

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

May 2025

Membership by Kathleen Wenthe, National Membership Chairman

DAV Auxiliary Membership Drive: Energizing, Encouraging, and Motivating for a Stronger Future

The DAV Auxiliary is dedicated to supporting veterans and their families, and membership plays a crucial role in sustaining our mission. As the National Auxiliary Membership Chairman, I have been actively reaching out to each state department to provide updates on their membership status and to highlight the units that are close to achieving their quotas. If you are a state department commander or adjutant, please make sure that you received my email. It would have arrived in your inbox between April 18-20. If you did not receive the email please check your spam folder!

In recent emails, I have shared detailed information on the units that are just a few members short of reaching their quotas. By energizing, encouraging, and motivating these units, we can collectively work towards recruiting new members and strengthening our organization. The new member incentive has been extended to June 30th, offering an exciting opportunity for new members. Those who sign up with a \$50 down payment towards their life membership will be entered into a drawing where two lucky individuals will have their entire life membership paid in full on July 1st.

Congratulations to all state departments that have already reached 100% (or higher) in membership. Your dedication to the DAV Auxiliary and the veterans and family members we serve is truly outstanding. With just under two months left to recruit new members, let's continue to reach out to those units that need a little extra encouragement. Together, we can ensure the growth and sustainability of our organization.

A Legacy of Service—The Forget-Me-Not National Commander Testimonial

This year, our National Convention Forget-Me-Not Luncheon will look a little different from the traditional luncheons in the past. DAV Auxiliary National Commander Christopher Easley has chosen to combine his annual Testimonial Dinner with the annual convention Forget-Me-Not Luncheon to save time and money for all attendees. What a selfless and generous gesture on behalf of our national commander!

In honor of our Commander's heartfelt dedication, this year's luncheon will be renamed to reflect his vision: "A Legacy of Service—The Forget-Me-Not National Commander Testimonial Luncheon." All convention attendees are encouraged and welcome to attend this year's special event. All attendees, including children, are required to purchase a ticket for the event.

Held on Monday, August 11, 2025, at the Paris Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, the luncheon will be \$65 per person. Our meal will include a Caesar Salad, Herb-Roasted Chicken, Seasonal Vegetables, and Vanilla Bean Cheesecake topped with Wild Berry Compote. All tickets must be pre-purchased before July 18, 2025, by calling our office at 833.368.1220 or sending a check, made payable to DAV Auxiliary, to 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018. Again, no tickets will be sold on site and there are **no refunds!**

Ticket pick-up will begin on Thursday, August 7, 2025, in the DAV Auxiliary office. Additional information regarding location and times will be communicated prior to the event.

Please make plans now to join us for this very special event as we honor our DAV Auxiliary National Commander and his steadfast leadership, dedication and service to veterans and their families. We look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas this August.

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Melissa Pierce, National Program Chairman

May is here and so is state convention season. Hopefully you have sent your Mae Holmes reports to your state adjutants. If you haven't already, what are you waiting for? Get those Mae Holmes reports into your state adjutants so they can get them prepared for judging at your state convention.

Just as a reminder you need to send THREE copies to your adjutant – one for the state, one for the NEC and one for the Mae Holmes chairperson. Your adjutant will send all winning reports from the state convention on to National for judging at National Convention.

As you're filling out your reports, make sure the top is filled out – Unit name, number, city, state, senior and Junior members and total members. Give as much detail as possible – when reports are being judged committee members can't ask you questions so make sure you're clear. If something doesn't apply, you can leave it blank or put "none" or "NA – not applicable" to avoid questions or confusion. If you have \$1,000 or more in donations for VAVS and/or Community Service, make sure you attach the corresponding report. Lastly, make sure your report is signed by the unit commander. You have all done a lot of work this past year and we want to see and acknowledge it.

Your Mae Holmes report is an easy way for National to see what you have done over the past year in one concise location. Please take the time to fill out and submit your reports. If you have tracked your activities at your meetings, they shouldn't take too long to fill out. And with the fillable forms National has provided it is easier than ever.

It's been a great year and I can't wait to see all the great things you have accomplished this year! I can't wait to see how you are all fulfilling the DAV Auxiliary mission of helping veterans and their families!

"As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way." Mary Anne Rademacher

Community Service by Jane Casher, National Community Service Chairman

The month of May acts as the bridge between spring and summer, preparing us for warmer weather and summer fun. May is a perfect time for DAV Auxiliary to bridge together with their DAV Chapters. Schedule a meeting with your DAV Chapter Commander to discuss new initiatives and Americanism events.

May is a time to honor our Armed Services; Men and Women who are serving in all branches of the United States Military (Armed Forces Day). A wonderful way to involve the Auxiliary Juniors is to make thank you cards and disperse to local service members or to deployed troops. It will truly bring a smile to their face.

May 15th and 16th is International Day of Families and International Living Together In Peace Day. Plan a ceremony in your community, invite local dignitaries, community members and the local newspaper. Have a cake cutting for the oldest veteran and youngest Auxiliary member, or have a coloring contest to celebrate the red, white, and blue. These are a few ideas! Have fun, take pictures, and document the activities for future reports.

My motto has always been "Reach for the Stars, going above and beyond for the Veterans and their families."

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

Since the VA Voluntary Services program was founded in 1946, it has become one of the larger centralized volunteer programs in the Federal government, with more than 760 million hours of service and \$1.9 billion dollars in gifts and donations since its inception. In 2024, volunteers contributed more than 3.8 million hours of service to veterans throughout the program nationwide. Can you imagine the program without volunteers?

Volunteers are superheroes. They are the men and women escorting veterans to their medical appointments, driving DAV Vans, sitting in patient waiting rooms serving coffee, passing out patient need items, throwing special parties on patient wards, and helping to maintain patient book or craft rooms. Volunteers are donating items for comfort and support. Big or small, volunteers are the amazing men and women who make the veterans feel important during their stay at the VA. No matter what you do, we THANK YOU!