



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

# & AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024



## Mid-Winter Conference

March 7-9, 2024 | Arlington, Virginia




JOIN US AT  
SOUTH BOSTON'S  
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE!

March 17, 2024



WOMEN'S MONTH

Check out our homepage of [www.davma.org](http://www.davma.org) OR Facebook @DAVMassachusetts throughout February, as each day we honor women veterans across the State

Reminder



\*All functions DAV or Auxiliary of Massachusetts host, or attend as a vendor, are listed on [www.davma.org/events](http://www.davma.org/events)

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





## COMMANDER, BOB KINSMAN

You matter. You make a difference. Your willingness to share your time and talent by volunteering with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Massachusetts says a lot about you as a human being. Your willingness to help others speaks to both your strength and your character. When you volunteer, you are making a commitment to share that most precious of resources – your time – to make life better for veterans & their families. I want to let you know just how much your dedication is appreciated. Whether you are a long-time volunteer or if you got involved recently, and regardless of how many hours you choose to give, it's important for you to know that what you do makes a difference.

“Making a Difference” was recognized recently at several local events. DAV-MA Department Officers recently attended a Black Veterans Appreciation Luncheon in Dorchester hosted by Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. A Legacy Award was presented to Brigadier General Enoch “Woody” Woodhouse, a member of the 332nd Fighter Wing, known as the Tuskegee Airmen. The presentation of colors was performed by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, a renowned Civil War black unit. Also represented was the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts (chartered in 1638), along with local veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq & Afghanistan. Later, veterans were invited to see “The 761st Tank Battalion: The Original Black Panthers”, a documentary featuring Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman, which tells the true story of the 761st Tank Battalion, the first Black tank unit to serve in combat during WWII. In addition, the Marine Corps League Department of Massachusetts hosted a commemoration of Iwo Jima Day at the State House to honor the survivors of the iconic World War II battle.

Our DAV-MA Legislative Team is making final preparations for its annual visit to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The 2024 DAV Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled for March 7-9 (travel days March 6 & 10) at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Alexandria, VA. A productive & well-attended Legislative Training Session for attendees took place at BATV Studios in Billerica recently. Hopefully, the possibility of a Federal Government shutdown will be resolved prior to our travel. Please continue to support the DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network). It is a very effective tool in getting support for National legislation endorsed by the DAV. We are currently investigating a method to track State legislation similar to the way the DAV CAN tracks National legislation, and hope to have an update soon.

Sadly, we lost another longtime volunteer recently, Past Department Commander Tom Daley, Sr., a Korean War veteran. Tom was also the Department Adjutant & Treasurer. Department personnel performed a DAV ritual at his service.

The annual Department Convention will be here before we know it. It is now time to promote DAV-MA Ad Book sales. This is an opportunity to raise funds for the your Chapter, as well as the Department. All of our committees are active and welcome new members. The Membership Committee needs your assistance in recruiting new members. The Service & Charitable Committee requests that you turn in your LVAP hours monthly and notes that Advanced Service Officer Training is ongoing monthly. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee has completed a review of our governing documents ... please read them. Finally, our Department Line Officers are continuing Chapter Visits throughout the year.

Upcoming events include the following: 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 Department Commander Robert Kinsman & DAVA State Commander Diane Sullivan's Joint Testimonial Dinner will be held on Sunday, May 5 in North Chelmsford. Please join us at both of these events! The weather is warming up a bit, so that means that parade season will soon be upon us. The first official DAV-MA event is the St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston on Sunday, March 17. Next up is the Patriot's Day Parade in Lexington on Monday, April 15. then the Independence Day Parade in Pittsfield on Thursday, July 4. The Memorial Day Ceremony at the Bourne National Veterans Cemetery will be held on Sunday, May 26. Chapters are encouraged to also participate in local parades and other commemorations honoring our comrades in arms.

## SR. VICE, BOB BRONSON



"In like a lion and out like a lamb" As far as the weather goes, that's what March is known for. This year, for Veterans Legislation, it's more like "In with National Legislation and out with Department Legislation" As most of you know, the Department is going to DC for the annual Mid-winter Conference. There, we will be concentrating on the Bills that are up for consideration in both the Senate and the Congress this year. We have confirmed meetings with most of our Massachusetts's Legislators while there. Any that we are not able to see in DC, we are asking to meet with them back here in Massachusetts. The cynic in me might wonder if we accomplish anything in DC at all, but the results from the past prove that when we stand together and speak with one voice, we can achieve great things.

I hope you don't mind, but I'm going to reiterate a couple of the points that I have stressed in the past. First, sign up for the DAV Commander's Action Network at: <https://dav.quorum.us/home/>. Just click on the "Act Now" button and the list of Bills before our State's National Legislators will open. Click on the "Write" button to support whatever bill you prefer. A prewritten support letter with your signature will be sent to your individual Legislators. Next, I want to remind everyone that we have until May 1st to send in any Resolutions to our Adjutant, Mike Valila at: [MValila@DAVMA.Org](mailto:MValila@DAVMA.Org). If you're not sure of the proper way to write a Resolution, ask any of the Department Line Officers and we can help. Once back from DC, we will be having a seminar on how to write a Resolution and will send out a notice as to when and where. It will also be a hybrid meeting so the Zoom log-on will be part of the notice. Remember, any bill before the 118th Congress that doesn't become law will need to be resubmitted for the 119th Congress. That means that the Resolution will need to be voted on at your Chapter meeting and then sent to Mike before May 1st so it can be voted on at our Department Convention in June, and if passed, sent to National to be considered at the Nation Convention in August.



As we close out Black History Month, we're excited to share that the Massachusetts Disabled American Veterans (DAV) proudly participated as a vendor at the Executive Office of Veterans Services' (EOVS) free screening event, commemorating Black History Month with a documentary tribute to the courageous 761st Tank Battalion. Held at two locations, the John D O'Bryant African American Institute, Northeastern University in Boston and the Raymond Jordan Senior Center in Springfield, the screenings provided a platform to honor the invaluable contributions of African American veterans to our nation's history.

The 761st Tank Battalion, fondly known as the "Black Panthers," epitomized bravery and resilience as the first African American armored unit to see combat during World War II. Despite facing racial discrimination and segregation, these trailblazing soldiers exemplified heroism and dedication, leaving an indelible mark on military history.

At both screening events, DAV members Will Egan, Patrick Arabie, and Dennis Devine in Boston and Walker Bryant in Springfield actively engaged with attendees, offering support, resources, and camaraderie to veterans and their families. As advocates for disabled veterans, DAV reaffirmed its commitment to inclusivity and recognition of the diverse contributions made by servicemen and women of all backgrounds.

The documentary showcased the remarkable journey of the 761st Tank Battalion, illuminating their triumphs, challenges, and enduring legacy. Through archival footage, interviews, and historical narratives, viewers gained insight into the struggles and sacrifices endured by African American soldiers during a time of profound social upheaval.

By participating as a vendor, MA DAV underscored its dedication to serving veterans and promoting unity within the veteran community. The screenings provided an opportunity to honor the often-overlooked contributions of African American veterans while fostering dialogue and understanding among attendees.

MA DAV remains committed in its mission to honor the sacrifices of all veterans and ensure their stories are heard and celebrated. By acknowledging the bravery and resilience of the 761st Tank Battalion, we pay homage to the countless African American servicemen and women who have served our nation with distinction. In honoring the past, we pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for all veterans. MA DAV stands proud to have been a part of this meaningful tribute to the 761st Tank Battalion and remains dedicated to serving veterans of every background with dignity, compassion, and support

*Author - 1st Jr. Vice Commander Andrea Gayle-Bennett*



## IST JR VICE, ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT

Greetings, Fellow DAV Members,

As we step into the month of March, we are met with the promise of spring and a renewed sense of purpose within our DAV community. We find ourselves at the intersection of two significant occasions: the March Madness Membership Drive and Women's History Month. These moments offer us a unique opportunity to come together as a community, celebrate the contributions of our women veterans, and strengthen our organization through increased membership.

**I invite all members to actively participate in our DAV MARCH MEMBERSHIP MADNESS drive!**



This tournament will run March 10–30. It is a chance for each of us to play a role in expanding the reach and impact of our DAV Chapters. It organizes our departments in a bracket-style format. This year we are up against New Hampshire and then Arizona. Hopefully we can get past the first round this year. By reaching out to fellow veterans and encouraging them to join our ranks, we strengthen our collective voice and ability to advocate for disabled veterans across the state. LET'S GO MA, BEAT NH!!

As we engage in this membership drive, it is essential to recognize and celebrate Women's History Month. Throughout history, women have played integral roles in our armed forces, serving with courage, dedication, and distinction. Their contributions have helped shape our nation's military and inspire future generations of women in uniform.

As part of our Women's History Month celebrations, I encourage you to engage with our social media series highlighting the stories and experiences of women veterans. By sharing these powerful narratives, we can amplify the voices of women veterans and honor their service to our country.

Finally, I invite each of you to share your membership and Women's History Month activities with our DAV community. Whether you're participating in outreach events, sharing stories of women veterans, or recruiting new members, we want to see what you did! Make sure to take lots of photos and videos and tell us about your experience. Your contributions are what make our DAV Chapters strong. Don't forget to add captions and tell us who's in the photos. We'll share some those stories on social media. Use hashtags #DAVMA, #DAVMarchMadness and #DAVWomensHistoryMonth



## 2ND JR VICE DENNIS DEVINE



As our winter changes to spring, we can look forward to warmer weather. There have been some trips out to our Western Massachusetts friends. I took a surprise trip out to Granville to visit our Department Chaplain, Johnny Wilson. He was very surprised and happy to see me. Johnny is hoping to retire from his church in the near future. He has been a Reverend for over 40 years. I also spent a day volunteering with DAV at the Big E RV Camping Show in Springfield. The DAV had a booth set up and it was amazing how many veterans walked by that we talked to about benefits.

February was Black History Month. I attended the Black Veterans Appreciation Luncheon in Boston on February 24th. The luncheon was very well attended and there were a lot of various dignitaries in attendance. The DAV was well represented by National Auxiliary Commander Ann Marie Hurley, PDC Will Egan, Commander Bob Kinsman, 1st Jr. Vice Andrea Gayle-Bennett and myself. During the luncheon. I had the pleasure of meeting WWII Tuskegee Airmen, Brigadier General Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse. It was an honor. After the luncheon I attended the movie on the 761st Tank Battalion, the original Black Panthers. It was very eye opening and a very powerful movie. I never realized how horrific our own black soldiers were treated during the war.

I have been working on LVAP hours and noticed that many members have not submitted an LVAP form ever. I can relate as I was guilty of that myself. So I finally sat down and reported my hours back to July 2023 (that I could remember). Forms should be submitted to Deb Olson at [dolson@davma.org](mailto:dolson@davma.org) the first week following a completed month. Copies will then be forwarded to National so we can track the hours. I know everyone volunteers to help veterans and not to get a pat on the back. But, as Mike stated in the November newsletter, "reporting LVAP hours by every chapter is very important to the DAV as an organization. DAV is required to report volunteer hours to Congress, watchdog groups, members, and donors.

Reporting 'ALL' of our volunteer hours can strengthen our lobbying capabilities in congress, elevate the favorable opinion of watchdog groups, and reinforce the trust of our members and donors. Every Chapter and member is performing multiple functions throughout the month for which LVAP hours can be claimed – they simply are not reporting those hours. Consequently, we are significantly under-reporting the activity within the DAV Department of Massachusetts. You can report the time commuting to and from a Chapter or Department meeting or training, plus the time spent there. You can also record any volunteer hours you put in whether that's participating in an outreach event, forget-me-not drive, parade, driving a veteran to an appointment, assisting veterans or their family members with claims, and any other volunteer activity you do for veterans. LVAP can even be reported for non-members of DAV! Please work towards ensuring we are reporting accurately moving forward. This will benefit our organization as a whole, and everyone will benefit.

Outside of reporting LVAP, the other report we are asking everyone to please complete monthly is the SENA report. SENA tracks the service provided, and referrals given to veterans. If you are speaking with a veteran and refer them to DAV or another organization for services, make a note of it. Once you begin keeping track of your volunteerism and service encounters it becomes routine, and is fairly simple to do. I have found that making notes in my phone or calendar is one of the easiest ways to track it. Remember, you're not just reporting for yourself, you're reporting to benefit all veterans, and the DAV. This helps DAV identify areas in need of more services and resources, as well as where to focus more attention for assistance. Both reports can be found on our Department's website [davmamembers.org](http://davmamembers.org) by clicking on 'forms' then clicking on 'monthly reporting'. For ease of access, I have also provided quick links below that you may either click on, or scan the QR code to direct you to the sites.



**SENA REPORT**



**DAVMA FORMS**



**LVAP REPORT**



## 3RD JR VICE EUGENE MCGREEVY

It's the last of February spring practice is underway, with opening day right around the corner, golfers are getting their clubs ready, and fishermen are getting their gear together. And if that furry rodent is correct spring is a couple of weeks away.

In the last couple of newsletters, I addressed the ongoing effort to update Department Bylaws. The committee completed those updates last month and the first reading of the Bylaws will be at the next DEC meeting on March 16th.

This month I would like to address the Constitution, in particular the section that is titled "Purpose". I'm not going to write the whole section out, but I'm pulling some lines out... "To advance the interests and work for the betterment of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans."

This is what we all do when we register on the Commander Action Network and support legislation for the betterment of veterans. This is why we go to Washington for the Mid-Winter Conference to speak to senators and congressmen about key issues affecting veterans and their families.

"To stimulate a feeling mutual devotion, helpfulness and comradeship among all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans." This is what we do when we volunteer at our VA Medical Hospitals and Soldiers' Homes across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

There is a DAV member named John Hendricks that has been a member for 16 years. John is retired Army, and had two tours in Afghanistan. John started in Chapter 55 then transferred to Chapter 11. For the past 14 years John and his service dog Minnie have been going to the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke the first Friday and Saturday of every month to play bingo and serve ice cream to residents of the Veterans Home. He is stimulating a feeling of mutual devotion, helpfulness and comradeship among all veterans one scoop at a time.

I would like to challenge every DAV member to reach out to your local VA Medical Center, VA Outpatient Clinic, Soldiers' Home, or local nursing home and see what volunteer opportunities that they have. Volunteerism goes a long way to improve the mental well-being of those who are hospitalized or away from their families, and it doesn't take a lot of time to make these veterans feel appreciated and and bring them joy. Remember to record any of this time in your LVAP & SENA reports monthly, as it benefits our organization as a whole, and makes our voice stronger at the State House and on Capitol Hill!



Reminder: Corporate Ad sales for Convention Books began on February 1st. You can sell ads to local restaurants and businesses in your community, or reach out to veteran owned businesses you are friendly with. Your chapter will be reimburse 50% of the cost for the ad to defer convention costs. This is a GREAT opportunity for your Chapters to earn money! Please scan the QR code, or click it to access the Corporate Ad sale form and additional information.

## 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 February 2024 are due to the department within the first week of March. Please send them to [dolson@davma.org](mailto: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. We can use those numbers when we see our congressional team during mid-winter.

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.

We are approaching the nomination and election of officers' season. The Chapter Warrant Request form can be found on the [www.davma.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.davma.org/dav-ma-podcast), as well as reviewing the tools that are available from National, by checking out [www.dav.org](http://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

This year our Department has a contingency of 28 members and 10 Auxiliary members attending Mid-Winter Conference, adding up to be the largest group from a single state attending, (again)! We look forward to a great trip, with 2 meetings with our legislators planned on Wednesday March 6th, and 7 meetings planned for Thursday March 7th. We have even begun scheduling meetings with our legislators when they come into District within our State, so we can continue our advocacy locally. Please be on the lookout for future communications if you would like to join us for these meetings!

### We are proud to report the impressive volunteerism of our Transportation Network.



#### Over the past 90 days, volunteer drivers:

Drove	74,736 miles
Transported	1,112 veterans
Volunteered	4,898 hours

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteer drivers for their dedication of service to the veterans we serve!

### 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 [davmammembers.org](http://davmammembers.org) > Forms > Chapter/District Forms > Corporate Ad Solicitation Form

## DAV's 2024 Critical Policy Goals

Correct inequities for veterans receiving compensation benefits and provide parity in benefits for survivors.

- Congress must enact S. 344/HR 1282, The Major Richard Star Act to repeal the inequitable offset between rightfully earned military retired pay and VA disability compensation for all veterans, including medically retired combat veterans.
- Congress must enact H.R. 3489, the Restore Veterans Compensation Act, which would afford justice for ill and injured veterans by eliminating the unfair practice of the VA recouping separation payments, which are based on military service, and differ from VA disability compensation.
- Congress must enact S. 414/H.R. 1083 the Caring for Survivors Act, to ease the eligibility criteria for DIC and increase the monthly benefit amount to match benefits provided by other federal survivor programs.
- Congress must enact S. 1266/H.R. 3651, the Love Lives Act, the Love Lives On Act, to eliminate the remarriage age for survivors in receipt of DIC.
- Congress must enact H.R. 4566, the Providing Radiation Exposed Servicemembers Undisputed Medical Eligibility Act, to remove the VA dos estimate requirement for radiation exposure.
- Congress must enact S. 2294/H.R. 4249, the Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS Act, to add presumptive diseases for PFAS exposure and to provide health care for veterans and their families.
- Congress must enact H.R. 5247 Expedited Hiring for VA Trained Psychiatrists Act of 2023.
- The VA must continue to maintain sufficient health care capacity to meet its fourth mission function during national emergencies while also ensuring that veterans continue to have uninterrupted and timely access to VA health care.





## STATE COMMANDER, DIANE SULLIVAN

Spring is almost upon us. Next week we move the clocks ahead. I'm looking forward to attending the mid-winter conference in a few days. Our National Auxiliary Commander AnnMarie Hurley will be placing a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier on March 4th. What an honor. We will be going up to Congress to voice our concerns on issues that are affecting our Veterans.

I'm pleased to announce that Commander Kinsman and I have chosen a date and facility for our Joint Testimonial Dinner. It will be held on May 5, 2024 at the Princeton Station in N. Chelmsford MA. The reception begins at 1:00 including appetizers and a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 2:00 followed by our program. There are three meal choices at a cost of \$49.00 each. You should've received a flyer via email this past week. If not, please contact Janet Pratt. Also, we will have copies at the March 16, 2024 SEC meeting. Both Bob and I are hoping that all will come celebrate our year as Commanders.

Please note, at the March SEC meeting we will once again have training on the reports that are due to Janet Pratt the State Adjutant by April 26, 2024. No report will be accepted after this date. If there is a specific report that you would like to discuss or any of the reports from the November SEC meeting, please let me know by March 13th to have it included in the program. If time permits, we will be demonstrating a mock installation...please make an effort to attend.

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.

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## 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.

The 990-N must be completed no later than November 15, 2023.

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: PSC SANDY FINCEL CHAIRMAN

The Finance Committee will commence (if needed) at 9:30 AM ½ hour prior to the March 16th, 2024 SEC Meeting in Malden MA. Request for monies should be in writing 10 days in advance of the SEC Meeting either by email to [gorsfincel@gmail.com](mailto:gorsfincel@gmail.com) or USPS mail to Sandy Fincel, 2 Smith St. Apt 1, Gloucester, MA. 01930. Thank you.

### 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.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRPERSON, NANCY MOONEY

I start my article for Community Service with a quote from Aeschylus "From a small seed a mighty trunk may grow".

Life grandest stories often begin with the tiniest of seeds. Just like a small acorn that holds the promise of a towering oak your smallest efforts today can blossom into greatness tomorrow. Each of our stories are made up of acts of kindness. In my previous reports I have suggested, many ways to give or do acts kindness for our veterans in our community.

As a reminder, we posted ways for veterans in our neighborhood to communicate what they may need help with, we collected bottle caps to be used for braces for veterans in our community, suggested including veterans in our community in our holiday activities, cards for nursing home veterans in our communities, phone calls and just a word of kindness. That being said our small seeds or acts of kindness for our veterans in our community has had a very positive impact from all of us. But it is now time to reach out to others in our community to get them to be a part of our efforts to continue to be involved in serving the needs of the veterans in our community. Including the community in any of the above activities which are acts of kindnesses will reach more veterans living in our community.

This is where my report was to end until I received an email from DAV.. Great minds think alike. DAV is going to hold a DAV Community Impact Day April 6, 2024. This day will bring our DAV/DAVA volunteers together with community members fulfilling the needs of veterans in our communities. To register to help contact [communityimpactday.org](http://communityimpactday.org) This is a great opportunity to serve the needs of the veterans in our community. Thank you.



## ADJUTANT, JANET PRATT

The end of our auxiliary year is fast approaching! Units and state departments are readying for officer elections. It is a time for unit and state officers to work toward strengthening our membership that has dwindled severely since the onset of the Covid pandemic. Members are encouraged to apply for unit or state department offices. Your unit and state officers stand

ready to assist you at every meeting. Outside of unit or state meetings, we are only a phone call or email away to answer your questions.

It is not enough to recruit members only to increase our ranks. We must also focus on recruiting members who will be active and involved by regularly attending unit and state meetings and who will in all aspects of the auxiliary's programs.

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.

National HQ Indebtedness Statements: Units incur these bills from National HQ because they do not have sufficient per capita funds, which are derived from part of the dues that Unit members pay that are held in escrow to cover the cost of National mandates.

All Auxiliary units must be in good standing to vote at a State or National Convention. A unit in good standing is one that is not indebted to the organization, whose mandates are paid for the current membership year, has filed their annual financial report, and submitted confirmation of filing the IRS 990-N e-Postcard. Indebted units must pay their mandates prior to April 1, 2024, or their elected national convention delegates will be required to register as convention guests without a voice.



# 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



## 2ND JR VICE COMMANDER, ALLISON DEVINE



As the reporting year (April – March) comes to a close, please remind your unit members to make sure they have signed up for the Commanders Action Network (CAN) and are taking the necessary steps in supporting the DAV supported Legislation.

As a reminder for All Units, the duties of the Legislative chair is as follows:

- The Legislative Chairman should give a report at each meeting and provide the members with the information on the DAV Legislative website or received as a Commander's Action Network participant.
- Encourage members to sign up for the DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network).
- Keep an accurate record of member contacts with representatives and their responses pertaining to veterans' issues supported by DAV so that the information can be reported on the annual report form.
- Complete the Legislative Annual Report form to account for the diligent efforts of the unit members.

Since we are going to go over this report on Saturday March 16th, I wanted to include a quick refresher on the Legislative reports.

Some key areas to make sure you are watching for as we head into "Report time":

If replying to CAN (Commander's Action Network) emails, these are federal contacts. Make sure you are recording contacts in the proper columns.

- As a reminder, as stated above:
  - Federal level - President, Senators, or Representatives
  - State level - Governor, State Senators, or Representatives
  - Local level - Mayor, City or Town Council, County Commissioners, or other elected officials

When filling out reports:

- Make sure it is filled out legibly.
- Make sure you are using the correct number of Senior members. This report can be found on the Mydav.org portal
- Make sure it includes the necessary signature.
- Make sure the totals add up correctly.

Keep one copy for Unit files.

Must be postmarked by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill out all sections! Print legibly or type!**

NAME OF UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ ANYWHERE #13 UNIT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ 13

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ANY CITY STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ANY STATE

TOTAL NUMBER OF SENIOR MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_ 119

**THIS NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT IS FOR LEGISLATION ON VETERANS' BILLS ONLY**

Contacts reflect the number of letters, telephone calls, telegrams, emails, faxes and personal visits made and/or received by a member from: Federal level - President, Senators or Representatives; State level - Governor, State Senators or Representatives; Local level - Mayor, City or Town Council, County Commissioners or other elected officials. **Follow-ups** are "Thank you for your support" letters on listed bill. **Do not attach bulletins or letters to your report.**

1. Total number participating in Legislative program \_\_\_\_\_ 5

2. Total number of meetings Unit participated in discussion on Veterans' bills \_\_\_\_\_ 3

3. Total Legislative contacts and Follow-Up "Thank You" letters at Federal, State, and Local Levels:

Bill #	Topic	# of Federal Contacts	# of Federal Follow-Up	# of State Contacts	# of State Follow-up	# of County, City, Local Contacts	# of County, City, Local
HR1200	Veterans Compensation COLA Act of 2019	3					

I would recommend all units express the importance of attending the meeting on March 16th so questions can be answered.



National Headquarters  
P.O. Box 145550  
Cincinnati, OH 45250-9960  
tel 859-441-7300, option 7980  
toll free 888-236-8313, option 7980  
dav.org

TO: National Executive Committee  
Department and Chapter Commanders and Adjutants  
National Interim Membership Committee  
National Service Officers

FROM: Douglas K. Wells Jr., National Membership Director

DATE: February 21, 2024

SUBJECT: DAV March Membership Madness

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I once again invite you to join me in celebrating DAV MARCH MEMBERSHIP MADNESS! This tournament will run March 10–30 and will organize our departments in a bracket-style format to encourage camaraderie and inspire members of their chapters to assist with this effort.

Departments will advance each Monday and Thursday based on the highest percentage increase of new members recruited using any DAV online membership application versus their goals established at the beginning of the membership year. Should a department be eliminated from the actual tournament, it can still be recognized as Department MVP by recruiting the most new members using any online membership application during this time frame.

In addition to stylish trophies, the tournament Department Champion and Department MVP will each receive a \$250 Office Depot gift card. Further, the top two individual recruiters, who recruit a minimum of 25 new members using online membership applications, will each receive engraved iPads. Only those new members, both part life and full life, recruited via DAV's online membership applications will be counted toward this effort.

Upon examining the enclosed bracket, you will notice that some departments were given a first-round bye in order to facilitate proper seeding of the tournament. Seeding is based on success in the previous March Membership Madness effort. An up-to-date copy of the bracket will be available for your review in the Member Resources section of [dav.org](http://dav.org) under the Member Leaders tile so that you can follow along with the tournament's progress.

Remember, the size of a department does not matter in this tournament, nor does the breadth of resources a department may have. What matters is individual members locating and recruiting an eligible fellow veteran to join our great organization. To assist with this endeavor, department and chapter leaders can request a hot list from the National Membership Department for the most viable prospective members in your area.

Let my staff or me know if you have any questions or concerns. And good luck!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Douglas K. Wells Jr.' in a cursive script.

Douglas K. Wells Jr.  
National Membership Director



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Erlanger, KY 41018  
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Washington, DC 20005  
tel 202-554-3501

TO: National Executive Committee  
Department and Chapter Adjutants and Commanders  
All Employees

FROM: Barry A. Jesinoski, National Adjutant

DATE: February 27, 2024

SUBJECT: New DAV women veterans report goes live

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I am proud to announce DAV's latest report, [Women Veterans: The Journey to Mental Wellness](#). Between 2020 and 2021, the suicide rate among women veterans jumped nearly 25%. Our comprehensive assessment of the unique factors contributing to the staggering rate of suicide and other negative mental health outcomes among this population is a must-read for all veterans advocates.

Along with the latest in research and data, the report includes veterans' personal stories and more than 50 policy and legislative recommendations aimed at sparking urgent change that can save lives. The report, which marks the third of its kind from DAV in the past decade, was released during an event on Capitol Hill this afternoon. Learn more and read the full report at [womenveterans.org](http://womenveterans.org).

On Monday, March 11, at 8 p.m. ET, DAV will broadcast a special roundtable discussion inspired by the report. The event will feature three DAV members and their personal stories with mental health, including:

- Naomi Mathis, DAV Assistant National Legislative Director and Air Force veteran
- Juliet Taylor, DAV Interim Women Veterans Advisory Committee member and Army veteran
- Kim Hubers, 2023 DAV Disabled American Veteran of the Year and South Dakota Army National Guard veteran

I encourage you to tune into this important and illuminating discussion about the unique challenges facing women veterans and how we can better serve our sisters-in-arms. [Set a reminder for yourself to tune in on YouTube](#) and share the link with your networks. In addition to YouTube, the roundtable will be streamed on DAV's [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) accounts.

I also encourage you to use the report and other resources at [womenveterans.org](http://womenveterans.org) in your outreach to veterans in your community. For those interested in procuring hard copies of the report, please contact [legislative@dav.org](mailto:legislative@dav.org). Alternatively, you can download a copy from the website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry A. Jesinoski', written in a cursive style.

Barry A. Jesinoski  
National Adjutant



**Do you enjoy driving?  
Do you want to help Veterans?**



DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

## **TRANSPORTATION NETWORK**

**DAV Transportation Network is in need of Volunteer Drivers to transport Veterans to and from Veteran Affairs (VA) medical appointments.**

**Join a team of dedicated individuals and volunteer for Veterans today!  
CHOOSE DAYS & HOURS THAT WORK FOR YOU TO VOLUNTEER.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT US:  
HSC@DAVMA.ORG  
(413) 435-6870**



**DAV Massachusetts  
Transportation Services**





**MBA Mortgage**

We've mastered the business of mortgages.

# 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 DAV Worcester

July 17 DAV Malden

October 16 DAV Marshfield

Sign up  
here!



*Matt Scott*

VICE PRESIDENT

NMLS & MLO 38022

781-849-1118

[mScott@mbamortgageco.com](mailto:mScott@mbamortgageco.com)



Licensed Mortgage Broker MB/ NMLS 2880

We arrange but do not make loans.



EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY



# Living Your Best With Arthritis!

The Arthritis Foundation has a wealth of upcoming webinars and Connect Group meetings to help you live your best life with arthritis.

## UPCOMING WEBINAR:

### Joyful Movement: Easy on the Joints, Big on Fun

Join us on March 28th at 6:00pm ET as we delve into arthritis-friendly exercises and empower you to build a personalized movement routine for your fitness level and needs. We will explore both individual and group fitness options, including Pilates, tai chi, yoga, water exercise, tennis/pickleball and walking/running. Register today!



## Find Support and Make Connections

There are all types of Connect Groups offering online virtual support and community for people living with arthritis. Check out these March events:

### **Osteoarthritis Connect Group Pain Relief Solutions with Dr. Huff**

Wednesday March 6, 8-9:30 PM ET

### **Newly Diagnosed Connect Group - Arthritis 101: Understanding the Basics**

Thursday March 14, 7:30 - 9:00 PM ET

### **Hispanic Connect Group – Talking about Arthritis Grupo de Conexión Hispana - Hablando sobre la artritis**

Saturday March 16, 6:00 - 7:30 PM ET

### **LGBTQIA+ Connect Group - Catch up and Kvetch**

Sunday March 17, 6:00 - 7:30 PM ET

Learn more about our Specialty Connect Groups



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](mailto:edagostino@arthritis.org).**

All of our resources for Military & Veterans Services can be found at [www.arthritis.org/veteran](http://www.arthritis.org/veteran)