

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

February 2025

Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for reaching 2024-2025 Quota!

Arkansas
Florida
Idaho
Illinois
Louisiana
Minnesota
New Jersey
Oklahoma
Puerto Rico
South Carolina
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
Wyoming

Community Service by Jane Casher, Community Service Chairman

“That’s Amore!” The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary loves Veterans and their families. The outreach that a Unit provides within their community and the creative ways the Unit fulfills the needs of the disabled Veterans and their families are remarkable.

There have been several national disasters occurring within the United States; my caring thoughts go out to all that are affected. In Kentucky, we recently had severe weather with ten plus inches of snow and ice. It was treacherous. Did you know if a Unit member has a snow clearing business and the member donates their time clearing driveways and sidewalks of Veterans, those hours can count on your Unit Community Service Report? The temperature was frigid, people were without electricity or water, and electricians and plumbers were in high demand. Did you know if a Unit has a member with these professional and trade services and the member donates their time helping a Veteran those hours can also count on your Unit Community Service Report? In the DAV Auxiliary Fall Conference book on pages 25 through 29 you will find helpful information regarding what you can do for Community Service.

Monday, February 17, 2025, marks *Random Acts of Kindness Day*. This is a wonderful opportunity for Units to extend kindness to Veterans and their families within the community. Small gestures can make a big impact—consider reaching out to a fellow Unit member for a buddy check or sending a thoughtful card to a Veteran or member. Be creative, have fun, and spread kindness! I look forward to seeing pictures of your thoughtful acts!

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Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

Welcome to 2025! We are one month into the new year and only a few short months away from submitting our annual report forms.

As you all know (or at least I hope you do), the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit report is the culmination of your Americanism, Community Service, Junior Activities, Legislative and VAVS reports. Because the Mae Holmes report is a summation of all the activities, donations and volunteering your unit has done in the past year it makes it a quick reference for National to see your unit accomplishments. This makes it an invaluable tool for National to share to DAV and others what our units are doing and let everyone know that we are working to fulfill our mission of helping our veterans and their families.

It is also the easiest report form to complete, if you have completed your other reports, that is. To fill out this form you just need to transpose information from one report form to another. How simple is that? In my opinion, it makes the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit report the quickest and easiest of all the reports to fill out. So why wouldn’t you do it?

While I encourage everyone to complete all the reports, I especially encourage you to complete your Mae Holmes report. Brag on your unit! Brag on your members! Let everyone know what you are doing! Let everyone know how you are working to fulfill the Auxiliary mission! Personally, I can’t wait to see all those reports at National and see what you all have done this past year!

Membership by Kathleen Wenthe, National Membership Chairman

As we ring in the new year, the DAV Auxiliary reminds us about some important updates regarding membership and opportunities for 2025. With the start of this year, membership dues have increased to \$300.

To ensure you have the latest materials for recruiting and informing potential members, it is time to order new brochures and applications. You can obtain these by emailing dava@dav.org or by calling National Headquarters directly at 1-833-368-1220. At this time you can discard all applications and brochures you have in your possession that reflect the old membership cost of \$250. Make sure to get the newest forms to stay updated with all the latest information.

We are thrilled to welcome Alice Nelson of North Dakota as our newest member. Alice's name was pulled for the new member incentive, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to her. We are excited to see the contributions she will make to our community.

Don't forget about our ongoing Ft. Myers Beach, Florida, incentive! To participate, simply recruit at least five new paid members to be entered into the drawing. For each additional recruited member, you will receive another entry. This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a wonderful getaway while contributing to the growth of our organization.

We are still encouraging all members to utilize the "Sponsor a Supporter" link to streamline the recruitment process. This link makes it easier for you to receive recruitment points when signing up new members online. By using your membership ID QR code, you can recruit new members without carrying around physical applications. It's the easiest and most efficient way to grow our ranks. To utilize this online program simply type in Google search the following: auxiliary.dav.org/sponsor-a-supporter; type in your membership ID number and click to verify your membership number, and save your QR code to your phone so you will remember where it's located. The next time you wish to recruit a new member, simply pull up the QR code and allow the new member to capture it from their phone. It will bring up the DAV Auxiliary application on their phone which they can then complete. Your recruitment information is already loaded in the application!

Congratulations to all the Units and State Departments that have achieved 100% membership thus far. Your dedication and hard work are truly commendable. Let's continue to work together to build our units with active members who are committed to the betterment of our ill, injured, and disabled veterans and their families.

As we move forward into this new year, let's embrace these opportunities and continue to strengthen our community. I would just like to remind you that the most effective way to recruit a new member is still – simply just ask! Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of the veterans we serve and their families. Here's to a successful and impactful 2025!

Exciting New Recruitment Incentive!

Win A FULLY PAID LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

This is BIG! If you start a **life membership** with just a **\$50 down payment**, you'll be automatically entered into an **exclusive drawing** to have your ENTIRE balance **PAID IN FULL!**

Hurry! This opportunity runs NOW through April 30!

On **May 1**, we will draw **TWO lucky winners** who will receive this incredible reward!

Even if your name isn't drawn, don't worry! You can continue making flexible and affordable payments—starting as low as **\$20 per year!**

Don't miss this chance to secure your **life membership**—and maybe even get it **FREE!**

DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year

The DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year is awarded annually to recognize the contributions and dedication of an outstanding member of the Auxiliary whose efforts have enhanced the goals of the Auxiliary, the Parent Organization, and has been active in the community since becoming an Auxiliary member.

Any active senior member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary is eligible for this award with the exception of a previous winner of the Past National Commanders' Award, any Past National Commander, or an employee of the DAV and/or Auxiliary. Any DAV Auxiliary member in good standing may sponsor an individual for this award. **The postmark deadline for nominations is March 14, 2025.**

Applications can be found online at <https://auxiliary.dav.org/membership/resources/auxiliary-forms/>.

Legislative by Terry Grabowski, Legislative Chairman

Our DAV and Auxiliary National Commanders have been busy making sure legislation to protect our veterans is being covered in Washington.

I hope everyone is a member of the Commanders Action Network (CAN). They have made it so easy to use the program. Once you sign-up, your information is automatically stored and, once you receive an alert, you click the email and it takes you right to the bill that will go to your representative. If you do not belong and would like to join, please contact me for assistance. Or, you can visit <https://dav.quorum.us/home/>.

Mid-Winter Conference is almost here and members will heading to Washington, D.C., to show their support of DAV National Commander, Dan Contreras, speaks at a Joint House and Senate presentation.

I ask you to please make sure you have acted on the following bills:

- H.R. 219, the Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act
- H.R. 149, the Lead by Example Act of 2025
- H.R. 210, the Dental Care for Veterans Act
- H.R. 109: TEAM Veterans Caregivers Act

Thank you in advance for your support!

Americanism by Carolyn Harris, Americanism Chairman

Happy, Happy New Year to all of my DAVA and DAV family and friends.

What a very special time of year, because it's the ending of the old and the beginning of the new. Everyone at the end of the year reflects back over the last twelve months on the positive things that happened in their life and feels proud of all of the things they accomplished. Now, as we enter the new year, we look at making resolutions on things we hope to achieve in the upcoming year. As Americanism Chairman, one of my resolutions is to continue to **promote Americanism, show Americanism and share Americanism** in this new year of 2025.

Now let's give a shout out to two more State Departments who have shared more of their Americanism activities with me. Yes, you can share more than one Americanism Activity.

***State Department of Arizona—Cactus Unit #2** : Michele Arrington, Air Force Veteran, and Unit Sr. Vice Commander; Carol Rundell, Unit Adjutant and Past State Auxiliary Commander for Arizona, and Lorraine Obregon, Gold Star Mother, Unit Alternate SEC and member of the City of Tucson Veterans Affair Committee, participated in the 2024 Tucson Veteran Parade. The event was televised.

***State Department of Maine—Thomas W. Bazemore #19**: 3rd District NEC Erin P. O'Brien shared that they passed out red, white and blue bracelets, pins, etc. at their annual rewards banquet.

Here are some important Military Observances and holidays coming up in February that we all can observe and celebrate:

- February 14 – Valentines' Day
- February 17 – Presidents' Day
- February 19 – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

Units share your Americanism Activities by emailing me at: carolynhamericanism@gmail.com

Happy Valentines Day to All.

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

DAV AUXILIARY

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Follow us on Social Media
for news and information
on the DAV Auxiliary.



National Commander Testimonial Dinner

At the request of DAV Auxiliary National Commander Christopher Easley, his testimonial dinner will be held in conjunction with the 2025 Forget-Me-Not luncheon at the National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Please plan to join us for, "A Legacy of Service—The Forget-Me-Not National Commanders Testimonial Luncheon" on Monday, August 11, 2025. Additional information to follow.

Reminders:

- ⇒ **USE YOUR RESOURCES!** We cannot stress this enough. DAV Auxiliary has revised many documents to assist members, units and state departments with many of the most common questions. All of these resources can be found [online](#). While our staff is always available to help, we encourage you to utilize these tools first.
- ⇒ Unit officers have the ability to generate a membership list as needed by visiting www.mydav.org. If you have not already done so, please sign-up for access. If you need assistance, please contact our office. If you have forgotten your password, our office is **not** able to reset it for you. You **must** utilize the "**Forgot My Password**" option for a secure link to be sent to your inbox.
- ⇒ When submitting membership applications, please print legibly. This information is manually added into CRM, and to avoid delays with processing and/or issues with membership cards, please take your time filling out the application. Also, do not include abbreviations.
- ⇒ Under no circumstances may fundraising solicitations be sent by mail, email, or posted on internet/social media, nor in any way which gains access to support outside of their geographic boundaries. Exception: if the unit mails a newsletter to their Auxiliary members, a fundraiser solicitation may be included in the body of that newsletter provided that the fundraisers: 1) is to benefit a specific project; 2) has received necessary approval. Said fundraiser solicitation shall not in any way be the primary purpose of the newsletter and should not specifically request funds.
- ⇒ As a reminder, if your Unit still has a mandate owed to national headquarters, please be sure to pay it as soon as possible. Failure to do so will bar your unit delegates/alternates from having a voice/vote at the state and/or national convention.