

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | May 2021



Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Department for making 2020-2021 Quota!

Florida
Illinois
Indiana
Vermont

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From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

The month of May is a time to celebrate a few noteworthy days giving us an opportunity to express our gratitude to those who have given so much in service to their country.



- * National Military Appreciation Month honors current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. In 1999, the late Senator John McCain introduced legislation that was approved by both the House and Senate to designate the month of May as a remembrance to honor those who have served and are now serving.
- * VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) is a memorable day in history marking the unconditional surrender of Germany on May 7 and formalized on May 8, 1945, officially ending World War II. With the passing of time, many of these veterans are no longer with us, but their memory and their survivors need to be thanked for the victory they secured for us as Americans.
- * It is also fitting that on the same day, May 8 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Many of us show our appreciation to the brave men and women currently serving, protecting our country and freedom. However, this day is your chance to show that same appreciation to the spouses standing behind those men and women. Military Spouse Appreciation Day is celebrated on the Friday before Mother's Day every year.
- * Most solemn and important is Memorial Day which is dedicated to those who gave their lives in service for freedom and country so we may enjoy the lives we now have. To quote former President Barak Obama, "Our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay."
- * May all our mothers have a blessed Mother's Day on May 9.

Don't forget to check the national DAV and Auxiliary Facebook sites as well as the Auxiliary website for current and updated information. If you have not already signed up for CAN (Commander's Action Network), please do so to get the latest alerts for legislation.

May God bless and keep our veterans and their families safe bless The United States of America.

National Commander Testimonial

The testimonial dinner honoring National Commander Diane Franz will be held on June 19, 2021, at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. Rooms may be reserved at a special rate of \$93 per night by calling the hotel directly at 407-995-1100 and ask for the DAV/A State Convention block. The block will fill up fast, so please make reservations as soon as possible. The event will begin with a cash bar from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., immediately followed by dinner. The event is \$45 and attendees may choose from Pan Seared French Cut Chicken, Eight-Hour Braised Short Ribs, or Honey and Lime Glazed Salmon. A vegetarian option is also available for \$40. Mail checks and dinner options to Delores Roussey, 407 Fletcher St., Port Charlotte, FL, 33954. Make checks payable to DAVA State Department of Florida indicating "testimonial" on the memo line. The dinner reservation cut-off is June 1, 2021.

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Chairman

As the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Chairman, I want to thank all of you for your continued hard work and volunteer hours assisting our veterans and their families. Regardless of the many different obstacles we have faced this year, a lot of our members have found opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of our heroes, their spouses, children, and widows/widowers. Our organization's mission has no boundaries when it comes to the various ways we can provide a hand up to all of those who served and need us now. Many of you are volunteering your time sending cards to hospitalized patients, emailing and calling friends who are homebound for various reasons, sending monetary donations to help support DAV/DAVA charitable programs, staying involved with legislative issues affecting our veterans and military through our Commander's Action Network (CAN), and working with junior members with home projects like making cards and writing letters to our veterans and active military members. Some of you have had a chance to attend safely-planned veteran and military patriotic celebrations, so please, let us hear about those events on your reports. Also, we cannot forget our lifeline - membership. Please continue recruiting and mentoring new members through phone calls, referrals, and social media.

Now, it is getting time to start documenting all that fantastic "love" on the current 2020-21 National Report Forms. The forms are on the DAV Auxiliary website. They can be filled out online or printed by hand. You can contact your state adjutant for assistance and instructions about each form, and how to complete necessary attachments.

Time is also drawing near for planning unit elections and state conventions. Communication between the units, departments, and national headquarters is imperative. Officers at all levels need to render assistance where needed. Should your Unit meetings and State conventions be cancelled, never hesitate to ask for clarification about reports and future meetings. We are a TEAM!!!!

In advance, thank you for "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families," practicing our four main principles, Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion and Service when possible, and "thank you" for all your special efforts in completing your 2020-2021 National Report Forms.

May the Sun Shine Bright on our many "Unsung Heroes"

May God continue to bless and heal our families that have been affected by COVID. Always pray for our troops, our veterans and first responders, and may we always stay "America Strong"!!!

Forget-Me-Not Luncheon—Ticket Pre-Sale Information

Tickets to the Forget-Me-Not luncheon at National Convention **must** be purchased in advance. No luncheon tickets will be available for purchase on site. Checks may be sent to national headquarters at any time and should be earmarked "Forget-Me-Not Luncheon" with the number of tickets requested. Those wishing to pay with a credit/debit card may call national headquarters between now and July 16, 2021.

The cost of the luncheon is \$40.00 per person. The menu is a House Salad, Red Wine Braised Beef Tenderloin Tips with Pearl Onions and Button Mushrooms, Buttered Noodles with Thyme and Parsley, Baked Apple Strudel, and Iced Tea.

After June 16, 2021, please send checks to the new national headquarters address at 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018.

Tickets will be available for pick-up beginning Thursday, July 29, 2021, in the DAV Auxiliary office located in the Gasparilla Room, 2nd Floor of the JW Marriott.

Membership by Darlene Spence, National Membership Chairman

I see the light, do you? Greetings to all DAV Auxiliary members and thanks for your continuing to work through some of the darkest days we have ever seen. It is my hope that we are coming out of this period of very little light and great anxiety, moving albeit slowly toward being able to see a brighter future for our families, our Units, and the disabled veterans we serve. We cannot allow ourselves to be discouraged on the one hand or to become complacent on the other. We must remain “mindful of what is still within our power to do and do it.”

Now to answer your question, “Where is the light?” The light is what each of us will see as it gets brighter and brighter within our Units, and at State and National levels, when we keep moving, keep being productive. We must stay focused on the good and make it better in order to reach our membership quota for 2020-2021. Each new member that is recruited, adds another bit of brightness to our light, a little more enthusiasm within Units and more pep to our steps as we move forward and upward. Since 1922 consistent recruitment of new members has been vital for strength and growth of our organization.

As of 4/28/2021, we are at 99.01% of our membership quota. Ahead of us is the challenge to recruit 1,420 new members nationwide within the next 2 months to meet 100% quota. Hold on! Before you collapse into darkness, please don't lose sight of the bright light that we're so close to having in our grasp! When we note that a large number of units only need 1 to 4 members to make their quota, it doesn't seem to be such a daunting task. As in the past, we can, and we will do what needs to be done to meet this challenge head on.

Let's first put what we know on the board. We know that the need to fulfill our Mission of service to our disabled veterans and their families is now stronger than ever; our entire arsenal of recruiting plans, programs, projects and activities must be utilized wherever they may be the most beneficial; and, most importantly communication skills must be utilized to the fullest. Now, each member, each Unit, and each State working individually and collectively must utilize skill sets to recruit new members (don't forget to involve our Junior members). Training and enriching the knowledge of present and new members and building strong bonds of camaraderie can be a great recruiting tool because what we are accomplishing can be observed by other organizations.

The hard work of each of you has not gone unnoticed. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to each of you. Please keep up the good work for there may also be a monetary reward awaiting you! On July 1, 2021, two Members who have recruited five or more new paid members will be a part of the drawing and will receive \$250 each.

“The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.” ~Jeff Miller



Final Quarterly Drawing to be held June 30 for Jacket/T-shirt/hat bundle with DAV Auxiliary logo, plus \$50!

Recruit one new member with a minimum down payment of \$20 for a chance to win! Juniors are eligible to win this bundle and cash prize also!



New Unit Recruitment Incentive!

Has your unit made membership quota yet? It's not too late! And....one lucky unit reaching their 2020-2021 membership quota by June 30, 2021, will be the recipient of \$250! Sign up new members with a minimum \$20 down payment or encourage any part-life member with an Inactive status to make a payment toward their life membership to restore their membership status. Every member counts! Be the light to help us reach our national membership goal while reaching your unit's membership quota. The winning unit will be drawn July 1, 2021, and announced in the July newsletter. Will your unit be the lucky winner?



VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

I have to start out by apologizing.... I dropped the ball. April was National Volunteer Month and I forgot to thank all the great VAVS volunteers our Auxiliary has. So here you go – **THANK YOU!**

Our local VA recently handed out coffee mugs to their DAV/VTN drivers and volunteers. On the back of the mug was the “ingredient” label that listed some the “ingredients” in a great volunteer. Whomever came up with this concept really captured the essence of not only our Auxiliary VAVS volunteers, but all volunteers. Some of you may have seen these before, but for those who haven’t, I’d like to share the “contents” of a volunteer with you.

Let’s break it down.... **Serving Size: 1 awesome team member.** While there are many opportunities to volunteer on an individual basis, we are all working as a team to serve our Veterans and their families. When we work together as a team, we accomplish great things. Each member of our team has their individual strengths which make them awesome but when we mix them all together we make our team even more awesome! **Amount per serving: Above and beyond.** I know most won’t admit it, including myself, but our Auxiliary volunteers go about the minimum and strive for the maximum. It’s not a matter of just volunteering, it is volunteering to the best of our abilities and stretching those abilities to help our Veterans.

% Daily Value: Dedication 110%, Reliability 110%, Enthusiasm 110%, Flexibility 110%, Integrity 110%. This one is self-explanatory. We do more. We are committed to our purpose and it shows. Whether we are collecting donations for our Veterans, handing out treats at the VA or escorting patients to their appointments – we give 110%. We rearrange schedules when the call for help is put out – we give 110%. We listen to the stories, comfort the tears, provide a cheerful hello and a welcoming smile – we give 110%. We get up at 4 a.m. and put in a 12 plus hour day to ensure Veterans reach their appointments – we give 110%. We are there when the sun is shining, we are there when it’s dark and stormy, we are there – we give 110%.

So again, I THANK YOU, FOR ALL THAT YOU CONTRIBUTE EACH DAY! Every day you work to serve our Veterans and their families and touch hearts without even knowing it. You are appreciated!

“The key to our success rests in people like you, who embody the spirit of greatness by saying, “Yes I can, and you can, too!” ~Anonymous

Legislative by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Legislative Chairman

The pandemic and its ensuing quarantine orders have not deterred DAV Auxiliary and DAV members from advocating for disabled or injured veterans and their families. Unit members have kept themselves informed about legislation which affects our community. They contacted their local, state, and federal officials to express their opinions and to tell their stories. Although COVID-19 restrictions limited our ability to meet, our members found ways to communicate their legislative activities to adjutants so year-end reports could be completed.

The DAV has also continued to highlight Auxiliary members’ needs in its legislative agenda. Among the many legislative priorities listed on the DAV’s website two stand out. The DAV continues to advocate for the full implementation of the MISSION ACT. Specifically, DAV asks that the VA hires additional caregiver program personnel in order to expand PFCAC to phase two veterans and caregivers as soon as possible, but no later than the original intended date of October 1, 2021. Auxiliary members are grateful that the DAV will not allow Congress and the VA to neglect the needs of people who rely on DIC benefits. The DAV’s legislative team remains diligent in urging Congress to enact laws which enable surviving spouses to live with dignity after the passing of their loved one.

We have accomplished so much despite the isolation caused by the pandemic. This past year has proven that veterans and their families will not allow obstacles to prevent our lobbying efforts. These obstacles have given us new tools to use when communicating with our legislators. As restrictions are gradually lifted, we must recommit ourselves to continue to be strong advocates for disabled veterans and their families.

Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chm.

The Military Child – You are Heroes too – We honored our Military Children during the month of April and please continue to honor all disabled veterans and their families. Many of our DAV Auxiliary members are, in fact, military kids. Whether older or younger, both the challenges and opportunities that military kids face can impact them for their lifetime. Please check out the Camp Corral offerings this year for our youth. They also have Family Camp Retreats, so go online and see what you can set up with your DAV Auxiliary family.



Junior members helping at a unit function

While my own children never knew of deployments and active duty life, my grandchildren did. They have spent years recognizing veterans from a distance and close up, thanking them for their service and experiencing firsthand the effects of combat wounds and disability. I feel my grandchildren have become more compassionate, insightful, and caring as a result of living life with a combat-wounded dad.

I say, "Thank you for YOUR service" to our military children – those of you who have experienced deployments, training, and active duty; those of you who understand the wounds of war and know what a PTSD nightmare and flashback can sound like; those of you who served as caregivers well before many even know what that term meant – YOU ARE HEROES. To the Moms and Dads who raised these military children and are reading this, I know it wasn't always an easy task. You are HEROES, too. Thank you.

Order of Business: Please help the Juniors get the paperwork done. There are three items. Fill out the Junior Activities Report. Complete a Junior Unit History Book. Check with your Juniors to see if they need help filling out the DAVA Junior Award Questionnaire. Good luck with the reports and remember deadlines!!!!

Eight things to say to an Anxious Child: 1. You are safe with me. 2. It's ok to feel nervous, I do too sometimes. 3. Let's go for a walk. 4. Let's draw the worry. How big is it? 5. Let's talk back to this worry. 6. I am here for you. 7. Let's sit together until the thought passes. 8. Let's take a few deep breaths together.

Have a great month, Juniors. Remember, we can throw stones, complain about them, stumble on them, climb over them, or build with them.

DAV Auxiliary Procedure and Program Manual

The wait is over!

The newly revised DAV Auxiliary Procedure and Program Manual (formerly titled Auxiliary Manual) is now available for purchase. This spiral-bound publication contains a wealth of information that will guide members, officers, units, and state departments on procedures and explains our national programs. Our team compiled a list of frequently asked questions and incorporated explanations and guidance in this manual to address those critical concerns.

Visit the [DAV Store](#) to order your copy today! The cost is \$13 per book, plus tax and shipping.

The Procedure and Program Manual is also available for download at DAVAuxiliary.org.



PROCEDURE AND PROGRAM MANUAL

Follow us on Social Media
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on the DAV Auxiliary.



Save the Date

2021 National Fall Conference
September 30—October 2
DoubleTree by Hilton
51 Walnut St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
812-539-8888

National Convention

The National Convention
will be held in Tampa,
Florida, July 31—August 3

Tampa Marriott Water
Street—13.221.4900

JW Marriott Tampa Water
Street—813.221.4950

[Reserve online](#)

Community Service by Linda Gerke, National Community Service Chm.

Community service is work performed by a person or group of people that benefits others. It is often done near the area where you live, so your own community reaps the benefits of your work. You do not get paid to perform community service but volunteer your time which is invaluable.

When a person donates their time, they give hope to someone who needs it. If a local veteran family's house is destroyed by fire or natural disaster and your unit hosts a benefit for them, that family's faith would be revived when they realize that people care. Although that family may have lost their home and belongings, seeing how their own community wants to help would restore hope and bring the acknowledgement that time and caring carries so much compassion and support.

There are many ways that your unit can perform community service for our veterans which include paying utility bills, purchasing food, or any other monetary assistance. This would be recorded under Family Services on the community service report.

Another way to participate is through a donation of yourself. If you have unit members who volunteer their time to sitting with a disabled veteran or their family member, it also falls into the Family Services section. Caregivers have little time to themselves to run errands, take care of business, or attend a social event. Providing caregivers with a much-needed break from their ongoing 24/7 responsibilities can give a unit member a sense of personal fulfillment.

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

A recent mailing to unit adjutants contained important information:

- National convention information
- National convention delegate listing—Select/elect convention delegates and send form to national headquarters.
- Officer report form—Complete and forward the national headquarters copy to Auxiliary national headquarters.
- Annual financial report form—Complete as of June 30, 2021, and send national headquarters copy to Auxiliary national headquarters.
- National Fall Conference information

Adjutants—Please read the information and see that it is shared with your members!

Reminders:

- ⇒ When calling national headquarters, please enter extension 4020 or select option #8. We have found that many members are selecting the membership option, which is transferring their call to DAV's membership department.
- ⇒ When writing checks to national headquarters, the numeric and handwritten amounts must match. The bank will not accept the check if there is a difference between the two.
- ⇒ When submitting officer reports, a unit must elect a Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Treasurer, and appoint an Adjutant. Failure to complete this information will result in your unit being placed on hold. Also, units **must** hold elections each year, but when gathering restrictions permit. We cannot accept reports that indicate "no election" or "officers are staying the same."
- ⇒ On Friday, April 30, the DAV Auxiliary membership system located at www.davmembers.org was shut down permanently as we begin the rollout of the newly designed membership system. The process is expected to take until May 12, and during that time, Auxiliary will not be able to complete any membership-related transactions. We are working to make sure that units and state departments see as little interruption as possible. Your patience during this transition is appreciated.