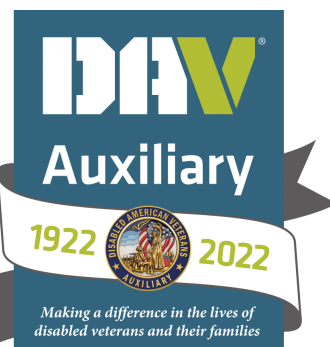


DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

September 2022



WELCOME!

New Auxiliary Unit!

R L Cochran Jr. #82
Pt. Charlotte, Florida
Chartered
August 25, 2022

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Darlene Spence Elected National Commander

Darlene Spence was elected National Commander at the 2022 DAV & Auxiliary National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Eligible for membership through her husband, Percy, a retired member of the United States Air Force, Darlene continues to exhibit being "Committed All the Way" to serving veterans and their families. Darlene joined DAV Auxiliary in 2004 and is a life member of Randolph Area unit #17 in Universal City, Texas, where she currently holds the position of unit commander. She also serves as Adjutant and Treasurer for the DAV Auxiliary State Department of Texas.



Mrs. Spence believes in making a difference for veterans and their families through community volunteerism as well as through Auxiliary chapter and unit projects. For example, she organizes and assists with the chapter and unit annual delivery of Christmas toys and clothing to children of veterans. Four times per year she also organizes, shops, delivers, and assists with the distribution of toiletries, undergarments, and other items for veterans residing at a VA Rehabilitation Center.

Now retired from a 40 year-long career in public banking, Darlene and her husband, Percy, reside in Selma, Texas. When they are not busy with chapter and unit activities, they enjoy traveling, gardening, and spending time with family and friends. Darlene and Percy's most recent pastime is restoring their 1959 Chevrolet Impala and taking short road trips in their already restored 1985 Chevrolet El Camino.

2022-2023 National Officers

Announcing the newly elected national officers:

Senior Vice Commander & Mae Holmes Chm.— AnnMarie Hurley, Massachusetts
1st Jr. Vice Commander & Membership Chm.—Christopher Easley, Oklahoma
2nd Jr. Vice Cmdr. & Legislative Chm.—Melissa Pierce, Iowa
3rd Jr. Vice Commander & Americanism Chm.— Terry Grabowski, New York
4th Jr. Vice Commander & Community Service Chm.— Kathleen Wenthe, Louisiana
National Judge Advocate—Paula Raymond, Illinois

2022 National Constitution and Bylaws

The newly revised National Constitution and Bylaws are not yet available in print; however, they can be found [online](#). Sections that have been changed are highlighted in grey.

Revised books will be available at national fall conference for \$4.00 each. After fall conference, books will be available through Trophy Awards for \$5.00 each, plus shipping. We highly encourage everyone to purchase an updated book! Save money by purchasing them at fall conference. They will be available starting Thursday.

National Chairmen and Appointees

National Commander Darlene Spence made the following national appointments with the approval of the National Executive Committee:

National Chaplain—Aura-Lee Nicodemus, New Hampshire

National Commander's History Book Coordinator—Karen Eccles, Illinois

Interim Constitution & Bylaws Committee—Pat Kemper, Chairman, Kentucky;

Judy Steinhouse, North Dakota; Evelyn Cupit Archer, Texas

Junior Activities—Maxine Nixon, Texas

VAVS Representative—Patty Davis, Wisconsin

VAVS Deputy Representative—Ann Glende, Kentucky

Caregiver Initiative Program Chairman—Melissa Pierce, Iowa

National Adjutant—Bunny Clos, Kentucky

National Assistant Adjutant—Ann Glende, Kentucky

Juniors Leading the Way in Arizona!

The Junior members of DAV Auxiliary Cactus unit #2 in Tucson, Arizona, are tops! Their participation has enhanced the lives of many veterans and their families. Their experiences in volunteering cumulated with attending and volunteering at the 2022 Arizona State Convention in Tucson.

Junior members Jessiyah, Aaliyah, Zaedyn, Alexander, and Azanae posted the colors, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, distributed Forget-Me-Nots, and performed the candle lighting and placement of butterflies at the Memorial Service.

"Remember, Juniors are our future," said Carol Rundell, DAVA Past State Commander. "They should be encouraged and recognized. We are so proud of their accomplishments. Though they may be small, they can, and will, do extraordinary things."



Legislative by Melissa Pierce, National Legislative Chairman

CAN you make an impact? DAV Auxiliary has many important functions. One of these functions is to advocate for better health care and benefits for Veterans and their families. We must ensure our state and national elected representatives are aware of the issues and bills that impact our Veterans and their families and that their legislative support is needed.

The DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) is one way to stay informed on legislation that impacts our Veterans. You can sign up for CAN by visiting dav.quorum.us. By filling out this quick and easy form you will receive updates on important legislation that affects our Veterans, their families, and their survivors. Once signed up, you will receive emails from DAV when there is legislation that needs your support. Once you click on "Take Action" at the bottom of the email you will be directed a new web page that has a form email that is auto populated with your Senators and House Representatives. All you need to do is hit send. How easy is that!

One of the most recent legislative victories that DAV and the Auxiliary has had a hand in was the passage of the PACT Act. The PACT Act will expand and extend eligibility for health care and presumptive benefits for Vietnam era, Gulf War, and post 9/11 Veterans. It adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposure for Gulf War and post 9/11 Veterans. It also adds 2 new Agent Orange presumptive conditions for Vietnam era Veterans along with adding more exposure locations. If you're a surviving family member you may also be eligible for benefits. This victory is years in the making and without the continual support and advocacy of our members it may have never come to fruition.

Discuss current legislation at your meetings. Encourage your members, family and friends to sign up for the DAV CAN. Watch for the emails. Take action. With your help, we CAN make an impact in the lives of our Veterans and their families!

Americanism by Terry Grabowski, National Americanism Chairman

I would like to share an article written by David C. Graham in 1970 called *Do You Remember Me?* I feel that we need to teach our future leaders the importance of patriotism and the American Flag.

"Hello! Remember me? Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America. Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you – because it is about you and me.

I remember some time ago, people would line up on both sides of the street and watch the parade, and naturally I was leading everyone, proudly waving in the breeze. When daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that his hand was directly over his heart – remember?

And you, I remember, were standing there, straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her right hand over her heart – remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I've added a few more stars since you were a boy, and a lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.

But now, somehow, I don't feel as proud as I used to feel. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets. You may give me a small glance, and then you look away. I see children running around you shouting: they don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take his hat off, then he looked around, and when he didn't see anybody else take off their hat, he quickly put his back on.

Is it a sin to be patriotic today? Have you forgotten what I stand for, and where I have been? Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, Somalia, Haiti, Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Take a look at the memorial honor rolls, and see the names of those patriotic Americans who gave their lives to keep this republic free. When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So when you see me, please stand straight and place your hand over your heart, and I'll know that you remembered me. I'll salute you by waving back!"

National Convention Donations:

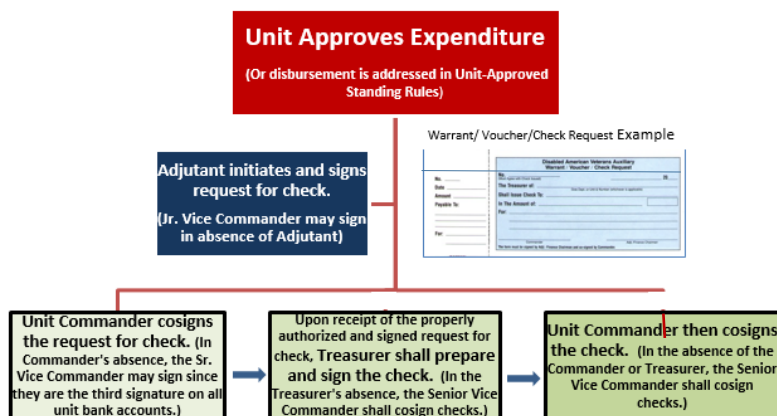
Caregiver Initiative Program—\$4,391.00
General Fund—\$750.00
Education Program—\$3,525.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Winter Sports Clinic—\$300.00
Camp Corral—\$625.00
Service Fund—\$1,300.00

Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests

The national bylaws provide for the proper procedure when issuing checks from accounts. Unit funds may only be expended upon approval of unit members at a regular business meeting unless otherwise specified in the Unit Standing Rules. **Debit and/or Credit Cards may not be used**



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

DAV AUXILIARY

Darlene Spence
National Commander

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Erlanger, KY 41018

Bunny Clos
National Adjutant

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“Committed All the Way ”

Follow us on Social Media
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on the DAV Auxiliary.



PLEASE NOTE

Community Service

During national convention awards, the committee announced that no donations may be made to DAV. This statement was not correct.

Units are welcome to donate to DAV as long as the expenditure is properly approved and within reason.

Remember—we are here to support each other! When in doubt, contact your state department or national headquarters.

2022 National Fall Conference

Tentative Agenda Subject to Change

9/28 - Registration	9/30 - Reception
9/29 - Registration	10/1 - Business Session
9/29 - Business Session	10/1 - NEC Meeting
9/30 - Business Session	10/1 - Dinner and Entertainment

Thursday Night,
September 29,
is Patriotic Night!
Wear your
red, white and blue
to the evening
business session!!

Please Take Note

DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed Wednesday, September 28, through Friday, September 30, due to National Fall Conference. We will resume normal business hours on Monday, October 3. If you have an immediate concern related to the conference please stop by the Auxiliary headquarters office in the Clark and speak to a staff member.

Save the Date:

2023 National Convention
August 5-8, 2023
Harrah's Atlantic City
777 Harrah's Blvd.
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Telephone: 609.441.5000

\$149 Single/Double

The Auxiliary NEC meeting will be held on Thursday, August 3, and the District meetings will be Friday, August 4. Please plan accordingly.

Please make your reservations early to avoid sell out! They can be cancelled in the future if you're unable to attend!

Save the Date:

2023 National Fall Conference
September 28—30, 2023
Holiday Inn
1717 Airport Exchange Blvd.
Erlanger, KY 41018
Telephone: 859.371.2233

\$139.00 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

All rates will include complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, airport shuttle, and breakfast.

Please make your reservations early to avoid sell out! They can be cancelled in the future if you're unable to attend!

CRM External Portal

The wait is over! All DAV Auxiliary members may now sign-up for the CRM External Membership Portal. Please remember, sign-up does not mean that you will have instant access. You will receive an additional email once your log-in has been approved. Thank you for your patience!