

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

February 2023



Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for reaching 2022-2023 Quota!

Florida
Louisiana
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Utah

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Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by AnnMarie Hurley, Natl. Chairman

We are in the year 2023 now, which means we don't have many months left in our Auxiliary year. It's time for us to start gathering information (*if you haven't already*) on what we have been able to do to contribute for the following **Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit programs: Americanism, Community Service, Junior Activities, Legislation and VAVS.** We also must continue to serve our disabled veterans and their families.

If you don't have the most recent national report forms, contact your state adjutant who will have them or [check online](#). Don't forget the address to send the completed forms to and the deadline due date. I suggest making a copy of each report and giving them to each member of the unit. This way, they can write their activities down as they go, and at the end of the year simply combine the information.

As we all know, our Auxiliary Mission is *Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families*. There are many ways to fulfill that mission: patriotic programs, promoting the American Flag, voting, helping out at polling places (my mother was very proud of volunteering for years at our polling place). We can provide community service to neighborhood veterans and their families, participate in helping our Juniors with their programs, belong to the DAV CAN program to inform legislators of legislation that DAV is promoting and contact your local legislators on legislation particular to your town, city or state that affects veterans and their families. We could volunteer at our VA facilities, but first check if you are able to enter the VA to volunteer and learn if there are requirements, like taking a COVID test before entering. Anything we can do to brighten the day of even one of our disabled veterans is a blessing.

While all this is going on, remember to recruit members to join us in this amazing mission. If the prospective member doesn't choose to become active immediately, that's fine. Their membership is very important, and the member may later participate in some way. Just keep your members informed of meetings and activities that may draw them in to becoming active.

Reminder: Each state adjutant must collect all reports and send a copy to each respective national chairman and NEC.

Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

Join us at the 2023 National Fall Conference

Reservations are now being accepted for the national fall conference, to be held September 28-30, 2023, at the Holiday Inn, 1717 Airport Exchange Blvd., Erlanger, KY 41018. Please call 859.371.2233 or go [online](#) to reserve. Rooms are \$139 per night, plus applicable taxes. All rates include complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, airport shuttle, and breakfast. Please make your reservations early to avoid sell out. They can be cancelled in the future if you're unable to attend.

Junior Activities by Maxine Nixon, National Junior Activities Chairman

Today will never come again. Be a blessing. Be a friend. Encourage someone. Take time to care.

Remember, all Units have the opportunity to earn points toward a cash incentive donated by William A. Smith, Jr., Unit #2 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for Junior Life Memberships! This opportunity began October 1, 2022, and will end June 30, 2023. It's simple:

- ⇒ Sign up a brand new Junior Life Member with a down payment of \$20, and your Unit will receive two points.
- ⇒ Submit a \$20 down payment on an existing complimentary Junior Member toward a Junior Life Membership, and your Unit will receive two points.
- ⇒ Any current Junior Life Member may make a payment of \$10, and the Unit will receive one point for each \$10 payment.

The five Units with the most points at the conclusion on June 30, 2023, will win cash prizes.

1st Place \$800 2nd Place \$700 3rd Place \$600 4th Place \$500 5th Place \$400

Americanism by Terry Grabowski, National Americanism Chairman

I read this article and it really made me see the meaning of Americanism.

"Last night, I learned a big lesson about patriotism, compassion for your fellow man, and respect.....from an 8 year old little boy at McDonalds in Shamrock, Texas. Amongst french fries and chicken nuggets, in walks a man and his wife. The man was wearing a Vietnam Veteran cap that was adorned with several pins. I don't know that anyone noticed him when he walked in, nor did they notice his cap; but the eight year old little boy did. Even after he had asked his mom several times (three to be exact) if he could "go shake that guy's hand and tell him thank you for his service," she said no, for fear of disturbing his supper. But on the fourth plea, mom gave in; and the little boy marches right over to the gentleman and says, "sir, thank you for your service" and shakes his hand. The gentleman pauses, and with a cracking voice says, "young man, you are very welcome and thank YOU for noticing....you just made my day, maybe my whole week!" Everyone went back to their meal and before the boy left, the gentleman walked over and said, "son, I would like for you to have this." It was his 1st Calvary pin that he wore on his cap. The little guy says thank you and quickly takes his cap off and let's his uncle attach the pin to his cap and runs to show his mom and aunt what the veteran had given him. I don't know who was more overcome with emotion, the veteran, for someone noticing all that he had fought for; the little boy, for meeting "a real-life hero" or those that observed this interaction. All in all, it reminded me that no matter the place, no matter the time nor situation, honoring our soldiers past and present, and their unselfish sacrifice is paramount. So here's to all those that stepped up and shouldered the responsibility of protecting our country. There are no words big enough to say thank you." *Krisse Pigg Bruton*

The article touched my heart. We need to see much more of this here in the US. Make it a point everyday to thank a Veteran. They deserve the recognition for their sacrifices and it will make their day and maybe their week.

Exciting Change to MyDAV.org!

We are excited to announce that additional resources are now available on www.mydav.org. State and unit officers are now able to access the membership deceased report. This report will list those who have been marked as deceased in our system through a selected timeframe, which is especially helpful for state departments and units who do memorial services.

If you review the report and find errors, please notify our office as soon as possible. As we have previously explained, there are members who have been erroneously marked deceased due to a system issue.

As always, if you encounter issues logging in and a password reset is not working, please contact our office at dava@dav.org or 833.368.1220. We appreciate your patience as we have navigated this new system and the reports.