



**NORTH MIDDLESEX CHAPTER #122**  
**491 MAIN STREET A, WEST TOWNSEND, MA 01474**  
(LOCATED WITH POST 6538, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS)  
**PO Box 403, TOWNSEND, MA 01462**

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## From the Commander

Greetings, comrades!

Last month I told you that April would be very busy for us. I am happy to report that, thanks to the efforts of many of you, it was a successful month. We raised about \$450 at our FMN drive. A week later we added to that amount at our information booth at the Townsend Earth Day event. Both activities also provided great publicity for DAV and our mission. We concluded April with the election of officers at our membership meeting.

I need to express my appreciation to two groups. First, I want to thank the officers who decided to continue in their roles and a special thank you to Comrade Theresa Morse for stepping up to fill the vacant position of 1<sup>st</sup> junior Vice Commander. Second, I need to thank you the members for placing your trust & confidence in us by electing us to serve another year to lead the chapter. At our meeting this month DAV Department of Massachusetts will install your elected officers and I will appoint our adjutant and chaplain. At least one officer from the state will attend and conduct the

ceremony. We will have light refreshments at the close of our meeting (an enticement to attend.)

I hope to see you at our next meeting on May 25.

Walter "Chip" Mann  
Commander

## Next Meeting!

Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm  
Location — W. Townsend VFW

**Come out and support your chapter!**

Remember, we are a social organization as well as a service organization. Come out and hear how you can help or be helped by the DAV, and come out to socialize with other Disabled American Veterans.

## Membership Report

April 2023

For Membership Issues, select one of the following:

CALL the Membership Department at 1-888-236-8313 OR  
Email at [membershippublic@dav.org](mailto:membershippublic@dav.org) OR  
Internet login at: [www.DAV.org](http://www.DAV.org) Select MEMBER RESOURCES  
Create Username and password. (Requires Validation)  
Then Log Into Your Personal Account at: [www.MyDAV.org](http://www.MyDAV.org)

### Chapter Membership Status:

Membership list from National DAV, 02/21/23

Chapter #122 Member Count = 81  
MA Department Member Count = 81  
Members Processed: Rich Giero, John Soper, Alpee Couture, Peter Tourigny, and Ronaldo McGuinness  
Death Notice: None  
Department Additions: Philius Gauthier  
New Applications: None  
Resolving Transfer: None  
Membership Balance = 81

Membership Goal from National DAV, 04/22/23

Assigned at 83 fully paid life members.  
We currently have 81 fully paid life members.  
Or 97.6 % of our goal.

We received the Membership 'HOT LIST' on 3/30/23 from National for all zip codes within 21-mile radius (ex. Leominster & Fitchburg). Next step is to campaign for their recruitment as Chapter #122 members.

JOIN IN and HELP RECRUIT ..... call me.

Respectfully submitted,

Willis Smith  
Sr. Vice Commander

## Service & Charitable Committee Report

April 2023

### Noticeable Monthly Activities To Date:

**March** Local Veteran Assistance Program (LVAP) Activity submission completed by Commander Mann.

**April 30th is DUE Date for LVAP contributions**—Send inputs (name, date, hours, & activity) to CMDR Mann at [ewo3chip@yahoo.com](mailto:ewo3chip@yahoo.com) or call (978) 855-2611

### April Local Veteran Assistance Program (LVAP) Activities.

April 15th, *Fundraising*, ~\$492.55 collected at 2 locations. 17 hours for 4 members.

April 22nd, *LVAP*, Booth duty Townsend Earth Day. 18 hours for 3 members.

April 24th, *Special Events*, Townsend Elections, Keeper of Veteran Memorials. 1 hour for CMD Mann. **WHOOO-RAWH!**

April 29th, *Special Events*, Johnny Ro Veteran Memorial Park, Leominster hosting the Traveling Dog Tag Wall, a Veteran and Athletes United Fallen Memorial. Ceremony at 11:00 am. Continuous viewing through April 30th.

No *Veteran Assistance* requests for Transportation.

No *Veteran Assistance* requests for Food Support.

### Recommending readings from the Department

**March 11th 2023 DEC - S & C Report.** (See me for a copy.) Chapter #122 was listed several times for our member's S&C activities; Food Bank delivery, Disability/Claim Seminar, ClearPath Volunteering, Transportation, etc. **Congratulations!!!!**

**April 2023 DAVMA Newsletter.** (See me for a copy)

### Calendar of Future Service & Charitable Events

May 20th, Middlesex GWOT 1 Hollis Street, Pepperell. 8th Annual Flag Planting. Check Meta for dates/times. VOLUNTEER.

May 25th, DAV #122 Membership Meeting at 7:00 pm. Installation of Officers.

May 27th, Prudence Wright, Daughters of the American Revolution. Flagging of Veterans' Graves at Walton Cemetery, 8 Park Street Pepperell at 8:00 am. Ceremony at 9:00 am.

May 29th, **Memorial Day.**

May 29, Memorial Day March. As a DAV #122 Member, MARCH with your local VFW Post in honor of the fallen veterans.

May 30th, Middlesex GWOT 1 Hollis Street, Pepperell. Annual Flag Garden Picking. VOLUNTEER.

June 8th-11th, DAVMA 101st Convention at the Doubletree Hilton in Leominster, MA

June 22nd, DAV #122 Membership Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Willis Smith  
Sr. Vice Commander

# Legislative Report - April 2023

Comrades,

These are the Commanders Action Notifications (6) that have been received during April through this date. A more detailed explanation of these can be found in the DAV Commanders Action Network (DAV CAN) in the Action Alerts tab.

1. H.R.1278/S. 592, the Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity (DRIVE) Act to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for veterans receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans who are seeking care for service-connected conditions or veterans with service-connected conditions rated at least 30% are among veterans who are eligible for beneficiary travel pay—which may include reimbursement for mileage, tolls and additional expenses, such as meals or lodging. The DAV supports the DRIVE Act in accordance with Resolution No. 432, which calls for adopting the General Services Administration increased mileage rate for veterans' beneficiary travel.

2. S.344 and H.R. 1282, The Major Richard Star Act is bipartisan legislation that would authorize concurrent receipt of Department of Defense (DoD) retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation for those injured in a combat zone and medically retired under Chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code. Currently, 50,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for retirement pay from both the DoD for their military service and for disability compensation from the VA for the injuries they sustained. However, for medically retired veterans with less than 20 years of service, the amount of their disability compensation is deducted from their military retirement pay. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this unfair offset, allowing combat-disabled veterans to receive both their medically retired pay and VA disability compensation benefits.

3. S.414/H.R. 1083, Caring for Survivors Act is bipartisan legislation that would ease the eligibility criteria for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and increase the monthly benefit amount to match benefits provided by other federal survivor programs. Specifically, the measure would:

Expand eligibility for DIC by replacing the 10-year rule with a graduated scale of benefits that begins at five years for initial eligibility at 50% and gradually reaches the full benefit at 10 years after determination of disability, and

Increase the amount of DIC to 55% of the rate of monthly compensation received by a totally disabled veteran.

The DAV supports the Caring for Survivors Act, which is in accordance with DAV Resolution Nos. 002 and 162.

4. H.R. 808, the Veterans Patient Advocacy Act, would direct VA Medical Center directors to ensure there is no fewer than one patient advocate for every 13,500 enrolled veterans. Additionally, it would also address the need for highly rural veterans to have access to the services of patient advocates assigned to rural community-based outpatient clinics. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has designated patient advocates at each VA Medical Center (VAMC) to receive and document feedback from veterans or their representatives, including requests for information, compliments, complaints and assist with clinical appeals. DAV supports H.R. 808, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 056, which recognizes that staffing shortages and vacancies in the VA health care system, including critical positions like patient advocates.

5. In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 016, DAV supports H.R. 542, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act, legislation that would enhance the VA's program of long-term services and supports, and increase timely access to both institutional and noninstitutional long-term services to meet increasing demand. The VA must focus on addressing staffing and infrastructure gaps in order to maintain excellence in skilled nursing care. The VA also needs to expand access nationwide to innovative and cost-effective home- and community-based services, such as the veteran-directed care program and medical foster home care.

6. S. 326—the Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023 was considered in the Senate on Wednesday. This legislation includes provisions from five bills unanimously approved by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) in February. All of these bills are in alignment with at least one DAV resolution and includes the following bills:

S. 106, the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act (Resolution Nos. 014 and 059)

S. 141, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act (Resolution No. 427)

S. 185, the Native American Direct Loan Improvement Act of 2023 (Resolution No. 251)

S. 216, the RESPECT Act of 2023 (Resolution Nos. 059, 082 and 427)

S. 326, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2023 (Resolution No. 128)

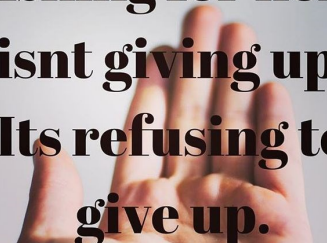
This legislative package will help improve outreach and assistance to veterans and their families to ensure they are informed about veterans benefits and services; expand long-term care options for aging veterans and improve services for veterans and caregivers in VA's comprehensive caregiver program; offer better home loan options to Native American veterans and require the VA to conduct a study on the effects of cannabis on veterans with chronic pain or post-traumatic stress disorder. DAV supports this legislation in accordance with the resolutions listed above.

These six (6) resolutions can be found in your members account in the DAV.org website under Action Alerts. Feel free to reach out to me on email (perry2291@yahoo.com) with any specific questions or when support is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Willis Smith  
Sr. Vice Commander

## DAV 122 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

5/25/2023 7:00 PM	<a href="#">Monthly Membership Meeting</a> Installation of Officers
5/27/2023 8:00 AM	<a href="#">Vet-Together Breakfast</a>
6/8/2023 12:00 AM	<a href="#">Department Convention</a>
6/8/2023 11:30 AM	<a href="#">Officers Meeting</a> Discuss and plan upcoming activities and set agenda for monthly members meeting. Open to all members.
6/22/2023 7:00 PM	<a href="#">Monthly Membership Meeting</a>
6/24/2023 8:00 AM	<a href="#">Vet-Together Breakfast</a>
7/13/2023 11:30 AM	<a href="#">Officers Meeting</a> Discuss and plan upcoming activities and set agenda for monthly members meeting. Open to all members.
7/27/2023 7:00 PM	<a href="#">Monthly Membership Meeting</a>
7/29/2023 8:00 AM	<a href="#">Vet-Together Breakfast</a>
8/10/2023 11:30 AM	<a href="#">Officers Meeting</a> Discuss and plan upcoming activities and set agenda for monthly members meeting. Open to all members.



**Asking for help  
isn't giving up.  
It's refusing to  
give up.**



# WOMEN VETERANS



Women make up 10 percent of the total veteran population and are the fastest growing demographic among America's veterans. More than 2 million have served, and the Department of Defense reports women account for nearly 20 percent of the country's active duty force.

Military service is nothing new for women—as far back as the American Revolution, women have answered the call to arms. Being that all combat specialties in the military are now officially open to women only underscores the perils generations of women have faced alongside their male counterparts. DAV and its more than 1 million members want to ensure the American public recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of women in the military, and that our promises are kept to those who have served.



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO  
AMERICA'S VETERANS

For information on the current landscape of challenges for women veterans, areas of concern and recommendations for change, download DAV's comprehensive report, *Women Veterans: The Journey Ahead*, visit:

[dav.org/women-veterans](http://dav.org/women-veterans)



## YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Today, as women serve in more diverse roles than ever, it is critical we ensure they are aware of and have access to the array of health care, rehabilitative services and benefits (compensation, education and other supports) that women fully earned as a result of their service.

DAV is at the forefront of efforts to ensure gender-specific services are available at all VA health care facilities and are tailored to meet women veterans' unique needs. DAV also fights so women receive appropriate treatment and counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder and any related physical conditions if they were exposed to combat, survived sexual trauma or endured other injuries or illnesses in service. Although positive changes are being made by the government, much more needs to be done. Through advocacy, outreach and direct service to women, DAV continues to work assertively toward additional progress.

### VA Resources for Women Veterans

- ▶ Veterans Crisis Hotline 1-800-273-8255, Press 1 or Text 838255
- ▶ Women Veterans Call Center 1-855-VA-WOMEN
- ▶ National Center for Women Veterans [va.gov/womenvet](http://va.gov/womenvet)
- ▶ Women Veterans Call Center and Chat [www.womenshealth.va.gov/programoverview/wvcc.asp](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/programoverview/wvcc.asp)
- ▶ Women Veterans Health Care Program [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)
- ▶ Women Veterans Programs and Benefits [benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-women.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-women.asp)

#### NATIONAL SERVICE AND LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS

807 Maine Avenue SW | Washington, DC 20024 | 202-554-3501

TO GET HELP, VOLUNTEER OR DONATE, VISIT [DAV.ORG](http://DAV.ORG)

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(1/19)

MONDAY



MAY 29