



GOVERNING RULES

Below are the governing rules to be observed in the selection of the nominee for the National Commander's Award for the outstanding member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

Nominations:

The following information must be submitted separately for each nominee:

- Nominations for an Outstanding Member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and National Cemetery Administration (NCA) must generally be made by a state-level department of DAV from submissions made through the chapters. DAV national service offices nationwide may also submit nominations. Departments are also encouraged to consider nominations from individuals directly associated with or witness to the outstanding performance of a member of the VHA, VBA or NCA. Previous years' candidates may be re-nominated if they have not formerly won the national award.
- In the event of multiple nominations, departments are requested to submit only their winning nominee in each administration for consideration of the National Commander's Award.
- A resume of education and work activities, to include military service dates and branch, if applicable.
- Remember that nominees need not be members of DAV or a veteran to be eligible for these awards.
- Section D of the nomination form (military service information) should be completed if applicable.
- Nominations must be submitted with the full consent of the nominee authorizing DAV's use of their name, picture and story for publicity purposes. Submit nominee's signed written consent found on the nomination form.

Selection Criteria:

- The nominee's exemplary accomplishments in relation to how his or her employment positively impacts DAV's mission of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served is considered.
- The ability of the nominee to willingly and effectively motivate others to positively serve the needs of injured and ill veterans and their families is factored.
- Public relations, writing, speaking and other proactive activities on behalf of veterans and their families will also be weighed.

Administration:

The department adjutant is responsible on the state level for administration of this program. DAV national service offices will submit nominations directly to National via the email address.

Deadline:

Each nomination, with all supporting material, must be received **no later than February 28, 2019.**

Publicity:

Every department is strongly encouraged to participate and urged to publicize this awards program for maximum participation. This is an effective way to recognize outstanding service by members of the VHA, VBA and NCA and to encourage others to emulate their outstanding work on behalf of injured and ill veterans and their families.

Expenses:

The winners will be presented the award at the DAV national convention. Round-trip airfare (lowest coach, nonrefundable fare), hotel accommodations for two nights and meals per diem for up to three days will be provided for the winner.

Below are the governing rules to be observed in the selection of the nominee for the National Commander's Award for the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year.

Nominations:

- Nominations for the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year are generally submitted by a DAV state department, however may originate from a chapter, business, the VA, an individual or other entity. Previous years' candidates may be re-nominated, excluding, of course, any former recipient of the national award.
- Nominees must be service-connected disabled veterans. If a DAV member, please supply chapter affiliation. If not a current member, the nominee must be eligible for membership and willing to join.
- Nominees must have overcome their disabilities to such an extent that they have become useful and productive members of society and serve as an inspiration to other disabled veterans and community. Submit information about personal rehabilitation and involvement with DAV and other community groups.
- The major disability of the nominee must be service-connected.
- The term service-connected disability shall mean one which was incurred during time of war as defined by our Constitution and By-Laws and has been rated service-connected by the Department of Veterans Affairs. In lieu of this, eligibility will be established if the veteran can submit proof of disability retirement from the military.
- Nominations must be submitted with the full consent of the nominee authorizing DAV's use of their name, picture, and story for publicity purposes. Submit nominee's signed written consent found on the nomination form.

Selection Criteria:

- The nature and severity of the disability;
- Persistence and initiative in surmounting the disability;
- Achievements in overcoming the disability from an economic and employment standpoint;
- Contributions and achievements in such areas as assistance to disabled veterans and other disabled persons, participation in civic activities and other actions which clearly demonstrate responsible citizenship.

Administration:

The department adjutant is responsible on the state level for the administration of this program, and the national communications director on the national level. Each department may submit only one nomination for this award.

Deadline:

All nominations must be received no later than February 28, 2019.

Publicity:

It is encouraged that departments and chapters establish and publicize through local media their own outstanding disabled veteran of the year award program. Establishing a "kickoff date" for these awards is recommended. Departments are encouraged to lobby their governor to establish a similar program for the state.

Expenses:

The winner will be presented the award at the DAV national convention. Round-trip airfare (lowest coach, nonrefundable fare), hotel accommodations for five nights and meals per diem for up to six days will be provided for the winner and a companion.



National Commander's Awards
Outstanding Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)
and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)

GOVERNING RULES

Below are the governing rules to be observed in the selection of the nominee for the National Commander's Award for the Outstanding Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP).

Nominations:

- Chapters should submit nominations for the Local Veterans' Employment Representative Award to the Department Employment Committee or to a specific committee appointed by the department commander. Previous candidates may be re-nominated if they have not formerly won the national award. In addition to chapter nominations, we urge departments to solicit and accept nominations from employers, local employment office managers, state and assistant state directors of veterans' employment, and others. These are the people who know the quality of work performed by LVERs and DVOPs.
- Only one nomination for each award may be submitted by a department or other submitting entity.
- Nominations must be submitted with the full consent of the nominee authorizing DAV's use of their name, picture and story for publicity purposes. Submit nominee's signed written consent found on the nomination form.
- Nominations will be reviewed by the national employment director and national interim employment committee and recommendations made to the national commander for final selection.

Selection criteria:

- Accomplishments with regard to outreach, counseling, training, placement and job development opportunities for America's injured heroes.
- Ability to motivate and stimulate other employment service personnel to serve veterans.
- Effectiveness with employers, veterans' organizations, unions, government officials, and injured and ill veteran applicants.
- Public relations activities on behalf of veterans and their families.

Administration:

The department adjutant should be responsible on the state level for the administration of this program. The national employment director will be responsible for the administration of this program on the national level.

Deadline:

Each nomination, with all supporting material, must be received **no later than February 28, 2019**.

Publicity:

Every department is requested to urge participation in this program by all chapters, as this is an effective way to obtain maximum employment services for disabled veterans at the local level. Chapter officers should contact local office managers of the state employment service and work with state and local veterans' employment representatives to ensure the success of this program.

All chapters are urged to publicize this awards program. It would be most appropriate to invite local veterans' employment representatives and/or local office managers to speak at chapter meetings about local employment services for veterans.

Departments are asked to consider inviting state administrators, regional and state directors of veterans' employment, and other employment service personnel to awards ceremonies for department winners and to publicize these activities. It is suggested that the department convention would be an ideal opportunity to present the award.

The anticipated cooperation of all departments is appreciated, as it will result in an expansion of employment and training opportunities for countless unemployed or underemployed veterans.

Expenses:

The winner will be invited to attend the DAV national convention and be presented the award by the national commander. No expenses are provided for attending the national convention.



National Commander's Awards Employer (Small, Midsize and Large) Awards **GOVERNING RULES**

Below are the governing rules to be observed in the selection of the nominee for the National Commander Employer Awards Program. The Employer Awards Program is to publicly recognize businesses that demonstrate by their employment policies, hiring practices and community outreach that they have an unwavering commitment and passion to ensure all veterans obtain suitable employment to care for themselves and their families—and have the opportunity to live life with respect and dignity. DAV recognizes annually a small, midsize and large employer of the year.

- Small Employer of the Year Award: 249 or fewer employees
- Midsize Employer of the Year Award: 250 to 999 employees
- Large Employer of the Year Award: more than 1,000 employees.

Nominations:

- Nominations for Employers of the Year are generally submitted by a DAV state department, however, they may originate from a chapter, local office manager or human resources director, state director of veterans' employment, and others. Previous years' candidates may be re-nominated if they have not formerly won the national award.
- Nominations may be accompanied by newspaper clippings, magazine articles, website information, letters of recommendation, etc.
- Section D of the nomination form (military service information) should be completed if applicable (i.e. the company CEO/president or person accepting the potential award on the company's behalf is a veteran).
- Nominations must be submitted with the full consent of the nominee authorizing DAV's use of their name, picture, and story for publicity purposes. Submit nominee's signed written consent found on the nomination form.
- Nominations will be reviewed by the national employment director and national interim employment committee and recommendations made to the national commander for final selection.

Selection Criteria:

- Strength of veteran recruiting/hiring efforts;
- Veteran retention and career-building efforts;
- Company policies specific to disabled veterans, active-duty and veteran employees;
- Outreach supporting veterans in communities where the business operates.

Administration:

The department adjutant is responsible on the state level for the administration of this program, and the national employment director on the national level. Each department may submit only one nomination for this award.

Deadline:

All nominations must be received **no later than February 28, 2019.**

Publicity:

It is encouraged that departments and chapters establish and publicize through local media their own outstanding employers of the year award program. Establishing a "kickoff date" for these awards is recommended.

Expenses:

The winner will be invited to attend the DAV national convention and be presented the award. No expenses are provided for attending the national convention.



2019 National Commander's Award Nomination Form

Department of _____ State _____

Type of Nomination (Select One):

- Veterans Health Administration (VHA) – Complete Sections A, C, D, F, I
- Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) – Complete Sections A, C, D, F, I
- National Cemetery Administration (NCA) – Complete Sections A, C, D, F, I
- Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year – Complete Sections A, C, D, F, H, I
- Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist – Complete Sections A, C, D, E, F, I
- Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) – Complete Sections A, C, D, F, I
- Small Employer of the Year (up to 249) – Complete Sections B, C, D, G, I
- Midsize Employer of the Year (250–999) – Complete Sections B, C, D, G, I
- Large Employer of the Year (1,000+) – Complete Sections B, C, D, G, I

Section A

Nominee's Name _____

Work Address _____

Home Address _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Place of Birth _____ Marital Status _____

Spouse's Name _____ Children _____

Section B

Company Name _____ Industry _____

CEO/Owner _____ Name _____ Title _____

Headquarters Address _____

Section C

Phone _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____ Work _____ Home _____

Section D

Military Service

Date Enlisted Drafted Commissioned ____/____/____ Date Separated ____/____/____

Branch _____ Rank _____

DAV Membership (Select One)

Member Chapter _____ Number _____ State _____

Eligible for Membership Not Eligible for Membership

Section E

Local Office Manager

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

2019 National Commander's Award Nomination Form, continued

Award: VHA VBA NCA Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year DVOP Specialist LVER
 Small Employer Midsize Employer Large Employer

Nominee/Company Name _____

Section F

Nominee's Achievements *(attach additional sheet if needed)*

Nominee's Involvement with DAV and Community Groups *(attach additional sheet if needed)*

Section G

Please limit your responses to 350 words. Attach additional sheets as needed.

Company's veteran recruiting and hiring efforts

Please share with us your company's veteran recruiting and hiring efforts. (If available, we're looking for information like military/veteran recruitment methods, your total number of veteran and disabled veteran employees, and percentage of total employees and new hires with prior military experience.)

Career building, retention and development efforts

How do you engage veteran employees, build a sense of community in your company and develop a career path for future success? (If available, we're looking for information such as training programs and a veteran-employee-focused career site.)

Community involvement

What outreach efforts do you participate in to support veterans/disabled veterans within the communities where you work? (Do you celebrate Veterans Day in the workplace and with your customers? Do you engage in volunteer or fundraising activities benefiting veterans?)

Additional information *(optional)*

Is there anything else noteworthy you want to share about how you engage, recruit or promote veterans? *Please limit your response to 200 words.*

Section H

Attach additional sheets as needed.

Service-connected disabilities *(include description of how disabilities were incurred)*

Non-service-connected disabilities *(include description of how disabilities were incurred)*

How nominee overcame disabilities

2019 National Commander's Award Nomination Form, continued

Award: VHA VBA NCA Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year DVOP Specialist LVER
 Small Employer Midsize Employer Large Employer

Nominee/Company Name _____

| | | | |
|------------------|--|----------------------|-------|
| Section I | Submitted by | | |
| | _____ | | |
| | Name | | Title |
| | _____ | | |
| | Address | | Phone |
| | Approved by <i>(requires at least one signature if submitted by a DAV representative)</i> | | |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | |
| DAV NSO | Department Adjutant | Department Commander | |

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

In addition to this application, please include the following items with your nomination:

- Nominee's resume *not necessary for employer of the year nominations*
- Narrative explaining why the nominee was selected
- Recent photo of nominee, suitable for publicity purposes. For employer of the year nominations, a photo of the CEO/owner. Acceptable formats include:
 - (1) Glossy print, at least 4" x 6"
 - (2) CD/USB drive containing a JPG image measuring at least 4" x 6" and 300 ppi or higher
- Company logo in full-color, vector format (PDF, EPS) *employer of the year only*
- Nominee's signed consent (below)

Consent Form

I, _____, hereby authorize DAV to use my name, photo and biographical information in connection with the National Commander's Awards Program.

Signature

Date

Please submit your nomination by Feb. 28, 2019. Email your submission to natlconvawards@dav.org, or mail it to the address below.

DAV National Headquarters
ATTN: National Convention Awards
3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076