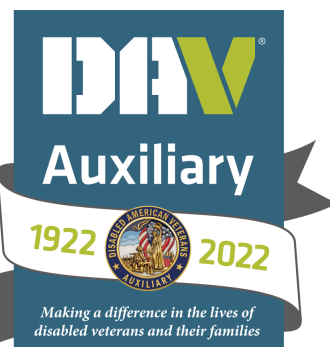


DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

December 2021



December Flag Flying Holidays

December 7—
Pearl Harbor Day

December 25—
Christmas Day

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From the Desk of National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser

National Veterans Day is celebrated every year on the eleventh day of the eleventh month at 11:00am. However, we should and can celebrate everyday of the year by remembering those who served our country and protected the very freedoms we have today. I was honored to attend the 74th National Veterans Day Parade and Banquet in Birmingham, AL. A very “Special” Thank You to Carolyn Harris for making my trip fantastic. The hospitality of everyone was amazing and I was honored to represent the DAV Auxiliary at this most memorable event. Thank each and every one of you that was able to attend a special event in your community to show support for our veterans.



Christmas holidays are just a few weeks away. Celebrate by showing your love and kindness for those veterans and their families that may be less fortunate, ill, or needing a “hand up”. I promise you will not have to look very hard or far. The reward will be yours.

As a member, you know and understand the importance of our continued growth through recruiting members. Membership is our lifeline and the very foundation of our organization. Please encourage others to join us in our efforts to help provide services to our nation’s ill and injured veterans and their families. There are many ways to recruit new members including family, friends, and neighbors. We need our voices heard and we are stronger in numbers. Take time to get acquainted with our Junior Life Membership. You can start a junior membership at any time with a \$20.00 down payment and unlimited amount of time to pay the balance. Once the dues are paid, they will become a full life member. Are you still looking for that perfect Christmas gift for your child, grandchild, or young family member??? There’s no better way to teach them Americanism, Leadership, Community Service, and appreciation for their freedom. You can sign them up online or use the regular membership application. This is a gift that will keep on giving for a lifetime.

I hope that each one of you will be safe and stay healthy during this joyous time of the year and have a blessed New Year. I pray that God will give you peace and protection from harm. Please pray for those serving our country, especially those on foreign soil. May we continue to stay “America Strong”.

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” ~Aesop

Americanism by Melissa Pierce, National Americanism Chairman

"Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." (*President Franklin Roosevelt*) With these words, and a vote of Congress, the United States officially entered World War II on December 11, 1941, more than two years after it began.

This year, on December 7th, take time to remember. Remember the more than 1,000 injured and 2,400 lives lost that day. Remember the 2,008 sailors our Navy lost. Remember the 109 Marines and 218 Army members lost. Remember the 1,102 sailors and Marines whose final resting place is aboard the sunken USS Arizona. Remember the families of the brothers lost aboard the USS Arizona – 35 sets in total of which 23 sets perished. Remember the 3 sets of three brothers – only a single brother from each set survived. Remember the father and son who perished. Remember the Army Nurse Corps - although there were no losses of the 82 working among the three medical facilities in Hawaii that day, more than 200 were lost by the end of the war. Remember all the lives lost in World War II. In less than two hours on the morning of December 7th, 1941 - Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor forever changed the lives of Americans.

On August 23, 1994, 53 years after the Pearl Harbor attack, Congress designated December 7th as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. And today, 80 years later, we still pay tribute to those who lost their lives in this attack. Remembering Pearl Harbor reminds us that no matter how much we lose, Americans will never lose their courage to stand up to the enemies that would attack our people, our country, and our freedoms. Remembering Pearl Harbor reminds us of America's strength and resilience. Remembering Pearl Harbor reminds us all of our strong sense of patriotism.

Remember. Remember those who have lost their lives in subsequent conflicts. Remember and say a prayer for those still fighting today. I think Lt. Col. Trent Lythgoe said it best. "Despite the passage of time, Pearl Harbor remains a poignant symbol of freedom and sacrifice. In the space of a few hours, America became the world's foremost defender of liberty. It reminds us that we must always be willing to fight for our freedom and for that of others. Most of all, it reminds us what America is capable of when we come together as a united nation fighting for a just cause."

What are we, the Auxiliary, capable of when we join together, work together, and grow together?

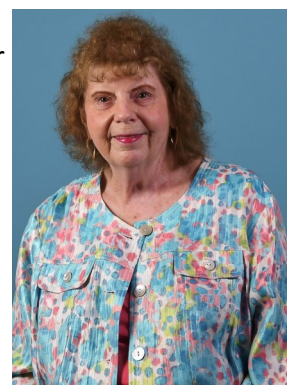
Past National Commander Betty Hall

Past National Commander Betty Hall of Sugar Land, Texas, passed away November 26, 2021. She was elected to the DAV Auxiliary's highest office in 1981 at the 59th national convention in Miami Beach, Florida.

Since joining the organization in 1965, Ms. Hall held many elected and appointed positions on the local, state, and national levels, and remained actively involved until her passing. Through the years, she mentored many who followed in her footsteps and became state leaders, some of whom even went on to serve as national commanders.

Betty retired from Johnson NASA Space Center in Houston, Texas, where she was employed as an Industry Assistance Specialist for many years.

Betty was eligible for DAV Auxiliary membership through her late husband, James Hall. Her daughter, Susan, preceded her in death a few years ago. She would say that aside from her family, her two passions in life were DAV Auxiliary and her country, and she staunchly supported both! Legislators knew Betty by name and they knew she was a determined advocate for ill and injured veterans and their families. She will be missed.



Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Darlene Spence, National Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Chairman

It's holiday time! What would Mae do? Mae Holmes would be busy working as a leader in the DAV Auxiliary with a smile on her face and with the underlying intense determination for which she was known. After it's inception, Mae Holmes worked diligently with VA Voluntary Service (VAVS), to make a difference in the lives of our disabled veterans and their families during the holidays, as well as all year. As a leader, she would gather her whole kit and caboodle (my spin on one of the idioms of the day), share ideas, establish priorities, plan activities and projects and then get to work!

Now that being said, what are you, State Department and Unit Leaders doing to promote activities and projects within your areas that will brighten the holidays for an individual veteran, groups of veterans and/or veterans and their families?

Supporting VAVS is a good idea, VAVS Volunteers work tirelessly all year to support our hospitalized veterans and their families. They work even harder during the holidays when loneliness is a major factor in the lives of our veterans. Collaborating with other Units in your area may enrich each Unit's ability to provide support during the holidays and even throughout the year. Start a Smile/Thank You For Your Service Campaign. This activity requires no financial outlay but to the receiver may be worth a million dollars. Additionally, there are many activities and projects that have been carried out during holidays past that can be recreated into bigger and better services.

Mae Holmes serves as a role model for leadership in our Auxiliary. However, I'm always humbled by the unity seen in and among our Units, and how the Units appear to grow stronger in spite of struggles to grow membership. We pray to see your unwavering support of our Auxiliary's Vision and Purpose continue during these very crucial holidays and for years to come.

Your energy, creativity, and dedication are a gift to all of us all year long. Thank you for keeping the holiday spirit alive now and year-round by constantly recognizing and providing services to our veterans and their families.

To everyone—may your holidays be filled with love, peace, cheer, and warm memories.

Celebrating Veterans Day

Edward G. Galian Memorial Unit #212, New York, recently partnered with grades Pre-Kindergarten to twelve at Roscoe Central School for their Veterans Day celebration. The unit provided supplies for the students to make cards, plaques, ornaments, and goodie bags that each veteran received during the event.

After the veterans enjoyed a nice breakfast, the school band performed the "Star Spangled Banner" and the chorus sang "We Love You, Veterans." The veterans were recognized, including two staff members, and high school students closed the ceremony by giving out hand shakes.

"There was a lot of love that day," said a teacher at Roscoe Central School. Unit Commander Terry Grabowski said, "It makes me proud that this entire school, even though small, took time to honor veterans. I am sure that this made the veterans' day."

Have a story to share? Send it to us at dava@dav.org.



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



Reminders

- External access to the membership system is not available. If a report is needed, please contact national headquarters for assistance.
- DAV Auxiliary bylaw books are available for purchase through davstore.org.

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

DAV AUXILIARY

Lynn Helms Prosser
National Commander

860 Dolwick Dr.
Erlanger, KY 41018

Patricia Kemper
National Adjutant

Phone: 877.426.2838
Fax: 859.442.2095
E-mail: dava@dav.org



“Lighting the Pathway for DAV and DAV Auxiliary”

Ask Your National Commander!

Welcome to the “Ask your National Commander” corner! Each month, we will dedicate time to answer questions that we most commonly receive. If you have a question, please send it to us at dava@dav.org. No question is too big or too small.

Q: Does a state department have the right to place a unit under directives?

A: Yes. A unit that is struggling and needs hands-on guidance from a state department may be placed under directives.

Q: Can our unit apply for a credit/debit card?

A: No. Debit/credit cards may not be used.

Q: Who can cancel a meeting?

A: If, for some reason, the Commander cannot attend a meeting, this would not be grounds to cancel a meeting as the bylaws allow for the Senior Vice Commander (or Junior Vice Commander) to fill that role and conduct the meeting. In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances that would prevent members from attending a meeting, these would be instances where a meeting is cancelled by the Commander with proper member notification.

Q: Can I hold more than one Auxiliary membership?

A: Yes, provided the multiple memberships are not in the same state. Members shall not vote or hold an office, chairmanship, or serve on a committee in a Unit and/or State Department in more than one state.

DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed Friday, December 24 in observance of Christmas.

Please remember to keep those who cannot be with their families in your thoughts and prayers. May your hearts and homes be filled with warmth and happiness. To those who celebrate the holiday seasons, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, and a Joyous Kwanzaa Celebration from National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser, National Adjutant Pat Kemper and the DAV Auxiliary staff. Peace to all.