



AWARDS BULLETIN

National Commander's Award for the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year

We are pleased to announce the National Commander's Awards Program to honor an Outstanding Disabled Veteran. We believe there are a number of deserving candidates who should be recognized by DAV, so we need the support of all chapters and departments and encourage every department to submit a nominee.

- The nominee for the nation's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year must either be a current DAV member or eligible for membership.

The National Commander's Award recipient will be provided with a round-trip airline ticket to New Orleans, LA to receive the award at the national convention; hotel accommodations for a maximum of five (5) nights; and, following the event, a voucher will be completed for reimbursement of per diem expense for meals and incidentals for each night's lodging.

The following rules outline the procedures to be followed in making nominations. All nominations must be submitted with the complete information and necessary photos **no later than February 28, 2018**. Submittals should be sent to Garry Augustine, Executive Director, Disabled American Veterans, 807 Maine Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20024 or email commandersawards@dav.org.

We wish to thank those departments who have consistently participated and supported this program by submitting quality nominations. We urge your continued support. We also request other departments that have not been involved in the program to assist us this year in this most important endeavor.

In an effort to ensure consistency in your nominations, we are including a nomination form. We believe this will simplify your work and speed up the process. With your cooperation and participation, this program can be very efficient and effective. Any questions please email us at commandersawards@dav.org.

J. MARC BURGESS
National Adjutant

RULES GOVERNING THE PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DISABLED VETERAN

The following is a list of rules to be observed in the selection of the nominee for the National Commander's Award for the Outstanding Disabled Veteran. The following information must be submitted:

- Name, address, date of birth, home, cell phone and work phone number of nominee.
- Nominees must be service-connected disabled veterans. If a member of DAV, 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. Indicate the nominee's service-connected disability.
- 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.
- All nominations must be submitted with the full consent of the nominee authorizing us to use the person's name, picture and story for publicity purposes. The nominee's signed written consent must be submitted for consideration.
- Each nominee's application must be accompanied by an 8" by 10" glossy photograph of the nominee, suitable for publicity purposes, or an electronic jpeg image, with a minimum resolution of 300 ppi, on a CD or USB drive.

Nominations:

- Nominations for the Outstanding Disabled Veteran must generally be made by a Department of the DAV from chapter nominees. Departments are encouraged to accept nominations from individuals in addition to chapters. Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs) may submit nominees through state-level DAV departments. Previous years' candidates may be renominated, excluding, of course, any former recipient of the national award. Nominations will also be accepted from the National Amputation Chapter and the National Blind Veterans Chapter and employers.
- In the case of any chapter that does not belong to a department, an exception will be made to this rule, and nominations will be accepted from any of the individual chapters in such state or from any chapter-at-large. If a department chooses not to participate, we will accept a nomination from a chapter.

Selection of recipient for the Outstanding Disabled Veteran:

- The nature and severity of the disability will be considered;
- Persistence and initiative of the nominee in surmounting the disability;
- Achievements in overcoming the disability from an economic and employment standpoint will be considered; and
- 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 should be responsible on the state level for the administration of this program. The National Service Director shall be responsible on the national level.

Each department may submit only one nomination for this award.

Limitation of submitting nominees:

In order that proper consideration may be given to each nominee by the selection committee, all nominations must be received no later than February 28, 2018. The selection by the committee of the individual to receive the National Commander's Award will be final. Any nominations received after February 28, 2018, will not be considered for the award and will be returned.

Publicity:

All chapters are urged to publicize this program through their local media. Efforts should be made on the state level to have the governor of each state set up an outstanding disabled veteran employee program for the state. This would encourage employers, as well as employment representatives, to put greater focus on the employment of disabled veterans. It may be advisable for each department commander to set up a "kickoff date" for the state program for a State Commander's Award. There is, of course, nothing to prevent a local chapter from presenting its own award to recognize a chapter-level outstanding disabled veteran of the year.

Expenses:

It should be thoroughly understood that the only expenses borne by the national organization will be in supplying the National Commander's Award and in providing the recipient with a round-trip airline ticket to New Orleans, LA to receive the award at the national convention. Hotel room and tax will be billed to the DAV master account for a maximum of five nights. Subsequently, a voucher will be completed for reimbursement of per diem expense of \$75 for meals and incidentals for each night's lodging. There will be no expenses borne by the national organization for any part of the program having to do with any Department Commander's Award or for any chapter award program. If the selectee is not a member, a full paid life membership will be provided by the national organization.



2018 National Commander's Award Nomination Form
Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year

Department of _____ State

Nominee's Name _____

Work Address _____

Home Address _____

Phone _____ Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____ Work _____ Home _____

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

Spouse's Name _____ Children _____

Military Service

Date [] Enlisted [] Drafted [] Commissioned ____/____/____ Date Separated ____/____/____

Branch _____ Rank _____

DAV Membership

Select One: [] Life [] Annual [] Eligible [] Not Eligible Chapter _____ Number _____ State _____

Disabilities (attach additional sheets as needed)

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

2. Non-service-connected

3. How nominee overcame handicap(s)

Nominee's achievements (attach additional sheet if necessary)

2018 National Commander's Award Nomination Form, continued

Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year

Nominee's Name _____

Nominee's involvement with DAV and community groups *(attach additional sheet if necessary)*

Submitted by

_____	_____
Name	Title
_____	_____
Address	Phone

Approved by *(requires at least one signature)*

_____	_____
DAV NSO	Department Adjutant

When submitting your nomination, please include the following items:

- Nominee's resume
- Narrative explaining why the nominee was selected
- Recent photo of nominee, suitable for publicity purposes. Acceptable formats include:
 - (1) glossy print, at least 4" x 6"
 - (2) CD/USB drive containing a JPEG image measuring at least 4" x 6" and 300 ppi or higher
- 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 February 28, 2018 to the DAV Employment Awards Committee via email at **commandersawards@dav.org** or via postal mail at the address below.

Garry Augustine
DAV Service & Legislative Headquarters
807 Maine Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20024