- ⇒ Sponsor Exhibitor (\$1,000)
- ⇒ In-Kind Sponsorships

Any business or organization interested in a [sponsorship opportunity](#) should contact Auxiliary national headquarters.

## **Reminders:**

- **The Unit Minutes and Treasurer's Report** is now available online in a fillable format. To download a copy, visit [http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/documents/Minutes\\_Treasurers\\_Reports.pdf](http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/documents/Minutes_Treasurers_Reports.pdf).
- **Unit/State Department Checks**—All Unit's and State Departments must have two signatures on checks or they will not be accepted. The two signatures must be the Unit/State Commander and the Unit/State Treasurer. In the absence of the Unit/State Commander, the Unit/State Senior Vice Commander may sign a check. **Checks should never be signed in advance.**
- **Special "440" Applications**—The yellow campaign 440 applications will expire on June 30, 2018. All Units recruiting at least 15 new paid members by June 30 will be entered to win \$250. Running out of yellow applications? Units can still receive credit by writing "440" on any application submitted.



If you know a veteran or family member in crisis, please encourage them to contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, Press 1. Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Individuals may also contact a representative by online chat services at [www.VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net), or by texting 838255.

If you find yourself in a situation with a veteran who may be at risk for suicide, remain calm. Listen more than you speak, and maintain eye contact. Act with confidence and don't argue. Use open body language, limit your questions, and let the veteran do the talking. Use supportive, encouraging comments, and be honest—there are no quick solutions but help is available.

Training is available at most local VA Medical Centers for those who have frequent interaction with veterans and service members. Contact your local VA Voluntary Services Department for more information.