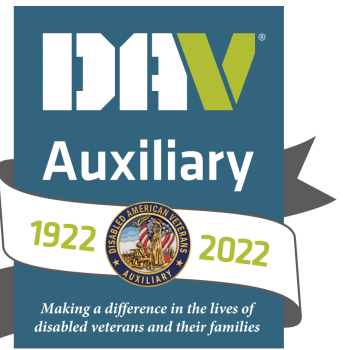


# DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

April 2023



## Quota Achieved!

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

- Alabama
- Florida
- Louisiana
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Utah

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## From the Desk of National Commander Darlene Spence

### *Committed all the way serving our veterans and their families*

On the February 25, I had the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery on behalf of our great organization. On that cold and snowy morning my husband, Percy Spence, National Adjutant Bunny Clos, and I were escorted to the marble sarcophagus which upon a hill overlooked our nations Capitol. In the moment after laying the wreath at the base of the monument I had time to reflect on the potency of the physical metaphor that stood before me. What a powerful reminder of our purpose as an organization, which is to make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families.



During the DAV Mid-Winter conference I also decided to personally deliver the main policy goals for this 118th congress to the offices of my national representatives. Whilst I was there, I talked to the aids of my representatives and stressed the importance of these critical policy goals and made sure they knew how I, and the organization, felt about this important legislation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the states for reaching membership quota. We should all remember that the more members, the greater and more impactful our voice.

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

Abigail Van Buren said, *"If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them and half as much money."*

Juniors have a wonderful time when they volunteer at Unit Forget-Me-Not drives! And, they can bring in a lot of donations! It is also an opportunity for us to spend *time* with them. So, encourage them to be a part of that. This is a great time of the year to hold these drives. We know that, oftentimes, Units and Chapters partner in this endeavor. If not, check with your Chapter leaders...they may welcome the help from Junior Auxiliary members when they sponsor a drive. Juniors can support the Chapters, as well as the Units. But, remember, Juniors should always be partnered with adult members for their safety.

*Your children will become what you are. So, be what you want them to be.*

## Reminder

As you continue to recruit, don't forget that Junior members and those 80 years of age and older are both free and count towards quota!

## Membership by Christopher Easley, National Membership Chairman

It is that time of year again folks! Welcome to Spring Time!!!

This is this the time of year we don't know what to wear due to the weather, our allergies are going crazy, and it is Annual Report time for the DAV Auxiliary!! One line on every report is unit membership, and you can get that number by pulling your population summary from the external membership portal or checking our [website](#).

Now that we are talking about membership, did you know as an organization, we are only 184 members away from making quota? Did you know that we are offering an incentive to our new members for signing up utilizing a [special link](#)? This is for:

- ⇒ New life members with a minimum of \$20 down and auto withdrawals
- ⇒ New life members paying the full \$250

Those utilizing the special link and signing up by June 15, 2023, will receive a free t-shirt! Remember, the new member must sign up online utilizing the special link. When signing up a member online, please let them know that the free t-shirt will be mailed after July 1.

I would like to congratulate the states that have made quota so far: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Utah! GREAT JOB TEAM! Continue to recruit, making a difference, and most of all, thank you all for your hard and tireless work in supporting our nations disabled veterans and their families!



## Community Service by Kathleen Wenthe, National Community Service Chairman

If you haven't already completed the Community Service Annual Report Form, it is time to get working on it and get it sent in. Your volunteer work in the community FOR Veterans and/or their families is extremely important and we want to know what you are doing in the name of the DAV Auxiliary.

Here are some key points to remember when filling out your report.

- a. Print legibly or download the report from the [DAV Auxiliary website](#), type the report and print for sign-age.
- b. Don't forget to include total number of senior members and total number of members who worked on Community Service.
- c. When looking for the value of all other donations, refer to the [Auxiliary Procedure and Program Manual](#) under the Community Service Table of Values guideline.
- d. If the total amount exceeds \$1000, you must attach an itemized explanation of expenditures. I encourage each unit to attach an explanation of expenditures for ALL monies spent, even if it is under the \$1000. Let your hard work show and be proud of every hour you put in and mile you drove to help a Veteran and/or their family. But Remember, the explanation should include Veteran or Veterans family.
- e. Super important to remember to **SIGN** the report. It can be signed by the Commander or Chairman.
- f. Be sure to make keep a copy for the unit and send two copies to your State Adjutant. Don't miss your Deadline!

Blank copies can be found online and can be filled out and printed. Its super easy. Call your members today and find out what they've been doing in the community for the Veterans and their Families.

I am anxiously awaiting your reports and I am excited to see the hard work each of you have put into your Communities FOR the Veterans and their Families.



I would like to share an activity my own unit did. Several months ago, Jack Redell Unit #20 in Louisiana sent out six large care packages to the USS Kearsarge. These 16 sailors were very appreciative and overjoyed to receive the packages that had a little bit of everything such as goodies, toothpaste, Carmex, and deodorant, just to name a few. Each sailor was also addressed with a handmade card from a Junior member, who personalized each one with words of encouragement.

## Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by AnnMarie Hurley, National Chairman

I hope you are all doing well now that our troubles with Covid are fewer than they were at the beginning of our Auxiliary year. Nearing the end of our year reminds us to prepare our reports on the services we performed this year for the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Program.

As we all know, the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Program involves six of our Auxiliary programs: Americanism, Community Service, Junior Activities, Legislation, Membership and VAVS.

If you haven't already—*like me*—it's time to quickly gather the information needed for the services you performed. We need to submit it our unit adjutants who will submit it to the state adjutant. Our Procedure and Program Manual tell us that, "this work is the heart and soul of DAV Auxiliary and most certainly worth documenting on the annual reports."

Recently, I attended a banquet honoring the Chief Marshall of the City of Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade by on by the Allied Veterans. We marched in the parade a week later. Not only were they great events, but we had a good time while promoting the DAV and DAV Auxiliary. An added bonus was that the chief marshal was DAV National 2nd Junior Vice Commander Coleman Nee. Service work doesn't have to be hard, it can be fun also, although I did wonder about walking in the parade for hours. All went well; the crowds were enormous giving us huge applause as we went from street to street, and we got some exercise in while promoting our veterans, proud of our DAV and DAV Auxiliary.

Our Auxiliary annual reports will later be submitted by your state adjutant to the national chairmen with credit given to the units that participated (hopefully all units) while keeping one copy of each for judging at state convention. Convention committees at the state conventions determine the winning report for each category of service and the state adjutants will send the winning reports on to national headquarters for the national convention where committees there will determine the national winners for each category.

Doing our service work is huge for the benefit of disabled veterans and their families, but keeping records and sending this information to national headquarters is invaluable. It is not only important to our units; it benefits our departments, and gives real numbers to the service work being done by our national organization as a whole.

So, let's now put our Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit program service work to the head of our to do lists and make sure we get all of our volunteer work submitted.

Again, be well, take care of yourselves, and thank you for all you do for the benefit of our disabled veterans and their families.

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## VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

By now, most units should be gathering to complete their annual report forms so they meet the deadline established by the state department. Please remember there was a change to the VAVS annual report. This year, all expenditures must be itemized on the back of the report or on an attached sheet. This allows those judging the reports to see a more detailed explanation of what the units have done! That work should be shared and celebrated, so take the time to explain in detail as much as possible.

Many of the VA Medical Centers are beginning to slowly lift the COVID-19 regulations. It is important that your unit checks with the VA or Clinic before engaging in any special programs at the facility. While some facilities are allow volunteers to enter, many are not allowing volunteers to engage with inpatients for their own safety.

As we previously discussed, there are still a lot of great ways your unit can work with the VA without stepping foot inside. One great idea is care bags. Perhaps your unit can "adopt" a section of the hospital and make small "thinking of you bags" that can be passed out by nurses. These bags can include a deck of cards, a word puzzle book, pens and Kleenex. This is also a great time to get your Juniors involved in VAVS by having them make cards with personalized messages to each veteran.

By working together, we can continue to support and encourage inpatient veterans in the VA system!

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

## DAV AUXILIARY

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**“Committed All the Way ”**

Follow us on Social Media  
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## Save the Date:

2023 National  
Fall Conference  
September 28—30, 2023  
Holiday Inn  
1717 Airport Exchange Blvd.  
Erlanger, KY 41018  
Telephone: 859.371.2233  
[Reserve online](#)

\$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!**

## 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.