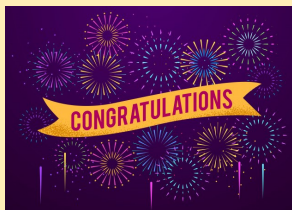


# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | June 2020



## Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for making 2019-2020 Quota!

Florida  
Idaho  
Indiana  
Louisiana  
Massachusetts  
Minnesota  
New Mexico  
Oregon  
Utah  
Vermont  
Wyoming

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## From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

I hope this finds you safe and healthy. This unique situation has affected all of us in ways we've never experienced. As states are taking measures to gradually phase-in reopening, remember to follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC and your state and local governments so that you can remain healthy, and to also be considerate of the welfare of others.

When restrictions are lifted and unit meetings can resume, do so in accordance with the constitution and bylaws. Take time to reconnect and reinforce the purpose of our organization.

Even though most of us have adhered to the stay-at-home requirements, our mission of making a difference in the lives of our disabled veterans and their families must be ever present in our hearts and minds. Many of our veterans and members may still be reluctant to venture out in the coming weeks so take some time to reach out and ask what you can do to help them. This simple act can give them the comfort of knowing you care about their well-being.

In closing, remember that in unity we can accomplish our present and future goals and commitments for the betterment of our veterans and their families. God bless our veterans, you, and the USA.



### New Auxiliary Unit!

FD Roosevelt Unit #11  
Florence, South Carolina  
Chartered May 26, 2020

### Recruiter News!!!!

Congratulations to Patricia Davis, Clement J. Zablocki unit #19, WI, for recruiting at least one new paid member between January 1 and March 31 and winning \$250!

## Annual Unit Officer Elections

Many units have had to delay annual officer elections. Elections can be held when it is safe for groups to resume gatherings, but until that time, the current officers will remain in their current positions until their successors have been elected and installed.

## Caregiver Initiative Program by Melissa Pierce, National Program Chairman

Over these past couple months of social distancing and trying to “flatten the curve,” caregivers have been left without some of their strongest supporters – family members and friends. While trying to protect their loved ones, they have limited their social interaction and this has disrupted their emotional support system.

If you're a caregiver, staying positive may be difficult right now. Reach out to friends and family. Call them more often. Learn how to video chat. Learn how to FaceTime or Skype. Live stream church services. Take a walk around the block. Take part in a virtual yoga or meditation class. Sit in the sunshine with a good book. Listen to your favorite music and dance like no one is watching. Ask for help... even though you are trying to limit contact there are many ways friends and family can assist you.

As an Auxiliary we can help. We can reach out to the caregivers in our Units via phone or video calls. Send them cards and letters to let them know we're thinking of them. You could have those Juniors, who are all out of school and driving their parents nuts, practice their writing and spelling skills with short notes and their art skills by drawing pictures. Surprise them with a delivery of flowers. Or if they have a green thumb, drop off some new flowers and plants for their gardens. Make up some meals, cookies, or brownies and leave them on their doorstep. Ask if they would like you to run to the store for groceries or supplies. The possibilities are endless, we just have to think of them.

Our Auxiliary members know how much toll caregiving can take on a person. Why - because so many of you are Veteran caregivers. Share your needs and how others could be useful. Share your experiences to teach fellow Auxiliary members. Caregiving is oftentimes a 24/7 job. It can be emotionally devastating. It can show us how to truly love. It can be stressful. It can teach us patience. It can cause feelings of guilt. It can teach us compassion.

“We are all like one-winged angels. It is only when we help each other that we can fly.”

- Luciano De Crescenzo

## Donna Tanner —Past National Commander



DAV Auxiliary Past National Commander Donna Tanner passed away May 2, 2020. She was elected National Commander in 2006 at the DAV Auxiliary's 85<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

A life member since 1983, Donna joined DAV Auxiliary when she married her husband, Jim, a disabled U.S. Navy veteran. After graduating from North Adams State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, she worked for more than 25 years in the banking industry and became a branch manager during that time..

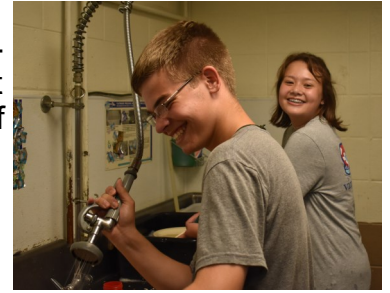
Throughout the years, she served in a number of DAV Auxiliary capacities. On the unit level, she held all elected positions and served as Adjutant. For the DAV Auxiliary State Department of Massachusetts, she was elected to the offices of Commander and Treasurer and was also appointed State Adjutant. She also held the position of District #1 National Executive Committee Member and was appointed as National VAVS Representative. Her aspirations of higher office took form in 2002 when she was elected to the office of National 3<sup>rd</sup> Junior Vice Commander and advanced through the national chairs, chairing the respective national programs, until her election to the organization's highest office.

She was instrumental in the development of the DAV Auxiliary's Strategic Plan and recently served on the Caregiver Initiative exploratory committee. Ever committed, Donna was a staunch advocate for veterans' rights and a supporter of their unsung heroes, the caregivers. After her retirement, she took on the role of Hospital Service Coordinator at the Bedford VAMC for the DAV Department of Massachusetts, a job she held until her passing.

A resident of St. Petersburg, Florida, most of her life was spent in Massachusetts. For the better part of four decades, Donna's commitment to improving the lives of disabled veterans and their families was immeasurable. She will be missed by her family and friends and the veteran families she has so steadfastly served.

## Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Program Chairman

To all Unit Commanders, please check to see if you have your Junior Activities report for 2019-2020 completed and forwarded to your state department. See that the Junior Unit History Book is completed and brought to National Convention for judging. Please check on your Juniors to see if they need help filling out the DAVA Junior Award Questionnaire and to see that they are completed and turned in on time. Good luck with the reports and getting them filled out by phone and online because of social distancing.



Junior Activities: Keep Juniors active and engaged this summer. This will be interesting with the states doing their reopening phases due to Covid-19. Planning early can put your unit on a path to a fun-filled summer with your Juniors. Let's start by looking at the calendar. The dates to circle are Flag Day, your State Convention (if you have one), Independence Day, and Labor Day. Other dates to consider depend on your community. Is there a county fair, an annual event in the community or at the Chapter and Unit? Ideas for those dates would be passing out flags, making and serving treats such as water and snacks. Make sure to social distance and stay safe!!!! Juniors can make special cards. Other social distancing would be to help clean a park or area in the community. Homemade masks are needed at the VA hospitals and clinics. Check with your home VA hospitals and clinics. My home state can use them. This would be a great Junior activities project for boys and girls. Contact the Voluntary Services office of a VAMC in your area to find out the mask specifications and where they are to be delivered. I know that the Cleveland, Ohio, VAMC could use masks.

DAV Auxiliary Junior members attending National Convention are encouraged to sign up to participate as pages. They will volunteer during meetings with passing out information, escorting dignitaries as needed, and to be on hand to assist members throughout the convention. If you have a Junior interested in volunteering, please contact National headquarters at 877-426-2838, option 8, and provide their contact information.

Continue to take pictures of what you are doing and making for the Veterans and send the copies to your Unit, State Department, or even to my attention at National Headquarters.

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## Reminders

- ⇒ National headquarters should be notified **immediately** when unit or state department banking information changes. Failure to notify our office in a timely manner could result in the withholding of membership distribution.
- ⇒ Units experiencing difficulties, whether it be electing officers, establishing a quorum, or participation concerns, should reach out to their respective **state department** leadership for assistance and guidance.
- ⇒ Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, and Adjutants are authorized to generate membership listings through the membership system and/or submit a request in writing to national headquarters. Keep in mind these reports contain personal information (including junior members) and are to be safeguarded at all times and not freely distributed.
- ⇒ As a reminder, the practice of mailing the monthly newsletter to unit and state department adjutants has been discontinued. Instead, the newsletter is available for download from the DAV Auxiliary's website. Everyone has access to this informative newsletter and we urge all members to read this important communication. Email addresses are being accepted for those who wish to have the publication emailed directly to your inbox. Please send emails to [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org). A \$10 yearly subscription is also available and will assure the mailing of the newsletter to your mailbox.

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



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## Save the Date:

2020 Natl. Fall Conference:  
October 1—3, 2020  
DoubleTree by Hilton,  
Lawrenceburg  
51 Walnut St.  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
Telephone: 812.539.8888

\$129 Single/Double  
\$139 Triple; \$149 Quad

All rates will include complimentary breakfast the mornings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday only. Free garage parking.

### Additional accommodations:

Hollywood Casino  
777 Hollywood Dr.,  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
Telephone: 888.274.6797  
\$129.99 per night

Rates includes complimentary breakfast on the mornings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at DoubleTree, free parking, round-trip transportation to/from conference location.

**Make your reservations  
early to avoid sell out!**

## DAV AUXILIARY

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National Commander

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**“Unity”**

## VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Representative

I know most, if not all of you, have been unable to visit and volunteer at our VA's, CLC's, CBOC's and Veterans homes over the past few months. I also know our VA's and Veterans are missing you as much as you are missing them. Have you reached out to your VAVS office recently? If not, please do so.

Needs of the VAVS in many areas have changed since you last talked to them. Grocery store gift cards are in demand due to the high number of people currently out of work. The high demand for food at our local food pantries has caused shortages. If your VA or CRRC has a food pantry, considering making a donation. Maybe hold a social distancing/drive-thru food drive for them. Our Veterans are using more cell phone minutes for tele-med appointments and just to keep in contact with loved ones, so phone cards are more in need than ever. Some VA's are welcoming back their Veterans with handmade masks. If you can sew, consider helping with the project (check with your local VA for mask specifications.) If you are a sewing disaster like I am, consider stopping by your local fabric store to pick up the materials (ours needed 100% cotton, elastic and thread) to make the masks. Our VA has mask-sewers on standby, ready and willing to help out and I'll bet others do too. Personal hygiene items may also be more in demand as some have had to make sacrifices in their budget in order to feed their families. And as always, drop notes of encouragement and thanks to the inpatients, CLC residents and Veterans homes residents, especially in these times when visitors have been restricted. Maybe drop off some individually wrapped treats (snack cakes, crackers, cookies, etc.) for the residents to let them know you're thinking of them.

Think outside the box on how you and your Unit can help our local VA's while still following local social distancing guidelines. William Prescott once said “An obstacle is often a stepping stone,” so I would encourage you to use our current obstacles as a stepping stone to better and greater things - reach out to your VA's, reach out to your members, discover new ways to help..... but as always, continue stepping up for our Veterans and their families.