



National Service Foundation

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Summer 2013

Fellow DAV Leader,

Flipping through the pages of the DAV National Service Foundation's 2012 Annual Report will bring you pride because the life-saving outreach it describes would have been impossible without the dedication of DAV leaders like you. For all your efforts, I offer my most sincere gratitude.

Your state plays a special role in the Foundation's work, so be sure to find your Department's name and the list of its donors in the Foundation's Honor Roll. This exceptional generosity fuels DAV's mission of service for fellow veterans like Ryan Shane, who will never forget the Battle of Fallujah. Shrapnel, still lodged deep in his body, is a constant reminder. He is also filled with memories of the dying Marine he risked his life to save.

Increasing physical and emotional pain – along with administrative errors that kept him from receiving full benefits – added many ongoing challenges to Ryan's life. As you may have expected, he found camaraderie, support, and fierce advocacy in DAV.

Ryan is one of nearly a quarter million veterans and families who receive the unparalleled assistance from DAV National Service Officers across the country every year. NSO Nicholas Bernardi made sure that the promises made to Ryan were kept and that Ryan received the benefits he had earned through service to his country. In Nick, Ryan also found a friend who fought on the same battlefield in Iraq. He didn't just find an advocate - he found a kindred spirit and comrade in arms. Ryan discovered that DAV provides the same dedicated service that he did on the battlefield. *Veterans helping veterans.* That's the DAV way.

As you and I know, the journey to care for ill and injured veterans like Ryan has only just begun. Our promises to veterans will require a *lifetime* of care. For this reason, gifts from your Department, your state's Chapters, and your loyal members are so crucial. Funds ensure that DAV services will be available for *all* veterans of today and tomorrow.

I'm writing to everyone in your state who gave to the Foundation during 2012. In addition, this report will be given to National Convention registrants in Orlando.

Please plan to attend my convention presentation and receive some well-earned praise as I provide the Foundation's annual report on Tuesday morning, August 13th. You may just be inspired to make another gift on behalf of your Department during the "Parade of Checks."

On behalf of all the fellow veterans you serve, thank you for your continued commitment.

With Gratitude & Devotion,

GARY P. BURNS
President

Attachments