

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | January 2019



## Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for making 2018-2019 Quota!

Alabama  
Indiana  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
West Virginia  
Puerto Rico

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## From the Desk of National Commander Ellen Timmerman



I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. My wish for all of you this year is good health and happiness, and a very productive and successful year!

I hope we all take the time to remember the service and sacrifices veterans and their families make for us every day. Let's also take the time to find out what we can do to help them. One way is to support the legislation to take care of veterans. Since we had mid-term elections there will be new legislators in Washington, D.C. and they will need to be reminded of the promises made to our veterans. We need to ask them to keep those promises.

I read something a few days ago that made me think and I wanted to share it with all of you: Sometimes the greatest gift you can give another person is simply to include them.

Keep up the good work! God bless each of you for all that you do to help Veterans and their families. **Together, we can get it done.**

## Caregiver Initiative Program by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

As caregivers we know that we play an important role in the health and well-being of our Veterans. But did you know that your health and well-being is equally important? As a caregiver it is hard to give your best when you are not at your best. This New Year, make a resolution to the take time for you!

The VA has many tips and tools available to help you as the caregiver. You can contact the VA or visit the website [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov) to get tips and tools, access information and even connect with other caregivers. Some of the many topics available include Peer Support Mentoring, Caregiver Support Line, Caring for One-self, Caregiver Stories and much more!

Do you have members in your Unit that are caregivers but are not "tech savvy?" Consider planning a meeting and having someone bring in a computer to show members what is available. You could possibly even print off some of the information to share. Either way, make a concerted effort to help educate Unit members of the resources available.

Even if you are not a caregiver, check out the information and resources that are available. You never know who you may meet that is in need.

"It is so important as a caregiver not to become so enmeshed in the role that you lose yourself. It's neither good for you not your loved one." *Dana Reeve*

## National Commander Timmerman's Testimonial Dinner

The testimonial dinner is Saturday, April 27, 2019, at the Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Albuquerque Midtown, Albuquerque, NM. Dinner is \$50 per person. Checks to be earmarked "Testimonial Dinner" and payable/mailed to Timothy Timmerman, 5508 Foothills Dr., Farmington, NM 87402. **Indicate** meal selection of Chicken Marsala or Flank Steak. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Join the reception on Friday, April 26, at 6:00 pm. Cash bar at both events. Dinner reservation cutoff April 1, 2019. Casual dress for both events.

Hotel room rates are \$84, plus applicable taxes, and includes complimentary airport shuttle, parking, Wi-Fi, hot breakfast, and two drinks per guest each evening in hotel lounge.

## Legislative by Darlene Spence, National Legislative Chairman

### A NEW YEAR - A NEW ME - A NEW YOU!

Yes, it's that time again! It's the beginning of a new year, when I, along with many of you, resolve to make changes that positively alter our lives. Often our resolutions are the same, only the year changes. However, this year I am making a different resolution that will not only alter my life but also the lives of others. Today, I resolve to be more supportive of our veterans and their families by making my voice count. I am committed to consistently communicating with the legislature to generate their support for bills that improve the lives of our veterans and their families.

Our Veterans put their lives on the line in defense of America's freedom. Let's **"Keep the Promise"** and hold our political leaders accountable for what they promised our brave men and women.

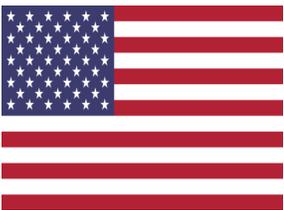
What are your resolutions for 2019? Regardless of what resolutions you commit to, please include at least one resolution related to support of our veterans and benefits that will improve their quality of life. Being involved in the Commanders Action Network (CAN) is one way of assuring that you keep abreast of bills and other information to use when communicating with or soliciting support from the legislative body. If you have not signed up for CAN, please do so as soon as possible and encourage your family members, friends and neighbors to also sign up for CAN.

Now, resolutions require action on our part as does being a part of CAN. To assist us in preparing to communicate with our legislature we can review the following bills and others on the Commanders Action Network:

- **H.R. 4898, Keeping Our Commitment to Ending Veteran Homelessness Act of 2018**  
This legislation, H.R. 4898, focused on ending homelessness among our nation's veterans, would extend current authorities that assist veterans and their families with preventing or overcoming issues that may lead to homelessness.
- **H.R. 5467, the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018**  
On April 11, 2018, Congressman Daniel Lipinski (IL), introduced H.R. 5467, the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018.

As we begin the new year may we strive to make our voices heard and assure that our veterans have the benefits they need and deserve, and that our love is evidenced by our actions. Wishing you a year fully loaded with peace and happiness.

## Americanism by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Americanism Chairman



Most people are looking at their calendars and thinking about the fact that it is a new year. They may make new plans, set new goals, and make a fresh start. However, as an active Auxiliary member, I realize that January marks the halfway point for our Unit, Department, and National year. It is time to think about all the activities we have participated in and complete those that are planned. Deadlines for reports will be here before we know it!

As your Americanism Chairperson, I am looking forward to finding out how you promoted patriotic and Americanism customs when I receive your reports. The Americanism Report is fairly simple to complete. You must document your participation in the following activities: flag presentations and displays, political election participation, services and parades honoring veterans, and citizenship.

If you are reading this and are panicking about what you will put on your report, don't worry! You can still make plans to do something. The month of February provides a perfect backdrop for Units to participate in Americanism based activities. Rosa Parks Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Susan B. Anthony Day, and Presidents' Day are all celebrated next month. I encourage you to select one of these days to share information about the American flag, our history, or our election process with members of your communities.

*Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties. ~ Helen Keller*

## Membership by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Membership Chairman

2019 has arrived and as you think about your New Year Resolutions, commit to goals that will improve your life and the people around you. President John F. Kennedy's most notable quote was, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." This is so true and as a member of the DAV Auxiliary, you can achieve and help fulfill the goals and mission of our wonderful organization. Veterans, their families, and communities across America depend on you. If the old saying, "You reap what you sew" is true, then we can never sew too much love, hope, peace and good will. I told you during Fall Conference that membership in the DAV Auxiliary is "priceless," so share the wealth and recruit new life members, including new life juniors.

Now is the perfect time for all Department and Unit Membership Chairmen to address their quotas. Contact members, work together and encourage them to recruit family members, friends and neighbors. Now is a great time to remind members about the incentives by sponsoring new members and using the **Code 441**.

Most State Departments are in the process of planning winter/spring conferences and I encourage Membership Chairmen to plan a recruiting seminar. Educate members about our mission of service for veterans and their families. Have an open forum and share ideas with each other that are successful and beneficial to our organization. Please, always remind members to have access to a membership application just in case the opportunity arises to recruit a new member. Applications are also available online on the Auxiliary website at [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org) and can be downloaded to your smart phone or tablet.

Congratulations to all departments and units that have reached their annual quotas. I truly appreciate your dedication and service. Fortunately, everyone still has time to reach quota so let's reach goal of 100%. As National Commander Ellen Timmerman states, "Together, we can get it done."

As we enjoy the blessings of the New Year, please remember those serving our Nation in harm's way and keeping us safe. May God continue to bless and keep us "America Strong."

## And the winners are...

**Congratulations to Donna Folcarelli, Rhode Island Unit 1, and Patricia Eilert, Missouri Unit 68!** Their names were drawn to receive \$300 cash each for recruiting one new paid senior member between October 1 and December 31.

**Congratulations to Kelley Calder!** Her name was drawn to receive \$50 cash for recruiting one new junior life member with a \$20 down payment!

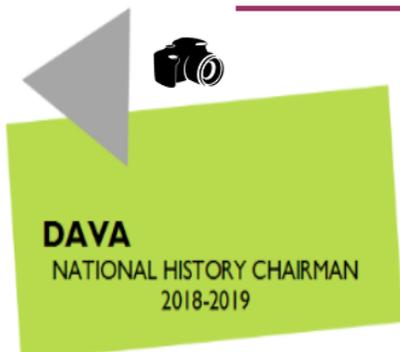
## Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit By Diane Franz, National Mae Holmes Chairman

Where has the time gone? We are half way through the membership year already. Hopefully units are putting the puzzle pieces together to make a wonderful Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit picture. Make sure you have the framework done first before putting the pieces together.

The Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit report is the easiest of the reports to complete. All the work has been done on the five other reports, and now you place the pieces on the report.

Make sure all the directions are followed correctly: proper name of the unit, correct number of members, and report signed. All units must complete and send this report. Let us all make sure we report all the work that has been done on behalf of our veterans and community.

And lastly, may everyone have a healthy and happy 2019! May God bless our Veterans, members, families, and our great country - the United States of America.



Please send all photos of **National Commander Ellen Timmerman** to email or physical address listed to the right.



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



## Save the Dates:

### National Convention

August 3—6, 2019  
Rosen Shingle Creek  
9939 Universal Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32819  
Telephone:  
407.996.9939

\$137 Single/Double

*The Auxiliary NEC meeting will be held on Thursday, August 1, and the District meetings will be Friday, August 2. Please plan your travel accordingly.*

### Natl. Fall Conference

Sept. 26—28, 2019  
Lexington Embassy Suites  
1801 Newtown Pike  
Lexington, KY 40511  
Telephone:  
859.455.5000

\$126.95 Single/Double  
\$133.95 Triple/Quad

*All rates will include complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, breakfast, and evening manager reception.*

**Make your reservations early to avoid sell out! They can be cancelled in the future if you're unable to attend!**

## Chaplains Corner by Aura-Lee Nicodemus, National Chaplain

**“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” William Arthur Ward**

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary members who have provided support and kindness through our caregiver journey and after the loss of my father. Each and every card, instant message, thoughtful gesture, hug, and the large attendance at his very cold memorial made a difficult journey much easier. I am truly thankful for each of you.

The journey of caregiving is a major focus of our organization. We have fought for improved caregiver legislation, but it is essential that we reach out to our caregivers and provide them personal support. Caregivers in many areas are often unable to leave home or are limited in the time they can be away. They may get time to go grocery shopping, but often can't or don't feel comfortable taking time to be away longer. We are the group that can be there to support them. How much time does it take to give them a call or bring them a meal? We can assist them by staying with a loved one so they can have a well deserved break or being a listening ear to help them navigate the resources they need to care for their loved one.

We do not have to be experts. Did you know that each Veteran has a case manager at their local VA Hospital, as well as a social worker? Did you know that you can call 211 in most areas to be able to navigate community resources to help care for their loved one? We have the opportunity to send cards, but we can also be there for the person who is sacrificing so much to care for their loved one.

How can each unit and person be there to support those who are caregiving among them? Each caregiving situation is unique and each person has different needs, but each caregiver needs to not only be encouraged to provide good self care, but to feel the love and support that only we can give!!

## Reminders:

- **Communication**—While e-mail is extremely cost-effective and an efficient method of communication, keep in mind that it is not used by all members. Those members who do not have e-mail are as deserving of all unit/state communications as those with e-mail and should not be excluded. Communication is the key to success!
- **Meetings**—Units must hold a minimum of four regular business meetings per year. Additional meetings are encouraged. To constitute a quorum, a minimum of four senior members must be present, one of whom is the Unit Commander or a Unit Vice Commander.
- **Membership applications** should include a date of birth, contact information, and sponsor information (when applicable). Please make sure applications are legible to avoid a delay in processing.
- **Unit and state department checks** require **two signatures**. Checks submitted without proper signatures will be returned.
- **Vacancy in Office**—An election to fill a vacancy in an elected position (between annual elections) must be conducted at the next unit business meeting with a quorum present. Said election does not require the notification of all members. However, annual elections do require member notification.
- Any changes made to unit or state department officers during the year **requires** a new officer report to be sent to national headquarters. This will help keep records up-to-date and is important for verifying information on annual financial reports.
- **Fiscal Year**—The financial year of units and state departments is the period July 1 through June 30. Annual officer elections are not required to coincide with the financial year.