



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

& AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER



You're Invited!

Join our housing programs for some festive fun!

HOLIDAY PARTY



Saturday, Dec. 17th - 6:00pm - 8:30pm

3 Victory Lane - Gardner, MA 01440

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

PLEASE SCAN OR CLICK QR CODE TO REGISTER. SPACE IS LIMITED, FOR ASSISTANCE REGISTERING, PLEASE CONTACT JEN BARBARO AT JBARBARO@DAVMA.ORG OR CALL 978-632-1271.



DECEMBER

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Click or Scan the QR Codes for more information!



UPCOMING EVENTS Stay Connected via FB and the calendar on www.davma.org/events



IS YOUR CHAPTER OR UNIT ACTIVE? WE WANT TO SEE!

@DAVMASSACHUSETTS



COMMANDER RICHARD CONNOR

Snow will be on the way soon! Be sure to check in with each other during these winter months. It is often a time that is hard on many of our veterans. Being cold out, many tend to stay in and those that live by themselves may become rather lonely. Holidays may be difficult for our veterans, too. Reach out and see what are some things that may be needed, whether it be food, clothing, companionship or someone to just listen. Let them know you are there for them.

Winter conference in Washington D.C. is coming up. This is our chance to meet legislators and have a voice. Also, it is never too early to start planning for national convention this coming summer in Atlantic City, NJ. This is the closest convention that many of us will see. So let us pack up those suit cases, make a short trip and show everyone how much support we have in this great state of Massachusetts!

Meanwhile, let us all take some time to enjoy the holidays, our families and friends. I will be thinking of all of you and working on some new exciting ideas!



<--- QUICK NOTE FROM DEPARTMENT TREASURER



SR. VICE BOB KINSMAN



In November, I shared with you the DAV National Legislative Priorities for 2022-23 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. This month we'll dive into veterans issues facing the 192nd General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, commonly known as Beacon Hill. The best place to obtain current information is on the State website for the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs: <https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J31>.

Here, you can view the members of the combined House & Senate Joint Committee, as well as search for the status of bills and upcoming hearings concerning veterans. You can also find information on your own local legislators, in order to write, call or visit them regarding veterans legislation. Attached below (scan or click QR code) is a document showing examples of these resources.

Scan/click QR Code to view the
Joint Committee on
Veterans Affairs Brief.



Scan/click QR Code to view the
2023 Critical Policy Goals.



I am looking into arranging an on-site guided tour of the MA State House. Reach out to me if interested. More information to follow.

All Department Line Officers and Senior Staff members have signed up for the DAV Commander's Action Network (CAN). This is a national quick-reaction service that notifies our legislators of DAV support for bills that are important to veterans. It is very quick & easy to use, and takes very little of your valuable time. This month, I am asking that all Chapter Commanders and Adjutants strongly consider joining the DAV CAN here: <https://dav.quorum.us/>. It only takes about 30 seconds to sign up (if you're a slow typist). As a DAV CAN member, you will get regular updates on important laws and regulations moving through Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Last, but not least, please join us at the 2023 DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. from February 26-March 1, 2023 (tentative, pending confirmation on Capitol Hill)

We will again stay at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. Room are \$210 single/double and the reservation site is here: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1663225846949&key=GRP&app=resvlink>



1ST JR VICE BOB BRONSON

National Web Site, DAV.org

[Webinar – Membership Department: How We Can Serve You](#)
[New Membership Goals Webinar](#)

Departments website at DAVMA.org

Membership Forms - DAVMA [MembersPortal](#)



It is up to all of us to prioritize reaching potential new members. Sometimes, it's the most obvious places that we tend to overlook these opportunities. Almost all of us, if not all, belong to more than one Veteran Service Organization. Like most of us, I too, tend to keep my duties separated between them. However, the pandemic led those worlds to collide as we all came together to help our veteran community. The Food4Vets program was the first overlap. Then, installation of wheelchair ramps was my next "dual" project. Whether it's the VFW, Vietnam Veterans, Patriot Guard, or the Legion, take the time to talk about DAV and what we are doing. We have an amazing story to tell, and most Vets don't know the extent of it. There are well known services of our NSO's, DSO's, and CSO's as they have a stellar reputation helping Veterans get the assistance and compensation they deserve. Our Transportation Services stands alone. No other service organization even tries to accomplish what we do every day. The [DAVMA Veteran Advancement Program Housing Services](#) is in its infancy in Gardner and Leominster, and yet its success has already made the local news -an outstanding example for the rest of the DAV Departments to replicate. Legislative success at both the State and National levels is something we all need to learn more about and to pass on to our friends and loved ones. Don't think of it as bragging, if we don't spread the word, most people will never hear about how great a job the DAV is doing for our Veterans and their families. The best way to draw Veterans to our organization is to show just how successful we are at helping our fellow Vets.

2ND JR VICE ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT

The holiday season is here. This time of year can be a whirlwind. Hours, days, and weeks can go by in the blink of an eye. It's a time of celebration. It's a time to celebrate with the millions of men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces since our nation's founding. It is also an excellent time of year to reflect on what we've accomplished over the past year and will continue to do. December 4, 2022 is #DAVDay. There are many ways to support veterans across the commonwealth on this day of service. Serving is in our blood. What did you do for #DAVDay? Performing a Buddy Check on a fellow veteran, assisting someone in need, or volunteering at a homeless shelter during DAV Day are just a few ways we have served. Share your photos on social media and include the hashtag #DAVDay.

Also, don't forget to complete both of your monthly volunteer reports!



COMMANDER KAYLA VALILA



Winter blues - it is what everyone has begun talking about. A consistent theme going around and something that comes up every year starting in the fall. It is difficult for so many and we urge all of you to check in on each other, but also, be sure to take time for yourself, too. This time of year is often a time of remembrance. A time during which we take moments to reflect upon where we came from, all we have been through, and where we are today. A time where we look to the future with hope for a better tomorrow.

DAV's motto, "Keeping our Promise to America's Veterans" along with the Auxiliary's, "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families," echoes that hope for a better tomorrow. Thanks to the dedicated service of our membership body, we are able to continue to look toward that future with hope and provide a sense of reassurance to our veterans and their families, as we will keep that promise, and we will make that difference.

Thank you for all you have done this year and your continued support of our nation's heroes. May your new year be all you hope for, surrounded with love and friendship, and so much more. Happy holidays from my family to yours!

Let us sustain and surpass the exceptional work we do. By leading the way, being the best at what we do, together, we will continue to set the bar high and set the standards of service for our veterans and their families. Accept nothing less.

-Commander Kayla Valila

SR. VICE DEBRA GEARY



The Hospital Fundraiser is still on and tickets will be on the way shortly! We will be working to get them distributed accordingly. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



PNC, COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR NANCY MOONEY



December brings us to the Holiday Season for giving! Please remember to include a veteran or veterans Community in your spirit of giving.

Adopt a veteran at a nursing home facility, give to a gift tree at a veteran's homeless shelter, ask your local veteran's agent to provide you information about a veteran in need. These are difficult times in our community for many people who have been impacted by the last three years of the pandemic. Our veterans in our community deserve to be included in our Holiday Giving! The act of giving brings joy to the giver. Happy Holidays Everyone.

Happy
holidays

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ADJUTANT DANIEL STACK

What a year this has been! The Department has grown steadily thanks to all of you. We are investing in our future by investing in our programs and services. We continue to live our core values, and follow our mission statement to Keep our promise to Americas Veterans by helping them to live a life of dignity and respect.

Our Veterans Advancement Program has continued to thrive and grow and we are excited to announce that Hero House, in Leominster MA, is accepting applications for residency. More information and application for housing can be found on our site davma.org under 'services' and then 'veterans advancement program'. Please note that there is an application process. Should you or anyone have any questions, please contact the program directly at 978-632-1271 or via email at inquiries@davma.org.

Our Transportation Network, Northampton VAMC, and our Department extend a heartfelt thank you to Leo Vance who has served as our Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC) for the last 18 years and wish him well as he retires from this role effective December 31st. In his time Leo has been recognized by the Department, the VA, and our National Organization more than a few times for his handling of the program and volume of rides he's been able to provide our veterans in need.

With the post-Covid revitalization of the Transportation Network, we are ever seeking volunteer drivers across the Commonwealth, so if you or anyone you know would like to sign up to become a driver, please visit https://www.cdceportal.va.gov/volunteer_at_facility/ . Volunteer drivers can be DAV or Auxiliary members, veterans who are not members, or any member of the community who has a desire to help!

With the purchase of new equipment for our DSO offices at VA Medical Centers across the state, we will be providing ongoing training to our Department and Chapter Service Officers to ensure they are current with VA regulations, any changes and that they are equipped and able to assist our veterans with all the latest tools at the ready.

In 2023 we will continue this sustained growth and begin moving our sights to legislation as January approaches, as well as Mid-Winter Conference in DC as Bob Kinsman mentioned above.

I wish you all a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season and thank you for all your hard work this past year! We'll see you in 2023!



OR TEXT 838255

WWW.VETERANSCRISISLINE.NET

24/7, confidential crisis support for Veterans and their loved ones.
You do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.