



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

# & AUXILIARY MASSACHUSETTS NEWSLETTER

September 2024



NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

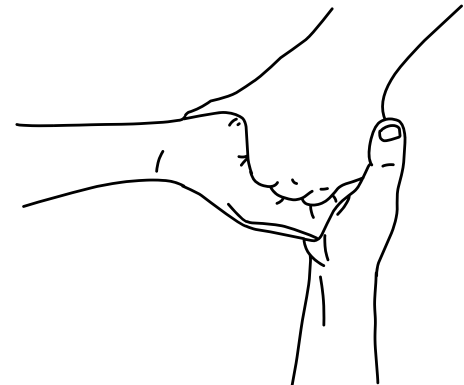


BREAK THE SILENCE. START THE CONVERSATION.



Managing life's challenges can look different for everyone.

You don't have to go through it alone.



## What are some possible signs of a suicidal crisis?

A call, chat, or text can be lifesaving.

Dial 988 then Press 1

Chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat)

Text 838255

Veterans Crisis Line



DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

Increased alcohol or drug use

Withdrawing from family and friends

Rage or anger

Mood swings

More resources and information to follow on the next three (3) pages from [veteranscrisisline.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) to include printable two-sided wallet card cut-out to recognize the signs and how to receive free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including for those not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.



# Veterans Crisis Line Fact Sheet



## Confidential crisis help for Veterans and their families

The Veterans Crisis Line is a toll-free, confidential resource that connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) responders.

Veterans and their loved ones can **Dial 988 then Press 1**, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or send a text message to **838255** to receive free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

The responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances—from Veterans coping with mental health issues that were never addressed to recent Veterans struggling with relationships or the transition back to civilian life. Veterans Crisis Line responders provide support when these and other issues—such as chronic pain, anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, anger, and even homelessness—reach a crisis point. Some of the responders are Veterans themselves and understand what Veterans and their families and friends have been through.

Since its launch in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered more than 6.2 million calls and initiated the dispatch of

emergency services to callers in crisis more than 233,000 times. The Veterans Crisis Line anonymous online chat service, added in 2009, has engaged in more than 739,000 chats. In November 2011, the Veterans Crisis Line introduced a text-messaging service to provide another way for Veterans to connect with confidential, round-the-clock support and since then has responded to more than 253,000 texts.

In 2011, the National Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline was renamed the Veterans Crisis Line to encourage Veterans and their families and friends, who may be the first to realize a Veteran is in emotional distress, to reach out for support when issues reach a crisis point, even if it is not a suicidal crisis.

As of July 16, 2022, Veterans and their loved ones in the U.S. can Dial 988 then Press 1 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

VA is working to make sure that all Veterans and their loved ones are aware of the Veterans Crisis Line. To reach as many Veterans as possible, VA is coordinating with communities and partner groups nationwide, including community-based organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, and local health care providers, to let Veterans and their loved ones know that support is available whenever, if ever, they need it.

## Whether you're a Veteran or a friend or family member concerned about one, confidential assistance is only a call, click, or text away.

For more information about the Veterans Crisis Line, visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net).

For more information about VA's mental health resources, visit [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov).



Confidential crisis chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or text **838255**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



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Chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) • Text 838255  
Confidential support is available 24/7.



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## COMMANDER, BOB BRONSON



This year's Zip Trips are in the books and by all accounts, they were a resounding success. We can't thank Walmart and Fox 25 News enough and look forward to their continued support next year.

Our National Convention for this year was very successful, 10 of the 26 National Resolutions that were submitted by our Department, were adopted and will be part of the Legislative agenda for the upcoming year. That's something we can all be proud of and sets the bar for this upcoming year. The ones that were adopted is as follows:

**Massachusetts 200** Consider Treatment for a Presumptive Service-Connected Condition as a Claim for Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation **Adopt**

**Massachusetts 204** The PACT Act toxic exposure presumptions rely on location but leaves out MOS what a service member did for the DOD and when, as has much to do with the exposures he or she were subject to, as where they were stationed **Adopt as Amended**

**Massachusetts 205** Resolution to end HUD-VASH double jeopardy for veterans in receipt of benefits. **Adopt**

**Massachusetts 206** Resolution to expand upon the PACT Act **Adopt**

**Massachusetts 208** Support and enhance maternity care coordination **Adopt as Amended**

**Massachusetts 210** Return the check-in/travel claim kiosks to all VA hospitals, clinics and medical buildings **Adopt as Amended**

**Massachusetts 211** Ensure all veterans have the right to health care **Adopt as Amended**

**Massachusetts 212** Support testing for ovarian cancer **Adopt as Amended**

**Massachusetts 215** Honorably discharged veterans would have Firearms Identification Card and associated second amendment licenses such as, but not only, license to carry fees waived **Adopt as Amended**

**Massachusetts 216** Establish a free national military/veterans fishing license that applies to one state of choice by the veteran with the ability to **Adopt as Amended**

As you can see, what was adopted covered the full gambit. Anything that you can think of can end up going before Congress. These were all unique ideas that made the cut. Don't think that someone else must have already thought of it, or someone else will submit it. It could be the one thing that ends up making all the difference for a Veteran or a Veteran's family members life.

The other major event that has taken place is the signing of the **Hero's Act** on August 8th. In case you haven't heard, please click the button below to view the changes to Massachusetts laws that effect the Veterans and their families.



## SR. VICE, ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT



And just like that, summer is officially over and it is time to get back to our regular routines. I had the privilege and honor to serve on the Legislation and Veteran Rights committee at the National Convention in Phoenix, AZ last month. Gene McGreevy served as the alternate. National received a total of 567 resolutions, 140 were presented at the Legislation and Veteran Rights committee. 115 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. Massachusetts submitted 20 resolutions, 10 were adopted, 9 were rejected as duplicates, and 1 was rejected as being outside the scope of DAV. A proud Massachusetts moment. The convention was a powerful reminder of our shared mission and the importance of our ongoing advocacy efforts.

September is **Suicide Prevention Month**, a time to heighten our awareness and reinforce our commitment to supporting our fellow veterans who may be struggling. It is crucial to acknowledge the significant role our legislative efforts play in addressing this critical issue within the veteran community. The passing of the HERO Act last month was a monumental step forward in providing comprehensive support and resources to our veterans... but our work is far from over.

One significant event to mark on your calendars is the Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC) on September 4th, which will be held at Gillette Stadium (flyer attached). This is an incredible opportunity to connect with resources, share your experiences, and receive support. During a special breakout session at the VEAC, the Women's Veterans Advisory Committee (WVAC) report and recommendations will be unveiled. The much-acclaimed DAV Women's Mental Health Report will be available during this session, highlighting critical issues and solutions for the well-being of our women veterans. I urge all of you to attend, women AND men, to show solidarity with the women veteran community.

Finally, keep an eye out for two new challenges that the Legislative Committee will be launching soon—one related to increasing participation in the DAV Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN) and the other focused on generating resolutions. These challenges are designed to engage and empower our us to take active roles in shaping our advocacy efforts.

Let's make this September a month of action, awareness, and support for all veterans. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you once again for your continued support and for your trust.

To Join the Commander's Action Network, Please visit [davcan.org](http://davcan.org) or click this button





## 1ST JR VICE, DENNIS DEVINE

Fall is just around the corner, as summer slowly comes to an end. Now is the time we all start back up with our Chapter meetings and getting more involved. National Convention in Phoenix Arizona went by quickly. If you weren't able to attend you should jump online and check out some of the videos from the seminars, they are extremely informative. When we returned from Phoenix, we finished up the last of the Zip Trips and were able to meet with many veterans to discuss their benefits, that many didn't realize were available to them. I was able to attend the signing of the

Hero's Act as well as the Lone Sailor Monument for its dedication. On August 12th, I was able to volunteer for the DAV Golf tournament at Granite Links, though I needed to leave early for a family emergency.

Some key events to add to your calendars: the Departments DEC meeting on September 14th in Malden and also the Greater Boston Stand down on September 20th. Looking further down the line, the DAV5K Boston on November 9th. Don't forget to continue to check the [DAVMA.org/Events](http://DAVMA.org/Events) page for updates to upcoming events within the Department.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who has reached out with well wishes for my wife. We appreciate the thoughts and prayers as she recovers.



SUPPORTING OUR NATION'S HEROES  
OF TODAY, AND THE FUTURE,  
FOR TODAY,  
AND THEIR FUTURE.





## 2ND JR VICE GENE MCGREEVY

With August ending and kids returning to school and college we start looking at the beginning of fall. I hope everyone had a good summer.



When I think of the DAV I think of volunteerism, if you look that up in dictionary you see it says "the act of giving time and effort to help others, often for the good of community, without expecting compensation. Volunteers may work for organizations, or they may help individuals on an as-needed basis".

That is one of the cornerstones of Disabled American Veterans. When we volunteer to sit with a veteran, talk to him/her, read with them, play cards or checkers we are improving the quality of life for that veteran. We are giving that vet a little joy, happiness, comfort that they don't receive daily, because most of these vets are alone.

What I would like to propose is starting a "120 Club". This would be where a DAV member volunteers 120 minutes (2 hours) a month at one of the VA facilities, or soldier's homes. It could be a half hour a week or more, the satisfaction you will get can't be measured and the appreciation for the vet is something you have experience.

I would like to ask all Chapter Commanders and Adjutants to bring this up at their Chapter meetings. Please then track those activities through LVAP form 60 you submit each month so we can record all those participating in the 120 Club. In the Department we have 50 Chapters across the state. If every Chapter participated, we should be able to record thousands of volunteer hours annually. Beside the 120 club we have DSO/CSO processing vet benefits, outreach programs, parades, special events and Chapter meetings and more activities that our DAV members already do. Please ensure you are recording all of these for LVAP.

A note to Commanders/Adjutants; after you collect the volunteer hours and record them on the LVAP form 60, once you start the form with a members name you have don't have to reenter his/her name each month. All you have to do is change the date and their hours, making it a quick easy task to accomplish. All you must do is put the hours in the correct category. All the instructions about the form you can find mydav.org, or by clicking the "instructions" tab on the Form 60 excel sheet.

As an added incentive this year, the Department will raffle out a big screen TV. The contest will be for all members in Massachusetts, with the top 3 who have the most volunteer hours each month will be given a raffle ticket. In June at our Department Convention, one ticket will be pulled, and that member will receive the prize.

As I said, this is open to all Massachusetts DAV members, elected and appointed officers are NOT part of the contest.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [emcgreevy@aol.com](mailto:emcgreevy@aol.com) or 413-530-4108

JOIN THE 120 CLUB START VOLUNTEERING TODAY

CONNECT

with us on Facebook!



[@DAVMASSACHUSETTS](https://www.facebook.com/DAVMASSACHUSETTS)

FOLLOW US





## 3RD JR VICE PHIL NADEAU

The 2024-2025 DAV Department of Massachusetts Constitution & Bylaws had their 1st meeting on July 29th and their 2nd meeting on Aug 26th. We are going strong making clarifications and grammatical changes to the Department By-laws. If anyone would like to see changes to the Department Bylaws please email me at [HSC@davma.org](mailto:HSC@davma.org).

This year at the DAV National Convention in Phoenix Arizona on August 3-6, 2024, I was able to participate in multiple seminars on Constitution & Bylaws. There were many speakers at these seminars, including the DAV National Attorney General, and I was able to learn more about both the importance and the process for Bylaws. Going forward, I will be putting one By-law (either National or Department By-law) in the DAV newsletter each month so we can all be informed on DAV's By-laws.

The first By-law that I am addressing here is the one which the DAV National Attorney General stated must be read at all Chapter meetings, DEC meetings and Conventions.

National Constitution & Bylaw, NEC Regulations: **Article 2 — Policy Section 2.1 –Statement of Policy:**

The Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle that this nation's first duty is the rehabilitation and welfare of its wartime disabled. This principle envisions:

1. High quality hospital and medical care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in America's armed forces.
2. Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilities.
3. Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful employment.
4. Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.
5. Adequate compensation to the surviving spouses and dependents of veterans whose deaths are held to be service connected under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
6. Enhanced outreach to ensure that all disabled veterans receive all benefits they have earned and that the American people understand and respect the needs these veterans encounter as a result of their disabilities.

We will not take any action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for veterans, their surviving spouses and dependents, which are based upon other than wartime service-connected disability. We shall not oppose legislation beneficial to those veterans not classified as service-connected disabled, except when it is evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans. While our first duty as an organization is to assist the service-connected disabled, their surviving spouses and dependents, we shall within the limits of our resources assist others in filing, perfecting and prosecuting their claims for benefits.

As the HSC I am looking for drivers in all areas of the state. We have a great shortage in Western Mass but we always need drivers in all area's of the state, our veterans really need these rides to their VA, VA Community Care and Comp & Pen appointments.

"It's Not About Us It's About Them"

No Veteran left Behind

## DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR, PDC DEB OLSON



AFR's: The Chapter's AFR (Annual Financial Report) is to be completed on-line via [www.MYDAV.ORG](http://www.MYDAV.ORG). This was announced at the C&A and at National Convention. A notice from National was sent to all chapter commanders and adjutants on August 8th announcing this change and on August 23rd, with a notice of webinar training to take place on August 28th. I hope you all had the opportunity to take part. It is still the same form; it will just be completed on-line. Department Line officers are available to assist with this new procedure.

**CSO training:** For the members that registered but did not attend Service Officer training on June 6th, there is a make session on September 28th at DAV Chapter 85, 85 Willow St. Malden. The doors will open at 8am, training will start at 9am sharp. **This is in person training only.** If you fail to attend training your certification will expire. The next certification will be in June 2025.

Please notify me that you will be attending so meals can be properly ordered. Thank you all for your dedication to this important aspect of our mission. You are our front line; veterans and their families will be looking to you for assistance in maneuvering through the VA systems. This training is the first step of your journey to a yearlong feeling of fulfillment, knowing you have assisted a fellow veteran on their journey of empowerment to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. I am so excited about the service work that can be done around the state, with everyone sharing the load a lot can be accomplished.

You know I would not be Deb if I did not mention the paperwork, please submit all claims immediately upon completion to the BOSTON NSO Office. Monthly LVAP and SENA reporting is necessary, so we know what and where the needs are most.

**LVAP and Sena:** LVAP (LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) forms for **August 2024** are due to the department within the first week of September. I know most chapters do not meet during the summer, but your volunteering continued, so please remember to submit an LVAP and Sena for **July 2024**, as well.

I want to thank everyone who has submitted their hours for July, so far. As of August 26, over 1000 hours from 39 individuals in 9 chapters have been reported for July. Just a reminder if you assisted with the Women Veteran Retreat, the Worcester Stand Down, Zip trips, attended National Convention or the many other events that assisted veterans during the summer, all those hours count. Continue the magnificent work. I cannot wait to see the numbers after your chapters meet in September and all the volunteer time is documented and sent in.

Please send them to [dolson@davma.org](mailto:dolson@davma.org), they will be forwarded to National and the 2nd Jr Vice Gene McGreevy. DSO (Department Service Officers) and CSO (Chapter Service Officers) please complete the SENA (Service Encounter & Needs Assessment) 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. 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.

If you need any assistance or if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please contact your line officers, we were elected or appointed to serve you. We all stand at the ready, we are an email or a phone call away. Thank you for all you do in your community.



## Upcoming Events:



\*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





## ADJUTANT MIKE VALILA

This summer was a true testament to what our Department can accomplish, and the impact of our outreach. We tabled over 20 community events, attended the signing of the Hero Act, hosted Department Convention as well as attended National Convention, held our 15th annual DAV Corporate Golf Tournament at Granite Links, and expanded our clothing/food pantry in Gardner.

Our media presence on Boston 25 throughout the 8 weeks of ZipTrips traveling the state, along with consistent messaging and targeted interview segments on WBZ-CBS paired with our running campaigns on The Financial Exchange and WRKO have left a thumbprint that will launch us into our year-end largest fundraiser, our DAV5k Boston at Castle Island on November 9th.

I could not be more proud of the work each of our Line Officers and DAV Members have accomplished throughout the summer. Thank you all for your continued dedication and support of our veterans. As we move toward our DEC Meeting in Malden on September 14th, I urge members to come out and get involved. It is convenient to log-in through Zoom, but coming out in-person and sharing with our Executive Committee all that your Chapter is doing in the Community helps spread that message to a greater platform and increases your attendance as many members will come out to support and help to share the message.

Below is a list of events the Department will be partaking in over the next month, and ask that you share this information with your fellow veterans.

- Sept. 4th VA 1-on-1 @ Gillette Stadium 9am-8pm
- Sept. 10th Info Seminar in Waltham 9am-3pm (119 School Street)
- Sept. 12th Job Fair @ Gillette Stadium 11am-3pm
- Sept. 17th EXPO Worcester 4pm-7pm (QCC Worcester Franklin St. Campus)
- Sept. 20th Boston Stand Down 8am-2pm (City Hall Plaza)
- Sept. 24th Info Seminar in Norwood 9am-3pm (152 Winslow Street)
- Sept. 28th Octoberfest/Chair City Luge 10am-3pm (Downtown Gardner)
- Sept. 28th Make-up Level I & II Service Officer Training 9am-3pm (85 Willow Street, Malden)

Please remember that you must register in advance for the DAV & Recruit Military Job Fair at Gillette Stadium Thursday, September 12th from 11am to 3pm. The recruiters present at the job fair are looking to hire veterans and dependents on the spot. Please share throughout your veteran/military network. Follow this link to register today: <https://my.recruitmilitary.com/events/boston-veterans-job-fair-september-12-2024>

The Department's Board of Directors (BOD) will meet September 9, 2024 at 7pm via Zoom. The Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC) on Saturday, September 14th at 85 Willow Street, Malden, MA from 10am-12pm. For links to either meeting, please visit our website event calendar at [davma.org](http://davma.org).



[WWW.VETERANSCRISISLINE.NET](http://WWW.VETERANSCRISISLINE.NET)

24/7, confidential crisis support for  
Veterans and their loved ones.

You do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits  
or health care to connect.



## STATE COMMANDER, LIZ BUTTERS

Hello Everyone. Wow, how the heck did September get here so fast?

I hope you have all enjoyed your summer and are ready to take on this new auxiliary year, commencing with the first State Executive Committee (SEC) meeting on September 14 at Chapter 85 quarters in Malden, MA.

Attendance at SEC meetings is mandatory for unit SEC's and Alternate SEC's. Unit officers and members are always welcome to attend the SEC meetings.

Save the date! The State Auxiliary will hold a training for unit commanders, adjutants and treasurers on October 18 & 19, 2024, at the DAV farm in Fitzwilliam, NH. More information will be shared at the September SEC meeting.

If at any time you have questions or concerns please contact me by email at [miltonlass2@gmail.com](mailto:miltonlass2@gmail.com) or by telephone at 781-834-4380.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

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## SR. VICE COMMANDER, CINDY LEGGE

Summer has flown by fast. It's almost time for the State Executive Committee meeting and, pending approval from the DAV Dept. of MA, I'm looking forward to getting the Auxiliary state fundraiser up and running.



Your continued support of this fundraiser is important as all proceeds benefit our VAMC's and Soldiers' Homes, and donations are always welcome.

Enjoy your Labor Day weekend and be safe. See you in Malden!

DAV & Recruit Military will host the Boston Veterans Job Fair on Thursday, September 12th from 11am-3pm at Gillette Stadium. This Job Fair is open to Veterans and Spouses. Employers are looking to hire on the spot!

Local, Statewide, National, and Remote Opportunities Available!



## Boston Veterans Job Fair

**When:** Thursday, September 12, 2024

**Where:** Gillette Stadium,  
1 Patriot Place  
Foxborough, MA

**Time:** 11am – 3pm



## FRANCES COSTA, PNC/PDC JA



The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary values four great principles.

Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion, and Service.

By being devoted to our mission, remaining loyal not only to our cause, but to one another, while maintaining comradeship...the service we do will make a difference in the lives of the men and women that have given so much for our country. (Thanks Mary).

To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times, what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks, but a special heart that listens.

See you all at S E C in September

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## ADJUTANT, JANET PRATT



Happy Auxiliary New Year! Please feel free to bring a unit member or two with you to the SEC Meeting. All are welcome.

**The SEC Meeting will be September 14, 2024 at Chapter 85 Malden. 85 Willow St, Malden, MA. 02148. Coffee hour 9:00 AM and the meeting 10:00 AM.**

**Unit annual financial reports are due to National Headquarters by September 30, 2024, 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](http://www.davauxiliary.org).**

The State Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, State First & Second JR. Vice Commander, State Treasurer, State Judge Advocate, State Chaplain and State Adjutant are required to submit an article for the monthly DAV/DAVA Newsletter by the 22nd of each month for the following month's edition, e.g., January articles must be submitted by December 22nd, February articles by January 22nd, and so on. Articles should be emailed to the DAV Assistant Department Adjutant and copies sent to the Auxiliary State Adjutant and Assistant State Adjutant.

Should the DAV Department of Massachusetts cease publication of the joint DAV & Auxiliary newsletter, the State Auxiliary will resume publishing its newsletter, the Bulletin, for the months of September, November, January, March, and May. The State Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, State First & Second JR. Vice Commander, State Treasurer, State Judge Advocate, State Chaplain and State Adjutant, will be required to submit an article for each of these publications by the 22nd of the month before publication.

**Communication is key to our success as an Auxiliary. Your State Officers are here to serve you and members are free to contact them with questions. Please remember, however, that Units or members that have questions should follow the DAVA National Constitution and Bylaws and MA State Standing Rules regarding lines of communication prior to addressing questions to State or National Officers. It is important the chain of command of Unit-State-National is followed. Consider becoming a mentor. There's no better way to inspire a new member than to offer guidance and support.**

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

**STATE COMMANDER**  
ELIZABETH BUTTERS  
MILTONLASS2@GMAIL.COM  
CELL PHONE: 781-588-2520

## ADJUTANT, JANET PRATT CONTINUED....

State Executive Committee (SEC) Meetings: Each unit annually elects a State Executive Committee member and an Alternate State Executive Committee member. It is expected that one of these persons or both represents your unit at each SEC meeting. If both SEC and Alternate attend meetings, only the SEC can vote. Please remember you are representing your unit and it is your responsibility to give an SEC Report at your unit meetings.

**IRS 990-N e-Postcard Reminder: All Chapters, Units and State Departments have until November 15, 2024.**

## 2024 National Fall Conference

The annual National Fall Conference will be held September 26-28, 2024, in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. This year we are excited to offer the following

- **New for 2024** – Educational Seminars on Thursday, September 26. Watch social media and the National DAV Auxiliary September newsletter for more information!
- **Walgreens** will once again be offering flu shots and the newest COVID Booster on-site Thursday, September 26 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- **Patriotic Night** – To kick off the conference, on Thursday, September 26, show your patriotism by wearing your red, white, and blue! The more creative, the better.
- **Hospitality Night** – We will once again be hosting a hospitality night on Friday, September 27. Join us for a nacho bar, followed by a live band and dancing!
- **Fun Night** – What better way to bring the conference to close than by enjoying a buffet dinner followed by entertainment! Tickets for this event are not included in the conference registration and **must be purchased by September 13, 2024**. The dinner cost is \$60.00 per person.

We encourage pre-registration for those attending the conference! Those who pre-register will be able to bypass the registration line and pick up their conference bag and badge.

The registration cost for the conference this year will be \$50.00, and will include the conference bag, fall conference booklet, revised 2024-2025 Bylaw Book, revised (2024) Procedure and Program Manual, and Friday evening hospitality night. The Saturday evening dinner will be \$60 per person. Members wishing to attend the dinner must call our office at **833.368.1220** by **September 13, 2024**, to purchase a ticket with a credit or debit card. **No dinner tickets will be available on site! Absolutely no refunds!**

**Please note:** if your guest plans to attend the Friday evening reception, he or she must pay the registration fee. There are no exceptions!

We look forward to seeing you all in September for a fun, and educational, national fall conference!

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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 Sept. 14th SEC Meeting in Malden MA. Chapter 85, 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.



## 2ND JR. VICE COMMANDER, DOROTHY RAYMOND

As 2nd Junior Commander, I am to collect all Legislative Reports from each Unit from MA. This sounds like a challenge and I am ready.

My report includes article from Installation through August 20th.

**H.R. 7613** Veterans Flight Training Responsibility Act of 2024. Sent to my Representative Jake Auchincloss. Unfortunately, I did not hear from him.

**H.R. 7643** Veterans Congressional Work Study Act of 2024. Again, to Representative Jake Auchincloss. No response.

**H.R. 7703** Fair Access to Co-ops for Veterans Act of 2024. Representative Jake Auchincloss. No response.

**H.R. 3325** Build, Utilize, Invest, Learn and Deliver (BUILD) for Veterans Act. Representative Jake Auchincloss. No response.

**H.R. 3584** Veterans Cannabis Analysis Research & Effectiveness (CARE) Act. Representative Jake Auchincloss. No response.

**H.R. 3644** Addressing Care Timelines (ACT) for Veterans Act. Representative Jake Auchincloss. No response.

**S. 4009** Veterans Spinal Trauma Access to New Devices (STAND) Act. Senators Markey & Warren. No response.

**H.R. 6373** Veterans Spinal Trauma Access to New Devices (STAND) Act. Representative J. Auchincloss. No response.

**S. 3885** Veterans Caregiver Reeducation Retirement Act. Senators Markey & Warren. Response from Senator Markey.

**H.R. 8347** The Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act. Representative J. Auchincloss. No response.

**H.R. 8560** End Veterans Homelessness Act. Representative J. Auchincloss. No response.

**H.R.7816** the Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act. Representative J. Auchincloss. No response.

Now, do not get discouraged. Keep using CAN (Commanders Action Network). Together, we will get these articles for Legislature signed.

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## STATE TREASURER, JEAN SHIFFLETT

As the end of the summer approaches, I would like to thank the units who have sent in their 2024 mandates in August.

We understand that problems do arise that prevent prompt payment in August and possibly that is why your mandates have not been paid yet.

This is a friendly reminder.

Check in the amount of 30.00 dollars should be issued to the Department of Massachusetts DAVA and mailed directly to **Jean Shifflett, 109 Edgehill RD., Braintree, MA. 02184.**

# ATTENTION: DID YOU SERVE IN THE MILITARY?

## NEW ENGLAND VA 1-ON-1 VETERANS ASSISTANCE EXPO



September 4, 2024

9:00 AM – 8:00 PM

IN-PERSON EVENT



GET 1-ON-1 ASSISTANCE WITH:

- Enrolling in VA health care
- Submitting a VA disability claim
- Check the status of your disability claim or appeal
- Eligibility requirements
- Your toxic exposure options
- VA burial options
- VA housing options
- VA education benefits
- Career help
- Income-based benefits for war-time Veterans and survivors

## GILLETTE STADIUM

(W3 Event Entrance, Suite Level Blue and Red)

ONE PATRIOT PLACE • FOXBOROUGH, MA 02035



Thank you for your service. We're here for you if you need us.  
Download the VA Welcome Kit: [VA.gov/welcome-kit/](https://va.gov/welcome-kit/)  
Subscribe to #VetResources: [VA.gov/vetresources/](https://va.gov/vetresources/)  
Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255, Press 1  
The one number to reach VA: 1-800-MyVA411

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs





# MILITARY COMMUNITY HIRING EVENT

Local, Statewide, National, and Remote Opportunities Available

**THURSDAY, SEPT 12, 2024 | 11AM - 3PM ET**

## **BOSTON**

Gillette Stadium | 1 Patriot Place, Foxborough, MA 02035

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Project Management | Human Resources  
Transportation / Logistics | Healthcare  
Management / Supervision | Information  
Technology | Government & more....



For more details, visit [rmvets.com/BOS0924](https://rmvets.com/BOS0924)



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RUN TO HONOR VETERANS

★ BOSTON, MA ★

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY



VETERANS  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

# ★ JOIN US FOR THE DAV 5K BOSTON ★

The DAV 5K Boston proudly presented by Veterans Development Corporation returns to DCR Fort Independence at Castle Island on **Saturday, November 9, 2024.**

## ABOUT THE DAV 5K BOSTON

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

**DATE:** Saturday, November 9, 2024

**START TIME:** 10:00 AM Race Start

**LOCATION:** DCR Fort Independence at Castle Island

**REGISTRATION:** Registration fee is \$40 online

**COST:** 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 Department of MA

**DISTANCE:** 5 kilometers run or 1 mile walk

**WEBSITE:** [www.dav5k.boston](http://www.dav5k.boston)

### REGISTER TODAY



### About Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Massachusetts

We are dedicated to a single purpose: **empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.**

We accomplish this by **ensuring** that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; **fighting** for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill and at the State House in Boston; and **educating** the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

**Our veterans need your support. Your sponsorship will help us accomplish our goals for 2024.**

For more information, visit [davma.org](http://davma.org).



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO  
AMERICA'S VETERANS

Department of Massachusetts

# THE ARTHRITIS CORNER



## September is Pain Awareness Month

September is Pain Awareness Month. This month aims to increase public understanding of chronic pain and its impact. It's an opportunity for us to learn more about chronic pain, show support for those living with pain, and participate in activities that promote better pain management.

Let's come together to create a world where people affected by chronic pain feel understood, supported, and empowered to manage their pain effectively. Find tools and resources at [arthritis.org/pain](https://arthritis.org/pain).

### 60 Ways to Fight & Prevent Pain

Determining what strategies will help you manage your arthritis pain can be challenging. Your best defense is to arm yourself with various options to manage your specific pain. Get started on building a personal arthritis pain plan, <https://arthr.org/3mfiw51>



### Arthritis and Back Pain

In this two-part series we discuss what's causing your back pain as well as solutions and treatments. Experts will share common causes of arthritis-related back pain and key strategies and treatments to take control of pain to help you live your best life.

### Arthritis and the Military: Mental Health Pain Connection

Missed it? Catch the recording of our webinar from last year, featuring Dr. Terry Keane, Director of the National Center for PTSD, and a unique panel of retired military members living with arthritis. Gain insights into improving emotional well-being and managing pain discomfort.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Newly Diagnosed Connect Group

6:00 p.m. ET, Sunday, September 12 Register Now: <https://arthr.org/3MfypIB>

### LGBTQIA+ Connect Group

6:00 p.m. ET, Sunday, September 22 Register Now: <https://arthr.org/3SW1Cfm>

### Osteoarthritis Connect Group

3:00 p.m. ET, Tuesday, September 24 Register Now: <https://arthr.org/3Mf7MUh>

### Viva Su Mejor Vida y Controle Su Artritis

6:30 p.m. ET, Tuesday, September 24 (webinar) Register Now: <https://arthr.org/46rvWEI>

### Navigating the Financial Challenges of Arthritis

7:00 – 8:15 p.m. ET, Thursday, September 26 (webinar) Register Now: <https://arthr.org/3MAcagZ>

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](https://www.arthritis.org/veteran)