

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

October 2025

From the Desk National Commander Melissa Pierce

On October 13th, 1775, the Continental Congress established the Continental Navy. The Continental Navy was created to disrupt the munitions being shipped to the British Army in America. In 1794, Congress re-established the Navy after we won our independence, and the Continental Navy became the United States Navy. So, this month I want to say ANCHORS AWEIGH and happy 250th birthday to our US Navy!

Anchors aweigh. I've never given it much thought before. Anchors aweigh, it means our anchors have been lifted and we are ready to begin sailing. We are ready to go.

We at the DAV Auxiliary know this feeling. We experience it almost every day. We are geared up and ready for whatever task of helping veterans and their families comes our way. Whether volunteering at our local VAs. Or collecting donations for local homeless veterans' outreach. Or driving a veteran to the grocery store. Or advocating for veterans' legislation. No matter what, no matter where, our auxiliary members are always ready.

As we move through the year, I want you to keep that in mind. Be on the lookout for those small opportunities that may slip past us with barely a notice. Be ready for those big tasks that are going to require us to work together and compromise. Be ready for whatever task or challenge is thrown at us. Be ready to step out of our comfort zone. Be ready to step up. Be ready to help out. Be ready. This year I encourage you all to **serve with intention**. Serve with purpose. Serve with awareness. Serve with an understanding of our DAV Auxiliary goals and values. Make deliberate choices, don't passively react.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "If you prepare yourself at every point as well as you can... you will be able to grasp opportunity for broader experience when it appears." So, I challenge you, my auxiliary friends and family – prepare yourselves... grasp those opportunities... be ready for whatever comes your way. No matter how big, no matter how small, we must always work toward the goal of fulfilling the DAV Auxiliary mission of helping veterans and their families.

And don't forget our #DAVAImpact 250... Let us see you making a #DAVAImpact in your community. Take pictures. Take lots of pictures. Post them on social media using #DAVAImpact250. Share them with National. Let us all see the #DAVAImpact250 that our members are out there making!

Lastly, I'd also like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone – members, family, friends, units, chapters and state departments who contributed to our National Fall Conference donation drive for the Stand Down at Erlanger. The support for our veterans was amazing! You are amazing! Keep up the great work and keep making a #DAVAImpact250! Anchors aweigh!

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Representative

During national fall conference, there was a discussion regarding certified hours for regularly scheduled, occasional and sponsored volunteers. We hope this clears up any miscommunication for annual reports!

- **Regularly Scheduled Volunteers**—must be certified through Voluntary Services and have completed all necessary requirements, which could include fingerprinting, background checks, and physicals. If the applicable items are not completed, they are **not** certified volunteers.
- **Occasional Volunteers**—volunteers who come in from time-to-time for events such special events with patients. **They are not required to complete the regularly scheduled volunteer requirements.** These hours still count on the annual VAVS report!
- **Sponsored Volunteers**—volunteers who do not belong to DAV Auxiliary but want to credit their volunteer hours to our organization. These hours count on the annual VAVS report!

Legislation by Carolyn Harris, National Americanism Chairman

I would like to start by thanking you for allowing me to serve, not only as your National 2nd Junior Vice Commander but also as your Legislation Chairman. So, let's start this year out talking about how we join together with the DAV to Advocate for veterans benefits. To help our veterans to continue to receive the care and benefits that they have earned. Through our advocacy, the voices of millions of DAV and DAV Auxiliary members can be heard by our Congressman.

Now let's look at three aspects of Advocacy: Action, Support and Influence

1. Action: This can happen by joining the Commanders Action Network. Through C.A.N., alerts are sent out concerning legislation aiding veterans that will be going before congress. We can take action by sending emails, writing letters and by personal contact with our congressional representative.
2. Support: Through our actions, we demonstrate to our congressional representative that we support those bills that help with continuing benefits and programs for our veterans.
3. Influence: Through action and support we can, along with the DAV, help influence a positive outcome concerning these bills and policies.

If you attended our National Fall Conference in September of this year, we had a rally cheer for Legislation.

I C.A.N., You C.A.N., We C.A.N.

Yes we all **C.A.N.** be a part of the Commander's Action Network. Yes, we **C.A.N.** be a part of the grassroots effect put forth by all of our Auxiliary Members and the DAV to advocate for legislation. If you have not joined the Commander's Action Network, go to **DAV.org** and click on the **Get Involved** tab. In the drop box you will see **Advocate on Legislation** – click on it. From there you will be able to sign up to receive alerts concerning veteran's bills, as well as look at upcoming Veterans Legislative issues. Let's build our Legislation Team **advocating for our Veterans**.

Community Service by Ann Wilner, National Community Service Chairman

Community Service: Making a Difference Together

Serving Veterans, Families, and the Community

Community service is not limited to supporting Veterans and their families; it also encompasses making meaningful contributions to the wider community. By participating in activities such as community clean-ups, park days, and food drives, members can demonstrate their willingness to go above and beyond in their efforts to help others. For those interested in collaborative outreach, many chapters and units organize events, such as picnics, where food is served and plates are prepared for attendees. It is essential to recognize that some individuals may face food insecurity, even if it is not immediately apparent.

Engaging with the Community During the Fall Season

Fall brings a variety of festivals and carnivals to local areas, offering excellent opportunities to connect with community members. Consider setting up informational booths at locations such as hair salons, mechanic shops, or other venues that welcome the promotion of our services and projects. Active participation in community events allows us to showcase our commitment and demonstrate the positive impact we strive to make.

Documenting Your Efforts

To ensure that all activities are appropriately recognized, it is essential to keep thorough records of your community service efforts. Document your activities carefully so they can be included in year-end reports. All members should track their time, mileage, and any funds spent during these activities. This documentation helps to highlight the difference we are making in the lives of families within our communities, allowing us to share our accomplishments with others.

Fall Conference Questions

Q: Can units use a QR code at an event like Venmo or CashApp attached to their unit bank account, scanned in-person (face-to-face) or does it specifically have to be a card reader like square?

A: Venmo and CashApp are **NOT** permitted as it allows someone, at any time and place, to make a donation electronically. It has to be a face-to-face transaction so square or another type of card reader is required.

Q: Can our state department allow vendors to sell their products at Department Conventions?

A: NO! Vendors can pay a fee to set-up a display and talk about their products or service, but cannot sell.