

Headquarters News

MAR 18 2013



DAV Auxiliary



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From the Desk of National Commander, Donna Adams.....

Several state departments are close to achieving 2012-2013 membership quota. Congratulations to the State Department of New Mexico for reaching this goal!

Last month I joined with other Auxiliary members in attending the DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Crystal City, VA. What an incredible five days! On March 23rd, we participated in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. A member of the Honor Guard spent time answering all our questions about the cemetery, the Tomb and the soldiers who guard it. Immediately following the ceremonial Changing of the Guard, National Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper, Senior Vice Commander Susan Miller, 1st Junior Vice Commander Lee-Ann Karg, and I were escorted down the steps in front of the tomb, and Pat and I presented the wreath. It was very solemn as we placed our hands over our hearts while the bugler played Taps before turning and going back up the steps with our escort. It was an honor I will never forget.

On Sunday, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep and I both addressed the DAV Commanders and Adjutants, and both of us spoke about relationships between the DAV and Auxillaries. I was very fortunate to spend Monday with DAV members who accompanied me to the Washington, DC, VAMC and Fisher House. PNC's Jim Sursely and Bobby Barrera, Vice Commanders Ron Hope and David Riley, and Deputy Director Chad Moos visited the Fisher House first. I had never been to a Fisher House, and I was overwhelmed. The structure and furnishing are top-notch, and the families are afforded beautiful accommodations while staying there. Following construction, the home is turned over to the VA with the stipulation that if furniture or appliances need to be replaced, the new items must be equal to or better than the originals and kept in the lifestyle the Fishers were accustomed to. The tour of the VAMC was most informative and we were made welcome by the Director and department heads. We also got to visit with Alyce Dixon, a female veteran in the nursing home, who celebrated her 105th birthday last Sept. 11th.

Tuesday I joined with DAV members from Arizona in visiting our state's legislators, and then all the DAV and Auxiliary members gathered as Commander Polzin presented DAV's legislative agenda to the Senators and Representatives of the Veterans Affairs Committees. The Commander and DAV legislative staff did a great job and the committee members appeared committed to address the issues raised by DAV.

On the last day of the trip, I met with David R. McLenachen, Director of Pension and Fiduciary Services about our issues and concerns about DIC. Director McLenachen was most receptive to our concerns about the timeliness of adjudicating DIC claims and the hardships placed on surviving spouses. The email I received from him recently assures me that the VA in Washington knows who our Auxiliary is and understands that we are diligent in our mission of service to our veterans and their families.



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Americanism

By Frances Costa, National Americanism Chairman

Recently I read an article from "The Voice of Freedom" newspaper regarding Resilience of the United States of America. Resilience meaning the ability to bounce back after something tragic that pulls you down just like this country bounced back after the September 11 attacks.

Throughout history Americans, especially those who immigrated to America, have been resilient. Almost none of us actually come from here. We are all immigrants—we all descend from people who came from somewhere else. Some from colonists who immigrated in the 1600's and 1700's, others from slaves and servants who were forcibly brought to these shores.

Other more recent immigrants are the subject of heated debate in the United States today. We were a nation of immigrants even before we were a country. The story of new people coming in and trying to settle into the ways and lifestyle of this land. Immigration is the backbone of this country. Between 1871 and 1911 about 20 million people came from Europe, many of whom were poor and wanted to make a better life. Most didn't read or speak English. They couldn't find work in the ways they had in their home countries but through resilience, determination, and perseverance, contributed to their success. The new Americans worked hard until they had enough money to bring their families that they had left behind. By the year 2050, projections indicate that 2/3 of Americans will become a minority and will make up less than half of America's people.

America is a melting pot where people of different cultures blend together. Many veterans today are receiving citizenship while serving in the Armed Forces.

You or your Unit could create a Special Americanism Project of assisting immigrants to obtain their Citizenship. Contact your local "Literacy Centers" or even your Public School Systems to connect with an immigrant family that could use some direction. Following their receipt of becoming legal Citizens maybe your unit could host a small celebration and erect a flag pole and raise a flag for them to fly in front of their residence.

You could also use the Flag Pole and Flag example for a newly returned veteran in your community that has recently received their citizenship while serving their newly adopted country.

REMEMBER Commander Adams's theme for the year, "THE KEY IS UNDERSTANDING."

Make plans to attend the 2013 DAV/DAVA National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Hilton Orlando is an upscale award winning resort-style hotel in close proximity to all that "new Orlando" has to offer. The hotel is near all of the major Orlando attractions, including SeaWorld Orlando, Universal Studios Orlando, and Walt Disney World Resort theme parks.

2013 DAV/DAVA National Convention ~ Orlando, Florida

Hilton Orlando Hotel

6001 Destination Parkway – Orlando, FL 32819—407.313.4300

\$124 Single/Double

August 8—Registration	August 11—Auxiliary Business Session
August 8—Auxiliary NEC Meeting	August 11—Fun Night
August 9—National District Meetings	August 12—Auxiliary Business Session
August 10—Joint Opening Session	August 12—Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
August 10—Convention Committee Meetings	August 13—Final Auxiliary Business Session
August 10—DAV Natl. Commander's Reception	August 13—Introduction of Natl. Officers & Dinner

Tentative Agenda Subject to Change

The Four Chaplains

By Carol Rundell, National Chaplain

I was very proud and honored to participate in the Four Chaplains 70th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony Sunday, February 3, 2013. The ceremony commemorated the gallantry of four very brave and courageous Chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice for those in their charge.



For those who may not be familiar with the story of the Four United States Army Chaplains let me give a brief synopsis of that fateful night.

The USAT Dorchester was a converted civilian cruise ship for military service, left New York on January 23, 1943. The ship with the four chaplains, George L. Fox a Methodist minister, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling Baptist minister, and John P. Washington and over 900 soldiers were being transported to the United Kingdom via Greenland. During the early morning hours of February 3, 1943, at 12:55 am the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German submarine off Newfoundland.

The chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship, and helped guide wounded men to safety. As life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They helped as many men as they could into lifeboats, and then linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship. Approximately two hundred were rescued from the ship. All four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross. An act of Congress approved the Four Chaplain's Medal or Chaplain's Medal of honor on July 14, 1960.

I wanted to share this story with you as I am reminded of the importance of working together for the greater good. Although we may be of many faiths and beliefs we can find common ground through our dedication to volunteerism and assistance to veterans and our communities. Let us pray that we are granted the desire and means to help and encourage one another each day. And that we continue to let the ever powering light of patience and understanding guide our path.

If you would like to share a story, prayer, etc., email me at carol_goodman@hotmail.com

Deadlines!!! -

- Education Scholarship Applications must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2013. Scholarship information can be found online at <http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/Programs.aspx> or call Auxiliary national headquarters.
- PNC Outstanding Member of the Year Award – Submissions must be post-marked no later than March 31, 2013. <http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/PNCAwardForm.aspx>
- Mae Holmes Award—Units must achieve quota by April 1, 2013, to qualify for Mae Holmes Award consideration.

Recruiter News

**Bronze
Lapel Pin
(5 Members)**



**Silver
Lapel Pin
(10 Members)**



Go for the Gold Snow Globe (15 Members)

Snow Globes are personalized with the recruiter's name inscribed.

February recipients:

- Shirley Walker, Colorado #7**
- Amie Brewer, Florida #18**
- Karla Schwartz, Indiana #19**

Sign up a new DAVA senior member and you are eligible for the monthly recruiter drawing of \$25.





DAV AUXILIARY

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Follow Us!



The Key is Understanding

National Commander Testimonial Dinner: National Commander Donna Adams will be honored at a testimonial dinner Saturday, April 6, at DAV Chapter 20, 8447 N. 61st Ave., Glendale, AZ. Cocktail hour will begin at 6:00 pm with the dinner to follow at 7:00 pm. Dinner tickets are \$50 and reservations are required. Purchase dinner tickets no later than March 23, 2013. Make checks payable to **DAVA Commander's Testimonial** and mail to Diane Stone, DAVA Commander's Testimonial, 6852 W. Cheryl Drive, Peoria, AZ 85345. For additional information, call 623.979.2200. Room reservations to be made directly with the InnPlace Hotel Phoenix North, 10220 N. Metro Parkway E, Phoenix, AZ 85051 (866.257.5990) and refer to room block code DAD05A. Room rate is \$69 plus tax. Reservation cutoff date is March 23.

New Auxiliary Unit

Marshall County #42
Plymouth, Indiana
Chartered February 27, 2013

Reminders

- **Quota Members** — During April, May, and June, new annual senior members paying their normal unit annual dues will be processed as Quota members meaning they will be paid for the current 2012-2013 membership year and the 2013-2014 membership year (through June 30, 2014).
- **Sponsors** — Be sure to take credit for sponsoring your newly recruited members by writing your membership code number in the "Sponsor's Code Number" section on the membership application. If there's no number listed, you can't get the credit you deserve!
- **New Membership Applications** — Oftentimes one important section of the membership application is overlooked— the **state and unit** the member wishes to join. We have learned that we can't always assign a unit based on the sponsor's member code so rather than return the application for clarification, the new member is assigned to the national at-large then reassigned to the unit of their choice at a later date upon written notification. Another important omission is the new member's (Annual, Life, or Junior) **date of birth**. This is vital information, particularly when enrolling a new life member.
- **Chaplains** — If planning a memorial service at your state convention, national headquarters can provide a list of members who have passed away since the last convention. In order to generate such a list, we must have the following information: state, date range (i.e., 5-1-2012—4-30-2013, and sequence desired (i.e., member name or unit).
- **Elections**—Most units hold their annual elections during the next few months. All members must be informed, in writing, of the election date no less than ten days prior to nomination and election. This can be done using e-mail, regular mail, or incorporated in a newsletter.
- **990-N e-Postcard**—is an annual requirement. Units are required to send filing confirmation to state and national headquarters.