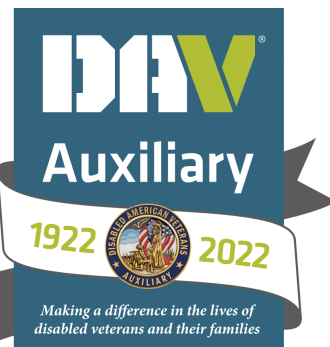


DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

December 2022



From the desk of National Commander Darlene Spence

Hello and Happy Holidays to All!

The spirit of the season is upon us! Do you feel it? The holidays bring our families and friends closer together and bonding is usually more fun than ever.

Unit Leaders: WHAT WILL YOU DO TO INCREASE THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUR JUNIORS IN YOUR UNIT'S HOLIDAY GIVING ACTIVITIES?

Although we have activities to support our Veterans and their families all year, it is especially important that we involve our Juniors during the holidays. Teaching our Juniors the fun and joy of giving gifts to others during this time when they are thinking about receiving gifts is a wonderful life lesson. Please send pictures of our Junior members helping our Veterans and their families.

Helping Veterans and their families during the holidays can lift their spirits, bring joy to replace sadness and replace coldness with a warm heart. A smile being worth a thousand words is real when it replaces a Veterans loneliness.

THIS CHRISTMAS, BE COMMITTED TO DELIVERING LOVE, PEACE AND JOY!

Stay committed to serving our Veterans and their families. Be kind to each other and have a joyous, wonderful Holiday!



Junior Activities by Maxine Nixon, National Junior Activities Chairman

We meet no ordinary people in our lives. If you give them a chance, everyone has something amazing to offer. This goes for our Junior members as well. We all know what time of year it is. It is a time of giving – Thanksgiving - Christmas. Of course, we are not limited to giving during these times, but it is an opportunity to let your Juniors shine! They will have some time off from school. That could mean an opportunity for Units to get their Juniors together for some Community Service projects. Make it fun. You might want to include a little game or snacks during the gathering. Ask them what they liked the most and what they liked the least during this activity. This may help you plan your next activity for them. You certainly don't want to keep doing what they don't enjoy...they won't want to come back. You might try different days of the week; different times of the day; when you plan your next event. And, don't forget to *ask them for their ideas.*

Have they made Christmas cards or door decorations for a VA Medical Center or veterans at a nursing home? Have they joined the Senior members for a trip of caroling – either inside a nursing home or outside – depending on the restrictions? Have they served or helped clean up during a Thanksgiving or Christmas celebration for veterans? Please let us know what type of Community Service your Junior members have participated in during November and December. You may send emails to grams1954@sbcglobal.net to let us know what your Juniors are doing. Including pictures would be great! (Just be sure you have permission to share their pictures and/or first names.) We *need* to share our ideas. It is not a competition...it is a joint effort. *Never get tired of doing little things for others. Sometimes, those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts.*

And, don't forget the Juniors Recruitment Incentive! What if each Junior participating in one of your Juniors events brought an eligible friend...what if that friend had a good time...what if they joined your Unit as a Junior...look how your Junior membership could grow! Invite them to join as a new Junior Life Member with a \$20 down payment. Your Unit could win one of the cash prizes, giving you more opportunities to do more for veterans!

From our family to yours, wishing you all a very Happy Holiday season!

Legislative by Melissa Pierce, National Legislative Chairman

We CAN and we did! In case you missed the news back in October Veterans will see a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) increase of 8.7% - this is the largest COLA increase in over 50 years. This increase will go into effect December 2022 and Veterans should start seeing it in January 2023. While I watched the announcement on DAV's Twitter one amazing fact stood out to me... **over 30,000 emails** were sent through the DAV CAN from DAV and Auxiliary members and supporters. Once again our DAV CAN members are proving that we CAN make a difference in the lives of our Veterans!

There are currently a number of legislative campaigns that CAN use our help. Some of the recent ones that have come through DAV CAN include:

⇒ **H.R. 5721 – the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research (VIPER) Act**

The bill provides statutory authority for the VHA's Office of Research and Development to serve veterans through a full spectrum of research, technology transfer, and application. Next, the bill exempts VA research activities from the Paperwork Reduction Act, including research conducted via the Office of Research and Development. Finally, the bill updates the process by which the VA uses commercial institutional review boards in sponsored clinical trials.

⇒ **S. 4169 and H.R. 8750 – Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act**

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a three-year pilot program to assess the effectiveness of providing assisted living services to eligible veterans, including by assessing the satisfaction of veterans participating in the pilot program.

⇒ **H.R. 6961 – the Dignity for MST Survivors Act**

This bill modifies communications and procedures for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) regarding claims for compensation based on military sexual trauma (MST) experienced by veterans. The bill requires the VA to ensure each member of the BVA is offered annual training on MST and proceedings that concern a claim for compensation based on MST. The VA must audit the language used in letters sent to individuals to explain decisions denying claims for compensation based on MST. Letters must be modified to ensure (1) the use of trauma-informed language, and (2) veterans are not retraumatized through insensitive language. The VA must establish protocols for VA medical providers and contract medical providers to ensure that the medical providers use trauma-informed practices in conducting examinations in relation to claims for compensation based on MST.

To support these and many more legislative campaigns, please visit dav.org/learn-more/legislation/ and click on the **TAKE ACTION: DAV CAN** tab on the right side of your screen. Share these legislative campaigns with your members, family and friends. Together we CAN make a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families!

Reservations are Now Being Accepted!

Make plans to join us for the 2023 national convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, August 5-8, 2023. The event will take place at the Harrah's Atlantic City Hotel and Convention Center, 777 Harrah's Blvd., and room rates start at \$149 per night for single/double accommodations. Reservations can be made by calling 609.441.5000 and requesting the group code **SH07DV3, DAV 2023 National Convention**.

DAV will have affordable transportation options for attendees between Philadelphia International Airport and Harrah's Atlantic City. Watch for future updates in the coming months!

When making reservations, please remember that DAV Auxiliary will tentatively hold the Pre-Convention NEC meeting on Thursday, August 3, 2023. The DAV Auxiliary district meetings will be held the morning of Friday, August 4, 2023. Individuals from odd-numbered districts wishing to run for NEC or Alternate NEC must attend this meeting to be elected.

Holiday Closure

DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed December 22-26, 2022, and January 2, 2023, to allow our staff time with their families and friends for the holidays.

As we reflect on the past year and embrace family traditions, please remember to keep those who cannot be with their families in your thoughts and prayers.