

# DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

February 2024

HAPPY  
*Valentine's Day*

*Quota Achieved!*

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

Alabama  
Florida  
Illinois  
Louisiana  
New Hampshire  
New Mexico  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
South Carolina  
Vermont  
Wyoming

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## Community Service by Carolyn Harris, National Chairman

Happy New Year to all. 2024 has arrived and I know we are all excited about all of the upcoming plans we have as units and members concerning our community service outreach. But before we do that, let's look back at the work we have already done over the last months of 2023.

Remember, units and members have been documenting and keeping a record of all the community service work that has been done in the five categories listed on the Community Service Report.

- **Family Services:** Direct aid to families, visits, clothing, errands, transportation, etc.
- **Facility Visits:** Nursing homes, treatment centers, healthcare centers/hospitals
- **Professional & Trade Services/Payments:** Medical/dental, electrician, plumber, etc.
- **Recreation & Entertainment:** Excursions, parties, reading, gifts, sewing, baking, etc.
- **Special Projects and Programs:** Caregivers Initiative, Efforts for the Deployed, etc.

As we have kept records of the different community services activities, we have also kept notes of the miles traveled and hours spent helping and aiding our veterans in our communities. Now, as we start our new year's resolutions of 2024, we are already organized and ready to continue reaching out in our communities to aid our veterans and their families.

During these cold months of winter it is even more important to continue with visits to home bound veterans and family members. Help veterans attend those very important doctors appointments and running errands that they cannot do themselves. Continue those visits to veterans and family members that are in the hospitals, nursing homes and rehab centers.

As part of our new year's resolutions, units can make plans for some upcoming special programs, activities and entertainment. This would be a great opportunity to reach out to the people in our communities and invite them to the different programs so they can learn more about all the work that the DAV/DAV Auxiliary does for veterans and their families.

**Keep this in mind: New Year, New Opportunities.**

## DAV Auxiliary Wreath Laying

Due to a change in the 2024 Congressional calendar, the DAV National 2024 Mid-Winter Conference has been rescheduled 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 Monday, March 4, 2024, at 1:15 p.m. Please plan accordingly to attend this special ceremony.

*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." ~ Helen Keller*

## Americanism by Kathleen Wenthe, National Americanism Chairman

Guess what time it is? If you guessed “Annual Report Time,” then you are absolutely correct. Hopefully by now, each State Adjutant has passed along the forms to their units, along with the information needed to fill them out with a deadline to have them returned to them. It is important that each unit fill out the Americanism and Special Americanism report correctly and neatly. If a new member has been assigned the task to fill out the forms, please ensure that they know the official name and number of your unit. The heading for both must be completed in its entirety.

Deadlines are extremely important to follow. As the Chairman for Americanism, I need each State Adjutant to get those reports collected from their Units and in the mail by May 3, 2024, even if your state convention isn't held until later in May or June.

While filling out the Americanism report, take note that a few changes were made. More sizes for flag distribution have been added; however, if you have a flag size that your unit distributed and it's not listed then please add it out to the side.

When completing the Special Americanism Program report, it is important to understand and remember that this report is special. Ask yourself these questions: did your unit have a Special Americanism program that the general public, media, and dignitaries were invited to attend? Was your unit in charge of the program from start to finish? If you answered “yes” to these questions then please fill out the Special Americanism Program report. Be sure to describe your program in great detail, giving us a complete overview of what your unit did.

While it may sound redundant, don't forget to sign the reports!

Filling out the reports are simple; it's getting the information that seems to be the hardest part. I encourage you to reach out to your unit members now to begin gathering the information needed to complete the Americanism Reports. By reaching out to your unit members it also reminds them that your unit is actively participating in Americanism programs in your community.

As the winter cold begins to ease, take notice of the American Flags in your community. I have seen several that weren't brought in during the harsh weather and they have been shredded to pieces.

Often times companies are busy with the day-to-day operations and sometimes forget about the American Flag that hangs in the front of their establishment. By stopping in and talking to your local businesses, it can be a great way to establish a new relationship with them. In a kind gesture, you can offer to replace the worn flag, and take the old one away ensuring them that it will be properly disposed of at a proper time and place.

Remember to take pride and show the work that your unit has done, whether it was a program your unit sponsored perhaps at a local school or the flags that your unit distributed across local cemeteries for the Veterans that were buried there.

I will be anxiously awaiting to receive your Americanism reports! Let's have a record-breaking year and get all those reports into me from every unit across the country!

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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.