

# DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

April 2025

## *Quota Achieved!*

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

Arkansas  
Florida  
Idaho  
Illinois  
Louisiana  
Maryland  
Minnesota  
New Jersey  
New York  
North Carolina  
Oklahoma  
Puerto Rico  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming

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## Americanism by Carolyn Harris, National Americanism Chairman

Americanism in the spring time. Rebirth, new growth, new opportunity to promote Americanism. A new opportunity for your units to continue to plan Special Americanism programs. Spring time is also the time to take a look at all the work units have done over the last months in preparation to complete our annual reports.

Here are some helpful hints for the completion of the Americanism and Special Americanism Reports.

- Complete your header: Unit chartered name, unit number, city and state. Remember to list your total senior members
- Meet with your members to complete the body of the report to make sure all Americanism activities done by the unit are recorded.
- Give specific details on the Special Americanism report: Place and date of the event, type of program, description, if the public invited, explain the media coverage, list the dignitaries and total number in attendance.
- Commander and/or the Chairman should sign the report

It is so important for all units to share their activities. They inspire, encourage and show how much we care about America and even more how much we care about our Veterans.

The following units shared with me some of the work they have done celebrating and uplifting veterans in their communities while promoting Americanism.

- **State Department of South Carolina – Chapter and Unit #28:** members uplifted veterans while serving snacks and drinks at the Dorn VAMC in Columbia, SC.
- **State Department of New York – Unit #30 Syracuse, New York:** showed Americanism with a “Salute to All Our Veterans” celebration.
- **State Department of Texas – Raul F. Lopez Unit #95 in McAllen, Texas:** In November they were very busy sharing with veterans families and attending veterans programs at different middle schools. In December Unit #95, along with students from a middle school, celebrated with veterans at six nursing homes and a VA Medical center. February unit #95 continued to show how much they care about veterans with Valentine goodie bags at three nursing homes in honor of National Veterans Patient Week.
- **State Department of Alabama – Anniston/Oxford Unit #98:** members treated some female veterans from Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home to a special Valentine Day lunch outing.

Important Military Holidays and Observances coming up in April and May:

April 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday  
April 23 – Army Reserve Birthday  
May – National Military Appreciation Month  
May – Month of the Military Caregiver

Remember Americanism is something we do everyday. Auxiliary Units continue to show us what you are doing to put a spotlight on Americanism: **Promote it, Show it and Share it.**

## Membership by Kathleen Wenthe, National Membership Chairman

Membership in the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Auxiliary is more than just belonging to a group—it's about joining a mission to transform lives. Together, we create a support network that uplifts veterans and their families, ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten and their needs are met. The impact of our collective effort is immeasurable, touching countless lives and bringing hope where it's needed most.

Through membership, the DAV Auxiliary provides advocacy, resources, and aid to veterans who have served our country with honor. Every member contributes to this powerful mission, helping to fund programs that assist veterans in accessing healthcare, employment opportunities, and housing, while also offering emotional and social support. This is our chance to show our gratitude and ensure a brighter future for these heroes and their families.

To encourage new members, we're offering an exciting incentive! With just \$50 down, you can be entered into a drawing to have the remainder of your life membership paid in full. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, two names will be drawn—could one of them be yours? This is your chance to make a meaningful difference while securing your lifelong commitment to our mission.

We're also thrilled to remind you of our ongoing Ft. Myers Beach, FL, vacation incentive. Current members who recruit a minimum of five new paid members (with at least \$20 towards their life membership) will have their name entered into a special drawing. And for every additional new member recruited, you'll earn another entry into the drawing! One lucky recruiter will win a five-night stay in a luxurious five bedroom, four bathroom home just minutes away from San Carlos Island in Ft. Myers Beach, FL. As if that weren't enough, this incredible prize also includes two airline credits worth up to \$500 each. But hurry—this incentive ends on June 30th!

Membership in the DAV Auxiliary is a commitment to making a positive impact. It's a community of dedicated individuals coming together to honor those who served and support their families. Join us today, embrace the rewards, and be part of a legacy of service and compassion. Together, we can change lives!

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## Legislative by Terry Grabowski, National Legislative Chairman

Our National Commanders have been very busy and asking for your help. There are new people in office and we need to help our National Commanders let them know where we stand. You can do this by belonging to the COMMANDERS ACTION NETWORK (CAN). You can join by visiting <https://www.dav.org/get-involved/advocate-on-legislation/>. If you need help joining, let me know and I will help you. You don't have to belong to DAV or DAV Auxiliary to join. Ask your friends, neighbors and relatives to help us in this mission. Please try to get at least one new person to join. Think how powerful we would be if every member would get one person to join before June 30, 2025.

Below are several very important bills that need your attention:

- H.R. 1860, the “Women Veterans Cancer Care Act,” aims to designate Regional Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinators to expand the work of the Breast and Gynecologic Oncology System of Excellence at the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- H.R. 2102, the Major Richard Star Act, is a bill in the 119th Congress that aims to allow veterans with combat-related disabilities to receive both their military retired pay and VA disability compensation.
- H.R. 1732, the GUARD VA Benefits Act, to amend title 38, United States Code, and reinstate penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims.
- S. 599/ H.R. 1288, collectively known as the Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity (DRIVE) Act, aims to ensure veterans receive travel reimbursements for medical care that are at least equal to those provided to federal employees.

## Community Service by Jane Casher, National Community Service Chairman

Spring has sprung, and flowers will begin to bloom. This is a perfect time of the year for DAV Auxiliaries to create innovative ideas and growth within their community. For example, set-up tables at Spring Festivals and share the resources that the DAV and DAV Auxiliary have to offer.

“Difference Maker” is a noun and defined as a committed individual or group who can have a significant effect with just a few words or a small act. A person who improves the lives of others. Someone who inspires and motivates others to progress and bring about change. This describes our DAV Auxiliary members and the motto, “*Making a Difference in the lives of the Disabled American Veteran and their families.*”

The DAV Auxiliary members can participate in the DAV volunteer programs; LVAP, Local Veterans Assistance Program; VAVS, Veterans Voluntary Service Program, and Volunteers for Veterans. The DAV offers a wide range of opportunities for Auxiliaries to help assist Veterans and their families. Some examples are signing up to transport Veterans to and from their VA appointments and volunteer at a VA facility. Go to [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org) and click on “get involved.” There is also a link to help Veterans in your local community.

Auxiliary members can also register with the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (VAVS) at your local VA Medical Center. Contact your Auxiliary Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) Representative for your area to help you with the process.

As you know, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, was designated as the DAV Annual Community Impact Day. If you didn’t complete a project that day, we encourage you to still participate sometime in the month of April! The purpose is to empower communities to support Veterans, raise awareness about the Veterans needs and to provide help. You can become a *Difference Maker!*

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## Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

April showers bring “Mae” flowers! Okay, so maybe not the “Mae” the saying is supposed to be about, but April does bring those Mae Holmes reports in, so close enough in my book.

We are fast approaching our state conventions and National convention. That means it’s time to get those Mae Holmes reports in. As we should all be aware our annual DAV Auxiliary Mae Holmes report is one of the most important reports we have, if not THE most important, at least in my opinion.

What makes the Mae Holmes report so important? The Mae Holmes report takes the highlights from all our other DAV Auxiliary annual reports and puts it in one place. This makes the Mae Holmes report an easy go-to place for our state and National leaders to see what our units have done over the past year.

When you fill out your Mae Holmes report, here is some of the information that will be included:

- ⇒ **Membership** – The Mae Holmes report will show whether you had a membership drive and how many members you were able to recruit.
- ⇒ **Americanism** – It shows how many programs, parades and essay contests your unit sponsored or participated in and lets you showcase your most outstanding Americanism activity.
- ⇒ **Legislation** – You get to share how many meetings your Unit discussed Veterans’ bills and how many Federal, State and local contacts were made by your unit members.
- ⇒ **Junior Activities** – You get to brag on your juniors and all they have done to help your unit and our veterans and their families!
- ⇒ **VAVS and Community Service** – You get to brag on yourselves and share the amount of money and/or goods that were donated, how many hours were volunteered, and in the case of Community Service how many miles were driven to perform your services. And don’t forget, if you donated over \$1000, attach your VAVS and/or Community Service report form.
- ⇒ And lastly, if your unit **sponsored or participated in any other special projects** make sure you let National know.

So, get those Mae Holmes reports in by your state deadlines... Who knows April “Mae” bring your unit a winning report at state or national. Even if you don’t win, it will definitely show National that you are working to fulfill the DAV Auxiliary mission of helping veterans and their families! I can’t wait to see what you all have done – happy reporting!

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



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

### DAV AUXILIARY

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## 2025 National Convention

Join us for the 2025 DAV and DAV Auxiliary National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2025. The convention will take place at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, which includes the Horseshoe Las Vegas, 3655 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV, 89109. Room rates are \$159 for single or double occupancy, plus applicable taxes. To make a reservation, please call 702-946-7000 or 877-796-2096. The group name is **Disabled American Veterans**, the Standard Block Code is **SPDAV5** or the Accessible Block Code is **SPDAV5E**. You can also reserve your room [online](#). Accessible rooms are available in the block at either Paris or Horseshoe. Please note that upon booking your reservation, your credit card will be charged a deposit equal to the first night's room and tax. **This one night deposit is non-refundable.**

The DAV room block will remain open until one of the following occurs: the rooms sell out or upon reaching the cutoff date of Monday, July 7, 2025. If you book your room within the DAV room block, you will qualify for these discounts:

- ◆ DAV discounted room rate of \$159/night
- ◆ Waived \$49.95 (plus tax) daily Resort Fee which entitles guests to unlimited local calls, two (2) guest admission to fitness center (does not include use of the hotel spa), and in-room internet access for two devices
- ◆ Complimentary self-parking over program dates of 8/4—8/14/25
- ◆ Waived fees for additional occupants in the room, up to four (4) maximum

DAV rate **discounts** cannot be combined with any other Caesars Rewards/Salute discounts. However, charges paid by you are eligible to earn credits to your Caesars Rewards account.

The DAV Auxiliary will hold their pre-convention NEC meeting on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Districts will meet the morning of Friday, August 8, 2025, with even districts meeting at 9:00 a.m. and odd districts meeting at 10:15 a.m. **Please note—odd-numbered districts will elect new NEC's and Alternate NEC's.** The convention will kick-off the morning of Saturday, August 9, with the Joint Opening Session at 8:30 a.m.

The convention registration for 2025 has **increased** to \$35. The process will remain the same. A pre-registration page will open prior to convention that will allow attendees to register. As delegate slips are submitted, attendees registration status will change. Attendees 17 years of age and under are not required to pay but must still register to obtain credentials to attend events. **Credentials are required for admission to all events!**

**NEW FOR 2025**—Join us for, "A Legacy of Service—the Forget-Me-Not National Commanders Testimonial Luncheon." DAV Auxiliary National Commander Christopher Easley has elected to combine his testimonial dinner with the Forget-Me-Not luncheon. While details are still being worked out, we hope you will plan to join us on Monday, August 11, in the Skyview Rooms 5-6, 26th Floor, Horseshoe Hotel, as we celebrate Commander Easley.

Watch [Facebook](#), our [website](#), and the newsletter for convention information! See you in Vegas!