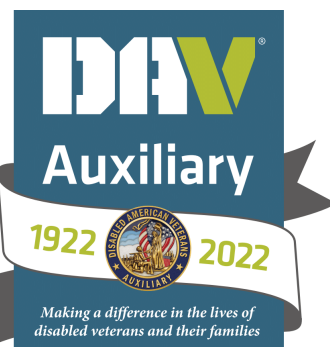


DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

January 2022



Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for reaching 2021-2022 Quota!

New Mexico
Wyoming

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From the Desk of National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser

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

Happy New Year 2022!!! Most of you, like me, have pulled out your new calendars and date books to begin your New Year 2022. For many of you, saying goodbye to 2021 and hello to 2022 is a breath of fresh air. We have all experienced good times along with the bad but with that understanding, let's make a New Year Resolution. Take time to reflect on the blessings that we share. Life in America is the best in the world and if we set our minds and hearts to *"Making America Greater,"* together, we can do it!

Our Armed Forces are scattered throughout foreign lands to protect the very soil we live on and the freedoms we cherish, just as our veterans have done in the past. As a service organization, we have a big debt of gratitude to pay by honoring, respecting, and caring for our wounded/ injured veterans and assisting their families and caregivers.

As your DAV Auxiliary National Commander, I'm reaching out to you, our members across America, to take some quiet time and assess the significance of your gift of giving: your time, energy, friendship, and love. Practice our four cherished principles based on: Comradeship (Friendship), Loyalty, Devotion and Service. I also ask that you continue to document your service, including donations, hours and miles traveled for our annual reports. These reports are very important as the collective documentation shows we are fulfilling our mission as a non-profit service organization. Also, ALL units are requested to complete the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report. State adjutants should disperse these reports to all units each year in a timely manner along with instructions and due dates. They are also available on the DAV Auxiliary website. Please make sure that you use the current report form (2022) as they may have changed.

Thank each and everyone of you for what you are doing to serve our veterans and their families. I ask that you continue contacting your Legislators to remind them to support bills that affects the lives of our military and veterans. NOW has never been a more important time to join DAV CAN "Commanders Action Network" at www.dav.org to stay informed of critical legislation and a great way to contact your elected officials. Keep our members in prayer as they travel to Washington, DC, in February to attend Mid-Winter Conference and rally for veterans' benefits.

I pray that each of you will have a blessed New Year, 2022 by staying safe and healthy. Please remember those serving our country in harm's way, especially those on foreign soil. May God continue to protect us and keep us "America Strong".

"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." - Diana, Princess of Wales



VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

Though the holidays have come and gone in a blink of an eye, we cannot slow down our momentum with helping patients at the VA Medical Centers throughout the United States. January is often a difficult month since families are back to “normal” routines and visitors don’t come around as often as they do in November and December. I encourage units to think of ways that they can connect with inpatients to remind them that they are not forgotten.

Here is an idea – contact the local Center for Civic Engagement and Development Office (also known as Voluntary Services) and ask if the unit can make handmade cards or put together small gift bags with tissue, pens, notepads, and encouraging notes. Arrange to drop them off at a convenient time for staff so they can be distributed safely, or, if the facility allows for it, have a few volunteers drop them off at the nurse’s station for distribution.

Next month is National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, February 14-20. Once again, it may not look the same as it has in the past for the safety of everyone involved, but that doesn’t mean that we cannot be active! It just takes a little bit of leg work and thinking outside of the box. See if your unit can sponsor boxed lunches or catering through the VA’s approved vendor listing with the support of the CCED. See if there is a wish list that you can help fulfill. Are special bags or gifts being purchased? Maybe you can join in that mission.

Sometimes, creativity is the key. Our inpatient veterans are fighting their own battles for their health and well-being. Let’s be their support and light during their journey. A smile goes a long way!

Membership by AnnMarie Hurley, National Membership Chairman

It’s the beginning of the New Year; and, as members of the DAV Auxiliary, one of our most important resolutions must be to sign up new members. They are everywhere: in our families, extended families, work places, houses of worship, neighborhood gyms, anywhere people gather.

Without being pushy, you could simply tell an eligible man or woman about the DAV Auxiliary, how it supports our DAV members in achieving legislation that helps them, visiting VA facilities and Soldiers Homes with the sole purpose of acknowledging the service of our veterans and bringing some joy into their lives with luncheons, activities, or just visits. Simply say “Hello, my name is _____ and I just want to thank you for your service and see how you are doing. Is there anything you need that I can help you with?” Maybe your unit could have a fund set up to provide one-on-one assistance where needed—whatever you feel appropriate and affordable.

In your neighborhood, and at local activities, remember to tell others about the great work the DAV Auxiliary is doing for the benefit of our disabled veterans, while including a message about how important membership is in fulfilling our mission: *service to disabled veterans and their families*.

It takes confidence in ourselves and our mission to start these conversations, but if we make the effort, it will become easier and easier to gain members who will become part of our future. Good luck with making this a “Happy New Year” for the organization we love and the disabled veterans whom we honor.

Spreading Holiday Cheer

After a successful SEC meeting this past December, the State Department of Utah presented donations to the four veteran centers and the Fisher House so they can continue their services to veterans.

The Fisher House provides a place for families to stay, free of charge, while their loved one is receiving medical treatment. Because veterans often travel long distances in order to receive medical care at the Salt Lake VA, this donation will fulfill a critical need. Great job, DAVA Utah!



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

A Happy, Joyful and Peaceful 2022 to all! The year 2021 is behind us meaning we have passed the half-way mark of our DAVA year. Usually we talk in general about not looking back; however in our case, we would do well to review the activity and program hours, miles and total money spent in 2021. In our review of your Unit's Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report, there are questions to be asked such as:

- In view of allocated total value (money), mileage and expenses, as noted on the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report, were your Unit activities, programs and/or projects successful?;
- Was there evidence of positive service and support for our veterans and their families?; and,
- Did the Membership program or project meet your goals in terms of Unit growth?

Growth is one of the most important parts of our organization. As we grow our numbers, we ensure we will continue to be able to serve our veterans community in years to come. New members bring new ideas to our unit's, and we need to be able to grow our membership with individuals who share our passion for serving our Veterans and their Families.

As we start the second half of our year, and the beginning of 2022, let's not forget the example of love and stick-to-itiveness set by our thirty-second DAVA National Commander, Mae Holmes.

"New Year—a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately, we write it. The choice is ours." THEREFORE "Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties." **Happy New Year And Stay Safe!**

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: Our unit has assembled gift baskets to raffle off at the chapter home during chapter/unit events. Is this considered a fundraiser?

A: Yes! If this is a raffle to be conducted only by personal contact of members or friends of members, no prior approval is required from the parent chapter of DAV state department; however, units are required to notify the DAV state department in writing 30 days in advance of the fundraising project. If the fundraising involves the general public, then written chapter approval **and** written DAV state department approval must be obtained.

Q: The bylaws state that in the absence of the Adjutant, the Junior Vice Commander may sign check requests, but it isn't stated that the Junior Vice Commander may also initiate the check requests.

A: Good point. Even though the bylaws are not specific about initiating check requests in the absence of the Adjutant, it is acceptable for the Junior Vice Commander to do so since they are authorized to sign the request.

National Commander Testimonial Dinner

The testimonial dinner honoring National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser will be held March 19, 2022, at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Room rates are \$150 per night plus applicable taxes. For reservations, call 800.876.0010; identify yourself as an attendee of the "DAV Auxiliary" and use SRP Code "DAV." Additional information will be forthcoming.

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.

Americanism by Melissa Pierce, National Americanism Chairman

Welcome to 2022! It's a new year and that means it's time to set new goals. This year I would like to encourage everyone to set the goal of helping to promote our American Flag in their cities, towns, states and across the US. Promote it among your members. Promote it with our youth. Promote it in your communities.

Although many of us already fly our flags proudly throughout the year, I've included some of the more prominent days when we should especially fly and/or encourage the flag to be flown. This is not a complete list, but it is a starting point.

January:

New Year's Day – 1
Inauguration Day – 20
Martin Luther Kings Jr's Birthday – 3rd Monday

February:

Lincoln's Birthday – 12
Washington's Birthday – 3rd Monday

March/April:

Easter Sunday
National Former POW Recognition Day - 9

May:

Armed Forces Day – 3rd Saturday
Memorial Day – last Monday

June:

Flag Day – 14

July:

Independence Day – July 4
National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day - 27

September:

Labor Day – 1st Monday
Patriot Day - 11
Constitution/ Citizenship Day – 17
POW/ MIA Recognition Day – 3rd Friday
Gold Star Mother's/ Family Day – last Sunday

October:

Columbus Day – 2nd Monday
Navy Day – 27

November:

Veterans Day – 11
Thanksgiving – 4th Thursday

December:

Pearl Harbor Day - 7
Christmas Day – 25

Now it's time to get to work.... grab those calendars and start planning! Talk with your members. Ask your DAV Chapters for help. Encourage your Juniors to get involved. Plan special events to help educate the community on why flying the flag is important. Reach out to local youth groups and scout groups to help educate our youth about why these days and why our flag is important. Line streets, neighborhoods, businesses, etc. with flags to show our pride. Plan to place American Flags on the graves of those who served our nation on Memorial Day. Distribute small American flags on Flag day. Do you know a friend, neighbor, Veteran, or just a random house you drive by with an empty flagpole? Or maybe their flag is tattered and torn? Offer to bring and/or help them hang a new one. Invite the local community to a flag retirement ceremony. Possibilities are endless!

If we, as an Auxiliary, work together we can help promote Patriotism and Americanism within our communities. Good luck, have fun, and as always, send your pictures to National to let them know what your Unit is doing!

"When we honor our flag we honor what we stand for as a Nation – freedom, equality, justice, and hope." *Ronald Reagan*