

DAV[®]

& AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS



DAV5k
Flyer



JOIN US!

FOR THE DAV 5K

REGISTER NOW

DATE: Saturday, November 12, 2022
START TIME: 10:00 AM Race Start



ABOUT THIS EVENT

- LOCATION:** DCR Fort Independence at Castle Island
- COST:** Registration fee is \$40 online or \$50 on race day
 - Veterans Registration with a Runner Shirt is \$15
 - Veterans Registration without a Runner Shirt is FREE

The registration fee includes a long sleeve runner shirt, a finisher medal and access to the post-race celebration. All proceeds support the DAV.

DISTANCE: 5 kilometers run or 1 mile walk

WEBSITE: www.dav5k.boston

The DAV 5K Run to Honor Veterans is a 5K run, 1 mile walk or roll that thanks those who served and raises awareness of the issues our ill and injured veterans face every day.

This event helps further the mission of DAV to ensure our injured heroes are not alone on their road to recovery. When you participate in the DAV 5K and encourage others to support this event, you are investing in the lives of our wounded American heroes who have sacrificed for our freedoms.

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

OCTOBER



On Monday, September 19, 2022, Richard Edward Patterson, loving husband, father, and grandfather, passed away at his home in Fairhope, AL, after a brief battle with cancer. He had just turned 74.

Richard, known by many as "Rick", was born on September 15, 1948, in Boston, Massachusetts. The eldest of seven children born to Richard A. Patterson and Eleanora Patterson, Rick spent his childhood years living in the projects of Brighton, Massachusetts. In 1965 Rick enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to Vietnam in the Spring of 1967 as a medic with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. In June of that year, he was severely wounded in battle and began the long road to recovery. Rick was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with "V" device and was medically retired from the Army in 1968.

After his retirement, Rick's desire to help other disabled veterans and their families led him to the Disabled American Veterans. He spent the next 38 years dedicating himself to the DAV and assisting countless veterans along the way. He retired from the DAV as the National Headquarters Executive Director in 2010 but remained involved in other capacities until his passing. He was genuinely selfless when it came to his life's mission, and many who knew him have spoken in recent days of the big heart he possessed.

Rick's personal interests were many. Golf was one of his favorite past times. He golfed regularly on the course near his home but also had the opportunity to play many notable courses across the country over the years. He was an avid reader with a particular affinity for anything historical. He enjoyed good food but also was an excellent cook himself. He took pleasure in preparing dinners for friends and family and delighted in sharing his recipes when asked. Travel was something that he enjoyed tremendously with his wife, Linda. In 2018, the two embarked on a four-month world cruise that took them to almost every corner of the globe. Their trip was well-documented through the beautiful photographs he took. Rick also enjoyed card games of all types, but he was an excellent poker player, even traveling to Las Vegas to compete in the World Series of Poker. Rick was incredibly proud of his four children and five grandchildren, taking great joy in hearing the news about their constantly evolving lives, both the exciting and the mundane.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Eleanora, and his dearest childhood friend, Henry Servent. He is survived by his wife, Linda, with whom he just celebrated 25 years of marriage; children, Regina James (David), Andrea Lajoie (Richard), Matthew Patterson (Ashley) and Daniel Patterson (Sarah); grandchildren, David, Peyton, and Jack James and Wesley and Kennedy Patterson; brothers, Bill and Bob; sisters, Arlene, Diane, Paula and Carla; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and dear friends.

A visitation for Rick is planned for Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 2PM to 4PM at Hughes Funeral Home, 26209 Pollard Road, Daphne, Alabama. All are invited to attend. We just ask that you bring with you a favorite memory of Rick.

Those wishing to honor Rick's commitment to veterans can do so by making a donation to the Disabled American Veterans. Donations can be sent to Disabled American Veterans, Attn: Remittance Processing, 860 Dolwick Drive, Erlanger, KY 41018. Please include a note stating that the donation is being made in the memory of Rick Patterson. Published by Hughes Funeral Home and Crematory - Daphne on Sep. 22, 2022.



DAV Department of Massachusetts is mourning the loss of Richard E. Patterson, past DAV National Headquarters Executive Director, who joined the DAV's professional staff as a national service officer in Boston in 1972, and in 1975 became supervisor of the Providence R.I. office. In 1978 he was transferred to the DAV's national appeals staff in D.C. He then supervised the appeals staff from 1981-1988, when he was promoted to associate national service director at DAV HQ. In 1994 Patterson was named the executive director at DAV National Headquarters in Cold Springs KY. He retired from DAV in 2010 after 38 years of service to America's ill and injured veterans and their families. But even in retirement he remained a trusted advisor and served as the Audit Committee Chair for the DAV National Service Foundation and the DAV Charitable Service Trust. Getting his start in Massachusetts through the NSO Corps through his various roles in the chapters and departments he touched, as well as his leadership and excellence in his National positions he will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family as we mourn his loss.



Click banner or scan
QR Code for link



COMMANDER RICHARD CONNOR

Fall has come and so begins a busy time of the year for many. There are many events at coming up at the state and chapter levels. Be sure to stay abreast of what is happening and where. Since being installed as your commander and traveling to many of these events.

I have been surprised by the lack of attendance at them and at chapter meetings. Outreach is an initiative we should all be working on together. Perhaps ask yourself about the information you are putting out. Is your chapter putting out messaging and information that shows the veteran community we care? Does it let them know we are here to help? Are you using the right channels to publicize your meetings? Is it informative? There are many things to consider when trying to gauge the effectiveness of your chapter's marketing.

Communication between State level and Chapters was identified as a barrier for our Department, but also between Department and State Auxiliary on the same levels. To bridge the gap, we have come out with a joint newsletter. These must be distributed throughout our membership as to keep all informed on all levels the direction of our Department and State Auxiliary initiatives and accomplishments. These may spark some more or new interest in what we are doing here in the Massachusetts DAV.

Other ideas your chapter may consider to improve attendance is having a guest speaker attend a meeting or host a coffee hour. Chapter 11 started this with only 5 in attendance and it has now grown to 25-35 that attend. The camaraderie is great. It helps bring everyone together and our volunteers and members are no longer strangers and the volunteerism has increased!

Without good communication, our veterans would not know what is going on in our local area, never mind at a state level. With this newsletter, it is my hope our veterans will feel informed, cared for, and want to get involved and step up to help others.

Have some ideas you would like to share? Let us know what is working for you, that may help another Chapter. We are all here for the same cause.

If your chapter needs any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.



SR. VICE BOB KINSMAN

DAV influences federal laws approved by Congress, federal regulations and policies of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) affecting wounded, ill and injured veterans.



Scan/click QR Code to view the Legislative Victories for Veterans in 2022 that just came out from National October 1st. At Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting, I will provide updates on any progress made on our legislative goals.

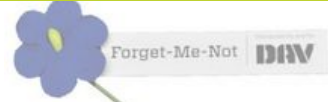


If the members of your chapter have not enrolled in the Commanders Action Network (CAN), I strongly encourage them to do so. I am in the process of ensuring all DAVMA Officers and Senior Staff members have enrolled. If you are interested in joining the Legislative Committee, please send me an email at bobkinsman@comcast.net.



Scan/click QR Code to the right to view DAV 2022 Legislative Goals





1ST JR VICE BOB BRONSON

The month of September is set aside for "Forget-Me-Not" drives. For most of us, it is the main method used to help raise funds for the various services Chapters provide during the fiscal year. Whether set up at the entrance to Walmart, or holding a Boot Drive, the primary purpose of the fundraising campaign is to ask the public to support DAV in its effort to assist our nation's Veterans.

Some Chapters have their own spin on how they run their drives. Some may be in-person, some by mail, and then some do not bother to hold one at all. If you are not out among the public, you are missing one of the best opportunities to increase membership. It is one of the best ways to meet Veterans you would otherwise have no ability to reach.

If you missed this year, talk amongst your Chapter about planning a drive for next year. There was a shortage of the flowers and you can now order two boxes through the DAV store. Try to plan ahead and do not miss out on the opportunity to reach out to so many veterans and others about our services, how we can help and how they can too!

2ND JR VICE ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT



And just like that, summer has wound down and it is time to get back to our regular routines. I had the privilege and honor to attend several events last month. One highlight was the Women Veterans Appreciation Day at Leeds on 9/17/2022. It was a great outreach that provided resources and introduced attendees to the various VA programs.

Herb Colon and I served on the Hospitals & Voluntary Services Committee at the National convention. Over 70 resolutions were adopted and will be used to advocate for improved federal laws, regulations and policies of the VA and other federal agencies whose programs support the veteran population.

As you are aware, I have organized a Service & Charitable Committee for the upcoming year. There are a few openings left. If you are interested in joining us, please send me an email or text to be included. I heard from a few of you and one of the things you want the committee to START doing is sharing service opportunities. With that said, I need your help. Please share what your chapters are doing with me directly at andglad@hotmail.com and I will ensure that the information shared with all of our comrades. In addition, I would love to be able to support your work in person.

Don't forget to complete and submit your volunteer hours on Form 60 AND VAS 60 each month. Monthly reporting Form 60-LVAP.

Stay up to date on the Department calendar and Facebook for upcoming events. Is your Chapter attending something and want it on the calendar? Let us know!



3RD JR VICE DENNIS DEVINE

If any Chapters need any assistance with review or proposed revisions of their by-laws, please do not hesitate to reach out.

My phone number is 508-400-0328. I am happy to be of assistance.

COMMANDER KAYLA VALILA



It has been enlightening visiting with members of different units and states, learning of their initiatives and traditions. I have also learned of some barriers and challenges they face as well. In addition to the article above by DAV MA Commander, Rich Connor, education and training is another area that seems to have some room for improvement.

As such, at the commencement of our next SEC meeting on November 5th, please feel free to stay for education and training pertaining to the Auxiliary. We will be here to answer any questions you or your unit may have, review any proposed topics and go over some of those things that may not be in writing but are just "what we have always done." Perfect for new members, and seasoned! All are guaranteed to learn something they did not know. Food and light refreshments will be served. Be sure to let us know you will be staying and sign up using the following link/QRcode so we may plan accordingly.

Please also note the change of location to our SEC meeting. As the Department is hosting their hybrid meeting from Gardner, we will also host our SEC meeting from Gardner.



Scan to sign up for the Auxiliary education & training session on 11/5



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

As the chairperson for this year's annual hospital fundraiser, I am excited. Time to dive into the business of fundraising! The Ways & Means Committee members and I are discussing ideas as to what the format of the fundraiser will be, and we will provide more details soon.

No matter the format of the fundraiser, I know, with the support of the DAV and Auxiliary members, their families and friends, it will be a successful venture. All proceeds are used to better the lives of veterans in the V.A. Medical Centers and Soldiers' Homes we serve across the Commonwealth.

Thanks in advance for all your help with the fundraiser in the coming months.

1ST JR VICE GENEVIEVE DOWNEY

Massachusetts is currently at 98.29% of its quota with 3,732 members. We need only 65 members between now and June 30 to reach our goal of 3,797 members.

Many units are just a few members short of making quota, as you will see from the attached population summary. I truly believe that if each of us signs up just 1 new member, we will make quota and then some!

Remember, juniors and seniors aged 80+ also count towards quota. I encourage you all to get out there and recruit, recruit, recruit!!

JOIN NOW





2ND JR VICE CAROLE EVANGELISTA

S. 2172 The Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act, in accordance with DAV Resolution No.119, which supports legislation to maintain and improve VA's programs and services to eliminate veteran homelessness.

S. 3025 and H.R. 5666, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021 to Improve the Claims Process for MST Survivors. DAV supports these companion bills, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 074, which urges improvement of the process for determining service connection for conditions related to MST. It would codify current policy easing some of the evidentiary requirements for veterans filing claims for service-connection for conditions related to the after-effects of a MSY and allow non-military documentation and opinions of medical professionals to bolster claims. Furthermore, the bill would require VA to resolve every reasonable doubt in favor of the veteran with the reasons for granting or denying service-connection recorded in full. VA's national screening program found one in three women and one in fifty men indicate they were sexually assaulted during military service. Military Sexual Trauma (MST) survivors may require specialized treatment for their conditions. Many veterans also feel re-traumatized by an impersonal and adversarial claims process.

S. 89 Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021. DAV is concerned that some of the survivors of service-disabled veterans will be denied benefits because of a death certificate that lists the cause of death as COVID-19 and does not mention the service-connected conditions that may have contributed to their cause of death. On January 28, 2021, Senators Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Senator Thom Tillis (NC) re-introduced S. 89 which would address this issue by requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs seek a medical opinion in the case of any veteran who has a service-connected condition and who passes away due to the coronavirus. This medical opinion could be crucial in obtaining survivors' benefits.

Please ask your Senators to cosponsor and support this important bill by using the prepared letter on the Commander's Action Network.



Commander Action Network

Learn about more legislative initiatives DAV supports and take action now!

STATE TREASURER, JEAN SHIFFLETT

Anyone needing a check for reimbursement should contact me at 617-827-1911 immediately so I can request a warrant from the State Adjutant. Checks will not be issued without a warrant.

If your unit has not yet paid its 2022-2023 State Mandate fee of \$30, please do so quickly. Make checks payable to DAVA Dept. of MA and send to me at 109 Edge Hill Road, E. Braintree, MA 02184. Thank you.

Reminder, IRS 990-N e-Postcard must be completed by November 15, 2022.

PNC, COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR NANCY MOONEY

October 22, 2022, is officially "Make a difference Day." We, in the DAV Auxiliary, find ways to honor this idea daily, with acts of kindness for our veterans.

Many veterans live alone, leaving many opportunities to be of service to them. Check with a local DAV Chapter for those who you could be of service to. Pick something up on your next shopping trip, a simple call to say 'Hello' can brighten the spirit of a homebound veteran. As chill sets in the air this fall and you are driven to make a pot of stew, make a little extra remembering that veteran who has no family.

You do not need to be brilliant, rich or perfect to make a difference in someone's life. You just need to care! Make a difference today and everyday by showing a veteran you care.

ADJUTANT DANIEL STACK

It is already October- what a busy and productive year! With November right around the corner we are gearing up for the DAV 5K Boston. Chapters have been stepping up big, getting involved in their communities and sharing DAV's message. Thank you for continuing the mission!

On October 1st the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs expanded its Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) to include eligible veterans who served after May 7, 1975 and before September 11, 2001. The caregiver program was previously only available to eligible veterans who served on or after 9/11. It provides veterans' caregivers with resources, education, financial assistance, health insurance, beneficiary travel, peer support and more. To learn more, please visit www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support_benefits.asp and contact a DAV benefits advocate for free claims assistance.

As October runs along, please stay connected and active on our Department's Facebook page @DAVMassachusetts or our website at DAVMA.org/events. We are actively updating our calendar of events to include not only Department led events, but also events chapters are hosting around the state so there is always something to look forward to attending. Further, our front page of the newsletter contains a link to volunteer opportunities available within the state if you're looking to get more active, and/or complete LVAP hours.

As I mentioned, we are on the heels of our DAV 5K Boston at Castle Island on November 12, 2022. Please visit dav5k.boston to sign up! Also, please plan to listen in on November 10-11th as we host our annual Radio-thon with WRKO on the Kuhner Report from 6am-12pm!



Unit annual financial reports were due to National Headquarters by September 30, 2022, and copies sent to DAV & DAVA Department of MA department adjutants. If your unit has yet to submit its report, please do so as soon as possible. Ensure you use the new form, and not an old version you may have. The current form is available online at www.davauxiliary.org.

The following information is to clarify any confusion regarding the DAV/DAVA newsletter and the Auxiliary State Bulletin. The MA DAV/DAVA newsletter will be published monthly ongoing. Elected and State Auxiliary officers must submit articles for this publication by the 22nd of each month for the following publication date. (i.e. November articles must be submitted by October 22nd, December articles by November 22nd and so on.

The Auxiliary "Bulletin" is published in September, November, January, March & May, and is contained within the corresponding month's newsletter. Please remember, it is these 5 month's publications that you are required per our state by-laws, to submit an article should you be in a role that requires a report of you.

All articles must be emailed to the Auxiliary Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant, Adj./Asst. Adj. Mentee and Commander.

Emails as seen in the newsletter and the Auxiliary directory.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out!



COMMITTEE REPORTS & MORE!
CLICK OR SCAN
THE QR CODE

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