



We have some exciting ideas in the works! If you are energetic, motivated, and eager to get involved, we would love to hear from you! If you would like to be considered for a special committee, please email [bclos@dav.org](mailto:bclos@dav.org) with your name, membership number, brief overview of why you are interested, along with any special skills and experience. Deadline is February 2, 2026.

# Happy New Year!

## Best Wishes for a Great 2026

### From the Desk of National Commander Melissa Pierce

January is National Mentoring month - An entire month dedicated to acknowledging the positive impact that mentors have had on us and on others and the positive impact we can have on those around us. Mentoring – a never-ending circle.

Steven Spielberg once said, “The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image but giving them the opportunity to create themselves.” At one time, ALL of us had a mentor in the DAV Auxiliary who gave us an opportunity. Who walked beside us? Who showed us the way? Maybe it was a parent. Or a grandparent. Maybe it was that member who has been around FOREVER – you know the one I mean, the one we were all scared of, but they knew EVERYTHING auxiliary. Maybe it was a unit officer who came before you. Or a state officer. Or even a national officer. All of us learned all things Auxiliary from someone. We were mentored – possibly without even knowing it.

DAV Auxiliary members are mentors. We mentor the members of our units. We mentor our state department. We teach others about the DAV Auxiliary. We share our auxiliary history. We teach auxiliary procedures. We mentor our members as they grow and succeed within the organization.

We mentor our juniors. We teach them to serve when we serve. We teach them to volunteer when we volunteer. We teach them American pride when we show American pride. We teach by example. As they age, we get the honor of seeing them in turn mentor the juniors following them. And sometimes, they even mentor those of us who have been around the block a time or two with their new ideas or tech knowledge.

During this National Mentoring month, take a moment to think about those in the Auxiliary who have helped to mentor you. The ones who supported you. The ones who cheered you on. The ones who were there for you. If they are still around, take a moment to thank them. Let them know how much you have appreciated their help and support. If they are not around, share with others how their support impacted you. Consider discussing mentoring at a unit meeting. Share ideas among members about how you could mentor within the organization to strengthen your unit. To strengthen your state. Discuss how more mentoring of juniors would grow their involvement and influence their futures.

No matter what you do, or how you do it, take a moment to appreciate those who mentored you and think about how you can best mentor our future members. As auxiliary members we make a positive impact on the veterans and their families we encounter... Shouldn't we also make a positive impact on the members of our organization?

As we move through 2026 remember to **Serve with Intention – Serve with Purpose – Serve with Awareness**. Continue to make a #DAVAImpact250 in your communities. And share those impacts with National.

## VAVS

By Patty Davis, Chairman

Even though the holidays are behind us, our mission of serving veterans at the VA Medical Centers is never ending.

Before you know it, National Salute to Veteran Patients week will be upon us. Beginning the week of February 8, this week expresses honor and appreciation for inpatient veterans throughout the VA system.

You might be thinking – how can our unit help? If you're local to a VA, contact your CDCE Program Manager to see about hosting a party, passing out gifts, or providing a lunch. If you're not, you can still help fulfill items on their wish list, donate towards special events that week, such as entertainment or gifts, or even send cards. It's not about how much money you spend, it's about your commitment and passion when doing it.

Speaking of commitment and compassion, State Commanders received the request for VAVS Representatives in late December. Please, we need your help recommending VAVS Representatives! We need committed individuals who are willing to attend quarterly meetings, work with the CDCE, and is passionate about helping our inpatient veterans. If you're interested, reach out to your state commander!

We cannot let our work for the VAVS program dwindle; we are needed now more than ever. Remember, the volunteer hours and VAVS Representative assignments MATTER when it comes to our place on the VA National Advisory Committee. Help us continue to keep our voice heard throughout the VA system!

Lastly, don't forget to track your hours and take credit for your work. Be proud of what you do – we are!



*“Let’s always remember why the DAV Auxiliary exists: to support DAV, disabled veterans, and their families. No act of service is too big or too small.” ~Bunny Clos*

# Serving with Intention

From the Desk of National Adjutant Bunny Clos  
Happy New Year!

I hope everyone enjoyed a joyful holiday season filled with meaningful time with family and friends. As we step into this new year, let’s do so with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and a shared commitment to purpose.

As our National Commander has inspired us, let’s **“Serve with Intention!”** This year, let’s be intentional in everything we do; our time, our efforts, and our outreach. Let’s strive to be better than we were yesterday as we work to **make a real difference in the lives of our disabled veteran heroes and their families.**

Let’s always remember why the DAV Auxiliary exists: to support DAV, disabled veterans, and their families. No act of service is too big or too small. Whether it’s organizing an event, making a phone call, sending a card, fundraising, volunteering, or simply showing up, every effort matters. Sometimes the smallest gesture can make the biggest impact and bring a smile, comfort, or hope to a veteran and/or their family in need.

**Now is the time to get involved and stay connected.**

- Attend your unit meetings and actively participate
- Share ideas, ask questions, and offer solutions
- Plan service projects, fundraisers, outreach events, and volunteer opportunities
- Support hospital visits, transportation needs, care packages, and family assistance programs
- Partner with your chapters and nearby units to strengthen outreach and expand our reach

Communication and collaboration are key. When we share ideas and work together, we build stronger units and create greater impact. No one does this alone, we succeed by supporting one another and working as a team. When doing these activities, if you are able, please take a short video showcasing who you are, state and unit, what you are doing and where, and how you are benefiting veterans and/or their families. We would love to see and share your videos!

**We are one DAV Auxiliary family, united by service and driven by purpose.** Let’s make this year one of action, connection, and meaningful change. Together, we can serve with intention and truly make a difference!

## 2025-2026 Quota!



Congratulations to the following State Departments for achieving their quota!

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Illinois
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- 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.

# Community Service by Ann Wilner

## Understanding the Community Services

In my last correspondence, I discussed the scope of community service, but my wording did not fully reflect my intent. What I meant to express was a meaningful and clear definition of community service as it relates to supporting veterans and their families within the local communities we serve. Thank you for the opportunity to clarify and realign the mission.

Community service for veterans and their families means offering help where uncertainty exists. This can look like helping a veteran find employment, whether through online support or simply helping them fill out an application when they are not too sure what to put down. It also includes volunteering at veteran centers where many veterans and their families need guidance navigating computers, logging into resources, or completing digital forms. Some may know just enough to get by, while others may not yet know how to even turn on a computer. Offering a class, if you are able, becomes another meaningful act of service, built on empowerment, patience, and connection.

Community service also means stepping in when distance or availability limits organized transportation. In some outlying areas, veterans can’t always get a ride from the DAV vans, especially for last-minute appointments. Offering to pick them up, providing the drive to and from their visit, and sharing company along the way may do more than close a transportation gap — it may just make or change a veteran’s day, or lift the spirits of a family member who needed that support too.

Many veterans who are unhoused or struggling silently often carry a belief that someone else deserves help more than they do, saying things like, “Oh, someone else deserves it better than I do.” But the truth remains — if a veteran or their family is in need, they are deserving of support. Guiding them to accredited service officers or the nearest DAV office ensures they receive help, dignity, and encouragement. Community service is proof that the mission continues; that worthiness is not earned by asking, but by us showing up. That community spirit grows stronger every time we answer the call together.



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on the DAV Auxiliary.



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