

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

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



Wishing you a pot of gold and all the joy your heart can hold.

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From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

March 3rd is Caregiver Appreciation Day. Although it may be too late to actually celebrate this particular day right now, these unsung heroes should be celebrated year round, and as Auxiliary members there are some projects that we can do all year. Reach out to someone you know who is the caregiver of a disabled veteran just to see how they are doing and to offer your support. Let them know you care about their well-being and are there for them if they need you as they provide necessary care to their hero. Some may be reluctant to ask for help so take the first step and offer to stay with their veteran or children so they can run some errands. If nothing else, something as simple as sending a "Thinking of You" card would be greatly appreciated. Eventually, they might feel comfortable reaching out to you or the unit for help.



Don't forget about the Auxiliary's Caregiver Initiative Program. If your state or county allows gatherings, plan a special fundraiser to benefit the Caregiver Program. Even if it's only for just members, have a special game day/night or a special lunch/dinner party.

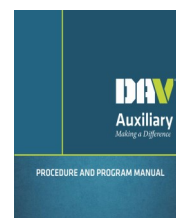
Stay vigilant safeguarding your health and those around you. Don't forget to check often on the National DAV Auxiliary Facebook page along with the Auxiliary website for current information. May God bless and keep our veterans and their families safe and bless The **United** States of America.

DAV Auxiliary Procedure and Program Manual

Last month, DAV Auxiliary announced the release of the DAV Auxiliary Procedure and Program Manual which contains information that will be helpful to all members and officers.

While hard copies are not available at this time, it can be downloaded [here](#). Please alert your members to this updated online manual and watch for future updates with regards to obtaining printed copies.

Your feedback is important to us! If you have any suggestions or comments related to the manual, please email them to us at dava@dav.org.



2021 Education Scholarship Applications

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 DAV Auxiliary member to be eligible, but must be at least a high school senior and have a minimum 2.5 GPA. Additional information is [available online](#).

Americanism by AnnMarie Hurley, National Americanism Chairman

As I write this I am still celebrating Black History Month, but as you read it, I'm a month late—my apologies for that. There is so much military history for Black Americans, reaching back to the Revolutionary War and also the War of 1812 where these Americans fought both for and against the new U.S. colonies, that I can only write about a few of the nuggets I found that celebrate all of our Black American veterans who served, men and women.

During the Battle of New Orleans, they fought with Andrew Jackson and accounted for 15% of the U.S. Navy at the time. In 1866, Cathay Williams became the first Black American female soldier, serving for three years, having enlisted under the male name "William Cathay". In 1877, Henry O. Flipper, born into slavery, graduated from West Point and became the first Black American commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

The Buffalo Soldiers fought alongside then Colonel Theodore Roosevelt at the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba during the Spanish American War in 1898. Roosevelt praised the Buffalo Soldiers by saying "no one can tell whether it was the Rough Riders or the men of the ninth (a Black American regiment) who came forward with the greater courage to offer their lives in the service of their country." In Boston, there is a monument across from the State House depicting the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, a famous all-Black American regiment that fought for the union in the Civil War.

In 1863, Army Sgt. William H. Carney, born into slavery, joined the Union Army and became the first Black American soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor in 1900. Dr. Louis Tompkins Wright, whose parents were former slaves, graduated from Harvard University School of Medicine in 1917. He served in the Army where he injected soldiers with the smallpox vaccine. After he came home, he was the first Black American physician at Harlem Hospital.

In 1918, Cpl. Freddie Stowers, fought for France and led his company into a successful battle against Germany. He died during the attack, and in 1991, President George H.W. Bush posthumously awarded him the Medal of Honor.

Eugene Ballard flew for France during World War I. He was the first Black American military pilot. At the start of WWII, in 1941, a division of Black American pilots was created and trained at Tuskegee University in Alabama. The 99th Fighter Squadron was made up of more than 30 Tuskegee Airmen.

1941: During WWII, Major Della H. Rainey became the first Black American chief nurse in the Army Nurse Corps. She also became the chief nurse over the Black American nurses at the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama.

I could go on and on, these are only some of the military-information I found. The internet is full of information on the amazing Black Americans, men and women, who served their country, the United States of America, willing to give what is known as "The Last Full Measure of Devotion."

Bless them all—Men and Women of all races—from the Revolutionary War until today—for their sacrifice and bravery. And, bless all of our veterans today, especially the ill and injured men and women we in the DAV Auxiliary serve, who have also been willing to serve and give their all for their country.

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.

Community Service by Linda Gerke, National Community Service Chairman

State Conventions will soon begin and it is time to prepare for completing your Unit's Community Service Report. The annual reports are especially important as they illustrate not just what the unit members are doing in the name of the organization, but how we are caring for our veterans and their families.

I hope you kept an accurate record of your time, mileage, monies, and number of members that participated. This should be all activities performed in the name of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

When completing your Community Service Report the upper portion of the report which includes Unit Name, Unit Number, City, State, Number of Senior members, and Total senior members working on Community Service should be completed in its entirety.

There are five different areas of volunteerism:

- Family Services
- Facility Visits
- Professional & Trade Services/Payments
- Recreation & Entertainment
- Special Projects and Programs

Note: Unit funds must be used to support veteran family-related expenditures. Individual members can donate their personal funds to support community efforts, but never unit funds.

The last especially important step is the signature of the Commander and/or Chairman.

Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chairman

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!! Spread the cheer that Spring is on its way! Juniors, how can you do that for our Veterans and their families? You can wear red on Fridays as a message of solidarity and hope for our military overseas and at home to let them know they are in our thoughts always.

Juniors, keep your life simple. March Madness can be crazy!!! Tests, sports, tournaments, book reports, science projects, papers due, and Spring cleaning!!! (Smile!) So, if you are missing somebody – CALL. Want to meet up with a friend? – INVITE. If you want to be understood – EXPLAIN. If you have questions – ASK. If you do not like something – SAY IT with respect. If you do like something – STATE IT with a smile. If you want something – ASK FOR IT in a kind way. Be willing to negotiate and have an understanding that we just can't always get what we want. And, if you love someone – TELL THEM, many times over.

As a Junior member, you must ask the Senior members to help you get the paperwork started for the Department and National awards. Take and collect pictures of activities you have done when helping your family as well as other Veteran families. Keep in mind that unit funds earmarked for Junior member projects can be used to purchase items of necessity for homeless veterans and veteran families in need. Some ideas are paper products, laundry detergent, soap, and shampoo. For the veteran families with little ones diapers, baby formula, toys, games. Or, if there is a local veteran food bank, canned goods and other non-perishable items are always a good idea.

Thank you for all that you do to help your family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for helping Veterans and their families.

When you get a package of M & M's think of Red...Courage, Blue...Stand United as One, Green...Pride in the USA, Yellow...for tolerance of others, Orange...for doing what is right, Brown... for the belief in "One Nation Under God."



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.](#)

Legislative by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Legislative Chairman

"The VA Won't Reform Itself – Take Action Now" reads the banner on the DAV website. This might be a mission statement for our legislative activities. As a government agency, the Veterans Administration is dependent on laws to shape policies, and those policies create benefits for veterans and their families. In short, the people whom we elect to Congress have the responsibility and authority to enact legislation that prioritize our community's needs.

Each year DAV publishes Critical Policy Goals for Congress. These goals significantly impact the lives of disabled veterans and their families. This year's priorities include a call to enhance veterans' survival benefits for eligible survivors of veterans who die due to a service-connected condition or from a non-service-connected condition if the veteran had a totally disabling service-connected condition for a period of time, generally 10 years, before death.

This benefit was intended to protect against spousal impoverishment after the death of a service-disabled veteran. Unfortunately, the current payments are not sufficient to provide meaningful support and the VA has not addressed this issue. Congress can force the Veterans Administration to change its policies to rectify this dire situation but will not act unless they understand the importance.

Only 96 veterans serve in the current Congress. It is unlikely that the majority of our legislators are aware of the need to enhance survivors benefits. Conditions will not improve unless we communicate with our representatives. Joining together veterans and their families have the strength to create an urgency for our legislators to make meaningful reform in the VA.