

# DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

March 2023



## Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for reaching 2022-2023 Quota!

Alabama  
Florida  
Louisiana  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New Mexico  
Oklahoma  
Pennsylvania  
Utah

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## Legislative by Melissa Pierce, National Legislative Chairman

I recently visited the DAV Commander's Action Network webpage to catch up on the latest legislative updates. While there, a couple key statistics from the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress caught my eye and I'd like to congratulate DAV, the Auxiliary and all DAV CAN members on these accomplishments. During the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress there were **894,000** actions taken by DAV CAN members and **35** of the bills supported by DAV were enacted. You may think that clicking that "TAKE ACTION" button doesn't really amount to anything, but as you can see, IT DOES!

### Together, we make a difference!

DAV recently released the 2023 Critical Policy Goals for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. Here are the six key topics included in these 2023 Critical Policy Goals:

1. Correct inequities and provide parity in compensation benefits for veterans and survivors.
2. Implement the PACT Act and address gaps in toxic exposure benefits.
3. Ensure equity in VA care, services and benefits for women, LGBTQ+ and minority veterans.
4. Provide a full spectrum of long-term care options for service-disabled and aging veterans.
5. Bolster mental health resources to ensure continued progress in reducing veteran suicide.
6. Expand the VA's capacity to deliver timely, high quality care to veterans.

To learn more about these goals in detail please visit the DAV website to review and print either (or both) the full or the condensed version of the Critical Policy Goals for 2023 and share them with your Unit members.

Below are a couple of the recent DAV CAN legislative initiatives that have come out via email.

- ⇒ **S. 10 the VA Careers Act of 2023** – legislation to bolster efforts to recruit and retain strong clinical and managerial leadership in the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ⇒ **S. 42 the BUILD for Veterans Act of 2023** – would improve staffing to manage construction of VA assets and ensure that there are concrete plans to improve planning, management, and budgeting for construction and capital asset programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ⇒ **H.R. 232 Real Justice for Our Veterans Act of 2023** – would authorize the Department of Justice to provide grants to local governments for improving retention rates in veterans' treatment courts and specialized programs that integrate substance use treatment services with criminal justice proceedings.
- ⇒ **H.R. 236 Designate a Week as "Battle Buddy Check Week"** – would require the VA to designate one week per year as "Battle Buddy Check Week" for the purposes of organizing outreach events and educating veterans on how to conduct mental health wellness checks.

If you have not yet taken action on these initiatives please do so today. If you are signed up but are not receiving emails, visit the [DAV CAN webpage](#) and resign up. If you are not signed up, visit the DAV CAN webpage and get signed up today! Together, we make a difference! Join us in helping to make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families.



## Junior Activities by Maxine Nixon, National Junior Activities Chairman

It's not too early to start thinking about nominations for the Outstanding Junior Awards. Candidates for these awards should be recommended and voted on by the senior members at a regular auxiliary meeting. The Outstanding Junior Member form should then be completed for the candidates from each Unit. A handwritten resume (*by the candidate*) must be attached. The form must be signed by the candidate, the parent or guardian, and the Unit Commander or Unit Junior Activities Chairman. The paperwork will then be submitted to your State Adjutant by the deadline provided. State winners will be chosen at your Convention. Those winners will be submitted to National where the National Outstanding Junior Award recipients will be selected at the National Convention. (They need not be present to win.)

If you have submitted applicants in the past that did not win, that does not mean they shouldn't try again! *Winners are not people who never fail but people who never quit.* Remember...there are three different categories – ages 7-10; ages 11-14; and ages 15-17.

Nominating and submitted candidates for an Outstanding Junior Award is a great way to let others see what fantastic work the Juniors are doing in your Unit. *Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.*

## Americanism by Terry Grabowski, National Americanism Chairman

It is that time of year to start gathering all the hard work you have done throughout the year and fill out your annual report forms. They are so important to show what you have done.

There are two reports for Americanism and both are pretty simple to fill out. Just follow the questions. Please fill in all the blanks. These reports can be done by hand or on the computer and printed. Make sure for question eight you include all activities your unit has participated in, which I am sure were amazing. Be proud of all your hard work.

The Special Americanism Report is for a program that the general public and dignitaries were invited to attend.

I look forward to reading all the outstanding work each unit has done over the year. Remember, no matter how small you think it was it is very important and much appreciated.

## National Convention Travel

Getting to Atlantic City can present some logistical challenges that attendees should be aware of before making travel plans. While Atlantic City International Airport is just 15 miles from Harrah's, it is only serviced by Spirit Airlines. Travelers should use caution when traveling with Spirit Airlines as they charge fees for many of the services and allowances included by most airlines.

Some larger carriers show the final destination of Atlantic City International Airport when booking travel; however, they actually arrive at the Philadelphia International Airport and shuttle passengers to the Atlantic City International Airport. In these instances, passengers are left to get additional transportation from the airport to Harrah's. Please be aware of fine print and double-check that you will arrive at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) as your final stop to utilize the shuttles organized through DAV.

DAV is working with a local company to provide affordable shuttles from Philadelphia International Airport to our convention during peak travel times. Attendees will make shuttle reservations directly from a link that will be provided after April 10, 2023. The shuttle service will run as follows:

### Shuttles from Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) to Harrah's Atlantic City

Wednesday, August 2	Shuttles will depart at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. ONLY
Thursday, August 3	Shuttles will depart every hour from 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Friday, August 4	Shuttles will depart every hour from 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

### Shuttles from Harrah's Atlantic City to Philadelphia International (PHL)

**Attendees should be at airport two hours prior to flight's departure time**

Tuesday, August 8	Shuttles will depart every hour from 6:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 9	Shuttles will depart every hour from 4:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Please continue to watch our [events page](#), [Facebook page](#) and the monthly DAV Auxiliary Headquarters Newsletter for additional information.