

DAV[®]

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

& AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER

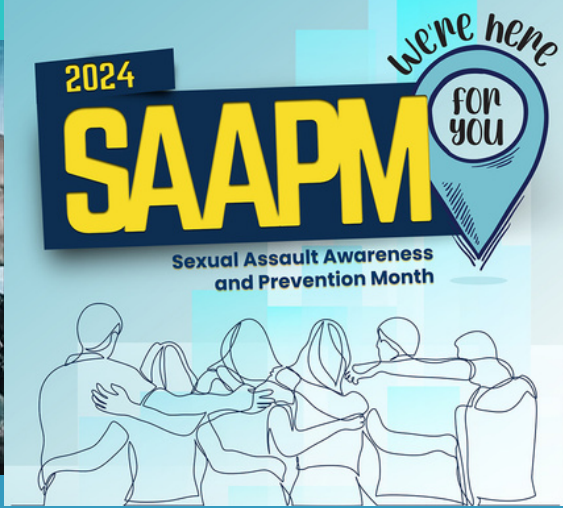
April 2024



April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (#SAAPM), and @RAINN has info on showing up for survivors, social media tools, & more to help survivors and advocates take a stand. Check it out at <http://rainn.org/saapm-2024>



SURVIVOR STORY



RAISE HOPE

Share the **National Sexual Assault Hotline**

800.656.HOPE

Chat with us at online.rainn.org in english & rainn.org/es in spanish

FREE. 24/7. CONFIDENTIAL.

Forrest Lang is...

a father, military veteran, tattoo artist, author, and survivor of child sexual abuse (CSA). His story is one of surviving homelessness, sexual abuse by a family member, and sexual violence within the foster care system.

Forrest's message to survivors is clear: "I hear you. I see you. I believe you. It did happen. It really was that bad. You are not alone."



[Read full story here >>](http://www.rainn.org/survivor-stories/forrest-s-story)

www.rainn.org/survivor-stories/forrest-s-story

WELCOME TO MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD!

Celebrating Military Kids All April Long!

PRODUCED BY THE DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY

Show support for military kids in your life today!
Honor their strength and resilience.

Share via Facebook Messenger with us a photo of your military child, young or old, and a message for them and we will feature them on our [Facebook page @DAVMassachusetts](#)

Military Kids>>Celebrating you all month long!

Reminder



*All functions DAV or Auxiliary of Massachusetts host, or attend as a vendor, are listed on www.davma.org/events

*when adequate information and proper notice is supplied to the Department



COMMANDER, BOB KINSMAN

It takes courage to step up and start changing the world. Thank you for doing it through your volunteer work. Your efforts with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Massachusetts have proven that one person or a small team can make a significant difference in the lives of our fellow veterans and their families. I hope you know that your volunteer work does not go unnoticed. On behalf of everyone you've helped, thank you for being passionate about making our small piece of the world a better place.

A major part of our volunteer work is in the Legislative arena. Early in March, the DAV Department of Massachusetts sent the largest delegation in the country to the DAV Mid-Winter Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. where we connected with our federal legislators & staff members to advocate for veterans & their families. Our team also participated in many DAV training workshops, including: Benefits Protection, Service, Membership, Advocacy, Employment and more. We continue to utilize the DAV Commander's Action Network (CAN) for tracking federal legislation and checked out a new software program for tracking state legislation in a similar fashion.

The DAV Department of Massachusetts will always remember our fallen comrades. Regrettably, this month we lost another longtime volunteer recently, Past Department Commander Russell T. Henderson, Sr., a U.S. Navy Corpsman during the Korean War. Recently, DAV Auxiliary National Commander AnnMarie Hurley placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Again, DAVMA will participate in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Bourne National Veterans Cemetery to be held on Sunday, May 26.

Spring is here, and that means parade season is upon us. The first official DAVMA event of the spring was the St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston on March 17th. DAV Department Line Officers, Honor Guard, Chapter Members, Auxiliary Line Officers, and Auxiliary youth as marched together as an element before over one million enthusiastic and well-lubricated spectators. This parade is also known as the Evacuation Day Parade to commemorate General Washington's forced removal of British troops from Boston during the Revolutionary War. Next up is the Patriot's Day Parade in Lexington on Monday, April 15. If anyone is interested in viewing the dramatic reenactment of the first battles of our War for Independence on the Lexington Battle Green and at the Concord Bridge, please let me know and I'll set up a trip for the early morning of the Lexington parade. We will also march in the Independence Day Parade in Pittsfield on Thursday, July 4. Chapters are encouraged to also participate in local parades and other commemorations honoring our comrades in arms.

Please join us at these occasions:

- DAV Auxiliary National Commander AnnMarie Hurley's Testimonial Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 20 in Quincy, with a tour of the JFK Library included.
- DAV-MA Department Commander Robert Kinsman & DAVA State Commander Diane Sullivan's Joint Testimonial Dinner will be held on Sunday, May 5 in North Chelmsford.

The annual Department Convention is fast approaching. Please continue to promote DAVMA Ad Book sales. Our Department Line Officers are completing Chapter Visits throughout the year. Contact any officer if you have questions or need assistance.

SR. VICE, BOB BRONSON



Today, I ask each and every one receiving this report, whether you are DAV, Auxiliary or a supporter to log on to the DAV Commander's Action Network (DAVCAN) at <https://dav.quorum.us/home/> to show our Legislators that we are doing exactly what we ask of them-to support the bills that are before Congress. The following are the six Critical Policy Goals for 2024, and Bills associated with them, that we delivered to our State Legislators during the Mid-Winter Convention. Please review them and show support to as many you feel comfortable. Remember, this is one of the best ways to help as many Veterans as possible at a national level.

- **Correct inequities for veterans receiving compensation benefits and provide parity in benefits for survivors:**

Allowing receipt of earned compensation and military payments without offsets: **The Major Richard Star Act, S. 344/H.R. 1282,**

Veterans are unfairly required to pay back separation pay, **The Restore Veterans' Compensation Act, H.R. 3489,**

Providing parity for survivors receiving dependency and indemnity compensation, **The Caring for Survivors Act S. 414/H.R. 1083,**

Eliminating the remarriage age for survivors in receipt of DIC, **The Love Lives On Act, S. 1266/H.R. 3651,**

- **Ensure the faithful implementation of the PACT Act and address gaps in toxic-exposure benefits:**

Monitoring the implementation of the PACT Act: **Congress must continue rigorous oversight of PACT Act-related claims and require the VA to provide data on claims granted and denied**

Recognizing exposures and related diseases at K2: **Congress must enact legislation that concedes exposures to radiation, jet fuel and chemical weapons at K2,**

Ensuring parity for radiation-exposed veterans and removing the dose estimate requirement: **The Providing Radiation Exposed Servicemembers Undisputed Medical Eligibility (PRESUME) Act, H.R. 4566,**

Recognizing exposures and diseases associated with PFAS: **The Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS (VET PFAS) Act S. 2294/H.R. 4249,**

- **Establish equity in VA care, services and benefits for women, LGBTQ+ and minority veterans:**

Enhanced research and data collection needed for program improvement: **Improve outreach to recruit women, LGBTQ+ and minorities for VA research projects.**

Ensure diverse representation and culturally sensitive programming: **Promote strategies and care plans for meeting the unique needs of women, LGBTQ+ and minority veteran populations**

Ensure access to quality clinical services wherever care is received: **Conduct sensitivity training for front-line staff and create programs to specifically address barriers to care and improve patient satisfaction for women, LGBTQ+ and minority veterans:**

Improve environment of care: **Continue its Stop Harassment and White Ribbon campaigns to address harassment throughout the system,**

- **Provide a full spectrum of long-term care options for service-disabled and aging veterans:**

Increase veterans' access to long-term care: Congress must expand mandatory eligibility for long-term nursing home care to VA service-connected veterans rated 50% and 60%

VA community living centers and state veteran's homes: **Congress must increase resources for modernization and expansion of VA CLCs and SVHs to meet the specialized needs of seriously disabled veterans**

Home and community-based care services: **The Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act, S. 495/H.R. 1815,**
Program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers: **The VA must replace the current eligibility regulations for PCAFC and create new standards that are clear, consistent, and equitable**

SR. VICE, BOB BRONSON CONTINUED...

- **Bolster mental health resources to ensure reduction of veteran suicides:**

Rates of suicide among veterans: **The Not Just a Number Act, S.928/H.R. 4157,**

Lethal-means safety a key component of reducing veteran suicide: **Congress must appropriately fund the VA's lethal-means safety campaign**

Specialized programs and services critical in preventing suicide: **The VA must improve tailoring of prevention and intervention services to the needs**

Increase staffing levels of VA mental health providers: **The VA Clinician Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion, and Retention Support (CAREERS) Act of 2023, S. 10, The Expedited Hiring for VA Trained Psychiatrists Act of 2023. H.R. 5247**

Improve clinical competence of providers in VA community care network: **The VA must require all providers in the VCCN complete the same suicide prevention and lethal means safety counseling training mandated for VA providers. The Veterans Mental and Behavioral Health Quality of Care Act, H.R. 3811,**

- **Expand the VA's capacity to deliver timely, high-quality health care to veterans:**

Vacancies and staffing shortages: **The VA Clinician Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion, and Retention Support (CAREERS) Act of 2023,**

Ageing health care infrastructure: **The BUILD for Veterans Act of 2023, S. 42/ H.R. 3225,**

Information technology and electronic health record modernization: **Congress must provide rigorous oversight of the VA's new EHR system, The VA must oversee contracts with vendors, The VA must hold itself accountable to ensure the EHR is operable and, most importantly, safe for veteran care management:**

Expanding access to VA care through telehealth and virtual health services: **The VA must continue to leverage and build its infrastructure for virtual health services, The VA must carefully study the efficacy and effectiveness of virtual health care,**

VA fourth mission for national emergencies: **The VA must continue to maintain sufficient health care capacity to meet its fourth mission**



IST JR VICE, ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT

Spring has sprung and we recognize it as a month of profound significance, highlighting two important observances: Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Month of the Military Child. DAV's Membership Committee underscores its commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for all veterans and their families. Additionally, April 6 marks DAV Volunteer Impact Day, presenting a prime opportunity to expand our membership base while making a difference in our communities.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month serves as a reminder of the importance of supporting survivors, advocating for prevention efforts, and creating a culture of respect and consent within our communities. Additionally, April is a time to celebrate the resilience and strength of military children and honor the sacrifices and challenges that military children face as they navigate the unique experiences of military life. These resilient young individuals demonstrate courage, adaptability, and strength in the face of adversity.

On April 6, DAV Volunteer Impact Day offers an excellent opportunity for our members to give back to their communities while also recruiting new members. So we invite all DAV members to participate in Volunteer Impact Day activities, spread the word about DAV's mission and services and extend invitations to others to join our cause. By sharing the mission and impact of DAV, we can inspire others to become part of our community of advocates and supporters. When you recruit new DAV members, everybody wins, so keep on recruiting!

How to Get Involved:

- **Raise Awareness:** Share information and resources about sexual assault prevention and support services. Encourage open dialogue and promote a culture of respect and accountability. For more information and resources concerning Military Sexual Trauma (MST), please visit: [DAV's Resources for Military Sexual Trauma Survivors](#) or contact [RAINN \(Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network\)](#)'s National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE (4673).
- **Support Military Families:** Acknowledge and celebrate the resilience of military children. Offer assistance and support to military families in your community.
- **Participate in Volunteer Impact Day:** Join us on April 6 to recognize our dedicated volunteers and to engage in membership outreach activities. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families.
- **Social Media Campaign:** Keep an eye out for DAV's social media campaign highlighting National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Month of the Military Child. Share these posts to raise awareness and encourage others to join our cause.

What are YOU doing to achieve your chapter's recruitment goal and increase DAV membership this month? Share your photos on social media and include the hashtags #DAVMA, #SexualAssaultAwareness, #MonthoftheMilitaryChild, #AirForceReservesBirthday, #ArmyReservesBirthday, #GoldStarSpousesDay

CONNECT

with us on Facebook!



@[DAVMASSACHUSETTS](#)

2ND JR VICE DENNIS DEVINE



We have returned from the mid-winter conference this year, thankfully with no injuries or sickness. The conference was a big success. We discussed key issues and were well received by our Legislators, as well as their staff.

During the month of March, I had the opportunity to visit with members of Chapter #23 (Newton), Chapter #45 (Waltham), Chapter #56 (North Attleboro) and Chapter #10 (Chelsea).

At these meetings I had the opportunity to discuss key points that were addressed in Washington D.C., as well as local legislative efforts to benefit 100% disabled veterans, the importance of filing LVAP & SENA reports, recruitment suggestions, and more. It was my pleasure to interact with so many Members, and discuss these important topics with other Chapters.

On St. Patrick's Day, I attended the S. Boston parade alongside National 1st Jr. Vice Coleman Nee, Department Commander Bob Kinsman, Sr. Vice Commander Bob Broson, Adjutant Mike Valila, National Auxiliary Commander Ann Marie Hurley, and DAVA State Adjutant Janet Pratt and Commander Diane Sullivan. The Department Honor Guard led our element, and we also had members from Chapters 3, 4, 25, 30, and 35, and Auxiliary Units 3, 27, and 29. It warmed my heart to see so many members and youth come out to partake in the parade with us and represent DAV. The weather was perfect, and a fun time was had by all.

Our Department Convention is coming up June 7-8th at the DoubleTree Hilton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster MA. Convention is a great opportunity to come and learn more about DAV, see how business is conducted on the State level, and get involved in the decisions we make at Convention each year regarding resolutions we pass forward for new legislation, electing and installing new officers, bylaws changes, and more! The evening of the 7th the Department will host their awards banquet, and the evening of the 8th will be the installation of line officers ceremony and dinner. There is entertainment booked this year as well, so come meet me at Convention!

Our next parade will be the Lexington Patriot's Day Parade on April 15th. I implore you to come out and join the Department in the parade. It is a great way to spread DAV's name, as well as to connect with a lot of new veterans, veterans' families and survivors. If you would like to join us in the parade, please contact myself at franden68@gmail.com or Department Commander Bob Kinsman at BobKDAV47@comcast.net. I hope everyone has a wonderful Spring! See you at Department Convention in June!!

3RD JR VICE EUGENE MCGREEVY



March was a busy month for the Department. March 6-10th was Mid-Winter Conference in Washington DC. We met with our legislators, and presented DAV's Legislative Goals for the year, including issues related to veterans, spouses/caregivers, female veterans, and DIC. On March 16th our DEC meeting was hosted by Chapter 85 in Malden, MA. All recommendations made by the Board of Directors were presented to the Department Executive Committee, and approved.

In April Chapters will be having their electing their officers for 2024-2025. The process should not be taken lightly. Officers should think about how they will advance the Chapter and promote DAV's mission. Strong leadership is essential to the success of the Chapter and to DAV. Officers should consider the appointed positions (i.e.- bylaws, legislature, forget-me-not, etc). The candidates for the positions should have a desire to do the best they can and keep the Chapter informed of their progress.

April 6th is DAV Community Impact Day. Your volunteerism to veterans is more than just a demonstration of a "thank you for your service", its action. Find or create a project in your community that will help veterans, help clean a veterans property, or go visit a veteran that is hospitalized or homebound.

The Department Constitutions and Bylaws will be presented to the Department soon. Please join us at Department Convention June 7-8th, as we will have our review of Constitution and Bylaws. Convention will be held June 7-8th at the DoubleTree Hilton in Leominster, MA. Please feel free to reach me with any of your questions, or if you need any assistance at emcgreevy@aol.com. Happy Spring!

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR DEB OLSON



The Department is reviewing all AFRs, this is a tedious process, so please bear with me. The chapter Commanders, Adjutants and Treasurers will receive an email letting them know if the AFR is accepted as received or if further info is needed.

LVAP (LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) forms for March 2024 are due to the department within the first week of April. Please send them to dolson@davma.org, they will be forwarded to National and the 2nd Jr Vice Dennis Devine. DSO (Department Service Officers) and CSO (Chapter Service Officers) please remember to also complete Mass monthly reporting form SENA (Service Encounter & Needs Assessment). Go to <https://DAVMA.org>, Membership, Member Portal, forms, monthly reporting to complete forms. These reports can be completed by any member, including auxiliary, assisting veterans in their communities.

Please ensure you are selecting the correct job description for your volunteer hours. Only those who have been named a DSO by the Department Commander can claim DSO hours. All other service officers must report their time as "Chapter Service Officer". National will not accept the hours if they are coded incorrectly.

I want to thank everyone who is submitting their hours. Please continue the magnificent work, just a reminder if you have not submitted an LVAP for this year please do so.

Please complete the SENA on-line, the matrix from this will help us to identify needs in our communities, write resolutions, and seek funds and support to address these needs.

April 6th is DAV Community Impact Day, go to DAV Community Impact Day - DAV and check out ways you can volunteer in your community, take pictures, write a brief note about the day, and do not forget to put in your LVAP hours.

Chapter elections are in April. The Chapter Warrant Request form can be found on the www.davma.org website, membership, member portal, forms, chapter/district forms. This form is to be completed and submitted to Department Headquarters as soon as an installation date is set by the chapter.

Chapter OER's (Officer Election Report) are to be completed on-line via www.MYDAV.ORG. Please fill it out completely, to include email addresses. All officers should have a current email. ALL communications from both National and the Department are delivered electronically now, so Line Officers must have an email, and if not please create one for your Chapter to receive communications through. The Department is here to assist, if needed. Please reach out if you experience any troubles.

When possible, please complete all forms online, filling in ALL the information required, double checking phone numbers and email addresses especially. This information is not only used to update our Directory, but National uses it to update your Chapter's website too. If you have not chosen a webmaster to manage and update your Chapter's website, please contact Adjutant Mike Valila for assistance.

To add a little spark at your chapter meetings, play one of the many podcasts available on www.davma.org/dav-ma-podcast, as well as reviewing the tools that are available from National, by checking out www.dav.org, new reports and tools are being added regularly.

If you need any assistance or if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please contact your Department Line Officers. We were elected or appointed to serve you. We all stand at the ready, and are an email or a phone call away. Thank you for all you do in your community, and for 'Keeping the Promise'.



ADJUTANT MIKE VALILA

The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic is scheduled to return to the mountains of Colorado in 2024. The annual event, co-presented by DAV and the Department of Veterans Affairs, will take place April 1–7. The clinic serves as a leader in adaptive winter sports instruction for disabled veterans, promoting world-class healthcare at a one-of-a-kind rehabilitative event.

Known as “Miracles on a Mountainside,” the clinic offers veterans opportunities for self-development and challenge through sports therapy and rehabilitative activities such as adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, rock climbing, sled hockey and scuba diving.

Participation is open to U.S. military veterans with qualifying disabilities such as spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputation, blindness or low vision, and certain neurological problems. I am excited to attend this year alongside DAV Life Member Andrew (Dallas) Rosacker, a Marine Corps Veteran, and fellow Worcester Chapter 4 member. As Dallas hits the slopes, scuba dives, plays hockey, and more I will be there as his caregiver ensuring he is properly geared and ready to engage in some good-hearted competition.

Upon return from the trip, I look forward to hitting the ground running as we move into our election season, with installations right around the corner. Please ensure that your Chapter has submitted their warrant requests to the Department by the end of April, so that we can schedule our Line Officers to come out to perform the installations. If you opt to get installed at Department Convention June 7-8th, please specify so on the warrant request.

Service Officer Level I & II Training will be held on June 6th from 9am-3pm at MWCC College, 444 Green St, Gardner, MA. If you are interested in getting certified to do service work, please let your Chapter Commander & Adjutant know, as they will need to complete a service officer nomination form and send it into the NSO Office prior to training. Those who do not have prior registration will not be permitted in the class.

Please join us Sunday May 5th for the Joint Commanders Testimonial Honoring DAV Department Commander Robert Kinsman, and DAVA State Commander Diane Sullivan. The Joint Testimonial will be held at Princeton Station, 147 Princeton Street, N. Chelmsford, MA. There will be a 1pm reception with appetizers and cash bar, followed by dinner and program at 2pm. The Joint Testimonial Flyer is attached to this newsletter, following the Auxiliary Bulletin.

Corporate Ad Sales for Convention Book

Please remember that in order to ensure that ads are received in time for printing, we are asking that all ads be submitted to the Department by May 13th, 2024. Any ads arriving at headquarters after May 13th will be returned, as the publisher cannot accept past print date. We will have printed brochures available for you at Convention to distribute to your advertisers. Forms can be found on our website, by visiting davmamembers.org > Forms > Chapter/District Forms > Corporate Ad Solicitation Form

UPCOMING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Our Veteran Advancement Programs in Leominster and Gardner may be seeking qualified individuals for some of the following positions soon:

- Residential Caregivers
- Bookkeeper/CPA
- Resource Liaisons
- Service Coordinators I/II

Preference is given to qualified DAV members, Veterans, and spouses. Check periodically for updates to the listing for current employment opportunities by [clicking here](#).



STATE COMMANDER, DIANE SULLIVAN

Spring has sprung and summer is not far away, as it is bringing my year to an end. I continue to be as active as I can. I attended the South Boston Parade on St Patrick's Day. I must admit that I didn't walk all that far. The streets were packed and the enthusiasm was overwhelming.

We've had two trainings this year at our SEC meetings and will have another in May. If you have any topics please let me or Janet know.

I hope that everyone has purchased a ticket to Ann Marie's testimonial. We all need to celebrate her for a great year.

As you all are aware, it's that time again for annual reports. We have tools to share with you in case you missed the training, please reach out to me. Reminder, installation of officers must be completed no later than May 31, 2024. You must request a warrant from Janet Pratt. If you would like myself or another DAVA member to install your Unit, please send in your request, ASAP.

Commander Bob Kinsman and myself would like you to celebrate our year with us at our Joint Testimonial on May 5, 2024. Flyers are available.

As always, if you have any issues, questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at dsullivan.dava@gmail.com or 781-325-6591.

STATE TREASURER, PSC JEAN SHIFFLETT

Anyone needing a check for reimbursement should contact me at 617-827-1911 at least a week ahead of time 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 2023-2024 State Mandate fee of \$30, please do so immediately. Make checks payable to DAVA Dept. of MA and send to me at 109 Edgehill Road, E. Braintree, MA 02184.

JUDGE ADVOCATE, FRAN COSTA

Just a reminder regarding Auxiliary State Standing Rules.

Any proposed amendments to be considered at this year's convention must be in writing with a rationale postmarked no later than April 22nd to me at:

Frances Costa JA
20 Adamsdale Road
North Attleboro MA, 02760
-or- email me at f102447@aol.com

Deadline is the 22nd to be considered by the State Standing Rules Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: PSC SANDY FINCEL CHAIRMAN

Reminder: There will be a budget meeting immediately after the SEC meeting on May 11, 2024. All members of the finance committee are required to attend this meeting including the Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Treasurer. Any requests for money to be considered at this meeting must be in writing 10 days prior to the meeting either by USPS mail or e-mail to Sandy Fincel at gorsfincel@gmail.com. No requests are allowed from the floor as it says in our budget rules.



ADJUTANT, JANET PRATT

SAVE THE DATE: May 5, 2024– DAV & DAVA Joint Testimonial for Department & Auxiliary Commanders Robert Kinsman and Diane Sullivan will be at the Princeton Station. 147 Princeton St. N./ Chelmsford, MA. 01863. The Testimonial information has been sent out to all chapter and unit members. Please send you're your food choices and ticket money in by April 15, 2024.

2024 Auxiliary Unit Reminders – Please refer to the attached reminders sheet for annual reports and unit officer nominations and elections. National Annual Report Forms were sent to all unit adjutants. Units are encouraged to complete and return the forms to me by the April 26, 2024, deadline to receive the recognition they deserve for their advocacy and work supporting our veterans and their families. Officer Report Forms: Completed forms must be submitted to National HQ no later than 10 days following Unit installation of officers. Please ensure names & addresses are properly spelled and phone numbers & email addresses are current.

DAVA DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS 2024 UNIT REMINDERS

DAV & Auxiliary 2024 State Convention: Convention will be held June 7 – 9, 2024, at the Double Tree Hilton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA. The joint opening session is scheduled from 8:30-11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 7, 2024..

National Annual Report Forms: Forms were sent by the State Adjutant on 1/6/2024 to all Unit Adjutants to be presented at a unit meeting.

- **The DAVA Junior Award Questionnaire** is only to be completed if the unit is nominating a candidate for consideration and should be returned to State Adjutant Janet Pratt, 25 Rogers St. Quincy, MA 02169, postmarked by April 12, 2024.
- **Completed reports for Americanism, Special Americanism, Community Service, Junior Activities, Legislative, VAVS, Mae Holmes and the State Commander's Award** nomination form must be sent to the State Adjutant **postmarked by April 26, 2024.**
- **Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report Form: DAVA National HQ requests that every Auxiliary Unit completes this form**, the information for which is obtained from the Unit's other program reports. Information provided in the Mae Holmes report is essential documentation that establishes credibility that the DAVA is fulfilling its mission and allows District NECs to complete their annual reports for National HQ.
- **Electronic versions of the National Report Forms** in Word or PDF are available on the DAV Auxiliary website: www.auxiliary.dav.org

ADJUTANT
JANET PRATT
JANETPRATTDAVA@GMAIL.COM
CELL PHONE: 617-957-0294.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT
PATRICIA MESSINA
TRICIAMESSINA57@GMAIL.COM
CELL PHONE: 617-666-0423.

STATE COMMANDER
DIANE SULLIVAN
DSULLIVAN.DAVA@GMAIL.COM
CELL PHONE: 781-325-6591.



DAVA DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS 2024 UNIT REMINDERS

A few important reminders:

- **Indebtedness Statements:** If your unit's membership distribution has not satisfied the \$25 national mandate, an indebtedness statement will be included in the unit's mailing from DAVA National HQ. We recommend that indebted units submit a check to DAVA National HQ to cover the outstanding indebtedness to clear the unit for voting at state and national conventions.
- **Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests:** The national bylaws provide for the proper procedure when issuing checks from unit accounts. **Unit funds may only be expended upon approval of unit members at a regular business meeting** unless otherwise specified in the Unit Standing Rules.
- **The State Mandate** fee of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) should have been paid by units by August 15th, 2024, for the current membership year. The mandate fees are used for State Convention purposes.
- **Unit Officer Nomination/Election Meetings:** Unit adjutants should notify their unit members of officer nomination/election meetings no less than ten days in advance. Be sure this notification includes date, time, and meeting location. This communication can be done by phone call, e-mail, newsletter, postcard, etc., and at any time in the unit's fiscal year, if it is at least ten days prior to the meeting date. Unit officer candidates must be elected in person by the unit membership and must be life members in good standing to hold office.
- **Unit Membership List:** Unit Commanders & Adjutants should have a current unit membership list in hand at nomination/election meetings.
- **Members entitled to vote must be in good standing** which means their life membership is "Active Status," and they are not indebted to the organization.
- The election must be held for each individual office, not an entire slate.
- Each unit shall elect a State Executive Committee Member and Alternate to represent their unit on the State Executive Committee. Their term of office shall be the same as the state officers.
- Units must also elect members who will serve as delegates and alternates at the State Convention. The State Adjutant will issue the State Convention Delegate Form to unit adjutants. Completed form and check for delegates' fees (\$10.00 per delegate) should be returned by specified date to specified person to ensure unit delegates/alternates are registered for convention.
- Prior to installation of the unit treasurer, complete an audit by a proper audit committee in accordance with the national bylaws. Remember, the audit committee may not include the unit commander, senior vice commander, junior vice commander, treasurer, finance committee or non-DAVA members. If the total gross income of the unit exceeds \$100,000, the unit financial records must be reviewed and verified by an Independent Certified Public Accountant.
- Following installation of officers, send a completed officer report form within ten (10) days after installation to national headquarters, your DAVA state department, and DAV state department. Keep a copy for unit files. A fillable version is available for download on the National DAVA website via this link: <https://auxiliary.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/OfficerReport.pdf>.
- Units experiencing difficulties, whether it be electing officers, establishing a quorum, or participation concerns, should reach out to their state department leadership for assistance and guidance.



COMMANDER'S JOINT TESTIMONIAL DINNER honoring

DAV Dept Commander Robert Kinsman and DAVA State Commander Diane Sullivan

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Princeton Station, 147 Princeton St., N. Chelmsford, MA 01863

1:00pm Reception-appetizers and a cash bar

2:00pm Dinner and Program

Menu

Steak Tips

or

Stuffed Chicken Breast

or

Baked Haddock

All meals include: family style salad, red bliss mashed potatoes, fresh seasonal vegetables, bread, coffee, tea and strawberry shortcake.

Please return by April 15, 2024

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tables of 8 @ \$49.00 each meal @ \$392.00

_____ Steak tips @ \$49.00 each meal

_____ Stuffed chicken breast @ \$49.00 each meal

_____ Baked haddock @ \$49.00 each meal

Please make check payable to: **DAV & DAVA Joint Testimonial**
and

Mail to: Diane Sullivan, 83 Bay State Ave., Somerville MA 02144



MBA Mortgage

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Keys to Independence

Homeownership Seminars for service-members and veterans who would like a better understanding of their veteran benefits, credit and VA home loans

6:00PM

April 17, 2024 88 Bancroft St.
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Sign up
here!



Matt Scott

VICE PRESIDENT

NMLS & MLO 38022

781-849-1118

mScott@mbamortgageco.com



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We arrange but do not make loans.



Spring into Action!

As the weather warms up, it's a good time to get moving. The Arthritis Foundation offers a number of ways to help you do just that. Whether walking is your jam or you prefer some other form of physical activity, we have a number of options for you.

Sign up for a Walk to Cure Arthritis Near You

Join the movement and make an impact by participating in the Arthritis Foundation's signature walk event, Walk to Cure Arthritis, which kicks off in April with events nationwide throughout the spring. You can register as an individual or join a team at arthritis.org/events/WTCA.



Make Fitness Fun!

Whether you prefer to go it alone or have friends join you, these resources can help you get moving in the way that works best for you:

Your Exercise Solution (YES) – Create a physical activity routine – based on your specific needs and ability level – with modifications approved by a physical therapist. Get started at arthritis.org/health-wellness/healthy-living/physical-activity/getting-started/your-exercise-solution.

Walk With Ease – This guided physical activity and self-management education program includes health education, stretching and strengthening exercises, and motivational strategies. Learn more at arthritis.org/health-wellness/healthy-living/physical-activity/walking/walk-with-ease.

Using the Breath to Stress Less – Personal trainer and combat veteran, Dan Hill, discusses how to intentionally use the breath to dial down stress and anxiety in this short video, one of a series on exercising combat pain. Watch online at arthritis.org/veteran.



For more information or to get in touch with the local Massachusetts Office reach out to **Erica D'Agostino at (857) 327-5688** or by email edagostino@arthritis.org. All of our resources for Military & Veterans Services can be found at www.arthritis.org/veteran