

# DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

December 2023

## Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for reaching 2023-2024 Quota!

Alabama  
Illinois  
Louisiana  
New Hampshire  
New Mexico  
Oklahoma  
Pennsylvania  
South Carolina  
Wyoming

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## Membership by Melissa Pierce, National Membership Chairman

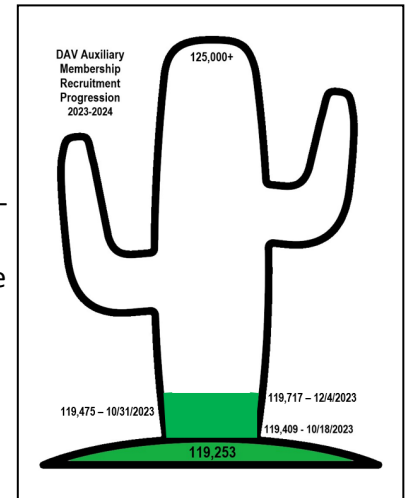
The holiday season has arrived. With it comes the decorations, the songs, the family get togethers, the food, lots of food, the cookies, the candies, and, of course, the gifts.

Oftentimes, we find ourselves struggling to find the “perfect gift.” This year, consider a DAV Auxiliary membership. Maybe you’re looking for a gift for the “hard to buy for” person in your life. Maybe it’s a gift for “the person who has everything.” Or you just need a little something extra for a parent, brother, sister, an aunt or even an uncle. No matter who, you can start a life membership in DAV Auxiliary for the loved ones in your life for only \$20.

A gift of a DAV Auxiliary membership not only ensures our future but helps spread our mission of helping veterans and their families to others who may not be aware. With a membership you can share our programs of Americanism, Community Service, Legislation and VA Voluntary Service and encourage participation in these activities. With a membership you can be a part of teaching our younger generations about veterans, their sacrifice and how they too can give back. With a DAV Auxiliary membership, you can spread patriotism and service to those around you.

Not only is it the season of giving, but it’s also the season of receiving. And you could be receiving. When you sign up new members you earn chances to receive a “gift” at the end of our membership year. You could get the “gift” of a PAID trip to the 2024 Fall Conference in Lawrenceburg, IN OR a PAID trip to the 2025 National Convention in Las Vegas, NV. You are also helping your unit and state department win a chance at the “gift” of a pizza party.

Take advantage of this gifting season. Take advantage of only \$20 down. Gift your family, your friends, a stranger, gift whomever with a DAV Auxiliary membership this holiday season. Share our Auxiliary mission of helping veterans and their families and help us reach our goal of 125,000 members strong! What a gift that would be to our current DAV Auxiliary family! Happy Holidays!



## DAV Volunteer of the Year Award

The DAV Volunteer of the Year Awards are awarded annually by DAV in recognition of extraordinary volunteer dedication to the needs of ill and injured veterans through the VA or LVAP programs. One DAV and one DAV Auxiliary member is selected for this special award! We encourage your whole-hearted participation in the nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Award. The deadline is February 29, 2024. Please see their [website](#) for more information.

## DAV and Auxiliary Veterans Caregiver Support Program

DAV and Auxiliary Caregivers Support provides tailored support and resources to friends, family members and loved ones who provide care to those who served.

Not only do caregivers share in the sacrifices veterans incurred in service, but their contributions also enhance our veterans' quality of life and save money for taxpayers who might otherwise be required to cover critical services. DAV believes the caregivers of our country's veterans deserve their own support.

Powered by TCARE, a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business, the program allows veterans and their families to access tailored caregiver support and resources—including individual support from a trained specialist—at no cost.

### **Through DAV Caregivers Support, caregivers can access:**

- Online resources and risk screening to better understand their role as a caregiver.
- Digital tools to support their caregiving responsibilities.
- Personalized care plans and one-on-one support from a trained caregiver specialist with experience supporting veterans and their loved ones.

### **By providing them with a proven support program, caregivers and the veterans they love benefit from:**

- Reduced caregiver stress, depression and other negative health outcomes.
- Improved relationships between veterans and their caregivers.
- Increased resilience and ability to navigate complex caregiving responsibilities, including navigating health care systems and financial planning.

Register today [online](#) using "DAV" as your registration code, or call 800-421-5137. Caregivers are not alone!

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## DAV Auxiliary National Commander Testimonial Dinner

The testimonial dinner honoring National Commander AnnMarie Hurley will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at the Marriott Boston Quincy in Quincy, Massachusetts.

Accommodations can be reserved at a special rate of \$196 per night, plus applicable taxes for king rooms and \$206 per night, plus applicable taxes, for queen rooms by calling the hotel at 617.472.1000 and identifying yourself as a DAV Auxiliary attendee with the code "DAV." The block will fill up fast, so please make reservations as soon as possible.

The event will begin on April 20 with a cocktail reception in the ballroom foyer at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. in the President's Ballroom. The cost for the event is \$66 per person, and attendees may choose from Roasted Turkey Breast or Maple Bourbon Glazed Salmon Filet. Dinner includes a salad, vegetables and lemon cake for dessert.

There will be an excursion to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston at 11:00 a.m. on April 20. The entry fee to the library has been waived and transportation will be provided from the hotel to the library and back.

Please ensure checks are received no later than April 10, 2024, along with a note indicating your meal choice and if you'll be joining the excursion to the JFK Library. Checks can be made payable to AnnMarie Hurley and mailed to 45 Hull Shore Dr., #302, Hull, MA 02045. Once sent, please email AnnMarie at [amhurley3@icloud.com](mailto:amhurley3@icloud.com) to let her know the check is on its way.

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## DAV Mid-Winter Conference Date Change and Auxiliary Wreath Laying

Due to a change in the 2024 Congressional calendar, the DAV National 2024 Mid-Winter Conference has been re-scheduled for March 7-10. The conference will still take place at the Crystal Gateway Marriott and include the DAV National Commander's testimony to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on Thursday, March 7, in the Senate Dirksen Building in room SD-G50. The opening session will take place later that day. For additional information, please see the [DAV events page](#).

As a result, the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns by Commander AnnMarie Hurley has been changed to March 4, 2024, at 1:15 p.m. Please plan accordingly to attend this special ceremony.

## Community Service by Carolyn Harris, National Community Service Chairman

Across this country from state to state, community to community, neighborhood to neighborhood families will be gathering to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. During this time, units and chapters will be planning luncheons and dinners for fellowship with their members. Take this opportunity to invite veterans and their families from your community to take part in these gathering. Also, as you plan these luncheons and dinners, let us not forget about our members and veterans in the community who may be home bound. Reach out to them and let them know they have not been forgotten. Prepare a meal and/or gift baskets that can be delivered to them, along with a gift and holiday wreath to help brighten their day and lift their spirits during this time of the year.

The holidays are thought of as a time of love, joy and peace, but for many it can be a time of loneliness and sadness. During this holiday season what a great time also to set aside a special day to feed the homeless veterans and provide them with new clothing items (knit hats, shirts, socks, scarfs, gloves, etc.) This community out reach could be a life line for many homeless veterans whose families are no longer in their lives.

During this upcoming holiday season, remember those veterans and family members who will find themselves spending time in the hospitals and rehab centers. This is a perfect time for our Junior members to make holiday cards that can be taken to them as members visit them. Unit members and Juniors can also prepare holiday gift bags for veterans and family members residing in nursing homes and State Veterans Homes.

For our Junior members and children of veterans in the community, what an opportunity to plan a gathering during the upcoming holiday season. What a bright and happy time this will be for the children to celebrate in a safe environment, enjoying food, games and gift to be given out.

As Auxiliary members, let us show kindness and compassion in all that we do. From my house to your house Happy Holidays!

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## VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Representative

Did you know that, with the help of the CDCE (Center for Development and Civic Engagement), you can help veterans at your local VA Medical Centers celebrate centenarians? For those who aren't familiar with the term, a centenarian is a person who is one hundred or more years old.

If there is one thing I know for sure, our DAV Auxiliary volunteers like to have a good time! There is no better way than to throw a party for a centenarian in your facility. Decorate a room, purchase a cake and balloons, collect cards, and don't forget to invite the medical center director and CDCE staff. For many veterans, this could be their first birthday party in 100 years!

With the help of CDCE staff, a special commendation or letter from the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs office can often times be secured for the centenarians service. What a way to top off the day!

Imagine the memories and life experiences these men and women have lived through to be 100 (and over)! Think of all the lives they have touched, the lessons they have learned and the successes along the way.

Don't forget to share your centenarian stories with us, and include pictures! Send them to [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org).

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## Chaplain Corner by Aura-Lee Nicodemus, National Chaplain

Dear Heavenly Father, We come before you to give thanks for the greatest gifts we share...our members, who each bring unique gifts and talents to help us achieve our greatest missions of advocating and serving our disabled veterans and their families, as well as their comradeship. We pray that you will bless our service and our devotion to help others and will help each unit to grow and thrive for the coming year.

We pray you will guide our words, deeds and actions so that others will see the blessings and joy to serve in our actions. Amen.

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## Junior Recruitment Changes

Due to regulatory changes, effective January 1, 2024, a parent/legal guardian is required to sign an application when recruiting new Junior members. Online applications for Junior membership, both complimentary and paid, will no longer be accepted. The current membership application is being revised to implement this new requirement.

## Please Welcome our New Staff Member

Please join us in welcoming Amanda Sharp, our new DAV Auxiliary staff member! Amanda is the wife of an Air Force Veteran who resides in Erlanger, Kentucky, with her two dogs, Abby and Benjamin.

Amanda will be responsible for a wide variety of Auxiliary duties, to include Unit Officer Reports, membership, and Unit Financial Reports. She is energetic, fun, and a hard worker. We are so glad to have her on our team!

When calling our office, please be sure to introduce yourself to her. Many of you met her at fall conference, which was her second official week of work, and she looks forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead.



## Reminders

- ⇒ Our headquarters office will have limited staffing December 18—January 1. Thank you for your patience.
- ⇒ At this time, DAV Auxiliary membership dues will remain \$250, and will **not** be increasing.
- ⇒ The DAV Auxiliary Strategic Plan has been revised and posted [online](#). Hard copies will not be available.
- ⇒ Units and State Departments are not required to utilize the voucher that was designed by DAV Auxiliary. However, they are still **required** to use a voucher for all expenditures.
- ⇒ Don't forget to send a copy of your Unit Officer and Financial Report to your respective state department.
- ⇒ If your Unit or State Department changes banks, it is imperative that you notify our office as soon as possible so our system can be updated and to ensure your state or unit receives your distributions are expected.
- ⇒ It is important that DAV and DAV Auxiliary works together, on the state and unit level. We can accomplish so much more for veterans and their families by putting our differences aside and putting our mission at the forefront of our mind.
- ⇒ Reservations are being accepted for the 2024 [national convention](#) in Phoenix, Arizona. The room blocks will fill up fast, so don't delay.
- ⇒ State Adjutants will receive emails in the coming weeks with the annual reports and directions. Be sure to open all emails and adhere to important deadlines.
- ⇒ The 2024 DAV Auxiliary [Scholarship Application](#) is now available. Applicants should be mindful of the requirements and the deadline. Completed applications and attachments can be sent via email to [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org).
- ⇒ Do you know a child between the age of three and high school senior whose parent/legal guardian is currently active duty or is a veteran? Does this child want to attend a special camp, participate in a program or extracurricular activities, or have an extenuating circumstance that the family cannot fulfill? Have them apply for a [DAVA 4 Kids grant](#)! This program helps an eligible child with up to \$500 so their dreams can become a reality.
- ⇒ State Commanders—if you have not returned the VAVS Representative Recommendations for the VA facilities in your state department, please do so as soon as possible. Certifications begin January 1, 2024.
- ⇒ DAV Auxiliary is fulfilling their ongoing commitment to serving the educational needs of those we serve by providing tuition/course reimbursement, based on available program funds, to ill and injured veterans and their immediate family members seeking education opportunities at education facilities other than accredited colleges/universities. Find out more [online](#)!



DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed on Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26, in observance of Christmas. We will also be closed Monday, January 1, 2024, in observance of New Years Day. Please remember to keep those who cannot be with their families, including military members and community heroes, in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season.