

DAV® Auxiliary

Making a Difference

NEWSLETTER



We wish you and the world peace and love this holiday season!

Happy Holidays! Take Time to Remember

From the Desk of National Commander Melissa Pierce

Happy holidays and welcome to December. It's a busy time of year—shopping, gifts, parties, family, friends. Time—some days it seems never-ending, while other days it feels as if there is never enough. This year, try something different. Slow down. Don't feel like you must do it all or attend it all. Enjoy the small things. Take time to remember. Take time.

Take time to remember December 7th. Take time to remember the more than 3,500 military members and civilians who were wounded or killed that day. Take time to remember the resilience of the American people when faced with adversity. Take time to remember the sacrifices of all those who served during World War II. Take time to remember. Take time.

Take time to remember our National Guard. Take time to remember the oldest component of the U.S. Armed Forces. Take time to remember the more than 325,000 service members. Take time to remember them as they assist with natural disasters. Take time to remember them as they stand ready to defend our homeland. Take time to remember their commitment. Take time to honor them on their 389th birthday, December 13th. Take time.

Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa—whichever you celebrate—take time. Take time to remember. Remember your family. Remember your friends. Remember those currently serving. Remember those who have served. Take time to acknowledge. Take time to honor. Take time to remember. Take time.

Time is fleeting. Time goes by. Time. There is never enough. Time. There is too much. Time. Take time to serve. Take time to honor. Take time to reflect. Take time.

And don't forget our **#DAVImpact250** initiative. If you, your unit, or your state department are doing *anything* to serve our veterans this holiday season, take pictures. Share them on social media using **#DAVImpact250**. But most of all, share them with National so we can all see what you are doing to fulfill our mission of serving veterans and their families!

National Headquarters Holiday Closures

In observance of the holiday season, DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters has upcoming closures to make note of:

Friday, December 19 – closing at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 25 – closed

Friday, December 26 – closed

Thursday, January 1 – closed

From our family to yours, we wish you a happy holiday and a joyful new year. Please continue to keep those who cannot be with their families in your thoughts and prayers, including first responders and community leaders.

During the holiday season, take a few moments to *serve with intention* – whether it is visiting with a shut-in, sending a card, or adopting a veteran family. Your time and efforts make a difference!



Thank you for an amazing 2025! Let's intentionally do better in 2026 with service, dedication, and commitment.

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L to R: DAV National Commander Coleman Nee; DAV Auxiliary California State Commander Shawn Lewis, and DAV Auxiliary California State Adjutant David Bailey at the Delta Stand Down.

California DAVA Soars

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Department of California, is proud to announce the successful execution of its first State Executive Committee (SEC) meeting under the new leadership. The meeting, presided over by State Commander Shawn Lewis, was marked by full attendance from all committee members and proceeded with remarkable efficiency and collaboration.

The positive engagement and clear direction of the meeting were so well received by the participants that a subsequent meeting has already been scheduled.

The success of this inaugural SEC meeting signals a promising start for the term and reflects the strong, organized leadership of Commander Lewis and her team. California looks forward to continued progress and unity in its mission to serve veterans and their families.

2025-2026 Quota!



Congratulations to the following State Departments for achieving their quota!

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Illinois
Louisiana
Michigan
Mississippi
New Mexico
Rhode Island
Vermont
Wisconsin

Many other states are within a few members – we know you can do it! Utilize your recruitment tools, work together, and let's continue to grow our organization and fulfill our mission of service to veterans and their families.

Legislation by Carolyn Harris

Understanding the Federal Level



In advocating for our veterans, we take action by supporting—and hopefully influencing—our legislative contacts at the federal, state, and local levels to support legislation that will aid our veterans. Let's take a look at the federal level.

Through the Commander's Action Network, we receive alerts on bills going before Congress that will impact our veterans' welfare. DAV has many issue areas that bills cover. Health Care and Survivor Benefits, Veterans Burials, and Cemeteries are two areas in which DAV supports legislation.

Here are two legislative bills needing our support under **Health Care**:

- **S. 599/H.R. 1288**, the *Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity (DRIVE) Act of 2025*
- **S. 668**, the *SAFE STEPS for Veterans Act of 2025*

Here are two legislative bills needing our support under **Survivor Benefits, Veterans Burials, and Cemeteries**:

- **H.R. 680**, the *Caring for Survivors Act of 2025*
- **H.R. 1004/S. 410**, the *Love Lives On Act*

Detailed information on these bills can be found on the DAV website under the *Get Involved* tab. Scroll down to **DAV Commander's Action Network**, click on **DAV Issues**, and learn more. As you read through the bills, many may sound familiar. This is because at the end of a Congress's term, all legislation expires. As a result, all bills must be reintroduced in the new Congress. The bills may have new names and numbers, while the subject matter remains the same. It is imperative that you contact your representative again and show your support for these reintroduced bills.

Now that we are in the holiday season and you and your loved ones gather together, let us not forget about our veteran family. An invite to dinner, a visit, or even just a phone call would mean so much. Share with those who may be alone or in need during this time.

From our house to your house, Happy Holidays.

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



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