

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



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



Quota Achieved!

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

Alabama
Florida
Indiana
Louisiana
Nevada
New Hampshire
West Virginia
Puerto Rico

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From the Desk of National Commander Ellen Timmerman

Though the government shutdown has been temporarily suspended, we still need to be aware of what Congress is considering. It is very easy for important veterans legislation to be swept aside and forgotten and we need to stay vigilant and aware of what is happening.

Below are several Critical Policy Goals for 2019 that DAV would like to see addressed during appointments with your Representatives and/or Senators during the DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference.

- Sufficient Budget for FY 2020
- Implementation of the VA MISSION Act
- Women Veterans Health Program Improvements
- Burn Pits
- Improve Spouses and Survivor Benefits
- Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans

Please take time to become familiar with these policy goals. There will be requests for action from the Commanders Action Network (CAN) during the year.

The DAV will address the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on February 26, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. If you are present for the DAV Legislative Mid-Winter your presence will help show our united support of these policy goals, as well as our constant support of veterans and their families.

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.**

National Commander Ellen Timmerman to Lay Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns



National Commander Ellen Timmerman will represent the DAV Auxiliary in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, February 23, 2019, at 10:15 a.m.

If you are planning to attend the DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference or will be in the area on that date, you are welcome to attend.

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.

Americanism by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Americanism Chairman

I became intrigued by the customs and etiquette of half-staffing the American flag after the death of President George H.W. Bush. It seemed to me that I saw lowered flags for an extended period and I didn't know what the reason was. I turned to Google and was amazed by what I discovered.

According to an information sheet published by the Department of Veterans Affairs, there were no written guidelines for half-staffing the flag until President Eisenhower issued a proclamation on March 1, 1954. "By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States government and the Governor of a state, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory," according to the U.S. Code Title 4, Chapter 1.

It also says presidents can lower the flag for the death of a foreign dignitary and prescribes how many days the flag should be at half-staff for different people. It is 30 days for a president, 10 days for a vice president, chief justice and speaker of the House, and down to two days, the day of the death and the following day, for other members of Congress.

Certain days during the year are also set aside to pay respect to our fallen heroes. On Peace Officers Memorial Day, Patriots Day, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day the Flag is half-staffed all day. On Memorial Day, the flag is half-staffed until noon and then raised briskly to the top of the staff until sunset in honor of the nation's battle heroes.

It is easy to remember when to half-staff your flag if you think about when the nation is mourning. However, if you forget the computer age has made it easy to follow these rules. I found multiple websites and even apps that send alerts about half-staffing.

Community Service by AnnMarie Hurley, National Community Service Chairman

We start the new year with hope for many good deeds being performed by all of us in 2019 and beyond.

During the services for the late President George H. W. Bush, we were reminded that he popularized the phrase "a thousand points of light." He later formed a private, non-profit organization to support volunteerism.

In the DAV Auxiliary, we are many thousands who by even the smallest act of kindness become points of light for others. In my last article, I spoke about Family Services. In the category of Facility Visits, we can visit those in Senior Centers, Health Care Centers, Nursing Homes, Veterans homes, Soldiers Homes as well as any facility Non-VA that supports veterans, especially as Valentine's Day approaches. Check with the administrator to find out what you can bring into the facilities and what items in particular they would like to receive.

You could just visit them and that's a joy for everyone. I recently was in a small group visiting veterans. I stayed with one veteran talking so long that the next thing I knew I had to apologize and tell him I thought I had to move along because I heard yelling down the hall. I knew the voices and they were calling me. My few minutes lasted at least 20 and the plan was to visit a lot of the veterans. The veteran, whose condition required him to lay flat on the bed, and I were getting along so well that I lost track of time.

We don't have to do something dramatic to be a point of light, although that would be wonderful—a simple phone call, text, email or visit to a senior you know who is now alone in a facility would be appreciated. Perhaps you could send a note. My best friend suffering dementia is now in a nursing home. Her husband is always by her side, but I stop by at least once a month and we simply hold hands for a while and smile at each other. I hope it makes her feel better, as I know it helps me.

I recently enjoyed a phone call from a widow of a disabled veteran I hadn't seen or spoken with in years. When I sent her a Christmas card, I wrote a little note about how I often thought of her and reminded her of a class she had gone to years ago. She was so pleased that she called me up. We had a great conversation and plan to meet in the spring when she's back from Florida. That small gesture ended with both of us reminiscing and hanging up our phones happy.

Under the category, Professional and Trade Services, if you are an attorney, doctor, nurse, teacher, electrician, plumber, painter, etc., you can help someone or another organization in your community. Years ago, if the church rectory in our neighborhood needed painting, my father would do it; and, if the nuns needed more rosary beads, my mother would make them. I can still remember my mother being so kind and patient when she tried to teach my best friend how to crochet. If you don't have the expertise or talent to provide the service or teach someone, perhaps you could make the payment for the service. Any way you can help would be welcomed.

Legislative by Darlene Spence, National Legislative Chairman

Greetings Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary members! It's time for the annual Disabled American Veterans Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. If possible, please join us Feb. 24-27, 2019, for this monumental conference. This will be our opportunity to support DAV as they meet with Representatives and/or Senators to advocate for resources to support laws that have been passed; and for introduction and support of bills that will provide security for the health and well-being of Veterans and their families. Additionally, this will be our opportunity to support DAV National Commander Dennis Nixon as he presents DAV's legislative agenda to the Joint House & Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Whether or not you are attending the Mid-Winter Conference, you may wish to peruse the preview of Critical Policy Goals prepared by DAV for Chapters to utilize as subject matter when scheduling meetings

with elected officials. This same information may be beneficial when, in our home states, we individually or collectively as a unit, solicit support from the legislature for bills and/or laws that help our veterans and their families. Go to www.dav.org, click on event, then Mid-Winter Conference to see the schedule of Critical Policy Goals 2019.

Let's not forget our Auxiliary National Commander Ellen Timmerman will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Also, don't miss being able to observe the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery. This is an incredibly moving experience!

In closing, I offer two supportive reminders: don't forget to encourage participation in the Commanders Action Network by going to www.dav.org/can, and please remember our success depends on our unified voices. Thank you for adding your voice!

2019 National Convention to be held in "The City Beautiful" - Orlando, Florida



The 2019 DAV and DAV Auxiliary National Convention will be held Saturday, August 3, through Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at the Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, Florida. Hotel reservations are being accepted at a rate of \$137 per night, single/double occupancy, plus tax, and can be made by calling 407-996-9939 or 866-996-6338 and requesting the Disabled American Veterans group code.

The Rosen Shingle Creek is located ten minutes from the Orlando International Airport, offering 1,501 guestrooms with first-class settings wrapped in Spanish revival architecture, a spa, 18-hole, par 72 championship golf course, fifteen dining/lounging options, four outdoor swimming pools, two lighted tennis courts, a basketball court, nature trail, seasonal fishing, and an Olympic-regulation sand volleyball court.

DAV Auxiliary will kick-off the 2019 convention with the National Executive Committee meeting on the evening of Thursday, August 1. Auxiliary district meetings will be held on the morning of Friday, August 2, and the official convention kick-off will be the Joint Opening Session on the morning of Saturday, August 3. The event will conclude with the introduction of national officers and dinner on the evening of Tuesday, August 6.

Each unit has received a yellow delegate form to be completed and returned to national headquarters once delegates and alternates have been selected/elected. As a reminder, each unit is eligible for one delegate/alternate for its charter, and one delegate/alternate for every 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Delegates and alternates will have the opportunity to pre-register using an online system which will be available in the upcoming months. On-site registration will also be available. The cost to register is \$25 per person, and all attendees must register. Those under age 18 must register but are not required to pay the \$25 registration fee.

All units and state departments must have the July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, annual financial report completed and submitted to national headquarters and mandates paid in order to register as a delegate/alternate at this convention. Delegates from those units or state departments not in good standing will be required to register as a guest without voice or vote.

Junior members are welcome to serve as convention pages. Their names should be submitted to national headquarters—email: dava@dav.org or phone—877-426-2838, option 8. Please provide their first and last name, state, and unit number.

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



YOU COULD BE A
WINNER

Recruit at least one new paid senior member by March 31, 2019, and be entered to win one of two \$300 cash awards.

Start a life membership for a junior member with \$20 down by March 31, 2019, and be entered to win \$50 cash award!

To be eligible, sponsor name and membership number must be included on the application.

Any unit who recruits at least 15 new paid members by June 30, 2019, will be entered to win one of two \$300 cash award. Applications must have campaign code **441** to be eligible.

DAV AUXILIARY

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“Together, we can get it done!”

Junior Activities by Icilda Marley, National Junior Activities Chairman



Happy New Year DAVA Juniors!

It is very exciting to see the Facebook posts on various activities you have been involved in. It is an excellent choice for Chapters and Units to include the Junior Auxiliary in their tribute and com-

memoration services to our Veterans. They can be that needed person to pass out handouts, hold doors, carry covered dishes, or boxes and bags of decorations or sale items. Teaching and learning honor and benevolence is rewarding. Please consider age appropriateness and safety of our Juniors members when including them.

Remember, the datelines for submission of the Auxiliary scholarship and award applications are nearing. Please watch for those dates and requirements for consideration of your Juniors.

Reminders:

- Units should remember there is **no charge** to complete the annual 990-N e-Postcard when utilizing the IRS website. While there are businesses available to complete this yearly requirement for a fee, units should be cognizant of the information being provided. If the unit is unable to complete the yearly requirement, they should contact their state department or national headquarters for assistance. The next filing will begin on July 1, 2019, and is due by November 15.
- With unit elections approaching, please make sure that your members are in good standing **before** they are elected/appointed to a position to avoid an unnecessary delay in processing the annual officer report. If in doubt, please verify this information on your membership list or call national headquarters.
- Those units that have not submitted their annual financial report for the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, must complete and submit this report as soon as possible. Unit members attending state or national convention will be unable to register as a delegate/alternate if the information is not received.
- On observance of President's Day, DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2019.