

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

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



## December American Flag flying Holidays

December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day  
December 25—Christmas Day

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## From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

Happy Holidays to all members of our Auxiliary. This time of year seems to bring out many activities that benefit our Veterans and their families. We must remember, after the decorations are put away and the food baskets are given for their dinners for the holidays, that the need continues in the coming new year to serve and dedicate ourselves to them.

I had the great opportunity to attend the Birmingham, Alabama, Veterans Day banquet and parade. Thank you to all the members that welcomed your DAVA National Commander and for the fantastic hospitality. This day and parade has a great history behind it. This is where the celebration honoring our Veterans began. The children watching the parade were proudly waving the American flag and cheering on the Veterans.

Remember our mission of "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families." With unity in our units, we can make this happen. If some of the members can no longer travel to meetings, there are many things they can do to help, such as participating in the Legislative Program at their residence or maybe making lap robes or greeting cards.

May you all have a healthy, happy, and productive New Year. May God bless and watch over our Veterans, members, and the USA.



## National Commander Franz's Testimonial Dinner

DAV Auxiliary National Commander Diane Franz's testimonial dinner is scheduled for March 21, 2020, at The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32809.

Rooms can be reserved for March 19 to 22 at a special rate of \$140 per night. The resort fee of \$19.00 per night has been waived. Call 407-859-1500 and ask for the "DAV Auxiliary National Commander Diane Franz Testimonial." The deadline for hotel reservations is February 24, 2020.

There will be a meet and greet on Friday, March 20, from 6:30 PM—8:30 PM.

The Commander's Testimonial Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM on Saturday, March 21. The cost of the meet and greet and testimonial dinner is \$60.00 per person.

Mail checks and RSVP's for the banquet no later than March 6 to Delores Roussey, State Treasurer, 407 Fletcher St., Port Charlotte, FL 33954. Please make checks payable to DAVA State Department of Florida and be sure to write "Testimonial" on the memo line.



## Americanism by AnnMarie Hurley, National Americanism Chairman

**AMERICANISM:** The word Americanism is described as an attachment or allegiance to the traditions, institutions, and ideals of the United States.

On [www.metroparent.com](http://www.metroparent.com) I found “10 Examples of Patriotism That Parents Should Teach Their Kids.” The suggestions are from two history teachers—Amy Van Eeuwen and Lori Langenderfer from Plymouth-Canton Community Schools’ West Middle School who teach about America. Following are their suggestions and brief versions of their reasoning.

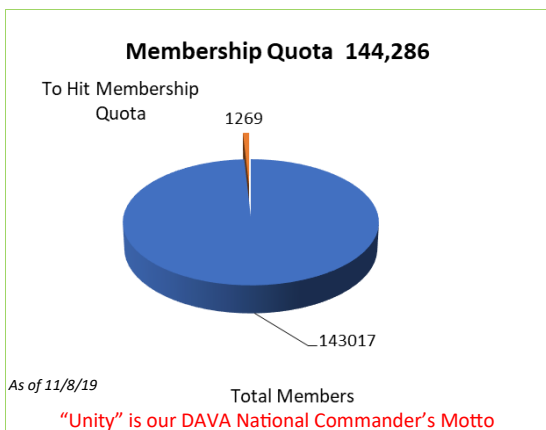
1. **Learn About the Pledge of Allegiance:** Some learn the words but don’t know what they mean. They “...also can learn how to respectfully display the American flag.”
2. **What to do during the national anthem:** U.S. Code says to “...stand at attention and face the flag, or face toward the music, with your right hand over your heart.” (Guidelines are a bit different for veterans and those in uniform)
3. **Honor soldiers:** Many brave Americans served their country; and were willing to die for our rights. Talk about this while at a parade “and why it’s important to show them respect.”
4. **Know our basic freedoms and respect that others have those same freedoms.** Look at the Bill of Rights where the first amendment alone gives us freedom of speech, religion and freedom of press. “Learning that everybody has the freedom to hold different opinions and beliefs is valuable.” Kids often don’t understand that everyone doesn’t have to be like them.
5. **Our core democratic ideals:** “Things our country was built on,” VanEeuwen explains—include the “common good, justice, liberty, popular sovereignty, life, equality, diversity, pursuit of happiness, truth, patriotism and rule of law.” Langenderfer suggests “talking about places in the world striving toward these freedoms, and what it looks like when people don’t have certain rights.”

These are just the first five suggestions, but they go a long way in reminding us to not only understand the fundamentals of our American legacy, but to teach our children and grandchildren.

## Membership by Darlene Spence, National Membership Chairman



**We are the heart and soul of our DAV Auxiliary**



The growth of our organization begins with the diligence and zeal inside each of us. Our growth must remain continuous and strong and must never waiver.

Our DAV Auxiliary’s strength begins with unity, the unity that exists within each Unit and between Units, within each State and between States until we all meet hand in hand at the National level.

President Lyndon B. Johnson said, “We must remember that yesterday (the past) is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose.” We are winners and cannot afford to daydream or linger in the past. If our organization’s mission of service to our Veterans and their families is to be fulfilled, we must work together to increase membership. Together we can accomplish so much! Without this to-

getherness (unity), barriers will be built, we will cease to grow and then we may cease to exist. However, we believe that no barriers should stand in the way of our DAV Auxiliary’s growth. Where some see barriers, we see bridges. If we build enough bridges, they will overshadow any barriers that seek to impede our progress. May we continue to build bridges of love and unity to strengthen the delivery of services to our Veterans and their families. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MY FAMILY TO YOUR FAMILY!**

## Junior Member Spotlight

We've all heard the sayings, "Leading by example" and "Actions speak louder than words." When it comes to nurturing our organization's Junior members, the members of DAV Auxiliary Unit #29 in Braintree, Massachusetts, are doing just that! Prized values of volunteerism, service, respect, and patriotism are being instilled in the young members of this unit.

Unit #29 purchases \$5 gift cards for their "Thank a Vet" program, a project they learned from another Massachusetts Auxiliary unit (thank you Cape Cod Unit #96). When a member comes into contact with a veteran, they hand them a gift card with a simple, yet powerful, note, "Thank you for your service! Have a coffee on us!"

Junior member, Ellenora Marie, noticed the USMC insignia hat worn by her school bus driver and knew she wanted to honor him through the unit's "Thank a Vet" program. One day, Ellenora asked Mr. Al if he was a veteran and when he acknowledged that he was, she thanked him for his service and proudly presented him with a gift card on behalf of her Auxiliary unit. As evidenced by the photo, that moment greatly touched two special lives. Those smiles are priceless!



Ellenora's life continues to be empowered by generations of DAV and DAV Auxiliary family members and many remember the dedicated service of her late great-grandmother, Ellen Drogo. Her family carries on the DAV and DAV Auxiliary tradition as a way of life. Her mother, Angela, began her journey in the organization as a Junior member and says, "I can attest, first hand, the importance of keeping our Junior membership active and included, and strive to do just that as the Junior Activities Chair for the DAVA Department of Massachusetts. My grandmother instilled these beliefs in me and I am truly blessed to carry on the tradition with my own children. Junior members really are the future of this organization that I am so proud and honored to be a part of."

Let's continue to lead by example and actions because we never know when even one small act will change the course of someone's day or possibly impact their life.

Tell us about your junior members!

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

Did You Know – The oldest Junior Charter was CA #6 in 1932. Two Junior Units were issued charters during World War II. Twenty-six were chartered during the Vietnam War. Do you have a Chartered Junior Unit???

Happy Holidays to All!!! What will you do to increase the involvement of our Juniors in your Unit's holiday giving activities?

Here is a Christmas To-Do List

- Buy presents. Change that to -Be PRESENT!!!
- Wrap gifts. Change that to -Wrap someone in a HUG!!!
- Send gifts. Change that to -Send PEACE!!!!
- Shop for food. Change that to -Donate FOOD!!!!
- See the lights. Change that to -BE THE LIGHT!!!!



I am proud of the Veteran's families and the caregivers and children of our Veterans. This Christmas let's give our thanks to all Veterans on this holiday with special prayers for the brave men and women here, abroad, on land, air, and sea that are currently deployed protecting the hallowed ground on which our homes stand. Please remember our Veterans in the hospitals, nursing homes, and state homes. The Juniors can send a card, color a picture, you can visit as a Unit, the Unit can adopt a Veteran and their family. There is no greater joy than to visit a Veteran and see the smiles on their faces as you stop in to say HELLO!!!! Our TIME is the GREATEST GIFT of all!!!

*"You will discover that you have two hands. One is for helping yourself and the other is for helping others." ~ Audrey Hepburn*

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

There is no better time of the year than now to remind us of our DAV/DAVA Mission. I'm again reminded of Princess Diana's beautiful quote, *"Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you!"*

None of us must look very hard or far to locate our veterans and their families in need of a helping hand up. There is no price tag on kindness, compassion, and acts of love: volunteer your time to take a veteran or spouse shopping, cook a little extra to share with an elderly veteran/widow, visit veterans in hospitals and nursing homes, assist young veteran families, giving special attention to their children, contact your local homeless shelters to see if they are housing any veterans, assist them with needed personal items and encourage them to get benefit counseling at their nearest VA facility. Your unit members may want to purchase or make gifts of love: prepare food baskets with fresh fruit, decorate a small tree, wrap-up warm blankets, sweaters and socks, seek professional volunteers for small home repairs or needed improvements. Get creative, the list is endless. Invite chapter members to join in with the unit and plan joint projects. Please, remember your chapter and unit members that can't attend meetings anymore. Check on them regularly and visit them as much as possible to reassure them they are loved and not forgotten.

Looking for that "special gift" that keeps on giving for a lifetime? Now is a great time to give a DAV Auxiliary membership to an eligible family member or friend. Remember Junior Life memberships and benefits for those precious grandchildren!!! There is no better opportunity to teach our youth about patriotism and help them build positive life skills. Make a gift bag and include brochures that explain our mission and programs, make them a calendar of upcoming events, invite them to meetings and encourage them to get active with unit and chapter projects.

Units should be discussing any legislative bills at meetings affecting our veterans and active military. Stress the importance of joining the Commander's Action Network to stay in contact with our local, state and federal elected officials. They must be reminded to support benefits that were earned.

I want to thank each one of you for all your many acts of kindness, love, and support given daily to our veterans and their families. May you and your family have a safe, healthy Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

For my family, Christmas is a time for family and friends to gather and reflect the great (and not so great) life experiences we have had throughout the year. We all admit we have been too busy with daily schedules and obligations, missing out on frequent get togethers and "promise" we are going to do better "next year"!! Sound familiar??? As for the moment, we enjoy our time together.

May God continue to bless our veterans and keep our troops safe. May God always protect and keep us "America Strong".

### 990-N e-Postcard Filings

Did you know that our national headquarters office took the liberty of filing 990-N e-Postcards for units and state departments that had not yet filed? Can you believe that the number of entities that did not file totaled 264? As a reminder, this is a yearly requirement established by the IRS. Failure to file for three consecutive years may result in the revocation of the entities tax-exempt status. Reinstatement is a lengthy and costly process. Make note of the filing requirements for 2020 and plan early to get the filing completed. Thank you.

### Ratification Ballots Needed

In August each unit received a ballot regarding a ratification to the membership eligibility in the DAV Auxiliary Constitution. To date we have not received enough approved ballots back to achieve ratification.

We realize that there was some confusion as to what to do if the unit met after the due date had passed, so we are asking that if your unit hasn't completed the ballot to do so as soon as possible and return them to national headquarters. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



## VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

As members of the DAV Auxiliary, we all know our mission is to serve our Veterans and their families. We've heard numerous times the benefits of volunteering, both to the Veteran and the volunteer. The impact we have on our Veterans is unending – we spread joy, laughs and smiles. We're shoulders to lean on and shoulders to cry on. We're a helping hand, a cheerful face and social contact that they may not get anywhere else. We've also heard the benefits that volunteers receive from volunteering – we're more social, live longer, healthier and happier. We gain new skills, expand our business networks and make new friends.



This past week I have also been reminded of the other lives we touch when we volunteer. They are equally important, but often overlooked. To the family members – when you reach out to their Veteran, you are also reaching out to them. They know that when they enter the VA a volunteer with a friendly face is not far away. Volunteers are the cheerful hello and have a good day to the Veteran and their family. Not all family members are able to go to appointments with their Veterans, but they rest assured knowing volunteers are there to drive Veterans to appointments, sit with the Veterans, and escort them and make sure they get to the correct clinics on time. When our Veterans stay overnight and we can't be there, volunteers are there to bring books and magazines, goody bags, or maybe just sit for a chat. Volunteers are a substitute family for our Veterans when they're far from home or maybe sitting all alone.

To the VA staff we may be that extra set of hands, ears and eyes. VA staff are busy with the care of hundreds of Veterans, but they know we, as volunteers, can be relied upon to assist in any way we can. When they have needs, they know that we can be counted on to step up, support them financially, with non-monetary donations and willing hands whenever the call for help goes out.

As volunteers, our impact is much deeper than just our Veterans and ourselves. As we move through this holiday season, remember our purpose, remember our Veterans and remember their families.

*"Never underestimate your ability to make someone else's life better – even if you never know it." -Greg Louganis*

## Myrtice Vinson—Past National Commander



DAV Auxiliary Past National Commander Myrtice Vinson of Macon, Georgia, passed away November 20, 2019. She was elected National Commander at the organization's 68<sup>th</sup> national convention in Anaheim, California.

Her eligibility for DAV Auxiliary membership was through her husband, Cleo, a disabled Army veteran who served in the Korean War. During her brother's 30 years of service, Elija Ralls fought in the Korean War and was wounded in Vietnam. Sadly her nephew, Ralls Hawkins, made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

With such an intimate awareness of the cost of war, Ms. Vinson was drawn to the organization's mission of service and became a staunch advocate for the needs of veteran families. During her tenure with the organization, she served in all elected offices in the local unit as well as most offices in the Auxiliary's Georgia State Department. Her role on the national level began in 1982 where she was destined to lead the organization as National Commander.



DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed on Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.

Please remember to keep those who cannot be with their families, including military members and community heroes, in your thoughts and prayers.

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



### **Newly Revised Bylaw Books**



The newly revised DAV  
Auxiliary Constitution and  
Bylaw books are now  
available!

Please remember the  
bylaw books change from  
year to year, and mem-  
bers are encouraged to  
always have the most  
recent copy available for  
questions or concerns.

The books are \$2.00  
each, plus shipping and  
handling, and will be  
available through Halo.  
To place an order, visit  
[www.davstore.org](http://www.davstore.org), or  
contact them at 1-800-  
468-4332 or email  
[orders@halo.com](mailto:orders@halo.com).

## **DAV AUXILIARY**

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**“Unity”**

### **Save the Date:**

2020 National Convention  
August 1—4, 2020  
Hilton Anatole  
2201 Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75207  
Telephone: 800-445-8667

\$149 Single/Double

*The Auxiliary NEC meeting will be  
held on Thursday, July 30, and the  
District meetings will be Friday, July  
31. Please plan accordingly.*

**Please make your reservations ear-  
ly to avoid sell out! They can be  
cancelled in the future if you're un-  
able to attend!**

### **Save the Date:**

2020 National Fall Conference  
October 1—3, 2020  
Doubletree by Hilton, Lawrenceburg  
51 Walnut St.  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
Telephone: 812.539.8888

\$129 Single/Double  
\$149 Triple/Quad

All rates will include complimentary  
parking and breakfast.

**Please make your reservations ear-  
ly to avoid sell out! They can be  
cancelled in the future if you're un-  
able to attend!**

### **Reminders**

- 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.
- 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 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.
- Annual financial reports were due September 30, 2019. If your unit or state department has not completed the form, it must be done as soon as possible to avoid a hold status from being placed.