

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



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



January Flag Flying Holidays

- January 1—New Year's Day
- January 18—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 20—Inauguration Day

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From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

Happy New Year! Hoping 2021 will bring normalcy to our lives soon and we will be able to resume volunteering in VA facilities and serving veterans in our communities.

In the coming weeks, the 117th United States Congress will be in session and discussing and voting on bills that will affect the well-being of veterans and their families. We must be diligent in alerting our representatives of our stance on the bills and the importance of their support as the future of our veterans and their families depends on their actions. Stay informed and let our voices be heard in Washington, DC.

Stay united in our purpose to "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families." Only you can make that difference. Don't forget to follow the National DAV Auxiliary Facebook page for current information as well as the Auxiliary's website. May God bless and keep our veterans safe and bless our great nation, the United States of America.



Unit Sponsors College Writing Contest

DAV Auxiliary Lumberton unit #7 in Lumberton, North Carolina, teamed up with the English Department at Robeson Community College in an effort to spread Americanism and show veterans how much they are appreciated through a community outreach effort that involved a writing contest in conjunction with Veterans Day.

Students at Robeson Community College were encouraged to write a poem, essay, or letter with the theme "What Veterans Sacrifice." Students were given four weeks to submit their entries, which were judged by members of unit #7.

The committee selected four students to receive recognition for their submissions. The top winner, Ranza Eason, received a plaque. Three students, Helen Joyce Simmons, Grace Burnette, and Marita Carringer, each received a certificate and a Christmas ornament.

"Unit #7 has built a strong team relationship with the English Department at the Robeson Community College. This was our third annual writing contest honoring veterans with their help," said Sherry Lofton, Unit #7 Adjutant/Treasurer. "We are very proud of those students who participated."

Congratulations to all participants in this awesome program!



L to R: Sherry Lofton, Ranza Eason, Helen Joyce Simmons.

Have a story to share? Send it to us at dava@dav.org. It could be included in an upcoming edition of the Headquarters News!

Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chairman

Happy, Happy New Year! It is again time to roll out the paperwork. Check it all to see what is to be done with the "Junior Activities Report for 2020-2021," "The DAVA Junior Award Questionnaire," and the "Junior Unit History Book Guidelines." These papers can be found online. Make sure you are keeping a file, folder, or notebook on the categories. Pictures are being collected. Make sure you are documenting the hours and the activities for each of the categories. Pass out the "DAVA Junior Award Questionnaire" to Juniors that might be interested. It takes involved Seniors to help the Juniors to do the paperwork. GET STARTED. Deadlines will come quickly!!!!

Get your DAV veteran families signed up as members. Families are encouraged to start a life membership for children with a \$20 down payment. Membership forms can be found online. Junior members of the DAV Auxiliary consist of boys and girls from birth to age 17 and membership is complimentary, but you can always get a start on a life membership for those special Juniors also.

Valentine's Day will be coming soon. Cards are always welcome in the VA hospitals and Nursing Homes. You can have your Juniors help make "Care Bags." It is not uncommon to see veterans who may be down on their luck and out on the street asking for money. It can put you in a tough spot – you don't want to see someone go hungry, but at the same time if you don't want to give them cash, there are some other options. As an alternative to handing out money, here is a great way to help people who are genuinely in need, especially those who ask for help at traffic lights or near shopping centers. Have the Juniors put together care bags and let the adults pass them out to veterans in need. Fill a gallon-size plastic bag with a granola bar, canned meat, peanut butter crackers, toothpaste, toothbrush, gloves, comb, lotion, hand sanitizer, bar of soap, and a bottle of water. Keep the bags handy in your car as an alternative to handing out money.

Juniors on a Mission

Sisters, Brooklyn (13) and Makynlee Jensen (11), are DAV Auxiliary Junior members of Harold Fae Tomlin Unit #6 in Las Animas, Colorado. While the world has been on lockdown due to COVID-19, these Juniors have been busy with their Vet of the Season project in Duluth, MN. They took to social media to seek community service work so they could honor and bless a special veteran for Christmas.

Brooklyn owns a small business making bath bombs and also made homemade Christmas cards to raise money. Makynlee completed jobs for her neighbors such as babysitting and snow shoveling. Through hard work and generous donations, they earned \$850 to purchase gifts and Christmas dinner for their Vet of the Season and his family.

These two young members made a difference in the life of a veteran who served 22 years in the Air Force Guard/Reserves. Thank you, Makynlee and Brooklyn, for your dedication to veterans and their families!



L to R: Makynlee and Brooklyn Jensen

New DAV Auxiliary Apparel Available

Have you seen the 2020-2021 DAV Auxiliary swag online at <https://dav.trophyawards.com/auxiliary/>? Many new designs, colors, and sizes are available. Once they are sold out they will not be restocked. What a great way to show your DAV Auxiliary pride!

Americanism by AnnMarie Hurley, National Americanism Chairman

As we shut the door on one of the most devastating years in our country's history, we start a new year of hope: for the future, recovery, and the success of the vaccines needed to end the pain of families affected by a virus that cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans.

Covid-19, however, shone a light on the *true Spirit of America*. Along with our incredible first responders and front-line workers, we have seen children, young people and adults of all ages, genders, ethnicities, faiths, whether rich or poor, pitch in to help neighbors, family, friends and others in need. Often there is a story of a youngster who amazingly, for his or her age, was able to make or do something to raise funds to donate to worthy causes to help those in need.

We've seen veterans helping veterans with food and shelter; we've seen companies donate masks and ventilators to hospitals. We've seen restaurant customers support their local restaurants and the staff with larger tips and orders for takeout they wouldn't normally make, because they know that with the reduction in allowed customers, many restaurants are going under. Companies have donated laptops to schools; a group collected food to donate to local children who wouldn't get hot lunches at school.

There have been countless acts of kindness and generosity. This pandemic, and the isolation because of it, has been suffocating at times, but it has also been an opportunity for all of us to help others believe that they are not alone, that people do care, and help can be provided. This is the spirit that we, as DAV Auxiliary members, have carried for nearly 100 years in our mission of service to improve the lives of and injured veterans and their families, and we will continue down that path of serving the veteran families who need us the most.

Thank you to each and every one of you who did something, no matter how large or small, to help or put a smile on the face of another human being, knowing we are all in this together. May the new year be good to you, and may you keep that *Spirit of America* in your hearts and in your actions over the coming year as we continue to advocate for our nation's veterans, remembering that "This too shall pass."

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!

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.



DAV AUXILIARY

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“Unity”

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

National Commander Testimonial

The testimonial dinner honoring National Commander Diane Franz will be held on June 19, 2021, at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. Rooms may be reserved at a special rate of \$93 per night by calling the hotel directly at 407-995-1100 and ask for the DAV/A State Convention block. The block will fill up fast, so please make reservations as soon as possible. The event will begin with a cash bar from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., immediately followed by dinner. The event is \$45 and attendees may choose from Pan Seared French Cut Chicken, Eight-Hour Braised Short Ribs, or Honey and Lime Glazed Salmon. A vegetarian option is also available for \$40. Mail checks and dinner options to Delores Roussey, 407 Fletcher St., Port Charlotte, FL, 33954. Make checks payable to DAVA State Department of Florida indicating “testimonial” on the memo line.

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

Reminders:

- ⇒ **It is the duty of the adjutant to always share the unit mail!**
- ⇒ Units should not hold membership applications and/or membership dues! Please send these items to national headquarters for processing as soon as possible after receipt so that members receive their cards in a timely manner.
- ⇒ If your unit’s July 1 membership distribution has not satisfied the \$25 national mandate, an indebtedness statement was mailed to the unit adjutant in July. We recommend that indebted units submit a check as soon as possible to cover the outstanding indebtedness to clear the unit for voting at state and national conventions.
- ⇒ The national annual report forms have been mailed to the state adjutants. They will be sending them to the units in the near future. To make report completion easier for the units, the forms are available, in fillable format, online at www.davauxiliary.org.
- ⇒ Oftentimes one important section of the membership application is overlooked—the **state and unit** the member wishes to join. Membership applications received without this information are processed in the national at-large then reassigned to the unit of their choice at a later date upon written notification.
- ⇒ DAV Auxiliary national headquarters will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2021, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

“Let’s welcome together a new year with a new hope and a blank canvas to be painted by us!” -Unknown