

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

January 2025

Membership by Kathleen Wenthe, National Membership Chairman

The strength of the DAV Auxiliary lies in its dedicated members who work tirelessly to support disabled veterans and their families. We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievement of numerous states that have reached 100% of their membership goals, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to our mission.

The importance of membership in the DAV Auxiliary cannot be overstated. Each new member brings fresh ideas, energy, and resources to our organization, enabling us to expand our reach and enhance our support for disabled veterans and their families. Through our collective efforts, we provide vital assistance, advocacy, and companionship to those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Remember, the DAV Auxiliary is currently offering an incredible incentive for those who help grow our ranks. Members who recruit a minimum of five new, paid members with \$20 down will be entered into a drawing for a dream vacation in Fort Myers Beach, Florida. The prize includes a stay in a luxurious five-bedroom, four-bathroom home just minutes from the beach, plus up to \$500 in airline credits for two people. Each additional recruitment with \$20 down beyond the initial five earns an extra entry into the drawing, increasing your chances to win this fantastic getaway.

But recruitment is about more than winning prizes – it's about strengthening our organization's foundation. Every new member brings unique skills, perspectives, and experiences that enrich our community and enhance our ability to serve. Whether through volunteering at VA hospitals, organizing fundraisers, or providing emotional support to veterans' families, each member plays a crucial role in fulfilling our mission.

As we celebrate our current success, we must maintain our momentum. The needs of disabled veterans and their families continue to grow, and so must our capacity to meet these challenges. By expanding our membership, we can:

- Increase our volunteer presence in VA facilities
- Expand our support services for veterans' families
- Strengthen our voice in advocating for veterans' rights
- Develop new programs to address emerging needs of our veterans
- Create stronger support networks in local communities

To our current members: Thank you for your dedication and service. Your commitment to the DAV Auxiliary makes a real difference in the lives of countless veterans and their families. We encourage you to share your experiences with others who might be interested in joining our cause.

To those considering membership: Join us in this rewarding mission. Your participation can help transform lives and ensure that no disabled veteran or their family faces challenges alone.

Together, we can build an even stronger DAV Auxiliary, ensuring that we continue to honor and serve those who have sacrificed so much for our nation. Every new member brings us closer to this goal, making our organization more resilient and effective in supporting America's heroes and their families.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to make a difference – and potentially win an unforgettable Florida vacation! Start recruiting today and help us build a brighter future for disabled veterans and their families.

Remember: Communicate our increased rate when recruiting! A life membership is \$300!

Legislation by Terry Grabowski, National Legislative Chairman

It is the start of a new year and there is so much work to do. We will be having new Representatives coming in this month and now is the time to meet with them and let them know where we stand. Our National Commanders have been busy with bills they want you to support and make it so easy to act on them through the Commander Action Network (CAN). If you don't belong, I urge you to join by clicking the link—<https://dav.quorum.us/home/>. If you need help, please reach out to me.

Here are a few of the important bills recently sent out through CAN:

- S. 2181: Keeping Military Families Together Act of 2024
- S. 3126: Mark Our Place Act
- H.R. 3790: Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2023
- H.R. 7150: Survivor Benefits Delivery Improvement Act of 2024
- H.R. 6197: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to provide grants to certain surviving spouses of veterans to pay for housing
- S. 141: Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare

If you are planning to attend the DAV Mid-Winter Conference, February 23-25, 2025, take the time to schedule a meeting with your Representative regarding these important bills, and be sure they understand how you feel regarding the benefits our beloved veterans and families rightfully deserve.

Community Service by Jane Casher, National Community Service Chairman

Happy New Year! This is a perfect time to brainstorm during your next Unit meeting for Special Projects & Programs. The community loves to see the partnership of the Auxiliary and Chapter. Schedule a meeting with your DAV Chapter to discuss future activities or projects that are being planned or scheduled. Check out the DAV's Volunteer For Veterans Program, and consider starting a Unit Special Projects Program such as collecting items for the homeless Veterans in your community. These ideas are suggestions only. In the DAV Auxiliary Procedure and Program Manual on page 74 you will see information on Special Projects & Programs.

As the National Chairman for Community Service, I would love to see photographs of your Unit participating in their creative events. I will be organizing and assembling an album to be displayed at the 2025 National Convention in Las Vegas. If your Auxiliary Unit would like to submit a photo it can be mailed to Jane Casher, 166 Portobello Rd, Radcliff, Kentucky 40160, or email your pictures to jlcasher1@gmail.com. The photo should have a short narrative of the event. Make sure you have permission from parent/legal guardians of Junior members, if applicable, and include it with the mailing. No names please. Just your Unit number, one photo per event. This is strictly voluntary, and the photo will be used for the album only and become the property of the National DAV Auxiliary. Photos will not be returned. I look forward to assembling this special project.

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

We are approaching a very busy time of year for VA Medical Centers—Salute to Veteran Patients Week. This year to be held February 9-15, this week is dedicated to thanking and recognizing veteran patients at VA Medical Centers.

There is no limit to what can be done during Salute to Veteran Patients Week. Individuals and Units are encouraged to sign-up to visit patient wards, distribute cards (including Valentine's), host special events, or volunteer at an already scheduled event. It's a great time to connect with your local chapter, or even combine efforts with other local Auxiliary units to see how you can make this project an even bigger success. Remember, your project doesn't have to be extravagant. A smile and a listening ear can make a big impact for inpatients who may not otherwise receive visitors.

Don't forget to involve Juniors during this important week. Encourage youth to make cards or crafts that can be presented to patients. Share what you've done for Salute to Veteran Patients Week with national headquarters by email dava@dav.org. You may encourage another unit to try something new!