

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | February 2021



## February Flag Flying Holidays

Lincoln's Birthday—February 12

Presidents Day—February 15

Washington's Birthday—Feb. 22

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## From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

Here we are in the second month of 2021, February. This is a special month that has a week dedicated to the "National Salute to Veterans." It will begin on Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>. What a fitting day to begin! Even though many of us may still not be able to enter VA facilities, there are still many ways we can pay tribute to our veterans—cards, gifts, and gift cards are just a few ideas. Our veterans have given and suffered much to ensure our freedom and rights we enjoy in our great nation.



Our 46<sup>th</sup> President, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., in his inauguration speech emphasized how we need to work in unity. This same message can carry within our units and members, unity between our units and chapters, unity with our state departments, all working for our common goal to serve and give back to our nation's veterans. This was asked of you at the 2019 DAV/DAVA National Convention in my National Commander's acceptance remarks.

Staying united is the key to building strong relationships and a strong organization. We can live in peace and harmony only when unity prevails. As National DAVA Commander, I continue to ask you to also be united in our purpose to "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families." Only you can make that difference.

Now that the COVID-19 vaccinations have begun, we have the hope that this pandemic will soon be history. Stay vigilant safeguarding your health and those around you. Don't forget to check often on the National DAV Auxiliary Facebook site, along with the Auxiliary website for current information. May God bless and keep our veterans and their families safe and bless The United States of America.

## DAV Auxiliary National Service Program

Article II of the DAV Auxiliary Constitution codifies the purpose of the organization to include, in part, advancing "the interests and work for the betterment of all wounded, injured, and disabled veterans and their families ...." In carrying out this stated purpose, the DAV Auxiliary Service Program has been re-developed to assist surviving spouses of service-connected disabled veterans in times of dire financial need. In many instances, the surviving spouse is faced with an emergency need to pay outstanding utility bills, mortgage/rent, medical bills, etc., and this program can offer a measure of hope to lessen the weight of despair. The one-time maximum payment will be payable directly to the financial need on behalf of the surviving spouse.

Service Program funding is reliant upon national mandates and generous donations and in order to sustain the fund, the national finance committee shall determine a maximum amount to be granted during a calendar year.

For additional information, contact DAV Auxiliary national headquarters. The Service Program will also provide financial support to ill and injured veterans and their families through select DAV-sponsored events as deemed appropriate and with the approval of the national finance committee.

## DAV Auxiliary Procedural and Program Manual

We are happy to announce the completion of the Auxiliary Manual. While hard copies are not available at this time, it can be downloaded [here](#).



### Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chairman

So, Juniors, I hope you enjoyed the snow or sun in January and are ready for what the month of February will bring! February has some notable patriotic events for Junior members to learn about.

Valentine's Day! Why not make some valentine cards for veterans in your family, neighborhood, or at the local VA facility. It's a nice way of putting a smile on the face of a veteran with a sweet message of appreciation for their service. Younger members can put their coloring pencils, markers, or crayons to work and the older Juniors can use their computer graphic design skills to create an amazing masterpiece. Even a simple greeting will be appreciated!

National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, also known as National Salute to Veteran Patients is a whole week dedicated to this national salute that pays tribute to our nation's veterans, increases community awareness of the role of the VA, and is an opportunity for people to show their appreciation to veterans while encouraging volunteerism at VA facilities. This tribute is observed February 14 – 20, 2021, and is another card or craft-making opportunity for Junior members to let the veteran patients know they are being thought of.

President's Day is observed on February 15 this year. It not only honors our Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln who were born during the month of February, but honors all presidents who have served in that esteemed position. Young members can draw something to hang on the refrigerator and keep as a memento. Or they can look online for references to this holiday and what it represents.

Take pictures of the cards or activities of Junior members doing their part to honor veterans. Share the photos and stories with National Headquarters. I'd love to hear what our Junior members are doing! So, keep the cameras ready and don't forget to document those wonderful activities.

Keep working on Junior membership. Our adult Auxiliary members have a duty to teach Junior members values such as compassion, kindness, understanding, and caring. Please be positive role models by practicing good citizenship and leadership skills for our next generation. Please work on your reports so that state and national headquarters can get a true estimate on the value of your dedication, love and service you provide for your Juniors. And what they do as young ambassadors of our organization.

March is the "Lion and Lamb" month. Juniors can help do service projects by cleaning up from the winter months. The local parks could be an outdoor project. They can help a local Veteran and their family with yard work and even at the local Chapter and Unit home with "Spring Projects." Stay safe!!

### Mary Beth Schulze—Past National Commander



DAV Auxiliary mourns the loss of Past National Commander Mary Beth Schulze of Alliance, Ohio. Her January 12, 2021, passing came less than three weeks before the celebration of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mary Beth was elected to the organization's highest office at the DAV Auxiliary's 53<sup>rd</sup> national convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, on September 3, 1975. Her eligibility for membership was through her late husband, Wilbur, a service-connected disabled veteran.

She also served as 13<sup>th</sup> District National Executive Committee member, and other local and state positions including State Commander and several terms as State Treasurer.

In addition to her passionate support of veterans and their families, she had a deep love for her local community theatre, directing their productions and later becoming their first honorary member. While Mary Beth will be remembered for her many accomplishments, she will always be remembered for her kindness and dedication to making a better life for ill and injured veterans and their families.

## VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

In a normal year, we would be putting the final touches on our plans for our local National Salute to Veteran Patients programs and special events to be held during the week of February 14. The National Salute to Veteran Patients is our chance to pay tribute to and express our appreciation for our Veterans and their service. These events are also important for our communities. They help to increase community awareness of our Veterans and VA Medical Centers. They also encourage community members to visit our VA facilities and get involved with volunteering.

This year, plans will be different. Most of our VA's are still limiting volunteers. Visitors are still being restricted. So how is your Unit working with your VA to say thank you to our Veterans? What new and inventive ideas and events have you come up with? Maybe you are working on a drive-thru thank you. Maybe you have organized to have cakes or other treats delivered. Maybe you have reached out to schools and youth groups for handmade thank you cards. Maybe you worked with your VA to create goody bags that will be handed out.

If you haven't made any plans yet, it's not too late. Reach out to your Voluntary Service office to see how you might be able to assist them in recognizing our Veterans. It doesn't matter what you do or how much you do, as long as you DO! And as always, send your stories and photos to National and help us to share how you and your Unit recognized the Veterans in your area.

"There are not words big enough. There is not a hug strong enough. There is not a smile wide enough. All I can offer is thank you. You are my hero. You are in my thoughts. You are in my prayers. For all you've done, thank you." *Unknown*

Increasing membership is imperative to our continued efforts of meeting the needs of our veterans and their families. MEMBERSHIP is vital to fulfilling our organization's mission of service.

DAV Auxiliary members are compassionate and the heart and soul of the organization!

**Quarterly Drawings held December 31, March 31, and June 30**  
*for*

**Jacket/T-shirt/hat bundle with DAV Auxiliary logo, plus \$50!**

**Bonus Recruiter Drawing!**

**July 1** – Names of **two** recruiters who have signed up five or more new paid members will be drawn to receive \$250 each



Recruit one new member with a minimum down payment of \$20 for a chance to win! Don't forget about Junior life members! The more you recruit, the better your chances!

Share the incentive news and encourage others to sign up new members for a chance to win these awesome prizes! Junior members can sign up paid life members and be entered to win one of these recruiter awards!

### **Life membership rate is \$250.**

A \$20 down payment starts a new life membership with an indefinite period of time to pay the balance. Options are available for automatic withdrawal for monthly or quarterly payments.

[Visit our webpage to sign up.](#)

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



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### Save the Date

2021 National Convention  
July 24—27, 2021  
Grand Sierra Resort  
2500 East Second St.  
Reno, NV 89595  
800-501-2651

\$105 GSR Basic Room  
\$125 Summit Room

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### Save the Date

2021 National Fall Conference  
September 30—October 2  
DoubleTree by Hilton  
51 Walnut St.  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
812-539-8888

\$129 s/d; \$139 triple;  
\$149 quad

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**“Unity”**

## Recruitment News

Join us in congratulating Tracie Fulcher, Florida unit #30, and Dennis Baker, New Jersey unit #44, whose names were drawn for the quarterly 2020-2021 membership recruitment incentive. Sign up at least one new paid member as a sponsor and you can be entered in the next drawing held March 31, 2021!

### Reminders:

- ⇒ **Officer Report Forms** will be mailed to unit Adjutants in April. The form is available online for [download](#) or, if needed in advance of the mailing, can be obtained by calling national headquarters.
- ⇒ Membership dues paid to the unit by members must be remitted to national headquarters immediately.
- ⇒ 2021 DAV Auxiliary Education Scholarship applications are being accepted and must have a postmark date of March 26, 2021. Applicants are not required to be a member of DAV Auxiliary to be eligible, but must be at least a high school senior and have a minimum 2.5 GPA. Additional information is [available online](#).
- ⇒ When recruiting new members, make sure you use the current membership application. One way to tell if you have the most current application is if the life membership rate indicates \$250 for all ages. If you intend to use the out-dated applications that indicated tiered life membership rates based on age, please cross through so the prospective member understands that a life membership cost is \$250. Also, don't forget that DAV Auxiliary offers flexible auto withdrawals on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis from a debit or credit card using an [online application](#). This safe and secure option is great for recruiting without the worry of paper applications.
- ⇒ Members are urged to review the DAV Auxiliary Procedural and Program Manual which contains information that will be helpful to all members and officers. Feel free to alert your members to this updated online manual and watch for future updates regarding with regard to obtaining printed copies.