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TO: National Executive Committee
Department Commanders and Adjutants
Benefits Protection Team Leaders

FROM: Joy J. Ilem, National Legislative Director

SUBJ: **BENEFITS PROTECTION TEAM LEADER AWARDS PROGRAM**

DATE: April 26, 2018

As noted by DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess in his April 25, 2018 memo, DAV is establishing an awards program for DAV departments and our dedicated department benefits protection team leaders (BPTLs) to recognize outstanding performance in advocacy.

Departments and BPTLs will be grouped and compete in the divisions used by the National Membership Department (see attached for your division). The award's period will run from July 1 to June 30 of each year, commencing on July 1, 2018, with the first awards being presented at the 2019 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention.

The awards will be based on the level of state advocacy on national health care and benefits issues. These metrics will include:

- Efforts to increase active DAV Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN) members signed up in your state;
- The total number of emails sent to Congress on action alerts from the DAV advocacy website;
- The department submission of national resolutions—related to federal issues that affect veterans across the country, as opposed to legislative issues affecting local or state benefits—for consideration at our national convention;
- The number of Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) hours reported to the National Voluntary Services Department on legislative efforts;
- A department website containing legislative/advocacy information such as alerts and DAV CAN links;
- A department newsletter (monthly, quarterly or semi-annually) that includes relevant legislative/advocacy information;
- Social media contacts on legislative issues, such as Facebook, Tweeter, LinkedIn and YouTube;
- Attendance of department BPTL at the DAV Mid-Winter Conference;

- Scheduled meeting(s) with elected official(s) in DC during the DAV Mid-Winter Conference;
- Scheduled meeting(s) at congressional state or district office(s) anytime during the year; and
- Department BPTL-led seminar or class on legislative issues presented at a district, department or chapter meeting/function or community event (to include educating and/or training chapter level BPTLs).

A nomination form will be available on DAV's legislative advocacy website to nominate the department/department BPTL for a national advocacy award in your division. We will also send out a copy of the nomination form to each department and department BPTL when available.

All nomination forms *must be* submitted by the department or department BPTL to the national legislative staff by **July 7, 2019**, to be considered for an award at the 2019 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention. Award nominations will be judged by DAV's national legislative staff.

DAV is a strong voice and highly respected by government officials who are involved with veterans programs. The purpose of this new award is to increase our grassroots advocacy on behalf of our nation's ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors. It is our desire to bring personal recognition to the men and women who are the backbone of our grassroots advocacy team.

Thank you for all you do in support of DAV's legislative program.



JOY J. ILEM
National Legislative Director

Attachment

Membership Divisions

Division I

California
Florida
Massachusetts
Michigan
New York
North Carolina
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Texas
Virginia

Division II

Alabama
Arizona
Colorado
Georgia
Kentucky
Minnesota
Missouri
New Jersey
Oklahoma
Washington

Division III

Arkansas
Illinois
Indiana
Louisiana
Maryland
New Mexico
Oregon
South Carolina
Tennessee
Wisconsin

Division IV

Connecticut
Hawaii
Iowa
Kansas
Maine
Mississippi
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
Puerto Rico
West Virginia

Division V

Alaska
D.C.
Delaware
Idaho
Montana
North Dakota
Rhode Island
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
Wyoming