

## **(Taken from the Official Ritual of Disabled American Veterans)**

### **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

(The retiring Commander or a State or National Officer, or a past Chapter Commander may act as Installing Officer, if then a DAV member in good standing. The incoming Commander usually selects the Installing Officer; he or she is introduced by the retiring Commander.)

(Frequently, the Commander-elect also selects a Master of Ceremonies, in addition to the Installing Officer, who, preceding the Installation ceremonies, introduces the distinguished guests, and representatives of other Chapters and organizations present, and then, the Installing Officer. The Installing Officer may also act as Master of Ceremonies.)

(The Installation meeting is opened by the retiring Commander, who then announces: "If there is no objection, we will dispense with all business except the installation of officers. Hearing none, it is so ordered." He or she may then make a few remarks, such as thanking his or her officers and committees, and briefly outline the accomplishments of the Chapter during his or her term of office, and then introduces the Master of Ceremonies.)

(Invitations are usually sent to Department Officers, nearby National Officers, and to nearby Chapters, local veterans' organizations and selected public officials.)

(If the local DAV Auxiliary unit is to install on the same night, the Auxiliary is usually offered the courtesy of installing first. If there is to be a dual installation, of both the Chapter and Auxiliary, speeches or remarks should be brief, so that the combined ceremonies will not extend beyond a reasonable hour of adjournment.)

(Persons not present at the installation ceremonies may either be installed at a later meeting, or may be installed by proxy, a member being designated by the retiring Commander to take the place of the absentee.)

### **INSTALLING OFFICER:**

"The Officer of the Day will take his or her place to the right of the Altar. The Adjutant will call the roll of the newly elected or appointed officers. As your name is called, you will take your place to the left of the Officer of the Day."

(When all have presented themselves to the left of the Officer of the Day and facing the installing officer, the installing officer will say:)

"Your Comrades in the Disabled American Veterans have great confidence in your moral integrity and your executive ability. Because of that confidence, they have elected or appointed you to your respective offices. Do you accept the office to which you have been elected or appointed?"

### **NEW OFFICERS:**

"We do"

**INSTALLING OFFICER:**

“Are you ready to receive the oath of office?”

**NEW OFFICERS:**

“We are.”

**INSTALLING OFFICER:**

(Entire assembly rises at three raps of the gavel) “Raise your right hand, say I, state your full name and repeat after me.”

“I,.....upon my word and honor, as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, in the presence of Almighty God, and my Comrades, and before the flag of my country, accept the office to which I have been elected or appointed. I promise to perform the duties of such office to the best of my ability. I pledge to act and conduct myself, in such a manner, at all times and places, as will only affect the good of the order. I promise to enforce and sustain the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization. When my successor has been duly elected or appointed, and installed, I promise to surrender to him or her, all the property of the order, in my possession. All of which, I now affirm.”

**INSTALLING OFFICER:**

“Upon the promise you have just solemnly made, I now install you in the office to which you have been elected or appointed. I charge you to be earnest, faithful and devoted, and to remember that our mission as a Disabled American Veterans organization is not fulfilled until all our country’s war-time disabled, their dependents and survivors, have been adequately cared for.” (One rap of the gavel seats audience.)

“Newly installed officers, about FACE!”

“My Comrades, I now present to you, your newly installed officers.” (Applause.)

**INSTALLING OFFICER:**

“Officer of the Day, escort the newly installed officers to their respective stations, leaving the Commander to the last,” (Officers remain standing.)

**INSTALLING OFFICER:**

(To newly installed Commander.) “I now hand you the gavel, which is the symbol of your office.” (They salute. The new Commander then introduces the newly installed officers, starting with the Senior Vice-Commander, and, as introduced, each officer salutes, and is seated.)

**NOTE:** The retiring Commander, now the Junior Past Commander, or the Installing Officer, presents the new Commander with the Commander’s lapel emblem or badge, with appropriate, brief remarks. This is followed by presentation of a Past Commander’s ring, emblem or badge to the retiring Commander.