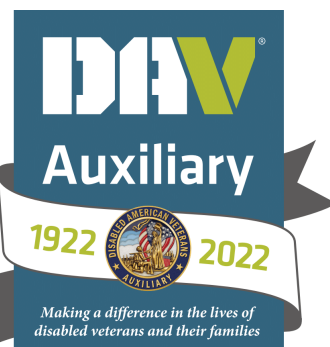


# DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

February 2022



## *Quota Achieved!*

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

Louisiana  
New Mexico  
Wyoming

## Inside this issue:

Pat Kemper Retires	1
Testimonial Dinner	1
National Commander	2
Membership	2
Adjutant Appointed	3
Community Service	3
Wreath Laying	3
Ask the Commander	4
Thinking Outside the Box	4

## National Adjutant Pat Kemper Retires

After nearly 40 years of employment, my time with the DAV Auxiliary national headquarters office will come to an end on February 11, 2022. Reflecting on the past four decades, I leave with a great sense of pride and accomplishment as I gave everything I had to the positions I held during my tenure. I have been blessed more than words can explain. I've met heroes; not just those who wore a military uniform (and there have been many), but also those who tirelessly advocate for veteran families while caring for their own heroes and families. The words "awe" and "amazement" can sum up what I have witnessed almost daily.

My life has been enriched by many with whom I have worked alongside in the national headquarters office and the passionate members I have been fortunate to meet along the way. I have developed life-long friendships and can't imagine a life without those special bonds. I wish I could personally acknowledge every coworker and member with whom I have shared memorable moments, but the list would be pages long. I would be remiss if I were not to acknowledge then National Adjutant Kit Seal for hiring me in 1982 and being a light of inspiration, and Judy Hezlep for her friendship and support all these years.

I thank DAV's National Adjutant Marc Burgess and National Executive Director Barry Jesinoski for their genuine kindness and support during my time as Adjutant. And, to my family... they have walked with me on this journey and understood that my obligations to the National Adjutant position left me absent from more family events and occasions that I can count. My Vietnam veteran husband, Ernie, will always be my hero. Our children, Christy and Mark, were very young when I started working for the Auxiliary and have made me proud beyond words. They and their wonderful spouses, Rob and Jessica, have gifted me with four beautiful grandchildren who have filled my heart with immense joy and love.

So, now the time has come and I look forward to watching National Adjutant Bunny Clos excel and achieve her goals and carry on the DAV Auxiliary's mission of service.

DAV Auxiliary members are strong and resilient. While life is full of challenges and victories, high hopes and disappointments, through it all we keep moving forward. May God bless all of you in your journey.

## National Commander Testimonial Dinner

The testimonial dinner honoring National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2022, at the Hilton Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar meet and greet. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. The event is \$60 per person, and attendees may choose from Bourbon Pork Chop, Sautéed Breast of Chicken or Chef's Fresh Vegetarian Pasta with Alfredo Sauce. All entrees include a garden salad, vegetables, and dessert.

Please mail checks, made payable to Carroll E. Prosser DAVA Unit 30, no later than March 6, 2022, to Carroll E. Prosser DAV Auxiliary Unit 30, PO Box 30637, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588. Please indicate "Testimonial" in the memo line and include dinner choice.

## From the Desk of National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser

Most of you know that our DAVA National Adjutant Pat Kemper will be retiring in February, and I am so happy for her. She has been dedicated to us as an organization and to our veterans and their families. Her exceptional compassion, courage and leadership has successfully brought us through many changes. Pat has been a great leader and more than that, a wonderful friend. I personally want to thank her for mentoring me through my entire journey up the line to National Commander. "Pat, you will never know the difference you made in my life. You always kept me on the right path, and I am glad to call you my chosen 'Sister.' I love you and hope you and Ernie can get started on your bucket list."



I want to congratulate Bunny Clos as our newly appointed National Adjutant. Bunny has had a great teacher and I know she will do a wonderful job in her position. Of course, she has Pat on her "Speed Dial!" As we enter into our transition, thank you for always being kind, understanding and respectful at all times of our entire National Staff.

Our Legislative Team, along with DAV and Auxiliary members will be traveling to Mid-Winter Conference held in Arlington, VA, February 27—March 2, 2022, to advocate for better federal programs, benefits and health care for the women and men that served our country and their families. You can help and stay informed by joining DAV CAN (Commanders Action Network) by clicking on [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org). Let your Legislators know you vote and expect them to support issues that will improve the lives of our veterans.

I encourage you to get involved with your unit. We have a lot of work that needs to be done. Election of new officers is drawing near, and annual reports need to be completed. Most states are in the process of planning conventions. If possible, plan to attend and volunteer to help your officers, learn more about our great organization and make new friends.

I hope that each of you will stay safe and healthy during this year. I pray that God will give you peace, love, and protection. Please continue to pray for those serving our country, especially those on foreign soil. May God Bless and always keep us, "America Strong."

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## Membership by AnnMarie Hurley, National Membership Chairman

As I said before, Membership is the lifeblood of an organization, and our DAV Auxiliary is an organization that must endure if we are to fulfill our mission to provide service to our disabled veterans and their families.

It is time now to double our efforts if our unit or our state department (or both) hasn't reached or come close to reaching quota. Let us all commit to finishing the membership year at or beyond goal.

Last year the DAV reached their goal in every DAV State Department. Let's see if we in the Auxiliary can match their amazing success.

**CONGRATULATIONS to our first Auxiliary State Departments—Louisiana, New Mexico, and Wyoming—for making quota.** This is a small start, but it's still February as I write this, so we have four months left for all of us—if we work hard on membership—to reach quota. ***Good luck to all of you with your membership recruitment.***

Keep in mind that new members 80 years of age and older are complimentary, but their numbers certainly count when we're telling legislators—like at the upcoming DAV Mid-Winter Conference—how many members we have. Junior memberships don't have to be paid yet, but if you want to make it easy on yourself, you could send in payments—any amount at any time—and they will be credited to your junior so when your junior or juniors reach 18, the dues are already paid.

The membership system has been set up to automatically to send out dues notices quarterly. Don't let that disturb you; while making a quarterly payment will help you reach full-paid status, it is understandable that you can only pay what you can afford and on your own timeline. Your membership is important to us.

Best wishes to you on reaching or going beyond your quota.

## Bunny Clos Appointed National Adjutant

National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser has appointed Bunny Clos as DAV Auxiliary National Adjutant effective February 12, 2022. She brings much experience, compassion, and heart to the position, having worked in the national headquarters office for 24 years.

“Bunny has a passion for DAV Auxiliary,” said outgoing National Adjutant Pat Kemper, “and will do great things to keep the organization in forward motion.”

A Kentucky native, Mrs. Clos is mother to Ted, Tanner, and Taylor. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Alexandria, Ky. She is a member of Frederick R. Bristol Memorial DAV Auxiliary Unit #19 in Erlanger, Kentucky.

A message from National Adjutant Bunny Clos: *I am honored to accept this position. As I humbly step into the role of National Adjutant, I know I have huge shoes to fill following Past National Adjutant's Pat Kemper and Judy Hezlep. They both have made many accomplishments for DAV Auxiliary; I will do everything in my power to follow their example and continue to build on what they started.*

*I would like to thank Pat Kemper for being a great leader, mentor, and friend. Your leadership, heart, and knowledge for this incredible organization is like no other and we will truly miss seeing you every day in the office. I would also like to thank National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser for this opportunity.*

*When I started working for DAV Auxiliary in 1998, I started as a membership specialist and worked my way up. Never did I believe I would be where I am today. Together, with your support, commitment and passion, we will be successful in furthering our mission, “Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.” I am looking forward to all of us working together towards something we care about and feel passionate about – veterans and their families.*

## Community Service by Terry Grabowski, National Community Service Chairman

Hopefully everyone survived the holidays, but remember our work does not stop and it continues year-round. Take a deep breath and regroup. After the holiday events are done, oftentimes it is a letdown for our heroes. There is so much more to do. A few ideas for brightening the lives of veterans, in the colder weather months especially, are to visit and make sure they are all right and see if they need anything. Just a friendly visit will cheer them up and can make a world of difference. Another idea is to bake bread or cookies, but make sure they are not diabetic. Involve your junior members. They could shovel snow or make decorations for our Veterans' homes. Why not make a pot of soup and take while you visit? Don't forget homeless Veterans. I am sure they could use some gloves, scarves, hats, and thermal underwear to get them through the cold winter months.

From Fall conference, a few more ideas other units and states do to inspire you:

- Missouri #68 has a non-profit called “Elevate Branson” that builds small homes for the homeless. The unit assists veterans with “buddy baskets” when they move into their new home.
- North Carolina #40 does a food drive at Food Lion. They bag the food and put on the DAV transportation vans. Veterans are invited to take as needed.
- Vermont State Auxiliary Commander and Chaplain collect dollar bills with an “f” to donate to help fund a Fisher House.

These are great suggestions and I thank these units for their sharing their ideas.

Keep up the great work; I know it is appreciated by our veterans. In the next newsletter I will discuss the Community Service Annual Report Form. Any questions, please send to [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org) and mark Community Service.

## National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser to Lay Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns

National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser will represent the DAV Auxiliary in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at 12:15 p.m.

If you are planning to attend the DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference or will be in the area on that date, you are welcome to attend.

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



## Reminders

- External access to the membership system is not yet available. If a report is needed, please contact national headquarters for assistance.
- DAV Auxiliary bylaw books are available for purchase through [davstore.org](http://davstore.org).
- When requesting a membership list, please call DAV Auxiliary national headquarters at 877-426-2838, option 8, or email [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org).

## 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](mailto:dava@dav.org). No question is too big or too small.

### Q: Should my unit draft standing rules?

**A:** It is recommended that units establish standing rules to cover unique situations specific to that particular unit. Standing rules may be changed at any regular business meeting by vote of the unit members present.

### Q: When should membership dues that are collected at a unit meeting be sent to national headquarters?

**A:** Membership dues should be sent to Auxiliary national headquarters **immediately** to allow for timely processing and membership card mailing.

### Q: My unit received an Indebtedness Statement. Please explain.

**A:** Units are required to pay an annual \$25 national mandate which, in most cases, is deducted from the unit's July 1 membership distribution. Should there not be ample membership distribution, an indebtedness statement will be sent advising the unit as to the remaining amount owed for their national mandate.

## Thinking Outside the Box with VAVS

Each year, the DAV Auxiliary VAVS Program at the Zablocki VA Medical Center hosts a large Thanksgiving meal for inpatient veterans in November. The event is catered and includes all of your favorite holiday home cooked items, including pie.

“Since COVID, the facility hasn't been able to put on this program for everyone's safety,” said Patty Davis, Zablocki VAVS Representative. “However, the veterans really look forward to the holiday cheer from the DAV Auxiliary and the volunteers didn't want them to feel forgotten. That is why we started the holiday gift bag program.”

This is the second year, and something they plan to do until they can get back to a normal routine. Volunteers start shopping in October once they have a list of items to include. This year, the bags were valued at over \$30 each, and included a throw blanket, puzzle, coloring book, colored pencils, notebook, pen, snack bag with drink, hygiene products, calendar, and much more. Each of the 120 bags included a card acknowledging the veteran for their service and letting them know who the bags were from. They were put together by approved volunteers of the DAV Transportation Program and Clement J. Zablocki Unit #19 (Wisconsin) on a Monday afternoon and were distributed by hospital staff.

Patty said, “We received many calls from nurses and even family members thanking us for this gift. The bags are reusable, so once the veteran is discharged, they can put their items in it for easy transport. We truly appreciate the veterans and want to be supportive during the stay at the hospital. We hope this small gesture put a smile on their face.”

