

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



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



## November American Flag flying Holidays

November 11 - Veterans Day  
November 28 - Thanksgiving

"You're a grand old flag. You're a high-flying flag. And forever in peace may you wave."  
~ George M. Cohen

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## From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

Thank you for the fantastic attendance to the National Fall Conference! The Chairmen presented their programs with enthusiastic participation from our members. A big thank you to Pat Kemper, Bunny Clos, and Ann Glende for all they did to organize the Fall Conference. Also, a thank you to Chris and Karen for the A/V services they provided during the Conference.



This month we honor our Veterans with their special day—Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>. But it should not be the only day we honor them. Many Veterans wear a cap or T-shirt with their branch of service or when they served. Just a friendly smile or a “thank you” could make their day and show that they are appreciated for what they have sacrificed for us. Maybe you know of a veteran who no longer drives that would love to take advantage of the many free meals offered on their special day. It would only take an hour or two out of your schedule to make a Veteran feel special and not forgotten. And, with Thanksgiving this month, maybe you could set an extra place at your table for them. Many no longer have family near them to enjoy this special meal. What a way to give thanks. Inclusion shows we have unity with all of our Veterans.

May you all have a pleasant Autumn. May God bless our Veterans, their families, and the wonderful USA.

## Community Service Program Updated

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

The DAV Auxiliary's Community Service Program has undergone an important and necessary change effective immediately. Volunteerism and service efforts outside the scope of service to veterans and their families may no longer be performed in the name of the DAV Auxiliary. In keeping with our organization's purpose as reflected in our mission statement above, community service efforts must provide direct aid and assistance to veterans and their immediate families.

The Community Service annual report form has been modified to reflect this change.

While this change may have little to no impact on the activities of most units, it will certainly affect those who have participated in long-standing community undertakings that do not serve the veteran community. As a veterans' service organization, we must focus our attention and services to fulfill the purpose of our organization.

Unit projects benefitting active military families are appropriate volunteer initiatives and are greatly encouraged.

## Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chairman

There are 9 minutes during the day that have the greatest impact on a child:

- The first 3 minutes right after they wake up.
- The 3 minutes after they come home from school.
- The last 3 minutes of the day before they go to bed.

MAKE THOSE MINUTES SPECIAL AND HELP OUR CHILDREN FEEL SPECIAL, LOVED, AND ACCEPTED.

Each day children need meaningful eye-to-eye conversations with a parent. It is especially important to slow down and look them in the eye. Listen and respond with love.

Hug your child, straighten her hair, pat him on the back and tell them how proud you are of him every day. A simple touch makes them feel connected to a parent in ways that words never will. Remember, actions speak louder than words!!

Activities!!!!!!! Ideas for your Junior members for November: collect paperback and picture books to give away at Christmas. Make Christmas ornaments, collect light bulbs for gifts for the Veterans' homes. There are issues with not enough light in Veterans' homes to read, work, and do homework. Collect Patriotic books, donate shoes, socks, and shoelaces. Donate coats, clothes, pajamas, and toys as well as food at Thanksgiving and Christmas. (Usually all sizes are needed.) School supplies need replenished throughout the year. Paper products are a big need during the upcoming holidays.

Please share with me your ideas and send pictures of your Juniors in action. Have happy holidays with the Juniors and the Veterans and their families that we serve. You ROCK!!!!!!

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## VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

On October 17-18 I attended the VAVS NAC Executive Committee meeting in Washington, DC. The committee members got a lot of great information and updates on the VA. I learned about some new programs and was reminded of some I had forgotten about. In particular, I wanted to share these potential volunteer opportunities with our members.

First, there is currently a pilot program called the Volunteer In-Home Visitor Program (VIVP) in place at six VA's and will be coming to additional VA's soon. This program sounds like it will be a great opportunity for volunteers looking to get involved in a non-traditional capacity – ask about it at your local VA.

Next, I want to remind our members about another potential non-traditional volunteer opportunity, the No Veteran Dies Alone program. If you've never heard of it, this volunteer program provides a reassuring presence to Veterans who would otherwise be alone at the end of life. Volunteers are contacted as needed to provide vigil for a dying Veteran or provide supportive visits. Some may read aloud, play games, play quiet music or just serve as a calming presence. Talk to your local Voluntary Service office to see if this program is available for your members.

Another great volunteer opportunity can be found with the National Cemetery Administration. Some of the many opportunities include honoring Veterans at the time of burial, staffing public information centers, joining the support committees or helping to beautify the grounds. In FY 2018 volunteers donated 263,000 hours at the National Cemeteries which is the equivalent to paying 130 full time employees! This is also a great opportunity for our Juniors. They are not just volunteering, but they are learning history, developing a sense of Americanism and American pride, and helping to memorialize our Veterans by making sure they are not forgotten. With 139 National Cemeteries, there is likely to be one close to you – check out their website [cem.va.gov](http://cem.va.gov) for more information. Together we CAN make a difference.

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DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of Thanksgiving. Please remember to keep those who cannot be with their families, including military members and community heroes, in your thoughts and prayers.

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

At the Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln pronounced that “**Government of the people, by the people, for the people**, shall not perish from the Earth.” The computer age has enabled American Citizens to communicate with their legislators with ease. The DAV’s Commander’s Action Network (CAN) is one way veterans, their families, and our allies can communicate our opinions and concerns with law-makers.



Whenever the DAV needs to get Congress’s attention, they send out an email with a link that has a pre-formatted message. All that is necessary is to type in your ZIP code and the names and emails of your congresspeople are automatically filled in. You only need to add your name, press send, and a message is generated.

Although this method is not very personal, it does get noticed. Thousands of people can respond within minutes, which lets a legislator know immediately how important it is. At our recent Fall Conference, Randy Reese, Executive Director, Washington Headquarters, spoke about the impact emails from DAV’s Commander’s Action Network has on our legislators and even our President. He said that it is an underutilized strategy to get Congresspeople’s attention.

A very low percentage of both DAV and DAV Auxiliary members receive and respond to these action alerts. How can we assume that President Lincoln’s words are true if we don’t participate? We can insist that our voices are heard! I encourage everyone I know to sign up for CAN. It’s a great way to reach outside our community since you don’t have to be a DAV or Auxiliary member to join.

If you are not already a part of CAN, or you want to invite others to join, go to:

<https://www.dav.org/learn-more/legislation/join-action-network-take-action/sign-up-to-receive-alerts/>

## Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Chairman

I want to thank everyone that attended National Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. Because of ALL of you, we had one of the largest/best conferences ever!!! Natl. Adjutant Pat Kemper, her staff, Auxiliary Natl. Officers and Chairmen presented a wealth of information and educational/entertaining skits. We were honored to welcome National DAV Commander Stephen Whitehead and DAV Executive Director Randy Reese, DC Office, as our guest speakers during the conference. For those that were unable to attend the conference, you were missed, and we hope that everyone will start making plans for our 2020 conference in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

Copies of the 2019 Conference Book and Auxiliary Constitution and Bylaws can be purchased, or you may view/download them from the DAVA website. The DAV Auxiliary has made some important changes and we encourage all state departments and units to discuss them at your meetings. Communication is imperative for our future success and growth.

HELLO FALL!!! Depending on your geographical location, you may have already experienced glistening white snow or are enjoying the magnificent colors of the changing leaves or maybe tropical, warm sunny days; however, every one of us as volunteers, are entering the busiest time of the year!!! I know that everyone is in the planning phase for Golden Corral Military Appreciation Days, Veterans Day Ceremonies, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year. No matter where you are, the gifts of volunteering your time, love, and thoughtfulness in assisting our veterans, their families and our active military are priceless. “Blessed is the Giver”!!!

Please remember to take a few minutes to keep an annual calendar of all previous and upcoming events. Logging your volunteer hours, miles, monetary and other kinds of donations will help your unit when filling out the 2019-2020 Auxiliary Annual Reports. National DAVA Headquarters request that every auxiliary unit fill out the annual Mae Holmes report which is derived from the other program reports. Remember, the DAV and DAV Auxiliary are chartered service organizations and these reports are very essential when establishing credibility of fulfilling our mission. Words can’t express how much each one of you are loved and appreciated for all you do to enhance the lives of those that have unselfishly served in our armed forces and protected our freedom.

May God continue to bless our veterans, their families and those presently serving in harms way and may we always stay “America Strong”!!!

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



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“Unity”

### Headquarters News

As a reminder, the practice of mailing the monthly newsletter to unit and state department adjutants has been discontinued. Instead, the newsletter will be available for download from the DAV Auxiliary's website. Everyone has access to this informative newsletter and we urge all members to read this important communication.

Email addresses are still being accepted for those who wish to have the publication emailed directly to your inbox. Please send emails to [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org).

A \$10 yearly subscription is also available and will assure the mailing of the newsletter to your mailbox.

### Caregiver Initiative Program by Melissa Pierce, National Chrm.



National Family Caregivers Month  
NOVEMBER

November is National Family Caregivers Month. This annual observance is a time to honor family caregivers. The theme for this year is “Caregiving Around the Clock” – this recognizes the challenges that family caregivers face and how they manage them day and night. Did you know that there are an estimated 5.5 million military caregivers in the United States that provide care and support to 2.4 million Veterans? These caregivers spend an average of 24.4 hours per week providing care and approximately 25% of them spend more than 41

hours per week providing care!

At National Fall Conference I was given a book by Peter Rosenberger entitled “Hope for the Caregiver” by one of our caregiver members. She highly recommended that our Units pick up a copy of this book to help them understand what caregivers go through and to also have on hand to loan out to caregivers. While I didn't have time to read the whole book I did quickly skim it. Chapter 27 definitely jumped out to me for what we, as an Auxiliary, are striving for with the Caregiver Initiative Program. Here is a brief excerpt, “The abilities and stability of caregivers increase with regular rest and leisure. Even God took a Sabbath rest. Free time means just that: free time. We must relax and improve our state of mind and body. Wrapping our entire beings into our role as caregivers taxes the love we have for our charges and saps our identity, our creativity, and our ability to focus. When we slow down long enough to make time for life's simple pleasures, everybody wins. So, what are you waiting for?”

As Auxiliary members we need to find ways to reach out to these caregivers and offer our support, maybe a few hours of respite, and most importantly our thanks!

“People who cannot find time for recreation are obliged sooner or later to find time for illness.” *John Wannamaker*

**REMINDER: On January 1, 2020, membership with DAV Auxiliary will go to a flat rate amount of \$250 for all ages. Junior members up to age 18 and those 80 years of age and older will remain complimentary. Families are encouraged to start a life membership for juniors with a \$20 down payment. Those who obtain a membership prior to January 1, 2020, will be grandfathered in to the current rate based on age. Updated applications and brochures will be available in the coming months.**