



From the AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER FRANCES J. COSTA

Our mutually supporting cause

Hello, friends! It's already been a very busy 2017 for the DAV Auxiliary and DAV. Kicking off the annual mid-winter conference alongside many of you, I told our lawmakers in very plain language that we expect them to pass legislation to equalize comprehensive caregiver benefits for veterans of all eras. Many members of our Auxiliary cared for the ill or injured veteran in their lives for several decades before the events of 9/11. But unfortunately—as many of us can attest—only caregivers for post-9/11 veterans receive this critical support from our government.

Along with several members of our Auxiliary who have years of experience with this issue, I shared our stories with elected leaders in the hope they will do the right thing by approving caregiver support for all generations of disabled veterans.

Soon after the conference, it was my distinct honor and pleasure to once again attend the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. This life-changing event is transformative for both disabled veterans and their caregivers. It's an absolute inspiration to see the look of sheer joy on an injured veteran's face when he or she descends down the mountain for the first time. It was

wonderful to see 150- plus first time attendees. However, the glow on the faces of the many caregivers who accompany veterans to this event, and witness what these heroes accomplish, is priceless as well. I know what it means to feel that swell of pride when the veterans in our lives overcome obstacles they didn't believe they could surmount.

These important events remind me just how fortunate we are to be a part of an organization whose members make our work so impactful on a national scale. I find it such a privilege to work with such dedicated men and women who are passionate about ensuring the promises made by our nation to its veterans and their families are fulfilled.

We need you to have the passion in your heart to mentor and educate newer members to carry on the traditions and mission of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary.

DAV National Commander Dave Riley and I stay in close contact and agree that both organizations should continue their mutual support of each other toward the same goals. And as summer approaches, I continue to look forward to working with each of you as we advance our cause on behalf of the men and women who served and their families.

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