

Headquarters News

DAV Auxiliary



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From the Desk of National Commander, Donna Adams.....

Congratulations to the State Department of New Mexico
The first state to achieve 2012-2013 membership quota!!

Happy New Year to all of you. I hope 2013 brings you health, happiness, and prosperity. I know it's going to be a banner year for DAVA with all the wonderful members we have all over the country doing terrific work for our veterans and their families.

During December, I had the good fortune to attend a remembrance ceremony for Pearl Harbor Day. Of course, Arizona feels a special kinship with the memorial in Pearl Harbor, and we were so pleased there are still Pearl Harbor survivors in our area able to attend the program. The ceremony was held at the USS Arizona Memorial which is made up of an anchor from the ship as well as the signal mast. No less than 50 service organizations laid wreaths on the anchor, and as I walked up to place a wreath, the faces of our Pearl Harbor survivors were just beaming. I have a special relationship with those men, and I felt like I was taking part in celebrating their lives while honoring those who died at Pearl Harbor. Following the ceremony, a groundbreaking took place for a new WW II memorial that will be constructed adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Memorial at the Capitol.

Mid-month, I attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony at our local National Cemetery. It was a very cold, windy, and rainy morning, but that didn't deter a great turnout by Gold Star families and supporters. The ceremony included a very moving presentation of the POW/MIA table by the Scottish American Military Society complete with pipers. After laying a wreath on my father's grave, we watched as wreaths were placed throughout the cemetery. It won't look like Arlington (we have flat grave markers and there won't be any snow in Phoenix), but the area looked beautiful as we drove away. If you haven't participated in this program, I urge you to visit their website at www.wreathscrossamerica.org and become involved next year.

I hope each of you were surrounded by family or friends during the holiday season, and wish nothing but the best in the new year.



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Think beyond your lifetime if you want to accomplish something truly great.
~ Walt Disney

Freedoms Foundation

By Judy Hezlep, National Adjutant

National Headquarters has received a thank you letter from Freedoms Foundation for the donation sent to them for scholarships last year. We sent \$3000, and three (3) scholarships were granted for program attendees. One was a disabled female veteran.

Programs for the 2013 year will be announced and new workshops and programs are being implemented. One program for graduate-level participants is the Medal of Honor Legacy and much of the material being used is from the

Medal of Honor Society Foundation. A special focus will be on the (MOH) recipients. Part of the teachings will include the Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge Medal of Honor Grove. It is the oldest tribute dedicated to the Medal of Honor Recipients.

They are once again asking for donations for scholarships for this and all programs. The applications ask for the applicant to identify if they are a disabled veteran or a veteran and the first priority will go to these individuals. They will then go to worthy applicants.

There were some issues for a few years with Freedoms Foundation but they are once again functioning and informing us about their programs and responding to inquiries from our office. Donations for Freedoms Foundation are needed to be able to award scholarships for the programs at Freedoms Foundation.

We have a limited amount of brochures on hand at national headquarters. If interested, please contact us or visit Freedoms Foundation online at <http://freedomfoundation.org/>.

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line—a resource provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)—is a confidential hotline, online chat, and text service for Veterans and their families and friends who are in crisis and need immediate support. This service is free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Veterans and their loved ones, including families, caregivers, friends, and neighbors, can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255 to connect with the support they've earned.



Family members, friends, and supporters of Veterans can reach out for confidential support if they are concerned about a Veteran in their life. Support is only a call, click, or text away for Veterans and for their loved ones, who are often the first to notice signs of a crisis.

Stand by Veterans and their families by letting them know support is always available.

Everyone can help make a difference in the life of a Veteran.

⇒ For more information about the Veterans Crisis Line, visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

⇒ For more information about VA's mental health resources, visit www.mentalhealth.va.gov

Recruitment Awards

Sign up new paid senior members and earn awards!

Plus

The top recruiter as of June 30, 2013, will receive \$250!

(Senior members are those age 18 and over. Don't forget to write your membership number on the application as sponsor.)



Sponsor one new paid senior member and you are eligible for the \$25 monthly drawing.

Bronze
Lapel Pin
(5 Members)



Silver
Lapel Pin
(10 Members)



Go for the Gold Snow Globe (15 Members)

Snow Globes are personalized with the recruiter's name inscribed. December recipients are:

Linda Oliver, Oklahoma #66

Lois Farrell, Florida #18

Legislative

By Linda Stake, National Legislative Chairman

Although the 2012 national elections and political rhetoric are now over, the work of the DAV and Auxiliary is always continuous and has already begun.

On November 26, 2012, DAV National Commander Larry A. Polzin alerted DAV and Auxiliary members to **Take Action Now**. "Without action, TRICARE Co-Payment and TRICARE Medication Co-Payment will likely increase. Please write your senators today to prevent this outcome," stated Commander Polzin. If you have access to a computer, you can send the pre-written letters to your senators via e-mail. The 113th Congress begins in January 2013. You have time to join the Commander's Action Network (CAN) and get notification from the Commander when action is needed.

Legislative update: On August 6, 2012, H.R. 1627, the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, was enacted into law.

Legislative alert: A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) was introduced in the House last February (HR 4114) and approved by the House in July. The Senate approved this bill on November 13, 2012. The COLA will be 1.7%, rounded down to the nearest whole dollar. The DAV strongly supports COLA; however, they disagree with the rounding-down policy because it is a tax on disabled veterans and their survivors.

DAV sincerely thanks the members of (CAN) for making your views known the entire year. With the 2012 elections now completed, DAV anticipates many challenges ahead to maintain the progress that has been made on veterans rights and benefits, and to push for more. ***With your help, we "CAN" succeed!***

Hospital (Non-VA)

By Linda Bailey, National Hospital Chairman

PLEASE remember our Veterans in Non-VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Home Bound!

During fall conference many of you took the pledge to visit Veterans for the Non-VA Hospital program; I have lots of photos!!! I am not afraid of turning them over to National Commander Donna! I challenge you to remember your pledge.

The holidays can be a lonely and depressing time for some. With the holidays behind us, we still need to remember those who are hospitalized. Take Junior volunteers to visit our Veterans; a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday may bring hope and joy to someone's life. You may even enrich your own life in the process.

I presented National Commander Donna, National Adjutant Judy, and line officers with a gift bag of items that they were to take to a Veteran for the Non-VA Hospital Program (they also took the pledge to visit a Veteran for the Non-VA Hospital program). I received a wonderful letter and photo from National Chap-

lain Carol Rundell with excitement on what this has meant to her and the female Veteran she presented the gift to. This is what our Organization is all about, serving those that served!

In February, all VA Hospitals celebrate Hospitalized Veterans by arranging special guests to visit the Veterans and present Valentines; this would be a great project for your DAVA unit / DAVA Junior members at a Non-VA Hospital or Nursing Home. Contact the Voluntary Service Coordinator at your local hospital or nursing home for facility guidelines.

Challenge your Junior members to be creative and make the valentines for this special event. They can assist in making gift bags. Talk to local business owners in your community about donations for the gift bags.

I challenge each unit to start the wheels turning. Contact local officials, media, sports teams, cheerleaders to participate in your celebration for Hospitalized Veterans.

As DAVA Members we all have

had someone close to us who has faced the harsh realities of illness, disabilities, and loss!

In the words of our National Commander Donna, "The Key is Understanding."

The need is there. Let's show our Veterans Understanding, Compassion and Respect!

I would like to have your personal volunteering success stories for the Non VA Hospital. Please feel free to email me with your stories or questions:

lindabailey930@charter.net

New Auxiliary Units Chartered

**John F. Kennedy #6
Bangor, Maine
Chartered November 29, 2012**

**Nicholes D. Golding #23
Machias, Maine
Chartered December 11, 2012**



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Follow Us!



The Key is Understanding

Americanism

By Frances Costa, National Americanism Chairman

The holidays are over and the New Year has begun and by now your units should have received or will be receiving your end of year reports.

Please pay attention to the directions and deadline dates. Dates are important because your State Adjutant **MUST** meet his/her deadline as well to the National Chairmen and NEC's for their reports to be processed and for national headquarters to have them compiled for judging at the National Convention. Deadlines are also important because our National office staff needs to prepare the ribbons sent to units submitting all reports.

Send two copies to the State Adjutant and keep one copy for your unit files.

Keep in mind that the Americanism Report has two sides and must be signed on the back side. On the heading, note the name of your unit as it appears on your unit charter. The number of senior members may be obtained from your unit population summary. This number controls which category your unit reports are judged in.

Then we come to the questions - Please print or type legibly. It is difficult for the committee members judging the reports if they cannot read it and could be the turning point of your unit report winning or not (*the report is available in fillable format at www.davauxiliary.org*). If your unit does the work, give them the opportunity to be judged for it. Please fill in all sections. If there is no activity just put "0" or "NA" on that line.

On question 8, MIA/POW program, please explain your support—just a "yes" or "no" does not help the judging committee in their duties. Let us know what the program was and how you participated.

Remember: **SPECIAL AMERICANISM PROGRAM**—is on the back of the form. This should be a program that your unit was instrumental in organizing or had a specific participation in the program (not just something that some members may have attended). Try to explain what it was. Please be clear and legible in the program explanation.

Thank you in advance to the units that take the time to submit forms for judging. Yes, it is an effort to keep track throughout the year, but when your unit receives an award, it is thrilling to bring back to the unit. It also gives the National Officers and headquarters an idea of what the units are doing and the work they are continuing to do. **REMEMBER** Commander Adams's theme for the year, "THE KEY IS UNDERSTANDING."

Reminders

- **Junior Members** — A template is available on the DAVA web site to create junior membership cards. Junior dues are \$3 per year.
- **Form 990-N ePostcard** — Many units still have not complied with this IRS requirement. When a unit or state department loses their non-profit status, IRS Form 1024 must be completed to apply for reinstatement. This is a lengthy and costly process. Failure to achieve reinstatement will, unfortunately, result in charter revocation.
- **Unit Annual Dues Changes for 2012-2013** must be received at national headquarters no later than February 27, 2013.
- **Orders** — Orders and checks for fraternal items are sent to DAV NSF. The only item sold by DAV Auxiliary is the Auxiliary Manual.