

National Junior Activities Report 2019-2020 By: Darlene Hanneman

What an impressive year!!! I have read with excitement and joy, every report and looked at all the pictures of the different activities showing how your Juniors helped our Disabled American veterans and your communities. I am so proud of you for your dedication and all the hard work during the past year. "WELL DONE"

The Disabled American Veteran Auxiliary Juniors around the country were remarkably busy. Their commitment to our Veterans, and their families, active-duty Military, National Guard, and Reserves was shown in their everyday activities. Many departments reported special Juniors projects.

Thank you to DAV Auxiliary Unit #29 in Braintree, Massachusetts for their "Thank a Vet" program, which Cape Cod Unit #96 started. When a member encounters a veteran, they hand them a gift card with a simple, yet powerful, note, "Thank you for your service! Have a coffee on us!" Junior member, Ellenora Marie honored her bus driver, Mr. Al, with a gift card. Thank you to Ellenora Marie's mom, Angela, for being the Junior Activities Chair for the DAVA Department of Massachusetts.

Thank you to the Junior members of DAV Auxiliary Unit #56, Wise, Virginia. Mason Mellon, a Junior member, helps by visiting veterans in the hospitals, and nursing homes. He reads to them, plays games, and even brings along pets to provide comfort and smiles. Other items that he does are lawn mowing, leaf raking, gardening, delivering meals to homeless veterans and shut ins.

Another Junior is Abigail Sturgill who was the Outstanding Junior Member in her age category at the DAV Auxiliary's 2019 National Convention. She helps on Veterans Day by handing out appreciation cards, flags, a big smile and lots of hugs at a local nursing home. She sings at her school's Veterans Day program.

Junior Jessica S. a California Unit #6 member chose to focus on honoring Mickey Ganitch a 100-year-old Pearl harbor survivor. She presented him as a project for a school open house. Along with a great poster of his military service, Mickey was there in person to answer questions. What a GREAT Show and Tell!!!

We can learn much from our Juniors. They help us from recruitment to giving. Many hands make for a lighter load. Please delegate to your Juniors some of that service. This way we pass on our legacy of service. Working with the Juniors I have seen firsthand how much energy they have and how excited they get when they are able to help others. Thank you, you all are friends in service to our Veterans and their families. YOU, my friends are priceless!!!!

## Listing of Ideas presented in National Junior Leadership Reports 2019-2020

Someone once said, "Ideas are a dime a dozen." People who put them into action are priceless!!!

You my Units and Departments are priceless. You have made your Juniors "Sparkle." You are doing so much to serve in your communities, for our Veterans, Active duty military and all your Veteran families.

Listed below are Ideas from the Junior Leadership Reports that could be used by others for next year. Thank you for the ideas and service that our GREAT Juniors did and continue to do for their DAVA Units. Hats off to all!!!!!!!

Alabama's Units had their Juniors give the Pledge of Allegiance, help pass out papers during meetings, Marched in Veteran's Day Parades, handed out Forget-me-nots, and help put together get-well baskets.

Arizona's Units Juniors were busy with helping in food kitchens, helped with raffles, provided childcare, and collected canned goods.

Indiana's Juniors have helped Veterans play Bingo, did DAV float decorating, donated and presented flags to businesses and Veterans and their families.

Kansas's Juniors had a Veteran's Day parade and decorated their wagons and bikes.

Massachusetts had a busy year with their Juniors. They made "jingle bell" necklaces and ornaments for veteran patients. They were the Department Banner Bearer and helped at National Convention as pages.

North Dakota's Juniors made valentines, placed flags on graves, and helped at dinners to serve food.

Oregon had Juniors that did yard work, helped at the Firefighter pancake feed and dunk tank and participated in a Unit essay contest. They also gave out Flag pins and passed out cake.

Rhode Island had their Juniors help collect Box Tops for Education and collect pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House.

South Carolina's Juniors were busy giftwrapping at Christmas and helped collect magazines for the Veterans.

South Dakota's Juniors prepared sock packs for the VA. They helped with yard work, firewood gathering, and cemetery cleanup.

Tennessee's Juniors were busy with helping at the Fair, cleaned flags, sang the National Anthem at ball games, and attended local meetings.

There are lots of busy Juniors in Texas. The list of activities are craft kits items for the VA, collected toiletries for the homeless, made decorations for vets in Nursing Homes, helped with flag burning ceremony, and helped with veteran's breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

Wisconsin Juniors were involved with walks, and fundraisers for cancer, Forget-Me-Not drives, and other Veteran issues. They helped make lap blankets, cards, gifts, and other items for the Veterans and their families. Served as Chaplain of their Unit. The Juniors helped veteran children at summer day camps and at holiday parties.

Idaho Juniors worked with their parents to help the Veterans and their families.

Illinois's Juniors helped at Golden Corral fund raisers and took donations to Food Pantry and Homeless Shelter. They decorated and rode the DAV/DAVA float for Apple and Peach Festivals.

Florida's Juniors certainly turned out to help by giving flag folding instructions, helping flag retirement ceremony, helping at reading, Walk/Run-A-Thon, and helped to prepare, serve, and cleanup at chapter and unit Activities during the year.

I encourage you, as a senior member, to continue promoting and inspiring active participation from your Junior members. They are our future leaders. Thank you, DAV Auxiliary Units who have taken the time, to include the Juniors into the Activities. You have shared with them just how important they are to our organization!!!! Thank you, caregivers of our Veterans and our Veteran children, for your service to your God, your family and your country. You are priceless.