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MEMORANDUM

TO: Department and Chapter Commanders and Adjutants

FROM: J. Marc Burgess
National Adjutant

RE: **Acceptable use of DAV funds**

DATE: November 22, 2019

The National Organization has been asked for guidance as it relates to the acceptable use of DAV funds to support our federally-chartered purpose. Sometimes the question is raised based on discussion of members during meetings, while other times, the topic comes up based on our review of department or chapter financial reports.

In order to facilitate the increasing number of instances in which this subject is discussed, we are providing some guidance, which should be considered in every instance that a department or chapter considers allocating DAV funds to a particular program or activity.

Of course, since funds are provided to DAV at every level by the generosity of the general public, it is a reasonable expectation that donors provide their contribution and support to DAV based on the programs for which we are known. That being said, every effort should be made to allocate DAV funds in support of those programs. Local activities which support our service, voluntary service, transportation network, hospital service coordinator, disaster relief and special event programs, should always be considered as an acceptable and appropriate use of DAV funds. Support of the Columbia Trust, National Service Foundation and Charitable Service Trust are also very appropriate DAV related entities which can be supported.

Departments and chapters also have the authority to support programs in their communities, which provide direct support or assistance to disabled veterans and their families. Should another organization operate a program or conduct an event which provides a benefit or service to disabled veterans and/or their families, DAV entities may approve financial support to fund that particular program or event. Homeless veteran stand-downs or veteran food pantries are common examples of such programs or events. We occasionally identify general donations (not to support a specific event in line with our mission) to other veteran service organizations, or a variety of other non-profit organizations, which have no connection to our chartered purpose. This is troublesome as we are now providing donated funds, which came to us from donors to support DAV, to other groups.

We must be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by the public. If we do not honor the intent of their donation, it is very likely they will no longer support the department or chapter. After all, if a donor wanted their contribution to support or benefit another organization and

their cause, they would have provided their donation directly to that other organization. Because the donor provided their support to a department or chapter, we must uphold our end of the deal to put those funds to use serving ill and injured veterans and their families.

I trust you find this information helpful in guiding the financial activities of your department or chapter. Should you need clarification or have questions about whether a specific program or activity falls into the category of an acceptable use of funds, please do not hesitate to contact Inspector General Hartman at ehartman@dav.org. In the absence of seeking clarification, we should all ask ourselves this one simple question: *“Will this financial support by the department or chapter provide a service to disabled veterans and their families?”* If the answer is “yes,” then you are likely in a good position to justify the financial support of the department or chapter if questioned by a donor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Marc Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

J. MARC BURGESS
National Adjutant

JMB:kb

c: National Line Officers
National Headquarters Executive Director Jesinoski
Washington Headquarters Executive Director Reese
Inspector General Hartman