



**Disabled American Veterans**  
**Department of South Dakota**  
**\$100 DISCOUNT FOR NEW FULL LIFE MEMBERS**  
**\$20 DISCOUNT FOR NEW PARTIAL MEMBERS**  
**JUNE 1, 2023 – MARCH 31, 2024**

**\$20 DISCOUNT FOR PARTIAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

DAV new partial life members would be offered a \$20.00 discount (\$10 discount from your local DAV Chapter and \$10.00 discount from DAV Department) when paying \$20.00 to sign up as a new DAV member to the Disabled American Veterans. Life Membership is obtained on the installment basis with this minimum \$40.00 down payment and the balance set up on a quarterly payment plan.

AGE	LIFE AMOUNT	MEMBER PAYS	CHAPTER PAYS	STATE DEPARTMENT PAYS
Age 79 and Under	\$ 300.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Age 80 and Over	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

**\$100 DISCOUNT FULL LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

New eligible disabled veterans would be offered a \$100.00 discount (\$50.00 discount from your local DAV Chapter and \$50.00 discount from DAV Department) when paying for DAV Full Life Membership.

AGE	LIFE AMOUNT	MEMBER PAYS	CHAPTER PAYS	STATE DEPARTMENT PAYS
Age 79 and Under	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Age 80 and Over	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

**All DAV membership applications should be mailed to:**

DAV Department Headquarters  
 1519 W. 51<sup>st</sup> Street  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
[admin@davsd.org](mailto:admin@davsd.org)

DAV Headquarters will bill each DAV Chapter who is participating each month for their Chapter's share.

If you have any questions, please contact DAV Department Headquarters. Thank you.

**DAV LIFE MEMBERSHIP UNTIL MARCH 31, 2024**  
**A GREAT DEAL FOR PARTIAL AND NEW LIFE MEMBERS!**  
**(DISCOUNT IS FOR THE DAV DEPARTMENT OF SD AND ITS CHAPTERS ONLY)**

## DAV Membership Eligibility

Membership is open to any veteran wounded, gassed, injured or disabled in the line of duty during time of war and to persons who have been awarded expeditionary or campaign medal "During time of war" shall include the following periods of service:

- World War II and Korea. .... 09/16/40-01/31/55
- Vietnam and other engagements ..... 01/31/55-10/14/76
- Iranian Crisis, Lebanon Crisis, Invasion of Grenada, Invasion of Panama and other engagements ..... 11/04/79-01/31/90
- Persian Gulf Crisis, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and other engagements ..... 08/02/90-until terminated by Presidential Proclamation or Congressional resolution

The requirement "during time of war" may also be met if it is determined that the applicant's wound, injury or disability was incurred:

- 1) at any time as a direct result of armed conflict. 2) while engaged in extra-hazardous service under conditions simulating war. 3) while the United States was engaged in any war.

Please let DAV know if you were awarded any of the medals listed below. This information will only be used for demographic purposes, and to potentially inform our members about issues related to their specific military experience.

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM).

Campaign or Expedition	Inclusive Dates
<input type="checkbox"/> Berlin	08/14/61-06/01/63
<input type="checkbox"/> Congo	07/14/60-09/01/62, 11/23/67-11/29/67
<input type="checkbox"/> El Salvador	01/01/81-02/01/92
<input type="checkbox"/> Laos	04/19/61-10/07/62
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon	07/01/58-11/01/58, 06/01/83-12/01/87
<input type="checkbox"/> Mayaguez Operation	05/15/75-05/15/75
<input type="checkbox"/> Operation in the Libyan Area (Operation Eldorado Canyon)	04/12/86-04/17/86
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama (Operation Just Cause)	12/20/89-01/90
<input type="checkbox"/> Persian Gulf Operation (Operation Earnest Will)	07/24/87-08/01/90
<input type="checkbox"/> Quemoy and Matsu Island	08/23/58-06/01/63
<input type="checkbox"/> Taiwan Straits	08/23/58-01/01/59
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam (Including Thailand)	07/01/58-08/03/65

### Navy Expeditionary Medal and Marine Corps Medal for these operations.

Campaign or Expedition	Inclusive Dates
<input type="checkbox"/> Cuba	01/03/61-10/23/62
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Ocean/Iran	11/21/79-10/20/81
<input type="checkbox"/> Iranian/Yemen/Indian Ocean	12/08/78-06/06/79
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon	08/20/82-05/31/83
<input type="checkbox"/> Liberia (Operation Sharp Edge)	08/05/90-02/21/91
<input type="checkbox"/> Libyan Area	01/20/86-06/27/86
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	04/01/80-12/19/86, 02/01/87-07/23/8
<input type="checkbox"/> Persian Gulf	02/01/87-07/23/87
<input type="checkbox"/> Thailand	05/16/63-08/10/63
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Service Medal (Extended)	09/02/45-04/01/57
<input type="checkbox"/> Navy Occupation of Austria	05/08/45-10/25/54
<input type="checkbox"/> Navy Occupation of Trieste	05/08/45-10/25/54
<input type="checkbox"/> Units of the Sixth Fleet (Navy)	05/09/45-10/25/55

**After a minimum down payment of \$40 toward your life membership, you will receive your membership card.** The remaining balance is paid in interest-free installments. All dues payments received are applied to your life membership account. Apply online for as little as \$10 with a recurring monthly credit card payment at [dav.org/membership/join-dav](http://dav.org/membership/join-dav). **Thank you for becoming a member!**

DAV life membership = \$300 | Veterans age 80 or older = FREE  
Life membership payments are non-refundable and are not tax deductible.



## Receipt

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type \_\_\_\_\_

Single payment (cash/check/credit card):  Full payment (\$300)  Down payment (\$40)

Monthly Recurring Payments (credit card only)

Select Monthly Payment Amount:  \$10  \$20  \$30  \$50  \$100

Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method  Cash  Check  Money Order  Credit Card

Rec'd by \_\_\_\_\_ signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Application (Membership eligibility information is on the back of this application)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female

Applicant's Phone No. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date Enlisted \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Date Discharged \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service-Connected Disability \_\_\_\_\_ % Receiving:  VA Comp.  VA Pension  Service Retirement

Check all that apply:  Amputee  Visually Impaired  Hearing Impaired  POW  Purple Heart  Gassed  Agent Orange  PTSD  Gulf War Illness  TBI  Burn Pit

Department Preference \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Preference \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor's ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor's Phone No. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor's ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Single payment:  Full payment (\$300)  Down payment (\$40)

Payment Type:  Check # \_\_\_\_\_  Cash  MO  Visa  MC  Discover  AmEx  Monthly Recurring Payments (credit card only):

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Select Monthly Payment Amount:  \$10  \$20  \$30  \$50  \$100

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL APPLICATION & PAYMENT:  
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
1519 W. 51ST STREET  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105**

**DAV DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
CONVENTION RAFFLE  
AND CHALLENGE COIN  
MAY 9, 2023**

<b>CHAPTERS</b>	<b>RAFFLE DONATED PRIZES</b>	<b>RAFFLE TICKET SALES</b>	<b>CHALLENGE COIN</b>
DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1	\$1,000.00	\$8,387.00	\$750.00
DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3	3,000.00	3,200.00	
DAV Watertown Chapter No. 6	100.00	1,239.00	
DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 11	1,000.00	1,952.00	500.00
DAV Swanson-O'Connor Chapter No. 13	200.00	992.00	450.00
DAV Oahe Chapter No. 18	50.00	230.00	
DAV Milbank-Sisseton Chapter No. 19	500.00	490.00	300.00
DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22	100.00	600.00	
DAV Davison County No. 27	250.00	150.00	
DAV Auxiliary Oahe Unit No. 18	50.00		
Korean War Display – Bob Hill	100.00		
Gene Murphy	100.00		
Dick Turnwall	100.00		
TOTAL	\$6,550.00	\$17,240.00	\$2,000.00



# DAV DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA 2023 STATE CONVENTION RAFFLE PRIZES

## WINNERS

1st Prize.....\$	750.00 Cash – Doug Derens – Hurley, SD
2nd Prize.....\$	750.00 Cash – Mason Lancaster – Hot Springs, SD
3rd Prize .....	750.00 Cash – Jan Brandriet – Watertown, SD
4th Prize .....	750.00 Cash – Bob DeJong – Brookings, SD
5th Prize .....	500.00 Cash – Chapter 19 DAV – Millbank, SD
6th Prize .....	500.00 Cash – Mark Winter – Crooks, SD
7th Prize .....	500.00 Cash – Steve Stydel – Watertown, SD
8th Prize .....	500.00 Cash – Ken Smith – Hermosa, SD
9th Prize .....	500.00 Cash – John Huntington – Sioux Falls, SD
10th Prize .....	250.00 Cash – Joel Westcott – Deadwood, SD
11th Prize .....	200.00 Cash – Nathan Schlimgen – Mitchell, SD
12th Prize .....	100.00 Cash – Juanita Richards -Rapid City, SD
13th Prize .....	100.00 Cash – Brian Cass – Sturgis, SD
14th Pries .....	100.00 Cash – Doug Francis – Harrisburg, SD
15th Prize.....\$	100.00 Cash – Lori Nelson – Brandon, SD
16th Prize.....\$	100.00 Cash – Clinton Hubers – Dell Rapids, SD
17th Prize.....\$	50.00 Cash – Joe Snyder – Sioux Falls, SD
18th Prize .....	Glarry Acoustic Guitar – Chapter 22 DAV – Brookings, SD
19th Prize .....	Box with Wine, Glasses, Cutting Boards, Cheese, Crackers – Bob Hill – Brookings, SD
20th Prize .....	Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home Book – Eben Nordahl – Rapid City, SD
21st Prize .....	Handcrafted Wooden American Flag – Laurel Hearney – Conde, SD
22nd Prize ... \$	50.00 Cash – Ron Lindner – Aberdeen, SD

The Proceeds Of This Ticket To Be Used For The DAV Hospital Transportation  
Network And Service To Veterans Programs In The State Of South Dakota.  
Thank You For Your Assistance To Our Veterans Of South Dakota.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
2023-2024**

**COMMANDER'S APPOINTMENTS:**

ADJUTANT..... Marty Pennock  
 CHAPLAIN..... Gaylord Helmbrecht  
 ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN ..... William McGinnis  
 HISTORIAN..... Tim Walsh  
 LOCAL VETERANS  
 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM..... Peggy Kirk

SGT-AT-ARMS..... Rick Albrecht Dave Meltz  
 Steve Kilgour

SD VETERANS COUNCIL  
 CHAIRMAN..... Christine Speirs, Commander  
 Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
 Marty Pennock, Adjutant

SD STATE VETERANS HOME TASK  
 FORCE ..... Don Ackerman  
 Bradly Colling

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT  
 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ..... Greg Whitlock

VAVS COMMITTEE  
 STATE CHAIRPERSON..... John Huntington  
 VAVS - FT. MEADE VAMC..... Jack Post  
 VAVS - HOT SPRINGS VAMC..... H.G. Krossschell  
 VAVS - SIOUX FALLS VAMC..... Gaylord Helmbrecht

VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE  
 Black Hills National Cemetery ..... Mike Mullen  
 Black Hills National Cemetery ..... Dick Turnwall, PDC  
 South Dakota State Cemetery ..... Ken Teunissen  
 South Dakota State Cemetery ..... Terry Mayer

WEB SITE MASTER ..... Marty Pennock

**STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR FY 2023-2024**

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN..... Robert Hill, PDC  
 H.G. Krossschell, PDC  
 Helen Parr, PDC

BUDGET & FINANCE CHAIRMAN..... Christine Speirs, Commander  
 Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
 Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
 Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice  
 Gene Murphy, Treasurer  
 Robert Hill, Judge Advocate  
 Marty Pennock, Adjutant  
 Dan Francis, PDC

DEPT. OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
 SERVICE & TRANSPORTATION  
 INCOME RESEARCH COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN ..... Dan Francis, PDC

Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
 Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
 Gene Murphy, Treasurer  
 Marty Pennock, Adjutant  
 Helen Parr, Trustee  
 H.G. Krossschell, Trustee

LEGISLATION CHAIRMAN..... Christine Speirs, Commander  
 Gene Murphy, Treasurer  
 Marty Pennock, Adjutant

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN..... Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
 Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
 Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice

PUBLICITY  
 CO-CHAIRMAN..... Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
 CO-CHAIRMAN..... Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice

**2024 CONVENTION COMMITTEES:**

AUDIT COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN..... Gaylord Helmbrecht  
 Steve Kilgour  
 Helen Parr, PDC  
 Dave Van Dine

CONVENTION COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN..... Ed Simpson  
 Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
 Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
 Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice  
 Marty Pennock, Adjutant

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN..... Robert Hill, Judge Advocate  
 Gaylord Helmbrecht, Chaplain  
 Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN..... Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice  
 Paul Hanson  
 Bradly Colling

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN..... Helen Parr, PDC  
 Sarah Bierman  
 Marty Pennock, Adjutant

NOMINATION COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN(PDCS)..... Gaylord Helmbrecht  
 Dick Turnwall Gene Murphy  
 Robert Hill Helen Parr  
 H.G. Krossschell

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN..... Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
 John Price  
 Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice

TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN..... Dan Francis, PDC  
 H.G. Krossschell, PDC  
 Marty Pennock, Adjutant  
 Dick Turnwall, PDC  
 John Price

WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRMAN..... Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice  
 Susan Irons  
 Connie Johnson  
 Peggy Kirk  
 Helen Parr, PDC



# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HEADQUARTERS

## DAV DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FY 2023-2024

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**  
[bizex2@me.com](mailto:bizex2@me.com)

**CHRISTINE SPEIRS**  
2482 S. NEEL ST.  
RAPID CITY, SD 57703-6154  
(605) 787-2645

**JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR**  
**ROBERT HILL**  
305 CEDAR AVE.  
BROOKINGS, SD 57006  
(605) 692-4733  
[m37army@yahoo.com](mailto:m37army@yahoo.com)

**CHAPLAIN**  
**GAYLORD HELMBRECHT**  
2804 E. ORCHARD PL., UNIT 203  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103  
(605) 338-3253 (H)  
(605) 351-4823 (C)  
[luvghlh@midco.net](mailto:luvghlh@midco.net)

**SR. VICE COMMANDER**  
[mwolf@nvc.net](mailto:mwolf@nvc.net)

**MARK WOLF**  
1409 16<sup>th</sup> AVE. SE  
ABERDEEN, SD 57401  
(605) 380-7420

**VAVS REPRESENTATIVES:**  
**SIOUX FALLS VAMC**  
**JOHN HUNTINGTON, STATE CHAIRMAN**  
2501 W. 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57117  
(605) 336-3230 EXT. 6551 (VA)  
[john.huntington@va.gov](mailto:john.huntington@va.gov)

**FT. MEADE VA MEDICAL CENTER**  
**JACK POST, VAVS REP.**  
FT. MEADE VAMC (568)  
BDLG. 148, RM A-125  
FT. MEADE, SD 57741  
(605) 720-7065 (VA)

**1<sup>ST</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER**  
[Timwalsh63@aol.com](mailto:Timwalsh63@aol.com)

**TIM J. WALSH**  
905 N. SPRING AVE.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57106  
(605) 940-3897

**2<sup>ND</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER**  
[cdr@davsd.org](mailto:cdr@davsd.org)

**KIM K. HUBERS**  
24769 475<sup>th</sup> AVE.  
DELL RAPIDS, SD 57022  
(605) 651-1866

**HOT SPRINGS VA MEDICAL CENTER**  
**H.G. KROSSCHELL, VAVS REP.**  
4706 COPPERHILL DRIVE  
RAPID CITY, SD 57702  
(605) 348-5898 (DAV)  
(605) 718-4579 (H)  
[hgkrossschell@rushmore.com](mailto:hgkrossschell@rushmore.com)

**SIOUX FALLS VA MEDICAL CENTER**  
**GAYLORD HELMBRECHT, VAVS REP.**  
2804 E. ORCHARD – UNIT 203  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103  
(605) 338-3253 (H)  
(605) 351-4823 (C)  
[luvghlh@midco.net](mailto:luvghlh@midco.net)

**TREASURER**  
[cfo@davsd.org](mailto:cfo@davsd.org)

**GENE A. MURPHY**  
1519 W. 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105  
(605) 332-6866 (DAV)

**PAST COMMANDER**  
[dancfrancis220@gmail.com](mailto:dancfrancis220@gmail.com)

**DAN C. FRANCIS**  
1400 E. BEVERLY ST.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104  
(605) 310-1565

**HOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATORS (HTC)**  
**FT. MEADE VA MEDICAL CENTER (HTC)**  
**JACK POST, HTC**  
FT. MEADE VAMC (568)  
BLDG. 148, RM. A-125  
113 COMANCHE ROAD  
FT. MEADE, SD 57741  
(605) 720-7065 (VA)  
(605) 347-7203 (FAX)

**SIOUX FALLS VA MEDICAL CENTER**  
**JOHN HUNTINGTON, HTC**  
SIOUX FALLS VAMC  
2501 W. 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57117  
(605) 336-3230 EXT. 6551 (VA)  
FAX: 336-3230 - 96971

**ADJUTANT/BENEFIT PROTECTION**  
**TEAM LEADER**  
[adj@davsd.org](mailto:adj@davsd.org)

**MARTY PENNOCK**  
46946 299TH ST.  
BERESFORD, SD 57004  
(605) 929-6060

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HEADQUARTERS

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**  
**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**  
860 Dolwick Drive, Erlanger, KY 41018  
(877) 426-2838 – (877) I AM A VET

**DAV LEGISLATION & SERVICE HEADQUARTERS**  
807 MAINE AVENUE S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20024  
(202) 554-3501 [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

**DAV DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**  
1519 W. 51st STREET, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105  
(605) 332-6866 FAX: 338-5489

**E-mail:** [admin@davsd.org](mailto:admin@davsd.org)

**Website:** [www.SD.dav.org](http://www.SD.dav.org) & [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

**DAV NSO – OWEN RICHARDS**  
2501 W. 22ND, VARO 101, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105  
(605) 333-6896 FAX: 336-8158 **E-mail:** [dav.vbasux@va.gov](mailto:dav.vbasux@va.gov)

**SIOUX FALLS VA REGIONAL OFFICE.....1-800-827-1000**  
**SIOUX FALLS VA HOSPITAL.....1-800-316-8387**  
**HOT SPRINGS VA HOSPITAL.....1-800-764-5370**  
**FORT MEADE VA HOSPITAL.....1-800-743-1070**  
**VA DEBT MANAGEMENT CENTER, ST. PAUL. 1-800-827-0648**

**CHAMPVA CENTER, DENVER.....1-800-733-8387**  
**VA INSURANCE CENTER, PHILADELPHIA.....1-800-669-8477**  
**VA ATOMIC RADIATION HELPLINE.....1-800-749-8387**  
**VA PERSIAN GULF WAR HOTLINE.....1-800-749-8387**  
**SOCIAL SECURITY.....1-800-772-1213**

### SOUTH DAKOTA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES

**SENATOR MIKE ROUNDS**  
Hart Senate Office Bldg. Suite 716  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5842 Fax (202) 224-7482  
Toll Free: (844) 875-5268  
<http://www.rounds.senate.gov>

**SENATOR JOHN THUNE**  
United States Senate SD-511  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2321 Fax (202) 228-5429  
Toll Free: 866-850-3855  
<http://www.thune.senate.gov>

**REPRESENTATIVE DUSTY JOHNSON**  
1714 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2801 Fax (202) 225-5823  
Toll Free: (855) 225-2801  
<http://www.dustyjohnson.house.gov>

221 Brown CO HWY 19 S., Suite 112  
Aberdeen, SD 57401-5533  
(605) 225-0366

320 South 1<sup>st</sup> St., Suite 101  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
(605) 225-8823

2525 W. Main Street, Suite 310  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
(605) 646-6454

111 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 210  
P.O. Box 309  
Pierre, SD 57501  
(605) 224-1450; Fax (605) 224-1379

246 Founders Park Drive, Suite 102  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
(605) 348-7551

115 4th Avenue SE, Suite 107A  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
(605) 622-1060 Fax (605) 262-0150

603 Omaha Street, Suite 100  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
(605) 343-5035; Fax (605) 343-5348

5015 South Bur Oak  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
(605) 334-9596

230 S. Phillips Ave., Suite 307  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
(605) 275-2868

320 N. Main St., Suite A  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
(605) 336-0486; Fax (605) 336-6624

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**  
[bizex2@me.com](mailto:bizex2@me.com)

**CHRISTINE SPERIS**  
2482 S. NEEL ST.  
RAPID CITY, SD 57703-6154  
(605) 787-2645

**DAV DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FY 2023-2024**  
**JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR**

**ROBERT HILL**  
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**MARK WOLF**  
1409 16<sup>th</sup> AVE. SE  
ABERDEEN, SD 57401  
(605) 380-7420

**VAVS REPRESENTATIVES:**

**SIOUX FALLS VAMC**

**JOHN HUNTINGTON, STATE CHAIRMAN**  
2501 W. 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57117  
(605) 336-3230 EXT. 6551 (VA)  
[john.huntington@va.gov](mailto:john.huntington@va.gov)

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**TIM J. WALSH**  
905 N. SPRING AVE.  
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(605) 940-3897

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**KIM K. HUBERS**  
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**H.G. KROSSCHELL, VAVS REP.**  
4706 COPPERHILL DRIVE  
RAPID CITY, SD 57702  
(605) 348-5898 (DAV)  
(605) 718-4579 (H)  
[hgkrosschell@rushmore.com](mailto:hgkrosschell@rushmore.com)

**SIOUX FALLS VA MEDICAL CENTER**  
**GAYLORD HELMBRECHT, VAVS REP.**  
2804 E. ORCHARD – UNIT 203  
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**TREASURER**  
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**DAN C. FRANCIS**  
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**HOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATORS (HTC)**

**FT. MEADE VA MEDICAL CENTER (HTC)**

**JACK POST, HTC**  
FT. MEADE VAMC (568)  
BLDG. 148, RM. A-125  
113 COMANCHE ROAD  
FT. MEADE, SD 57741  
(605) 720-7065 (VA)  
(605) 347-7203 (FAX)

**SIOUX FALLS VA MEDICAL CENTER**

**JOHN HUNTINGTON, HTC**  
SIOUX FALLS VAMC  
2501 W. 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57117  
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**ADJUTANT/BENEFIT PROTECTION**  
**TEAM LEADER**  
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**MARTY PENNOCK**  
46946 299TH ST.  
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**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**  
**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

860 Dolwick Drive, Erlanger, KY 41018  
(877) 426-2838 – (877) 1 AM A VET

**DAV LEGISLATION & SERVICE HEADQUARTERS**  
807 MAINE AVENUE S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20024  
(202) 554-3501 [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

**DAV DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

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**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA**

The DAV Department of South Dakota Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by Commander Dan Francis at 9:00 a.m. in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the DAV Headquarters.

Opening prayer was given by Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht. Commander Francis led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND DEC MEMBERS:** Present Commander Dan Francis; Sr. Vice Commander Christine Speirs; 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Mark Wolf; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh; Treasurer Gene Murphy, Judge Advocate Robert Hill, and Past Department Commander Dick Turnwall, and Chapter DEC: No. 1, No. 3, No. 6, No. 11, No. 13, No. 18, No. 22, and No. 27.

Officers and DEC Excused: No. 19

Guest: None

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2022-2023: July 1, 2022, To March 31, 2023**

Treasurer Murphy reported that the FY 2022-23 (first nine months) General Account checking account balance of July 1, 2022, was \$65,886.24; total income for FY 2022-23 was \$137,050.50; expenses of \$133,344.76 with a profit of \$3,705.74; and the checking account balance as of March 31, 2023, was \$62,180.55.

The DSO/HTP Program checking account balance on July 1, 2022, was \$5,949.08; The DSO/HTP transfer of \$65,800.00; expenses of \$63,843.00; With a net profit of \$1,957.00; and the checking account balance was \$7,906.08.

FY 2022-23 (Nine months) of Assets \$491,413.58; Liabilities were \$ .00; and Total Fund Balance was \$491,413.58.

The FY 2023-2024 Proposed Budget was income of \$157,500.00 and expenses of \$157,500.00.

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 to approve the Financial Report for FY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022, To March 31, 2023) and Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024. Motion Carried.

**INCOME RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chairperson Dick Turnwall reported that committee reviewed the Financial Statement FY 2022-2023, Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024, Funding Programs, Poker Run, Donation from DAV Chapters, and Donations.

The Department will continue to receive an annual lease payment from the estate of Sylvia Bayne for property that was not sold. The amount of the lease payment is approximately \$3,500.00.

**2023 DAV CONVENTION RAFFLE PROGRAM:**

As of March 31, 2023, proceeds from ticket sales are \$6,237.00; income for prizes of \$6,500.00; and expenses of \$3,040.58. We thank all members and friends who have purchased tickets. Last year (2022) the income was \$22,747.00 with expenses of \$9,204.73 and a net profit of \$13,542.27.

Thank you to all Chapters, Units, and Members who provided prizes for this year's raffle program.

**19TH ANNUAL DAV BROOKINGS CHAPTER NO. 22 AND 727TH TRANSPORTATION POKER RUN:** The DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22 and the 727th Transportation Poker Run will be held on September 2, 2023, at Brookings. Registration starts at 10:00 a.m. with the "Parade At High Noon." Registration is \$20.00.

The DAV is requesting door prizes from the Chapters and members. Five Chapters provided door prizes last year. This event provided the DAV with \$47,000.00 for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network which brought the total donations in eighteen years to over \$396,000.00. A special "THANKS" goes out to the 727<sup>th</sup> Transportation group.



**DAV HOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK FUNDING:** The DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 of Sioux Falls has approved to provide to the DAV Department of South Dakota a grant of \$10,000.00 each year starting July 1, 2019, for the salary increase for the two (2) DAV Hospital Transportation Network Coordinators for a total of \$40,000.00 donations.

**VIETNAM VETS STILL COMING HOME – THEIR STORIES – THEIR WORDS:** This book was put together by Steven H. Feimer and Kristine Elin Cable. It tells the stories of thirty-one (31) Vietnam Veterans.

All profits from the book will be donated to the Veterans organizations that donated to assist with cost of printing book. The organization has published 2,500 books. DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 and DAV Department of South Dakota donated \$2,500.00 for publication of book. A copy of the book is available for members’ review.

The DAV Department of South Dakota received \$8,000.00 and DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 received \$12,000.00 in FY 2021-2022, for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network.

**DEPARTMENT 501c(3) ORGANIZATION:** The Department has the approval of the DAV National and State of South Dakota for the Article of Incorporation of Disabled American Veterans Department of South Dakota Service and Transportation, Inc. (Corporation); and formation of a 501c(3) organization from IRS.

The DAV will need to propose a fund-raising letter to be mailed to the businesses/corporations in South Dakota. The DAV will need to contact DAV National, Edward Hartman, Inspector General concerning the letter.

The Board of Directors of this Corporation will have meetings during the convention.

The corporation provided \$12,000.00 in FY 2021-2022 to the Department for the DAV Service and Transportation Network.

**DAV STAFF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA):** The Department has four (4) employees of the Adjutant, Administrative Assistant (Part-Time), and two (2) Hospital Transportation Network Coordinators. Chairperson Turnwall did a matrix showing COLA raise amount from 7% through 9% (The calculations are based upon monthly salaries). The committee is recommending an 8% COLA raise effective July 1, 2023 and paid on hire dates. This percent pay raise will cost the Department \$7,037.67 annually.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Bulletin Booster \$20.00; Convention Raffle 1 ticket for \$5.00, and 3 tickets for \$10.00 with soliciting Chapters and members for raffle prizes; Research Raffle of Side By Side (Ranger); Service-Legislative Program (COLA); Send fund raising letter to businesses/corporations for DAV Service and Transportation; Grant from South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs; DAV Poker Runs in Brookings on September 2, 2023 and in Watertown; Accept the grant of \$10,000.00 per year from the DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 for the DAV HTN Coordinators; Selling the book “Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home”; Donations from the Chapters; Letters providing information and requesting funding for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network from the DAV Chapters, DAV Auxiliary Units, American Legion Posts, PVA North Central Chapter, VFW Posts, and other organizations/corporations; and COLA of 8% for the four (4) Department employees; and future golf tournament.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by H.G. Kroschell, Chapter No. 3 to approve the Income Research Committee report. Motion Carried.

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS July 1, 2022, To March 31, 2023**

**1. DSO/HTC PROGRAM:** Treasurer Murphy presented the following:

Department Service Officer/Hospital Transportation Program Donations of \$87,517.67

\$	500.00	.....	Elliot Filler
	200.00	.....	Ellen Schubloom
	1,000.00	.....	Action Buyers Resource – Emily Sovell, Broker
	603.00	.....	Jacqueline Bottonley
	14,500.00	.....	Charles Mix County - Vehicle
	100.00	.....	Earl & Melanie Hinricher
	1,000.00	.....	Codington County – Vehicle
	250.00	.....	Scherbenske Auto Repair

2,066.00 .....	DAV Oahe Chapter No. 18 – Vehicle
649.67 .....	DAV Swanson-O’Connor Chapter No. 13
47,000.00 .....	727 <sup>th</sup> Transportation Unit, Brookings Poker Run
250.00 .....	DAV Swanson-O’Connor Chapter No. 13
<u>19,399.00</u> .....	DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3 - Vehicle
<b>\$ 87,517.67.....</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

Currently we have twenty-six (26) vehicles in South Dakota with locations in: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Brookings, Fort Thompson, Huron, Lake Andes, Madison, Milbank, Miller, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City (2 vehicles), Redfield, Rosebud, Sioux City, Sioux Falls (3 vehicles), Sisseton, Sturgis, Yankton, Watertown, Webster, and Winner.

The DAV Department of South Dakota has ordered one (1) vehicle for 2024 for the Winner, SD area. The 2023 Ford vehicle cost is \$40,282.00 with the Winner American Legion providing \$22,155.00 and the DAV National Columbia Trust providing \$18,127.00. A BIG THANKS to the American Legion and Columbia Trust.

Please see the following for a summary for vehicle type, vehicle share and assignment for use in the DAV Transportation Network.

<u>Vehicle Type</u>	<u>Cost to Department/Chapter</u>	<u>Stationed at VAMC (Outpost)</u>
Ford Explorer 4x4 7-passenger	\$22,155.00 (American Legion Clem Post 169)	Ft. Meade Campus – Black Hills HCS (Winner, SD)

The DAV in South Dakota has twenty-six (26) vehicles on the road providing free rides for our Veterans. In FY 2021-2022 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) the DAV Hospital Transportation Network transported 3,727 Veterans, volunteer drivers provided 12,604 hours, and miles driven was 248,784 miles. **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS = “SUPER JOB FOR OUR HEROES – OUR VETERANS!”**

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to approve the report. Motion carried.

**2. SERVICE FOUNDATION:** Treasurer Murphy presented the following:

The DAV Department of South Dakota has established a State of South Dakota Service Foundation. The purpose of the Service Foundation is to establish a memorial to honor the memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice in defense of this Nation and to recognize the accomplishments of those who worked so diligently to establish the Department of South Dakota Disabled American Veterans.

The Service Foundation is perpetual in nature. The principle monies contributed in the form of a memorial will remain in tact and will be deposited in the Foundation Account. This policy can only be changed by two-thirds vote of the membership. Only the annual accrued earnings from the principle account will be transferred to the Department's general fund annually and used to conduct our many Department programs and services.

The DAV Department of South Dakota Service Foundation:

Balance: (03-31-23)

Savings Account	\$ 8,066.34
Home Federal Bank Investments	<u>\$313,072.19</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$321,138.53</u>

We would like to thank the Chapters, Auxiliary Units, and members for the donations.

On a motion by Stuart Himes, Chapter No. 13 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to approve the report. Motion carried.

**3. DEPARTMENT BULLETIN:** Treasurer Murphy presented the following: Department Bulletin published four (4) times this year; income from Bulletin Booster of \$1,550.00; expenses of \$845.58(3 Bulletins); listing of Bulletin Boosters; requested articles from line officers and Chapters for publication; and recommend publication for FY 2023-2024 of four (4) bulletins.

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by H.G. Kroschell, Chapter No. 3 to approve the report. Motion carried.

**4. SERVICE COMMISSION PROGRAM:** Adjutant Pennock presented the following: Agreement with DAV National on fund raising programs of Commander Club, Spring-Fall Name Stickers, and Calendar; National pays \$ 3.00 for each member, each year; National provided Department with \$7,892.50; and National will be sending another payment before June 30th of approximately \$6,784.50.

The Department received \$3,275.24 from DAV National that benefited our state:

\$2,909.69	25% of DAV's Vehicle Donation Program
\$11.66	25% of DAV's National Cause Marketing Efforts
\$61.29	EG America 2021
\$286.27	EG America 2022
\$6.33	A&W

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 to approve the report. Motion carried.

**5. LEGISLATIVE AND SERVICE PROGRAMS – COLA:** Treasurer Murphy reported that the DAV Department of South Dakota has started a program to assist with the DAV Department Service and Legislative Programs. We are asking for your support in donating your first month's cost-of-living adjustment to the DAV Department Legislative and Service Program Funds. All the donated funds will be used for assisting the Service for Veterans and Legislative Support for our veterans in FY 2022-2023.

The COLA for FY 2022 for veterans was 8.7%. We received \$7,538.62 from thirty-one(31) members and Chapters this year.

The members who donated belonged to the following Chapters:

CHAPTER	MEMBERS	DONATIONS
DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1	11	\$2,515.62
DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3	1	\$300.00
DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 11	1	\$1,033.00
DAV Swanson – O'Connor Chapter No. 13	18	\$3,550.00
DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22	1	\$140.00

Your support would be appreciated very much by all veterans of South Dakota. The DAV thanks these members and invites all members to participate in the Legislative and Service Programs – COLA.

The delegates were provided with a breakdown from 2002 to 2023 with the number of members and amount donated each fiscal year.

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to approve the report. Motion carried.

**6. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE:**

Commander Francis reported the following:

The Budget and Financial Committee recommended the approval of the following:

- a. Financial Statement for FY 2022-2023 of July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023 (9 months)
- b. DSO/HTP Financial Statement for FY 2022-2023
- c. Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balance
- d. Department Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024
- e. Department Program for DSO/HTP
- f. Legislative and Service Programs - COLA
- g. DAV National Service Foundation contribution of \$500.00 in honor of NSOs Owen Richards
- h. DAV 14th District Fall Conference, donation of \$ 375.00
- i. Income Research Committee Report

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to approve the report. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF RULES OF THE 2023 CONVENTION**

On a motion by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 and seconded by Helen Parr, Chapter No. 1 to approve the 2023 Convention Rules as printed. Motion Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. FUND RAISING REQUEST FROM CHAPTER:** The following Chapters requested fund raising approval:

- \* Chapter No. 1 – 6 Fund Raising Projects
- \* Chapter No. 3 – 5 Fund Raising Projects
- \* Chapter No. 6 – 6 Fund Raising Projects
- \* Chapter No. 11 – 18 Fund Raising Projects
- \* Chapter No. 13 – 3 Fund Raising Projects
- \* Chapter No. 18 – 0 Fund-Raising Projects
- \* Chapter No. 19 – 0 Fund-Raising Projects
- \* Chapter No. 22 – 3 Fund Raising Projects

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Helen Parr, Chapter No. 1 to approve the Chapter Fund Raising requests. Motion Carried.

**2. TRAVEL MILEAGE:** FY 2023-2024 mileage was discussed.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Helen Parr, Chapter No. 1 to approve travel for Department Officers for reimbursement of gas invoices when authorized by the DAV Department Adjutant. Motion carried.

**3. DAV 14TH DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE – Allowance, Location, and Candidates:**

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Mark Wolf, Chapter No. 13 to assist with hosting the event with an allowance of \$375.00 for the DAV Department of Montana. Motion carried.

District 14 Meeting will be in Kalispell October 14 at Grouse Mountain Lodge. Rooms are blocked and can be reserved from Oct 13 to Oct 15.

**4. CHAPTER OFFICERS; DEC FORMS; FINANCIAL REPORTS; AND FORM 990 OR 990-N E-POSTCARD:**

Adjutant Pennock requests Chapter Officers Report to DAV Department Headquarters and DAV National within ten days after the installation of newly elected or appointed Chapter Officers; the Annual Financial Report to DAV Department Headquarters and DAV National by September 30, 2023; and Form 990 or 990N to Department Headquarters by November 15, 2023.

Department Headquarters requested all Chapter’s Department Executive Committee (DEC) Forms to be forwarded to DAV Headquarters as soon as possible.

**5. SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL - STATE FAIR AND CHET SORENSON VETERAN OF YEAR AWARD:**

South Dakota Veterans Council – Chet Sorenson Annual Veteran of the Year Award: The Council votes each year to present the “Chet Sorenson Annual Veteran of the Year Award” to an outstanding Veteran during Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair. The Council is accepting nominations by July 1, 2023. DAV members who have received this award in the past are Don Bren of Brookings, Rick Albrecht and Gene Murphy of Sioux Falls.

The "Chet Sorensen Veterans of the Year” Award will be presented at the South Dakota State Fair on August 31<sup>st</sup> . If there are any nominations for the award, please let the Department know so that the name could be placed in nomination at the July South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting.

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR:**

The South Dakota State Fair will be August 31<sup>st</sup> through September 4th in Huron. Veterans Day at the State Fair will be on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August with free admission for all veterans and a program on Freedom Stage. The DAV will be able to have a booth to present information about the DAV and Auxiliary. The Jr. Vice Commanders will be in charge to get volunteer Chapters, Auxiliary Units, and members to staff the booth, donate items as give-away, and possibility of selling items (patriotic t-shirts, veteran baseball caps, veterans’ coins, etc.) for donations for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network.

Chapters that have volunteer to work the DAV Booth at this year’s fair:

Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1	Thursday, August 31 <sup>st</sup> – Set up booth
	Friday, September 1 <sup>st</sup>
Watertown, Chapter No. 6	Saturday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Sunday, September 3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Monday, September 4 <sup>th</sup>

The DAV thanks the Chapters, Units, and members for staffing the booth and donations.

**6. GOLDEN CORRAL MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT:**

The Golden Corral Restaurants hosted the “21<sup>st</sup> National Military Appreciation Night” in November 2023.

Rapid City Chapter No. 3 and Northern Hills Chapter No. 11 members distributed information and educate the community about the DAV and the free services we provide. We invite eligible disabled veterans to sign up as new members and invite local members of the Black Hills area to become volunteers for DAV service programs.

**7. DAV 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STATE COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS’ ORIENTATION:**

Department Headquarters will receive information on registration for the DAV Annual Orientation for the State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation. The orientation will be conducted on June 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at DAV National Headquarters, Erlanger, Kentucky. The cost would be \$125.00 for conference attendee, \$154.00 plus tax for room, \$48.00 round trip from the Cincinnati Airport, and coach airfare.

The Executive Committee discussed the options of sending a representative from South Dakota. Registration deadline is June 15, 2023.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Helen Parr, Chapter No. 1 to send two of the following: Department Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, or Adjutant to the State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation. Motion carried.

**8. LIFE MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT:** Sr. Vice Commander Christine Speirs provided information:  
The Department Life Membership Discount Program Comparison Report:

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to allow \$100.00 discount for life membership from the Department of South Dakota plus \$100.00 from Chapters from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Discussion. Motion carried.

Each Chapter will also be required to match the \$100.00 during this time.

**Life & Partial Membership Discount for FY 2023-2024**

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to allow \$50.00 discount for life membership from DAV Department of South Dakota and \$50.00 from Chapters and \$10.00 discount for partial life membership from the Department of South Dakota and \$10.00 from Chapters from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Discussion. Motion carried.

**9. DAV BROOKINGS CHAPTER NO. 22 AND 727<sup>TH</sup> TRANSPORTATION POKER RUN ON SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>:**

The DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22 and the 727<sup>th</sup> Transportation U.S. Army National Guard Unit will be hosting the "19<sup>th</sup> Annual DAV/727<sup>th</sup> Charity Poker Run" on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Brookings. Registration starts at 10:00 a.m. with the "Big Run" departing with a "Parade at High Noon." There is a \$20.00 registration fee.

The event will be held rain or shine with a \$500.00 Best Hand and many other prizes. All proceeds go to the DAV Hospital Transportation Network. The 727<sup>th</sup> donated \$47,000.00 last year to the DAV Hospital Transportation Network which brought the total donations in seventeen years to over \$396,000.00. A special "THANKS" goes out to the 727<sup>th</sup> Transportation group.

We have received generous donations from Chapters and members. DAV would like to THANK THE CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS.

The DAV invites **ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS** to this outstanding Poker Run.

If questions, please contact CSM Robert Foster at (605) 873-2566.

**10. FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTRONIC BANKINGS:**

DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3 have passed the following motions and would like it discussed at the DAV Convention:

Motion to require the South Dakota Department of Disabled American Veterans to transition to electronic banking processes that will allow payments to be made by direct deposit and by electronic funds transfer.

The Income and research Committee agrees with the motion and recommends proceeding to set up with our financial institution the process to begin paying by direct deposit not later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



**11. DEPARTMENT CONFLICT OF INTEREST, WHISTLE BLOWER, AND RETENTION/ DESTRUCTION POLICIES:**

Adjutant Marty Pennock reported that the Executive Committee members had received copies of the DAV Department of South Dakota Conflict of Interest Policy, Whistle Blower Policy, Whistle Blower Disclosure Statement, and Retention/ Destruction Policy.

These policies were approved on May 1, 2015 and made a yearly requirement.

**12. AUXILIARY FUNDRAISERS:**

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 to approve the 2023 Quilt Raffle and Auction at Annual Convention, and 2023 Fall Conference Bake Sale. Motion carried.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Executive Committee members received the following:

- DAV Department of South Dakota 2022-2023 Commander's Appointments and Standing Committees
- 2023 Convention Committees
- DAV National Conventions and Mid-Winter Conferences of 2023 to 2027
- 2023 DAV National Convention Tentative Agenda, Seminars and Workshops

DAV Department of South Dakota has filed Annual Report with the Office of the Secretary of State after the convention.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 11 am Sanford Health Imagenetics Presentation
- 11:30 am Auxiliary and DAV Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
- 1 pm Joint Opening Session
- 2:30 pm Veterans Town Hall Meeting – Moderator Tim Walsh
- 4 pm Committee Meetings – DAV Headquarters Available
- 6 pm Evening Meal
- 7 pm DAV Auxiliary Auction

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 to adjourn the DAV Department of South Dakota Executive Committee Meeting. Motion Carried.

The members were led in prayer by Chaplain Helmbrecht. Honor was rendered to the Flag. The DEC Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Submitted by Marty Pennock, Adjutant

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
83<sup>rd</sup> DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
MAY 5-6, 2023, SOUTH DAKOTA**

The Joint Opening Session of the 83<sup>rd</sup> DAV Department of South Dakota Convention and the DAV 71<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary State of South Dakota Convention convened at the DAV Headquarters, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Commander Dan Francis.

Department Commander Dan Francis and Auxiliary State Commander Vinceen Hanson introduced dignitaries and special guests (List Attached) and presented their Commander reports.

**FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

The DAV Department of South Dakota 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention was called to order at 10:15 a.m. on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. At the DAV Headquarters, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Prayer by Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht and Commander Dan Francis led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND CHAPTERS**

Present Commander Dan Francis; Sr. Vice Commander Christine Speirs; 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Mark Wolf; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh; Treasurer Gene Murphy, Judge Advocate/Inspector Bob Hill, and Past Department Commander Dick Turnwall; and Chapters: No. 1, No. 3, No. 6, No. 11, No. 13, No. 18, No. 22, and No. 27

Officers and DEC Excused: No. 19

Guests: DAV National Executive Director Barry Jesinoski, DAV National NEC 14<sup>th</sup> District Kevin Grantier, and Secretary Greg Whitlock

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**1. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: TREASURER GENE MURPHY**

Treasurer Murphy reported that the FY 2022-23 (first nine months) General Account checking account balance of July 1, 2022, was \$65,886.24; total income for FY 2022-23 was \$137,050.50; expenses of \$133,344.76 with a profit of \$3,705.74; and the checking account balance as of March 31, 2023, was \$62,180.55.

The DSO/HTP Program checking account balance on July 1, 2022, was \$5,949.08; The DSO/HTP transfer of \$65,800.00; expenses of \$63,843.00; With a net profit of \$1,957.00; and the checking account balance was \$7,906.08.

FY 2022-23 (Nine months) of Assets \$491,413.58; Liabilities were \$ .00; and Total Fund Balance was \$491,413.58.

The FY 2023-2024 Proposed Budget was income of \$157,500.00 and expenses of \$157,500.00.

The Budget and Financial Committee reviewed the following:

- a. Financial Statement for FY 2022-2023 of July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023 (9 months)
- b. DSO/HTP Financial Statement for FY 2022-2023
- c. Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balance
- d. Department Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024
- e. Department Program for DSO/HTP
- f. Legislative and Service Programs - COLA
- g. DAV National Service Foundation contribution of \$500.00 in honor of NSOs Owen Richards
- h. DAV 14th District Fall Conference, donation of \$ 375.00
- i. Income Research Committee Report

**2. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: SR. VICE COMMANDER CHRISTINE SPEIRS (Handout provided).**

- Sr. Vice Commander Speirs reported the following (attached report):
- Request members to assist with recruitment
- Three chapters have obtained goal – Arthur H. Muchow Ch No. 1, DAV Rapid City Ch No. 3, and DAV Northern Hills Ch. No. 11
- Life Membership Special of only \$100 from April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>
- DAV Population Summary for South Dakota
- Membership Application
- DAV Our Programs
- Join Our Ranks – Sign up Online
- DAV Supports Victories for Veterans
- DAV Member Advantages

On a motion by Mark Wolf, Chapter No. 13 and seconded by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 to approve the Membership Committee Report. Motion Carried.

**3. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: ADJUTANT MARTY PENNOCK**

Dan Francis provided the following:

- 2023 South Dakota Legislative Action
- SD Legislator to Conduct Two Summer Interim Studies
- Review of South Dakota 98<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session
- SDDVA Hosts South Dakota Veterans Council at State Veterans Home
- DAV 2022-2023 Legislative Goals
- DAV 2023 Critical Policy Goals
- DAV Information Alerts – Limit, Save, Grow, Act of 2023 , VA Budget Cut Proposals, H.R. 693, S. 326, H.R. 542, H.R. 808, S. 414/H.R. 1083, S. 344/H.R.1282, H.R. 1278/S. 592
- President Biden FY2024 VA Budget
- VA Announces Reset of Electronic Record Project
- VAS Secretary Worries Mistrust, Awareness, Holding Back benefits Claims
- Head Trauma, PTSD May Increase Genetic Variant’s Impact on Alzheimer’s Risk
- Republicans Name Chairman for Armed Services, Vet Affairs Committees
- New VA Mission Statement
- Breaking Down the Number of Veterans In the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress
- VA PACT Act
- Commander’s Action Network (CAN) Application
- IB Recommendations for FY 2024-FY2025 Advance

Two (2) binders were available with the 2023 South Dakota Legislative Session and DAV 2022 Legislative Victories for Veterans – Second Session of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, The Independent Budget FY 2024-2025, Statement of Joseph Parsetich, DAV National Commander Before the Committees on Veteran’s Affairs U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023; and 2023 Midwinter Conference Benefits & Protection Team/Legislative Workshop of February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Encourage members and their families to Join the DAV Commander’s Action Network; and Request Members to Contact Congressional Delegation to Support Veterans Legislation.

The DAV Department Headquarters provides current legislation information through the DAV Department of South Dakota Quarterly Bulletin and Monthly Reports. We ask the Chapter/Unit leadership to share information with their members.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to approve the Legislative Report. Motion carried.

**4. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: 1<sup>ST</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER MARK WOLF AND 1<sup>ST</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER MARK WOLF**

Vice Commanders reported the following:

The Public Relations book is up to date and available for review. We would like to extend a special thank you to Gene Murphy for his diligence in keeping binder current. There are binders on Women Veterans Information Initiatives, DAV Mid-Winter 2023, South Dakota Veteran Resources, and South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs 2022 Annual Report.

DAV has had a busy year with numerous events attended by our members across the State and they thanked all the Chapters, Units and members who assist at these events on behalf of the DAV Department of South Dakota.

On a motion by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 and seconded by Christine Speirs, Chapter No. 3 to approve the Public Relations Report. Motion Carried.

**5. AWARDS COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON BOB HILL**

Chairperson Hill reported the following: Nominations for 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention Department Awards were solicited from all Department Officers and Chapters. Department Awards Committee has arranged award recognition in the form of plaques, which will be available for presentation at the Award Luncheon. These awards are as follows:

1. DAV Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Outstanding Employee of the Year - Kelsey Oye (Clinical Primary Supervisor and Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner)
2. DAV Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Employee of the Year – Collin Moen
3. DAV Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Employee of the Year – Gregory Wood
4. DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year – Kim Hubers
5. Outstanding Legislator and Veterans Advocate – Ken Teunissen
6. Disabled Veterans Healing and Recreation – Wings of Valor – Bruce Weller, CEO
7. Small Business Award – Sioux Falls Audiology Associates
8. Patriot Employer of the Year – ALCOM
9. DAV Outstanding Volunteer – James Wosje
10. Outstanding Volunteer of the Year – Paul Weckman
11. DAV Outstanding Volunteer of the Year – Paul W. Riel
12. DAV Outstanding Member of the Year – Mark Wolf
13. DAV Outstanding Recruiter of the Year – Mark Wolf
14. DAV Outstanding Volunteer Driver of the Year – Walter L. Bauer
15. DAV Commander of the Year – Dan Francis

We would like to encourage more participation in this program by the Chapters and by Department Officers. This is an opportunity to promote the DAV and provide recognition to outstanding individuals who serve the needs of service-connected disabled veterans, and their dependents and survivors.

On a motion by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 and seconded by Mark Wolf, Chapter No. 13 to approve the Awards Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**CONVENTION COMMITTEES**

**1. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON TIM WALSH**

Chairperson Walsh gave a preliminary report on the following:

Eight (8) Chapters present; seven (7) Total Elected Officers Registered; Forty-four (44) Total Delegates Registered; Four (4) Total Guest Registered; NEC 14<sup>th</sup> District Kevin Grantier; Four (4) Total Past State Commanders Registered.

Delegates were provided Voting Strength information and DAV Population Summary.

**2. DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: ADJUTANT MARTY PENNOCK**

Adjutant Pennock presented an overview of the Department Executive Committee Report of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Members will receive a copy of the minutes of the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting for a ballot vote.

**3. INCOME RESEARCH COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON DICK TURNWALL**

Chairperson Dick Turnwall reported that committee reviewed the Financial Statement FY 2022-2023, Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024, Funding Programs, Poker Run, Donation from DAV Chapters, and Donations.

The Department will continue to receive an annual lease payment from the estate of Sylvia Bayne for property that was not sold. The amount of the lease payment is approximately \$3,500.00.

**2023 DAV CONVENTION RAFFLE PROGRAM:**

As of March 31, 2023, proceeds from ticket sales are \$6,237.00; income for prizes of \$6,500.00; and expenses of \$3,040.58. We thank all members and friends who have purchased tickets. Last year (2022) the income was \$22,747.00 with expenses of \$9,204.73 and a net profit of \$13,542.27.

Thank you to all Chapters, Units, and Members who provided prizes for this year's raffle program.

**19TH ANNUAL DAV BROOKINGS CHAPTER NO. 22 AND 727TH TRANSPORTATION POKER RUN:** The DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22 and the 727th Transportation Poker Run will be held on September 2, 2023, at Brookings. Registration starts at 10:00 a.m. with the "Parade at High Noon." Registration is \$20.00.

The DAV is requesting door prizes from the Chapters and members. Five Chapters provided door prizes last year. This event provided the DAV with \$47,000.00 for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network which brought the total donations in eighteen years to over \$396,000.00. A special "THANKS" goes out to the 727<sup>th</sup> Transportation group.

**DAV HOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK FUNDING:** The DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 of Sioux Falls has approved to provide to the DAV Department of South Dakota a grant of \$10,000.00 each year starting July 1, 2019, for the salary increase for the two (2) DAV Hospital Transportation Network Coordinators for a total of \$40,000.00 donations.

**VIETNAM VETS STILL COMING HOME – THEIR STORIES – THEIR WORDS:** This book was put together by Steven H. Feimer and Kristine Elin Cable. It tells the stories of thirty-one (31) Vietnam Veterans.

All profits from the book will be donated to the Veterans organizations that donated to assist with cost of printing book. The organization has published 2,500 books. DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 and DAV Department of South Dakota donated \$2,500.00 for publication of book. A copy of the book is available for members' review.

The DAV Department of South Dakota received \$8,000.00 and DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 received \$12,000.00 in FY 2021-2022, for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network.

**DEPARTMENT 501c(3) ORGANIZATION:** The Department has the approval of the DAV National and State of South Dakota for the Article of Incorporation of Disabled American Veterans Department of South Dakota Service and Transportation, Inc. (Corporation); and formation of a 501c(3) organization from IRS.

The DAV will need to propose a fund-raising letter to be mailed to the businesses/corporations in South Dakota. The DAV will need to contact DAV National, Edward Hartman, Inspector General concerning the letter.

The Board of Directors of this Corporation will have meetings during the convention.

The corporation provided \$12,000.00 in FY 2021-2022 to the Department for the DAV Service and Transportation Network.

**DAV STAFF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA):** The Department has four (4) employees of the Adjutant, Administrative Assistant (Part-Time), and two (2) Hospital Transportation Network Coordinators. Chairperson Turnwall did a matrix showing COLA raise amount from 7% through 9% (The calculations are based upon monthly salaries). The committee is recommending an 8% COLA raise effective July 1, 2023. This percent pay raise will cost the Department \$7,037.67 annually.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Bulletin Booster \$20.00; Convention Raffle 1 ticket for \$5.00, and Three tickets for \$10.00 with soliciting Chapters and members for raffle prizes; Research Raffle of Side By Side (Ranger); Service-Legislative Program (COLA); Send fund raising letter to businesses/corporations for DAV Service and Transportation; Grant from South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs; DAV Poker Runs in Brookings on September 2, 2023 and in Watertown; Accept the grant of \$10,000.00 per year from the DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 for the DAV HTN Coordinators; Selling the book "Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home"; Donations from the Chapters; Letters providing information and requesting funding for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network from the DAV Chapters, DAV Auxiliary Units, American Legion Posts, PVA North Central Chapter, VFW Posts, and other organizations/corporations; COLA of 8% for the four (4) Department employees, and a future patriotic golf tournament.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to approve the Income Research Committee report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**4. HOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION REPORT: SERVICE DIRECTOR MARTY PENNOCK**

Service Director Pennock reported the following

The DAV Department of South Dakota would like to thank all Chapters and individual members who assisted with contributions to the DAV Hospital Transportation Program. Your contributions have assisted in providing one of the top DAV Hospital Transportation Programs in the nation.

The Department will request grants from Department of Veterans Affairs and other Organizations for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Currently we have twenty-six (26) vehicles in South Dakota with locations in: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Brookings, Fort Thompson, Huron, Lake Andes, Madison, Milbank, Miller, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City (2 vehicles), Redfield, Rosebud, Sioux City, Sioux Falls (3 vehicles), Sisseton, Sturgis, Yankton, Watertown, Webster, and Winner.

The DAV Department of South Dakota has ordered one (1) vehicle for 2024 for the Winner, SD area. The 2023 Ford vehicle cost is \$40,282.00 with the Winner American Legion providing \$22,155.00 and the DAV National Columbia Trust providing \$18,127.00. A BIG THANKS to the American Legion and Columbia Trust.

Please see the following summary for vehicle type, vehicle share and assignment for use in the DAV Transportation Network.

<u>Vehicle Type</u>	<u>Cost to Department/Chapter</u>	<u>Stationed at VAMC (Outpost)</u>
Ford Explorer 4x4 7-passenger	\$22,155.00 (American Legion Clem Post 169)	Ft. Meade Campus – Black Hills HCS (Winner, SD)

The DAV in South Dakota has twenty-six (26) vehicles on the road providing free rides for our Veterans. In FY 2021-2022 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) the DAV Hospital Transportation Network transported 3,727 Veterans, volunteer drivers provided 12,604 hours, and miles driven was 248,784 miles. **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS = "SUPER JOB FOR OUR HEROES – OUR VETERANS!"**

Department Service Officer/Hospital Transportation Program Donations Of \$87,517.67

The Disabled American Veterans would like to thank all of you for making these contributions to assist in the Hospital Transportation Network.

We will discuss options at the DAV Department of South Dakota Annual Convention. DAV Chapters should review their financial records to see if your Chapter and/or members can assist with this outstanding program for our veterans of South Dakota. The DAV Hospital Transportation Network provides **FREE** rides for any veteran to VA Medical Centers and Clinics.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Department Headquarters. Thank You.

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 to approve the Hospital Transportation Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.



**5. NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER REPORT: NSO OWEN RICHARDS**

NSO Richards provided a written report (Report attached).

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to approve the NSO Report and dismiss him with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**6. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON GAYLORD HELMBRECHT**

Chairman Helmbrecht reported the following:

Meeting schedule for Committee on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the DAV Headquarters. Department Officers candidates should fill out the questionnaire prior to appearing before the Nomination Committee. The Nomination Committee will meet on May 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**7. CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON BOB HILL**

Chairman Hill stated that the committee hasn't received any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of South Dakota.

**8. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON HELEN PARR**

Chairperson Parr provided handout (Attached).

- DAV National Employment Website
- DAV National Employment Programs – The Veteran Advantage – DAV Guide to Hiring and Retaining Veterans with Disabilities is Available.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to approve the Employment Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**9. WOMEN VETERANS REPORT: CHAIRPERSON HELEN PARR**

Chairperson Parr reported the following:

- o Women Veteran’s Abbey of the Hill Retreat Hosted by DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1
- o Stand Up for Women Veterans Retreat Held March 11<sup>th</sup>, Co-Sponsored by DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1
- o Women Veterans
- o Strengthening Programs and Service for Women Veterans
- o U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans
- o PACT Act for Women Veterans – You Belong at VA

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 to approve the Women Veterans Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**10. TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON DICK TURNWALL**

Chairman Turnwall reported the following:

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS - FUTURE ANNUAL CONVENTIONS:**

1. 2024 Department Convention: DAV Northern Hill Chapter No. 11 (April 26-27, 2024)
2. 2025 Department Convention: DAV Swanson-O’Connor Chapter No. 13 (Aberdeen)
3. 2026 Department Convention: DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 (Sioux Falls)
4. 2027 Department Convention: DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3 (Rapid City)

The Convention Committee is seeking a Chapter to host the 2028 and 2029 Department Conventions.

We are enclosing the financial report from the DAV Department of South Dakota.

**FUTURE FALL CONFERENCES:**

2023DAV & Auxiliary Fall Conference: DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 would host the DAV and Auxiliary Department of South Dakota Fall Conference on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Chapter would provide coffee, rolls, donuts, and cookies free for members. The lunch would be provided with a free will offering from the members, Chapters, and/or Auxiliary Units.

A reception would precede the conference on October 6<sup>th</sup>, with a meal hosted by Chapter No. 1.

**DAV 14<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE – Allowance – Location:**

Allowance To Host Event: The DAV Department of South Dakota recommends an allowance of \$375.00 and request \$200.00 from Chapters for the DAV Department of Montana.

Information on the DAV and Auxiliary 14<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference in 2023: Location will be Kalispell, Montana on October 14-15, 2023. The DAV & Auxiliary 14<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference consists of the States of Minnesota, Montana, North and South Dakota.

On a motion by H.G. Kroschell, Chapter No. 3 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to approve the Time and Place Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**11. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: CHRISTINE SPEIRS**

Chairman Speirs reported the following: The committee has reviewed 58 resolutions, which they recommended adoption of all 58 resolutions. The second reading will be presented to Delegates on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to suspend with the reading of the resolutions (delegates received a copy of the resolutions).

The titles of the 58 resolutions are attached to these minutes.

**12. LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LVAP): CHAIRPERSON PEGGY KIRK**

Chairman Kirk provided a hand-out report. The LVAP allows volunteers to provide needed services to veterans and their families in their local community and be recognized for that service. LVAP volunteers receive the same incentive awards as enjoyed by volunteers in the VAVS program.

LVAP volunteers may report volunteer time for a variety of activities, which include, but are not limited to:

- a. Chapter and Department Service Officer work.
- b. DAV specific outreach efforts (DAV Airshow Outreach Program, Harley's Heroes, National Guard mobilizations and demobilizations, etc.)
- c. Fundraising efforts (Forget-Me-Not and other approved fundraisers)
- d. Direct assistance to veterans, widows, or families (yard work, home repairs, grocery shopping, etc.).

Members received a handout report with highlights:

- Five DAV Chapters Reporting 21,184 LVAP Hours from October 2022 to February 2023
- DAV Department of South Dakota won the LVAP Award for Division V in 2022
- About the Local Veterans Assistance Program
- Encourage members to volunteer and give hours to LVAP with Peggy Kirk email and phone number
- Local Veterans Assistance Program Brochure
- DAV Scholarships
- Available the DAV Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) User Manual

We invite each Chapter to report the activities of their LVAP volunteers to the designated department representative. Please be sure you report only the time volunteered under the LVAP. The Hospital Service Coordinator and DAV VAVS Representative will continue to report time for the Transportation Network and programs within VAVS.

On a motion by Stu Himes, Chapter No. 13 and seconded Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to approve the LVAP Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**12. VAVS REPORT: CHAIRPERSON JOHN HUNTINGTON**

Chairman Huntington provided a written report to the delegates. It includes the following:

- VAVS New Name "VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)
- Sioux Falls VA – Items Accepted for Donation & Monetary Donation for Ongoing Needs
- DAV Van Coordinators as of April 2023
- DAV Van Locations
- Motor Vehicle Trip Log

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Christine Speirs, Chapter No. 3 to approve the VAVS Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

## **OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS REPORTS**

### **1. JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR'S REPORT: JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR BOB HILL**

The Department suggests that all chapters conduct a yearly review of their Constitution and Bylaws. We would also request that attention be given to the purpose and mission statement of the organization.

When doing donations, I would like to remind you to make sure that your chapter is complying with all provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the National and Department organizations in addition to filing all required forms with the IRS and Department.

Reviewed how to handle disruptive members of a meeting, under Robert's Rules of Order. The SGT of Arms is not to use physical force on anyone. Three warnings and then civil authorities must be called.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to approve the Judge Advocate/Inspector's Committee Report and dismiss him with a vote of thanks. Discussion. Motion carried.

### **2. CHAPLAIN'S REPORT: CHAPLAIN GAYLORD HELMBRECHT**

Chaplain Helmbrecht provided a written report to the delegates.

Memorial Ceremony on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

On a motion by and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Mark Wolf, Chapter No. 13 to approve the Chaplain's Committee Report and dismiss him with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

### **3. HISTORIAN REPORT: CHAIRPERSON CHRISTINE SPEIRS**

Sr. Vice Commander Christine Speirs provided a written report to the delegates (Report Attached).

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to approve the Historian Report and dismiss her with a vote of thanks. Motion carried.

### **4. SOUTH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: SECRETARY GREG WHITLOCK**

Secretary Greg Whitlock provided a written report to the delegates (Report Attached). If members have any questions, they should contact Secretary Greg Whitlock.

DAV has a copy of South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs 2022 Annual Report

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Christine Speirs, Chapter No. 3 to approve the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Report. Motion Carried.

### **5. SD STATE VETERANS HOME TASK FORCE: CO-CHAIRPERSON BRADLY COLLING**

Report was provided from the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs 2022 Annual Report

- Provided Christmas Gifts
- Donation of Items to Veterans

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Tim Walsh, Chapter No. 1 to approve the S.D. State Veterans Home Task Force Report. Motion Carried.

**FINAL BUSINESS SESSION**

The DAV Department of South Dakota 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. At the DAV Headquarters, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Prayer by Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht and Commander Dan Francis led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Reading of letter from Governor Noem.

**ROLL CALL OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND CHAPTERS**

Present Commander Dan Francis; Sr. Vice Commander Christine Speirs; 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Mark Wolf; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh; Treasurer Gene Murphy, Judge Advocate/Inspector Bob Hill, and Past Department Commander Dick Turnwall; and Chapters: No. 1, No. 3, No. 6, No. 11, No. 13, No. 18, No. 19, No. 22, and No. 27

Guests: DAV National Executive Director Barry Jesinoski and DAV National NEC 14<sup>th</sup> District Kevin Grantier.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT: CHAIRMAN TIM WALSH**

Nine (9) Chapters present; Seven (7) Total Elected Officers Registered; Forty-Four (44) Total Delegates Registered; Six (6) Total Guest Registered; NEC 14<sup>th</sup> District Kevin Grantier; Six (6) Total Past State Commanders Registered.

Delegates were provided Voting Strength information and DAV Population Summary.

Delegates For Each Chapter And Voting Strength:

	Delegates	Votes		Delegates	Votes
Chapter # 1		132	Chapter # 18		16
Chapter # 3		86	Chapter # 19		7
Chapter # 6		13	Chapter #22		11
Chapter # 11		26	Chapter # 27		6
Chapter # 13		19	TOTAL CHAPTER VOTES		316
			TOTAL OFFICER VOTES		7
			TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH		323

Chapters Present: Present: No. 1, No. 3, No. 6, No. 11, No. 13, No. 18, No. 19, No. 22 and No. 27

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Robert Hill, Chapter No. 22 to approve the Credentials Committee Report and dismiss the committee with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**2. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: CHAIRPERSON CHRISTINE SPEIRS**

Chairperson Speirs reported the following: The committee has reviewed 58 resolutions, which they recommended adoption of all 58 resolutions.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Mark Wolf, Chapter No. 13 to suspend with the reading of the resolutions (delegates received a copy of the resolutions). Motion carried.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to approve the Resolutions Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Discussion. Motion carried.

**3. CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON BOB HILL**

Chairperson Hill stated that the committee hasn't received any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of South Dakota.

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Mark Wolf, Chapter No. 13 to approve the Constitution & By-Law Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Discussion. Motion carried.

**4. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN GAYLORD HELMBRECHT**

The committee held an organizational meeting at 4:00 p.m. on May 5th. The Committee members are Gaylord Helmbrecht, Bob Hill, H.G. Krosschell, Gene Murphy, Helen Parr, and Dick Turnwall.

The Committee interviewed seven (7) candidates for Department Office.

Chairman Helmbrecht reported that the Nominating Committee is recommending the following Officers for the DAV Department of South Dakota for FY 2023-2024:

COMMANDER: Christine Speirs  
SR. VICE COMMANDER: Mark Wolf  
1<sup>ST</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER: Tim Walsh  
2<sup>ND</sup> JR. VICE COMMANDER: Kim Hubers  
TREASURER: Gene Murphy  
JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR: Robert Hill  
TRUSTEES (2): Helen Parr and H.G. Krosschell

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Dick Turnwall, Chapter No. 11 that the slate of officers be put in nomination and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**5. TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE: CHAIRPERSON DICK TURNWALL**

Chairperson Turnwall reported the Committee has recommended the following:

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS - FUTURE ANNUAL CONVENTIONS:**

1. 2024 Department Convention: DAV Northern Hill Chapter No. 11 (April 26-27, 2024)
2. 2025 Department Convention: DAV Swanson-O'Connor Chapter No. 13 (Aberdeen)
3. 2026 Department Convention: DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 (Sioux Falls)
4. 2027 Department Convention: DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3 (Rapid City)

**FUTURE FALL CONFERENCES:**

2023 DAV & Auxiliary Fall Conference: DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 would host the DAV and Auxiliary Department of South Dakota Fall Conference on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Chapter would provide coffee, rolls, donuts, and cookies free for members. The lunch will be provided with a free will offering from the members, Chapters, and/or Auxiliary Units.

A reception would precede the conference on October 6<sup>th</sup>, with a meal hosted by Chapter No. 1.

**DAV 14<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE – Allowance – Location:**

Allowance To Host Event: The DAV Department of South Dakota recommends an allowance of \$375.00 and request \$200.00 from Chapters for the DAV Department of Montana.

Information on the DAV and Auxiliary 14<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference in 2023: Location will be Kalispell, Montana on October 14-15, 2023, and October 2024 and 2025 in Minnesota. The DAV & Auxiliary 14<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference consists of the States of Minnesota, Montana, North and South Dakota.

DAV National Convention and DAV Mid-Winter Conference Delegates received listing from 2023-2027. Information on the 2023 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Atlantic City, NJ.

**3. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: COMMANDER DAN FRANCIS**

Commander Francis asked Treasurer Murphy to give report:

The committee reviewed and approved the following:

- e. Financial Statement for FY 2022-2023 of July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023 (9 months)
- f. DSO/HTP Financial Statement for FY 2022-2023
- g. Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balance
- h. Department Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024
- i. Department Program for DSO/HTP
- j. Legislative and Service Programs - COLA
- k. DAV National Service Foundation contribution of \$500.00 in honor of NSOs Owen Richards
- l. DAV 14th District Fall Conference, donation of \$ 375.00
- m. Income Research Committee Report

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to approve the Budget and Finance Committee Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DONATIONS:**

Commander Francis accepted donations for the Bulletin Boosters, DAV Hospital Transportation Network, DAV Department of South Dakota Service Foundation, and DAV Service & Legislation (COLA). The following members and Chapters donated:

<b>Chapters:</b>	<b>Bulletin Boosters:</b>	<b>DAV Hospital Transportation Network (HTP):</b>	<b>DAV Service Foundation</b>	<b>DAV Service &amp; Legislative (COLA)</b>	<b>727<sup>th</sup> Poker Run</b>
Arthur H. Muchow #1	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,000.00		
Watertown #6					\$100.00
Northern Hills #11	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Brookings #22			\$200.00		
<b>Individual Members:</b>					
Paul Hanson	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	
Clinton Hubers					\$100.00
Gene Murphy (Memory of 4 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division)	\$100.00		\$100.00		\$100.00
Marty Pennock					\$500.00
Tim Walsh		\$100.00 Pledge			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,120.00</b>	<b>\$11,120.00</b>	<b>\$1,320.00</b>	<b>\$1,020.00</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>

Commander Francis thanked the members and Chapters for their donations to the Bulletin Boosters, DAV Hospital Transportation Network, DAV Department of South Dakota Service Foundation, 727<sup>th</sup> Poker Run, DAV Service & Legislation (COLA), and other projects.



## **2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT:**

The delegates at the convention discussed and made recommendations on life membership discount for the following:

- a. Increase Life Membership Discount for the period of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, with discount of \$200.00 was approved by the DEC and delegates (\$100.00 from Chapter and \$100.00 from Department)
- b. The Discount for Life Members and Partial Life Members for FY 2023-2024 (June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024) with discount of \$100.00 for Life Membership(\$50.00 from Department and \$50.00 from Chapter) and \$20.00 for Partial Life Members was approved by the DEC and delegates.

On a motion by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 and seconded by Ed Simpson, Chapter No. 11 to approve the Membership Report and dismiss them with a vote of thanks. Motion Carried.

## **3. 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DAV BROOKINGS CHAPTER NO. 22 AND 727<sup>TH</sup> TRANSPORTATION POKER RUN SEPT. 2<sup>ND</sup>:**

The DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22 and the 727<sup>th</sup> Transportation U.S. Army National Guard Unit will be hosting the "19<sup>th</sup> Annual DAV/727<sup>th</sup> Charity Poker Run" on September 2, 2023, in Brookings. Registration starts at 10:00 a.m. with the "Big Run" departing with a "Parade At High Noon." There is a \$20.00 registration fee.

The event will be held rain or shine with a \$500.00 Best Hand and many other prizes. All proceeds go to the DAV Hospital Transportation Network. The 727<sup>th</sup> donated \$47,000.00 last year to the DAV Hospital Transportation Network which brought the total donations in fourteen years to over \$396,000.00. A special "THANKS" goes out to the 727<sup>th</sup> Trans. group.

We received generous donations from Chapters and members and DAV would like to thank its chapters and members.

The DAV invites ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS to this outstanding Poker Run.

If questions, please contact CSM Robert Foster (605) 873-2566.

Commander Francis recessed the convention at 10:10 a.m.

The DAV Department of South Dakota 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. At the DAV Headquarters, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

## **ROLL CALL OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND CHAPTERS**

Present Commander Dan Francis; Sr. Vice Commander Christine Speirs; 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Mark Wolf; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh; Treasurer Gene Murphy, Judge Advocate/Inspector Bob Hill, and Past Department Commander Dick Turnwall; and Chapters: No. 1, No. 3, No. 6, No. 11, No. 13, No. 18, No. 19, No. 22, and No. 27

## **4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: COMMANDER DAN FRANCIS**

Commander Francis opened the Official Nomination of Department Officers for FY 2023-2024.

**COMMANDER:** The Nominating Committee placed the name of Christine Speirs of Rapid City Chapter No. 3 for the position of Commander for FY 2023-2024.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by H.G. Krosschell, Chapter No. 3 to cease nomination and cast a white unanimous ballot for Christine Speirs for Commander. Motion Carried. Christine Speirs, Chapter No. 3 was elected Department Commander for FY 2023-2024. Commander Elect Christine Speirs thanked the delegates for this honor.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Terry Mayer, Chapter No. 1 to suspend with the Convention Rules and cast a white unanimous ballot for the following DAV Department of South Dakota Officers for FY 2023-2024:

SR. VICE COMMANDER: Mark Wolf

1ST JR. VICE COMMANDER: Tim Walsh

2ND JR. VICE COMMANDER: Kim Hubers

TREASURER: Gene Murphy

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR: Robert Hill

TRUSTEES (2): Helen Parr and H.G. Krosschell

Motion carried.

**5. INSTALLATION OF DAV DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICERS FOR FY 2023-2024:**

DAV National Executive Director Barry Jesinoski will administrate the Oath of Office to the newly Elected Department Officers for FY 2023-2024 at the Commander's Banquet.

COMMANDER: Christine Speirs of Rapid City Chapter No. 3

SR. VICE COMMANDER: Mark Wolf of Aberdeen Chapter No. 13

1ST JR. VICE COMMANDER: Tim Walsh of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1

2ND JR. VICE COMMANDER: Kim Hubers of Arthur h. Muchow Chapter No. 1

TREASURER: Gene Murphy of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1.

JUDGE ADVOCATE/INSPECTOR: Robert Hill of Brookings Chapter No. 22

TRUSTEES (2): Helen Parr of Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1

H.G. Krosschell of Rapid City Chapter No. 3

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Delegates received the following:

- DAV National Conventions and Mid-Winter Conferences of 2023 to 2027
- 2023 DAV National Convention Tentative Agenda, Seminars and Workshops
- Donation Sheet for DAV Program and Services
- DAV 2022-2023 National Commander Interim Committees
- New Lifetime Pass Available for Military Veterans and Gold Star Families to Access Public Funds
- DRA – National Defender – Battle Buddies: South Dakota to Vietnam and Back
- Veterans Tiny Home Project in Sioux Falls Making Headway
- Vietnam Vets: Still Coming Home Book Available

The delegates thanked DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 and DAV Auxiliary Department of South Dakota for hosting an outstanding convention and the Department and Chapter No. 1 for the door prizes.

On a motion by Gene Murphy, Chapter No. 1 and seconded by Bob Hill, Chapter No. 22 to adjourn the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual DAV Department of South Dakota Convention. Motion Carried.

Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht led the delegates in prayer and Commander Christine Speirs had the members render honor to the flag. The 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention adjourned at 2:00 p.m. on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Submitted by Marty Pennock, Adjutant

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 6, 2023 – SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Department Commander Elect Christine Speirs called the DEC Meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at DAV Headquarters, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht led the members in opening prayer. Commander Elect Christine Speirs led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DEC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commander Elect Christine Speirs; Sr. Vice Commander Mark Wolf; 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander Tim Walsh; 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Kim Hubers; Past Commander Dan Francis; Treasurer Gene Murphy and Judge Advocate/Inspector Robert Hill and Chapter - DEC No. 1, No. 3, No. 6, No. 13, No. 18, No. 19, and No. 22.

Officers and DEC Excused: DEC 11 and DEC 27

**COMMANDER'S APPOINTMENTS FY 2023-2024:**

ADJUTANT..... Marty Pennock  
CHAPLAIN.....Gaylord Helmbrecht  
ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN ..... William McGinnis  
HISTORIAN..... Tim Walsh  
LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM..... Peggy Kirk

SGT-AT-ARMS..... Rick Albrecht Dave Meltz  
Steve Kilgour

SD VETERANS COUNCIL Christine Speirs, Commander  
Marty Pennock, Adjutant  
Gene Murphy, Treasurer

SD STATE VETERANS HOME TASK  
FORCE ..... Don Ackerman  
Bradly Colling

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ..... Greg Whitlock

VAVS COMMITTEE  
STATE CHAIRPERSON.....John Huntington  
VAVS - FT. MEADE VAMC.....Jack Post  
VAVS - HOT SPRINGS VAMC..... H.G. Krosschell  
VAVS - SIOUX FALLS VAMC..... Gaylord Helmbrecht

VETERAN'S CEMETERY COMMITTEE  
Black Hills National Cemetery ..... Mike Mullen  
Black Hills National Cemetery ..... Dick Turnwall  
South Dakota State Cemetery ..... Ken Teunissen  
South Dakota State Cemetery ..... Terry Mayer

WEB SITE MASTER ..... Marty Pennock

**STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR FY 2023-2024**

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN..... Robert Hill, PDC  
H.G. Krosschell, PDC  
Helen Parr, PDC

BUDGET & FINANCE CHAIRMAN.....Christine Speirs, Commander  
Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
Tim Walsh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice  
Kim Hubers, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
Gene Murphy, Treasurer  
Robert Hill, Judge Advocate  
Marty Pennock, Adjutant  
Dan Francis, PDC

INCOME RESEARCH COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN ..... Dan Francis, PDC  
Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
Gene Murphy, Treasurer  
Marty Pennock, Adjutant  
Helen Parr, Trustee  
H.G. Krosschell, Trustee

LEGISLATION CHAIRMAN..... Christine Speirs, Commander  
Gene Murphy, Treasurer  
Marty Pennock, Adjutant

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN..... Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice Commander  
Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice

PUBLICITY  
CO-CHAIRMAN..... Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
CO-CHAIRMAN..... Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice

**2024 CONVENTION COMMITTEES:**

AUDIT COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN..... Gaylord Helmbrecht, Chaplain  
Steve Kilgour  
Helen Parr  
Dave Van Dine

CONVENTION COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN..... Ed Simpson  
Dave Meltz  
Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice  
Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice  
Marty Pennock, Adjutant

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN..... Bob Hill, Judge Advocate  
Gaylord Helmbrecht, Chaplain  
Tim Walsh 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN..... Kim Hubers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice  
Paul Hanson  
Bradly Colling

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN..... Helen Parr  
Sarah Bierman  
Marty Pennock, Adjutant

NOMINATION COMMITTEE(PDCs)

CHAIRMAN..... Gaylord Helmbrecht  
Gene Murphy  
Dick Turnwall  
Helen Parr  
Robert Hill  
H.G. Krosschell

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN..... Mark Wolf, Sr. Vice  
John Price  
Tim Walsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice

TIME & PLACE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN..... Dan Francis, PDC  
H.G. Krosschell  
Marty Pennock, Adjutant  
Dick Turnwall, PDC  
John Price

WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN..... Kim Hubers  
Connie Johnson  
Helen Parr  
Susan Irons  
Peggy Kirk

On a motion by Gene Murphy and seconded by Robert Hill to approve the Commander's Appointments, Standing Committees, and 2024 Convention Committees. Motion Carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

On a motion by Gene Murphy and seconded by H.G. Krosschell to add Christine Speirs and Tim Walsh to the SD DAV Department of South Dakota checking account, as signature authorities. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. ELECTION OF DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE DAV 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION:**

On a motion by Gene Murphy and seconded by Robert Hill to elect Commander Christine Speirs as Delegate and Adjutant Marty Pennock as Alternate from the Department of South Dakota for the DAV 2023 National Convention. Motion Carried.

### **2. REPRESENTATION AT SPECIAL EVENTS:**

The DAV Department of South Dakota will try to send an officer or Past Department Commander for representation. We will look at sending someone who is closest to the location of the event. Questioned if the Department should send someone to the DAV Montana Convention, we should look at the cost of travel to these events and make sure we send representation from the nearest location.

Commander Speirs made the following appointments to represent DAV Department of South Dakota:

None	May 20 <sup>th</sup> – DAV National Commander Joe Parsetich Testimonial – Kalispell, MT
Dick Turnwall	May 29 <sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Ceremony at VA Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis
Tim Walsh	May 29 <sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Ceremony at the South Dakota State Cemetery in Sioux Falls
CDR	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> – DAV Montana Convention in Lincoln, MT
CDR	June 10 <sup>th</sup> – American Legion State Convention in Oacoma – DAV at 9 a.m.
Robert Hill	June 16 <sup>th</sup> – Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention in Mitchell – DAV at 2:00 p.m.
SDVC DAV	July 19 <sup>th</sup> – South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting - Sisseton – 11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Bob Hill	July 29 <sup>th</sup> – Korean War / Defense Veterans Appreciation Day – Brookings
Tim Walsh	August 31 <sup>st</sup> – SD State Fair - Huron
Bob Hill	September 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 727 <sup>th</sup> Transportation Poker Run – Brookings
SDVC DAV	September 20 <sup>th</sup> - South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting - Rapid City – 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
CDR & ADJ	October 14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> – District 14 Conference – Kalispell, MT
SDVC DAV	November 15 <sup>th</sup> - South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Sioux Falls – 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
SDVC DAV	November 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> -South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Roundtables - Tentative
SDVC DAV	January 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 - South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting – Pierre – 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Legislative Reception from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### **3. DEPARTMENT CONFLICT OF INTEREST, WHISTLEBLOWER, AND RETENTION/DESTRUCTION POLICIES:**

Adjutant Marty Pennock reminded Officers and DEC Members to sign and return these policies.

### **4. KOREAN WAR DISPLAY:**

On a motion by Gene Murphy and seconded by H. G. Krosschell to approve up to \$1,000.00 in support of a luncheon and display of the Korean War Exhibit on July 29<sup>th</sup> in Brookings, SD. Motion carried.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

None.

On a motion by Tim Walsh seconded by Dan Francis to adjourn the DEC Meeting. Motion Carried.  
The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Chaplain Gaylord Helmbrecht led the DEC members in prayer. Honor was rendered to the flag.

Submitted by Marty Pennock, Adjutant





**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**  
 1519 W. 51st Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
 Phone (605) 332-6866 Fax (605) 338-5489  
 E-Mail: Admin@davsd.org  
 SD.dav.org  
 www.dav.org

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
 DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
 1519 W. 51st Street  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
 Marty Pennock, Adjutant  
 (605)-332-6866  
 Admin@davsd.org

May 18, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
83RD DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA CONVENTION**

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) 83rd Department of South Dakota Convention was held at The DAV Headquarters, Sioux Falls, South Dakota on May 5-6, 2023.

The convention was very productive and many important issues affecting veterans and their families were discussed and the delegates made many recommendations. The delegates elected the following officers to lead the DAV Department of South Dakota for FY 2023-2024:

Commander ..... Christine Speirs of DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3  
 Sr. Vice Commander..... Mark Wolf of DAV Aberdeen Chapter No. 13  
 1<sup>st</sup> Jr. Vice Commander ..... Tim Walsh of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Vice Commander ..... Kim Hubers of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1  
 Treasurer ..... Gene A. Murphy of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1  
 Judge Advocate/Inspector ..... Robert Hill of DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22

Commander-Elect Christine Speirs made the following Commander Appointments:  
 Adjutant ..... Marty Pennock of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1  
 Chaplain ..... Gaylord Helmbrecht of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1  
 Historian ..... Tim Walsh of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1

Awards were presented at the Commander’s Award Luncheon to the following:

1. DAV Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Outstanding Employee of the Year -  
Kelsey Oye (Clinical Primary Supervisor and Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner)
2. DAV Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Employee of the Year – Collin Moen
3. DAV Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Employee of the Year – Gregory Wood
4. DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year – Kim Hubers
5. Outstanding Legislator and Veterans Advocate – Ken Teunissen
6. Disabled Veterans Healing and Recreation – Wings of Valor – Bruce Weller, CEO
7. Small Business Award – Sioux Falls Audiology Associates
8. Patriot Employer of the Year – ALCOM

Caregiver Support & Services, VA PACT Act, Employment, Reform of VA Health Care, and PTSD & TBI for our Veterans.

Time and Place Committee Chairman Dick Turnwall reported the delegates approved the DAV Department Convention Hosts:

1. 2024 Department Convention: DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 11
2. 2025 Department Convention: DAV Swanson-O'Connor Chapter No. 13 (Aberdeen)
3. 2026 Department Convention: DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 (Sioux Falls)
4. 2027 Department Convention: DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3 (Rapid City)

Founded on Sept. 25, 1920, DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: "Keeping Our Promise To America's Veterans". DAV does this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; assisting them with employment; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a non-profit organization with more than 1 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932. Learn more at [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org).

**THE DAV DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND THE DELEGATES WHO  
ATTENDED THE CONVENTION WOULD LIKE TO SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU  
TO THE DAV SIOUX FALLS CHAPTER NO. 1 OF SIOUX FALLS  
AND THE AUXILIARY STATE DEPARTMENT  
FOR HOSTING THIS OUTSTANDING CONVENTION.**



**DAV Convention Awards Recipients 2023**



National Headquarters  
860 Dolwick Drive  
Erlanger, KY 41018  
tel 859-441-7300  
toll free 877-426-2838  
dav.org

National Service & Legislative Headquarters  
807 Maine Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2410  
tel 202-554-3501  
fax 202-554-3581

**TO:** DAV Department Commanders and Adjutants  
**FROM:** J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant  
**DATE:** March 24, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution Submittal to the 101st National Convention

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Following the conclusion of your upcoming department convention, we ask that you submit approved resolutions that require action by the national convention to the attention of the National Legislative Director Joy Ilem at [Resolutions@dav.org](mailto:Resolutions@dav.org). **Resolutions can be sent via regular mail; however, we highly recommend sending them via email to ensure they are received in a timely manner.** If resolutions are sent electronically, you do not need to send in a paper copy. Mailed resolutions should be sent to the attention of DAV National Legislative Director Joy Ilem, 807 Maine Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20024.

Article 3, Section 3.10, Rule 7(a) (Rules of the Convention), of the DAV Bylaws provides that all resolutions must be received by the Office of the National Adjutant no later than 14 days prior to the opening of the national convention. Once the resolutions arrive at Washington Headquarters, they must be reviewed by our convention committee advisers and reports prepared. Generally, there are hundreds of resolutions submitted; therefore, we ask that you forward your department's resolutions as soon as possible after your convention concludes, but no later than **Saturday, July 22, 2023**.

As a reminder, Article 3, Section 3.10, Rule 7(b) reads, in part: "Resolutions sponsored by chapters must have the approval of the department executive committee or state convention." Therefore, resolutions submitted by chapters without the approval of the department executive committee or state convention will be returned to the submitting chapter. State officials are urged to ensure that all chapters under their jurisdiction are fully aware of Rule 7(b).

To facilitate the handling of these resolutions:

1. Submit one copy of each approved resolution.
2. Only submit resolutions that require consideration by the national convention. Do not submit resolutions calling for legislation by state authorities, dealing with local issues, or falling outside DAV's legislative mission of fighting for the interests of America's injured and ill veterans on Capitol Hill.
3. At the end of each resolution, indicate the approval of the state convention or department executive committee.

Resolution Submittal to the 101st National Convention

Page 2

March 24, 2023


You will receive an acknowledgement from the national legislative department when your resolutions are received. If you do not receive an acknowledgement letter or email within 10 days of submission or the number of resolutions acknowledged does not coincide with your record, please contact the national legislative department at 202-554-3501.

DAV's 2023–2024 legislative program will be formulated based upon the resolutions adopted at our national convention. Therefore, it is important that chapters and departments actively participate in DAV's resolution process. By doing so, you help to protect veterans benefits and improve health care programs and services administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies. Engaging in the process also strengthens our advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and informs lawmakers about issues important to service-disabled veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

It is also important that we put forth new ideas and recommendations for expanding and improving veterans benefits and health care services. To help you prepare for your department convention and fully participate in the legislative process, we encourage you to join the upcoming webinar hosted by the national legislative department noted below. An invitation and link to the webinar were also sent in a separate email. You can also join the webinar by clicking on the link below.

- [Preparing Resolutions for Department Conventions: March 30, 2:30 p.m. EDT](#)

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.



J. Marc Burgess  
National Adjutant

JMB:das

c: Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV)  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

This policy applies to members of the Department Executive Committee (DEC) ("Members"). Members are in a position to influence the actions of the Chapter with respect to matters decided by the DEC.

If a Member may, or will, receive a direct or indirect benefit from a particular motion decided by the Body as a whole, the Member has a conflict of interest. The benefit referred to may be financial or non-financial. An indirect benefit may be, but is not limited to, a benefit to a relative or business associate of the Member. An indirect benefit may also be one that flows to an organization in which the Member has an interest, financial or otherwise.

If a Member has a conflict of interest or believes that he or she may have such a conflict, the Member must fully disclose the conflict, or potential conflict, to the DEC at the earliest possible time and abstain from any involvement whatsoever in the resolution issue. This means that the Member may not discuss the issue with other DEC members, may not be present during DEC consideration of the issue and, may not vote on the issue. The minutes of the DEC meeting shall reflect that all of these safeguards were observed.

It is important to note that a Member should not participate in the review by the DEC of decisions of the chapter if the Member was directly involved in the original decision.

All Members covered by this policy should acknowledge receipt of a copy of it immediately upon assuming office and annual for as long as they serve on the DEC.

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Read and Acknowledge.

---

NAME

---

TITLE

---

SIGNATURE

---

DATE

5/12

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV)  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY**

**GENERAL POLICY**

All employees and officers of the Department will be protected from any disadvantage caused by raising legitimate concerns and shall report suspected illegal activities within the organization.

**PURPOSE**

The Department encourages its employees and officers to maintain high ethical standards. This whistleblower policy is meant to provide a confidential and effective means for reporting suspected violations of the law. It further serves to protect individuals who report suspected violations from retaliation in any form.

**SAFEGUARDS**

**Confidentiality**

An individual shall report a suspected violation on the Whistle Blower Disclosure Statement, keeping in mind that in the course of the investigation it may become necessary that the source of the complaint be identified.

**Retaliation**

No individual who reports a suspected violation in good faith, whether or not the allegation turns out to be correct, shall be subject to any form of retaliation, including harassment, demotion, or firing, by the Department or its employees. Anyone who retaliates against a complainant shall be subject to disciplinary action.

The Department will not retaliate against employees who disclose or threaten to disclose to a supervisor or a public body, any activity, policy, or practice of the Department that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule or regulation mandated pursuant to law, or is in violation of a clear mandate or public policy concerning the health, safety, welfare, or protection of the environment.

**Malicious Allegations**

An individual is not required to prove the truth of an allegation, but is required to act in good faith. Any individual who does not act in good faith in reporting a suspected violation may be subject to disciplinary action.

**PROCEDURE**

**Open Door Policy**

If an employee reasonably believes that some policy, practice or activity of the Department is in violation of the law, or a clear mandate or public policy, the employee should share their questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints, with someone who

may be able to address them properly. If the concerns are not addressed, the individual should make a formal complaint as outlined below.

**Reporting Violations**

If an individual reasonably believes that some practice of the Department, a member of the executive committee or a committee, an employee of the Department, or another individual or entity with whom the Department has a business relationship is in violation of the law, the individual must file a written Whistle Blower Disclosure Statement with the Department Commander or Chairman of the Executive Committee.

**Handling Reported Violations**

The Department Commander or Chairman of the Executive Committee will contact the complainant within 10 business days and acknowledge the reported violation was received. The complainant will be notified about what actions will be taken. If no further action or investigation is to follow, an explanation for the decision will be given to the complainant.

Any complainant who reasonably believes they have been retaliated against in violation of this whistle blower policy shall follow the same procedures as they did when they filed the original complaint.

---

My signature below indicates my receipt and understanding of this policy. I also verify that I have been provided with the opportunity to ask questions about the policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV)  
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
RETENTION/DESTRUCTION POLICY**

The law requires the Department to maintain certain types of corporate records, usually for a specified period of time. Failure to retain those records for those minimum periods could subject you and the Department to penalties and fines, cause the loss of rights, obstruct justice, spoil potential evidence in a lawsuit, place the Department in contempt of court, or seriously disadvantage the Department in litigation.

The Department expects all persons to fully comply with any published records retention or destruction policies and schedules, provided that all persons should note the following general exception to any stated destruction schedule: If you believe, or the Department informs you, that the Department records are relevant to litigation, or potential litigation (i.e., a dispute that could result in litigation), then you must preserve those records until it is determined that the records are no longer needed. That exception supersedes any previously or subsequently established destruction schedule for those records. If you believe that exception may apply, or have any question regarding the possible applicability of that exception, please contact the Commander or Adjutant.

For each document, add its location or where it is stored.

Accounts payable schedules: 7 years

Accounts receivable schedules: 7 years

Audit reports of accountants: Permanently

Articles of Incorporation: Permanently

Bank statements: 7 years

Cash books: 7 years

Checks (cancelled, with exception below): 7 years

Contracts and leases (expired): 7 years

Contacts and leases still in effect: permanently

Correspondence, general: 4 years

Correspondence (legal and important matters): Permanently

Depreciation schedules: 7 years

Donation records: 7 years

Duplicate deposit slips: 7 years

Employee personnel records (after termination): 7 years

Employment applications: 1 year

Financial statements (end-of-year)): Permanently

General ledgers and end-of-year statements: Permanently

Insurance policies: 3 years

Insurance records, current accident reports, claims, policies, etc.: Permanently

Invoices: 7 years

Invoices from vendors: 7 years

Minute books of Department and Executive Committee meetings, including Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation: Permanently

Payroll records: 7 years

Tax returns and worksheets, and other documents relating to determination of tax liability: Permanently

Time sheets and cards: 7 years

**Warning:** All permitted document destruction shall be halted if the Department is being investigated by a governmental law enforcement agency, and routine destruction shall not be resumed without the written approval of legal counsel of the Chief Executive Officer.

Document destruction will be by shredding or other acceptable method.

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READ, UNDERSTOOD, AND AGREED:

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Name

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Signature

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Date

## Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair

# Saturday, November 4, 2023

## Sturgis Community Center

### 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

### Open to ALL Veterans and their families

Veterans Service  
Officers (VSO) from  
Butte, Lawrence,  
Meade, and State  
VA Services  
VA Flu Clinic  
Free Lunch  
Support Groups  
Veteran Organizations



Hunting Camp  
Equine Therapy  
Service Dogs  
Employment  
Housing  
Education  
and more...



<https://wevegotyoursix.weebly.com>

Bring your DD214 , NGB-22 or other proof that you are a veteran.  
VSO's can help you if you don't have one.

If you need assistance, contact Julie Malcolm at  
[Northernhillsgotyoursix@outlook.com](mailto:Northernhillsgotyoursix@outlook.com)



# VETERANS INFORMATION SEMINAR

Explaining the benefits you earned through  
your service and sacrifice to our nation.



Fellow Veteran,

We warmly welcome you to attend our upcoming Veterans Information Seminar, where a DAV service officer—who is a veteran, like you—will help explain your earned benefits and guide you to free, professional claims assistance. All veterans and family members are welcome to attend, and you need not be a member to take advantage of our no-cost services. If you cannot make it to the seminar and need assistance with a VA claim, please visit [benefitsquestions.org](http://benefitsquestions.org) to get into contact with your local Service Office.

DAV is the recognized leader in providing the best counseling and claim filing assistance to veterans and their families. Our service officers are schooled in the full range of benefits for military veterans, retirees and their families, and they can help strengthen your knowledge and understanding of the benefits and services you earned.

  
JIM MARSZALEK

National Service Director  
Washington, DC

Seminar Date - June 20, 2023  
Benefit Seminar - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Claims Assistance - 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
Location - VFW- Post 5969  
10 Pine Street  
Deadwood, SD 57732



P.O. BOX 14301  
CINCINNATI, OH 45250

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Disabled American  
Veterans

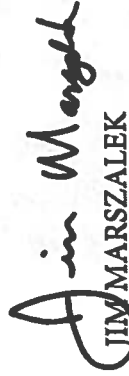
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DAV is the recognized leader in providing the best counseling and claim filing assistance to veterans and their families. Our service officers are schooled in the full range of benefits for military veterans, retirees and their families, and they can help strengthen your knowledge and understanding of the benefits and services you earned.

  
JIM MARSZALEK  
National Service Director  
Washington, DC

Seminar Date - June 21, 2023  
Benefit Seminar - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Claims Assistance - 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
Location - American Legion - Rapid City  
818 E. St. Patrick Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701



P.O. BOX 14301  
CINCINNATI, OH 45250

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Disabled American  
Veterans

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UMO001842



# DAV ANNOUNCES NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CHANGE

POSTED ON APR 18, 2023



Marc Burgess

**ERLANGER, Ky.** – Today, DAV (Disabled American Veterans) announced a change in its senior appointed national staff position as National Adjutant and CEO Marc Burgess announced his retirement after more than a quarter-century of dedicated service on behalf of his fellow veterans, their families and survivors. National Commander Joe Parsetich named National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski as the organization’s next national adjutant effective June 1, 2023.

“Though it is bittersweet to wish fair winds and following seas to Marc after having achieved so much on behalf of our cause, it is made easier knowing we are in such good hands with Barry,”

said Parsetich. “With him at the helm, we will continue on a course to improve our efficacy for our fellow veterans and enhance DAV’s impact for future generations.”

Prior to his appointment as national adjutant a decade ago, Burgess served as a national appeals officer at the Board of Veterans Appeals, national service office supervisor, appellate counsel before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, associate and assistant national service director and director of human resources before his promotion to assistant executive director and executive director of national headquarters.

A native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Burgess served as a second class petty officer in the U.S. Navy from October 1987 through October 1992, when he was medically

discharged. His service included crewmember and plank-owner aboard the *USS Normandy*. He later earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, in 1996, a Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies from Stevenson University in 1998, and a Master of Arts in Human Resources from the University of Cincinnati.

The Marine Corps veteran replacing Burgess is known far and wide for his vast leadership, knowledge and executive capabilities. Jesinoski is the only individual in DAV's history to have led both national and Washington headquarters. He's served as executive director of national headquarters since replacing Burgess to that post in 2013, and additionally operates as DAV's chief financial and chief operations officer.

Jesinoski began his DAV career as a member of Class II at the National Service Officer Training Academy at Denver in 1995. He apprenticed in Seattle before being promoted to oversee one of DAV's largest offices in San Diego in just two years. In 2001, he was promoted to oversee benefits advocacy for an area encompassing California, Arizona, Oregon, Nevada and Hawaii. Later that year, he was appointed to the national service staff in Washington. He was promoted the following year and remained in that capacity until 2007, when he was appointed deputy human resources director before taking the lead as director in 2009. In 2011, he was appointed to lead DAV's service and legislative efforts as Washington Headquarters executive director.

Both in terms of the services DAV offers veterans and how it operates internally, Jesinoski has been a trailblazer focused on improving efficiencies and aligning DAV's efforts and collaboration across all of the organization's departments. In addition to employment and entrepreneurship, he was responsible for the implementation of several DAV programs, such as the transition service program, service officer certification training, case management system, the results management office and the most significant IT infrastructure project in the organization's history.



Barry Jesinoski



He's also championed benefit enhancements, such as a performance and retention program, flexible work schedule, accelerated PTO allotments, and bereavement and parental leave. Through his leadership in his current capacity, DAV's outreach efforts have quadrupled in scope, fundraising has been diversified, and every department in his purview has taken on new initiatives aimed at achieving strategic objectives and modernizing the delivery of services.

Jesinoski was medically discharged from the Marine Corps in 1993. He was initially certified a Senior Professional in Human Resources from the Human Resources Certification Institute in 2008. He lives in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, with his wife and two sons.

### **About DAV**

*DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: keeping our promise to America's veterans. DAV does 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, providing employment resources to veterans and their families, and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a nonprofit organization with more than 1 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932.*



National Headquarters  
860 Dolwick Drive  
Erlanger, KY 41018  
tel 859-441-7300  
toll free 877-426-2838  
dav.org

## DAV Scholarships

DAV is seeking nominations for the 2024 DAV Scholarships. This program is designed to encourage youth volunteers to become active in the DAV Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) and/or the Department of Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program. It is vital that we continue to engage and involve youth in the benefits of volunteering, so we ask for your support of this scholarship program.

An electronic application and awards information can be found at [davscholarships.org](https://davscholarships.org).

Volunteer service is at the heart of DAV's mission to empower veterans to lead high-quality and fulfilling lives. From volunteering at VA medical centers to assisting veterans in local communities, DAV and DAV Auxiliary youth volunteers make a real difference in the lives of veterans. Scholarships are awarded to those who carry on DAV's legacy of service and are committed to serving our nation's veterans. Each year, 10 scholarships, totaling \$110,000, are awarded to help fund the recipients' higher education.

Scholarships are awarded annually in the following amounts:

- One scholarship of \$30,000
- One scholarship of \$20,000
- One scholarship of \$15,000
- One scholarship of \$10,000
- Two scholarships of \$7,500
- Four scholarships of \$5,000

DAV received 89 applications for the 2023 program year. We cannot thank you enough for your hard work and dedication in nominating these amazing youth volunteers. The top honor was awarded to an applicant who volunteered 621 hours serving veterans through LVAP. He has dedicated his time to being a caregiver for his mother, collecting and distributing items for veterans in his local community, and volunteering at Fisher House.

### Eligibility:

- Scholarships can be awarded to any volunteer who is age 21 or younger and has volunteered a minimum of 100 hours through DAV's LVAP and/or VAVS.
- Applicants under VAVS must credit their hours to DAV or the DAV Auxiliary.
- The scholarships can be used for any accredited institution of higher learning, including universities, colleges, community colleges or vocational schools.
- Scholarships must be utilized in full before the recipient attains the age of 25 or within six years of receiving the scholarship, whichever is later.

**Applications:**

- Applications for this award may be submitted by the following:
  - A voluntary services representative at a VA medical center.
  - DAV departments, DAV chapters, DAV Auxiliary units, and all DAV and DAV Auxiliary representatives and deputy representatives.
  - The youth volunteer or the volunteer's family and friends.
- Applications must be submitted with the full consent of the nominee, or the nominee's guardian, authorizing DAV's use of the nominee's name, picture and story for publicity purposes.
- Applications will be reviewed by DAV's national voluntary services director, as well as the National Interim Hospital and Voluntary Services Committee. Recommendations will be made to the national commander for final selection.
- All submissions should include the application form, essay and supporting documentation to be considered by the selection committee.
- Applications should be submitted online at [davscholarships.org](https://davscholarships.org). If the nominator does not have access to enter the submission online, complete the attached application form.

Applicants are encouraged to solicit recommendations and information from the VA medical center director, program managers and other staff members who are directly involved with the facility's VAVS program. With regard to LVAP, please solicit recommendations and information from the appropriate DAV state-level department or chapter officials.

**Administration:**

The national voluntary services director is responsible for facilitating the award process on the national level.

**Deadline:**

Applications for the 2024 DAV Scholarships are being accepted now through Feb. 29, 2024. Any application received after the deadline will be held for the next award year.

**Expenses:**

The top recipient will be presented the award at the DAV national convention. Round-trip airfare (lowest coach, nonrefundable fare), hotel accommodations for two nights and meals per diem for up to three days will be provided for the winner and a travel companion.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact our voluntary services staff at [volunteerawards@dav.org](mailto:volunteerawards@dav.org) or 888-480-6786, ext. 3.



John H. Kleindienst  
National Voluntary Services Director



# 2024 Hospital and Voluntary Services Award Nomination Form

## DAV Scholarships

Volunteer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Application submitted by  Self  Other

If other, Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Please answer the following questions:

1. If known, how many months/years has the nominee volunteered?  Months \_\_\_\_\_  Years \_\_\_\_\_

2. During the past year, where has the nominee volunteered?  VA Medical Center  Local Veterans Assistance Program  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is the student a member of any school clubs, National Honor Society, sports, JROTC, etc?  Yes  No  
If yes, please elaborate and list any awards the student has received.

4. How does the volunteer's presence impact the patients, volunteer program or activity? How does he/she directly affect patient morale and/or other volunteers?

5. Has the volunteer been responsible for introducing additional volunteers into the DAV VAVS or LVAP program?  Yes  No  
If yes, please elaborate.

6. Please describe any special aspects of the student volunteer.

# 2024 Hospital and Voluntary Services Award Nomination Form, continued

## DAV Scholarships

Name \_\_\_\_\_

7. How does the student volunteer plan to use the scholarship? What does the student volunteer intend to do to serve veterans in the future?

8. How did you hear about this scholarship?

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

In addition to this application, please include the following items with your nomination:

- Scholarship Nominations Only:** Nominee's 750–1,000 word essay on "What volunteering has meant to me."
- Optional:** Recent photo of nominee, suitable for publicity purposes. Acceptable formats include:
  - (1) Glossy print, at least 4" x 6"
  - (2) CD/USB drive containing a JPEG image measuring at least 4" x 6" and 300 ppi or higher
- Optional:** Photos of the nominee volunteering

Please submit your nomination by Feb. 29, 2024. Email your submission to [volunteerawards@dav.org](mailto:volunteerawards@dav.org), or mail it to:

DAV National Headquarters  
ATTN: Voluntary Services  
860 Dolwick Drive  
Erlanger, KY 41018

#### DAV NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF USE ONLY:

Hours Verified    Verified By \_\_\_\_\_    Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of DAV National Headquarters Representative \_\_\_\_\_

# Rounds makes third attempt at congressional charter for Native American veterans

**Darsha Dodge**

Rapid City Journal

South Dakota Senator Mike Rounds and New Mexico Senator Ben Ray Luján are making an impassioned third attempt at securing a congressional charter for the National American Indian Veterans (NAIV) organization.

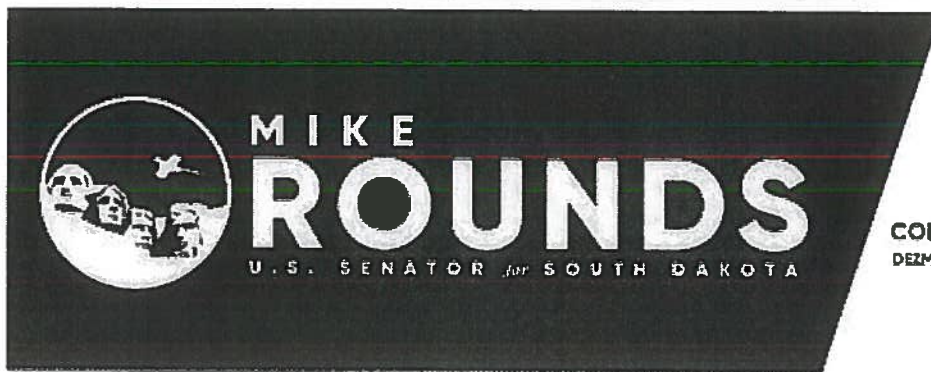
What started several years ago as bipartisan legislation with nine sponsors has grown to a faction of 35 — nearly a third of the U.S. Senate. Granting of a congressional charter recognizes patriotic and national organizations operating for charitable, literary, educational, scientific or civil improvement purposes.

NAIV is headquartered on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota and began in 2004 to serve the needs of Native American veterans in all 50 states.



"The idea is to recognize Native American veterans across the country," Rounds said. "There's about 140,000 of them, and our goal is to allow them to have a congressionally designated entity that is representing them as well. There's a number of these types of congressional charters that are out there, but we don't have one for Native Americans."





PRESS RELEASE  
MAY 11, 2023

CONTACT: DEZMOND WARD  
DEZMOND\_WARD@ROUNDS.SENATE.GOV

## Rounds, Luján and Johnson Introduce National American Indian Veterans Charter Bill

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senators Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) and Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.), members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, today led a group of 34 senators in introducing bipartisan legislation to create a congressional charter for the National American Indian Veterans (NAIV).

Congress grants charters to recognize patriotic and national organizations that operate solely for charitable, literary, educational, scientific or civil improvement purposes. The NAIV serves the needs and interests of Native American veterans in collaboration with its national leadership and 14 regional offices. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are more than 140,000 Native American veterans in the United States. While congressional charters have been granted to Italian-American, Polish-American and Catholic-American veterans groups, as of today, no Native American veterans' organization has received one.

Headquartered in South Dakota on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Reservation, the NAIV is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of tribal veterans. Originally established in 2004, today the NAIV serves the needs of Native American veterans in all 50 states. The NAIV formed as a result of a request by former Senators Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.) during a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing in 2004.

Rounds first introduced this legislation, which grants a congressional charter for the NAIV, in the 116th Congress and again in the 117th Congress, where it unanimously passed the Senate.

"Native Americans serve in our nation's military at five times the national average, and this charter would give them the recognition they truly deserve and have earned," **said Rounds**. "There are many congressionally-chartered veterans organizations, but none that solely represent the interests and needs of Native American veterans. Our bill would change that by recognizing the mission of the NAIV with a congressional charter. The NAIV works closely with Tribal Veterans Service Officers to make certain Native American veterans receive proper benefits and resources. Congress regularly looks to the NAIV for input when addressing issues facing Native American veterans. This charter will help give the NAIV a larger platform to continue advocating for and serving the more than 140,000 Native American veterans living in the United States."

"Native Americans have served our nation honorably in the Armed Forces – often times at higher rates than any other demographic," **said Luján**. "I'm proud to introduce bipartisan legislation to create a Congressional Charter for the National American Indian Veterans Organization. NAIV is a crucial resource for Native veterans that delivers critical assistance and ensures that they have access to the benefits that they have earned. As a member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I'll continue fighting to fulfill the commitment our nation made to Native veterans."

Companion legislation was introduced in the House by Representative Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.), Sharice Davids (D-Kan.), Tom Cole (R-Okla.), Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.) and Barbara Lee (D-Calif.).

"Polish American, Italian American, Jewish, and Black veterans' groups all have established Congressional Charters, yet no Congressional Charters have been designated for Native veterans' organizations," **said Johnson**. "Native Americans serve in our military at five times the national average, establishing federal recognition for NAIV is the right thing to do."

This legislation has been endorsed by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, Coalition of Large Tribes, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Military Order of the Purple Heart, Korean War Veterans of America, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America, American Gold Star Mothers, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Navajo Nation, Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Seminole Nation, Blackfeet Nation, Crow Nation, Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, Northern Arapaho Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Spokane Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Jena Band of the Choctaw Indians, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Mohegan Tribe, Catawba Nation, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

#### SUPPORTING QUOTES:

"This bill is very important to American Indians and I want to thank Senator Mike Rounds for introducing it and Senator Luján for serving as the lead Democratic co-sponsor," **said Don Loudner, a Native veteran, enrolled member of the Hunkpati Sioux Tribe (Crow Creek Sioux Tribe), and National Commander of the National American Indian Veterans, Inc.** "The bill doesn't ask for any federal money; it only asks that the Congress recognize the sacrifices of generations of American Indians who have answered the nation's call and fought in every war since the American Revolution."

"On behalf of the Lower Brule community, specifically our veterans, we thank you for your hard work and dedication regarding those who served in the Military," **said Clyde J.R. Estes, Chairman of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe.** "We respect and support the efforts of the National Commander of NAIV (National American Indian Veterans) Don Loudner and Senator Rounds to create a Congressional Charter (NAIV) for Native Veterans across our Tribal land. Your patriotism and desire to honor and pay tribute to our Veterans who served our country with the highest acts of gallantry is commendable."

"The Crow Creek Sioux tribe is in support of Sen. Rounds and the introduction of a federal charter bill for the National American Indians Veterans," **said Peter Lengkeek, Chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe.** "Securing this charter would mean full representation of the Native American Veterans and the honor and the acknowledgment of the level of service this country's indigenous population. We commend Sen. Rounds for his efforts."



"A congressionally chartered national Native American veterans organization could be an important voice for Native American veterans, advocating for their needs and priorities and providing valuable services and programs to support their well-being," **said Scott Herman, President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.** "A nationally chartered veterans organization would have more authority and resources to address the concerns of Native American veterans on the state and federal level. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe supports Congressional authorization of a charter for Native American veterans dedicated to serving the needs of Native American veterans."

"This Federal Charter is something that I have been working on for several years and it is long overdue," **said Ken Teunissen, Past Vice Chair of the South Dakota Veterans Council and Past Region III Commander of Military Order of the Purple Heart.** "Securing this charter will mean greater representation for American Indian veterans on both the state and federal level. Recently, the South Dakota Veterans Commission disbanded and the South Dakota Veterans Council assumed the duties of leading veterans advocacy in South Dakota. When that happened American Indian veterans lost their representation because the National American Indian Veterans organization does not have a Federal Charter, which according to the Bylaws of the South Dakota Veterans Council is required. It's time we got this done for our Brothers and Sisters in Arms."

"I would first like to thank all the Native American Veterans from past and present for their patriotism and dedication to serving our country," **said Christian Skunk, Council Member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe.** "I would also like to thank Senator Rounds for reintroducing this piece of legislation and hope that congress will pass it, as it has no fiscal impact and because of all the work that the National American Indian Veterans Inc. (NAIV) has done over the past couple of decades. From providing services to help our Native American Veterans, to education others on the unique circumstances that our veterans face."

"As a 10-year member of National American Indian Veterans, having a Congressional Charter will allow us to advocate for our own Native American brothers & sisters across the United States," **said Geri Opsal, Tribal Veterans Service Officer of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate on the Lake Traverse Reservation.** "We all face many of the same Veteran healthcare or housing issues across the Tribal Nations. To be able to have this recognition and reach a broad range of Native American Veterans will allow us to strengthen each other across America."

Rounds and Luján were joined by 32 of their colleagues in introducing this bipartisan legislation, including 16 Republicans, 14 Democrats and two Independents. The original cosponsors of this legislation are Senators John Thune (R-S.D.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Kyrsten Sinema (I-Ariz.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Angus King (I-Maine).

"Native American veterans have served our state and our country with the highest honor in the U.S. military," **said Thune.** "I am glad to join Senator Rounds in reintroducing this resolution that would give a voice to the unique needs and priorities of Native American veterans."

"The National American Indian Veterans organization supports tens of thousands of veterans who have served our country – advocating for their interests, bringing them together, and commemorating their sacrifice to defend our freedoms," said **Bennet**. "I'm grateful for its continued service, and proudly cosponsor this legislation to create a charter so NAIV can continue its mission to support Native American veterans in Colorado and across the United States."

"By creating this congressional charter, the National American Indian Veterans, Inc. will receive due recognition for the important services they provide to Native veterans," said **Rubio**. "I'm proud to join this effort to ensure that the needs of Native Americans who bravely fought for our country are properly met."

"Serving in the armed forces at higher rates than any other demographic, Native American veterans have honorably answered the call and defended our nation in every war since the American revolution," said **Cramer**. "Every U.S. veteran deserves the benefits they earned. A Congressional Charter recognizes the National American Indian Veterans dedication to attaining much-needed assistance, care, and resources for our Native American heroes."

"We owe our Native American veterans endless gratitude for their dedicated service to our great nation," said **Scott**. "I am proud to stand with my colleagues in support of the *National American Indian Veterans Charter Act* to give these brave men and women the recognition they deserve."

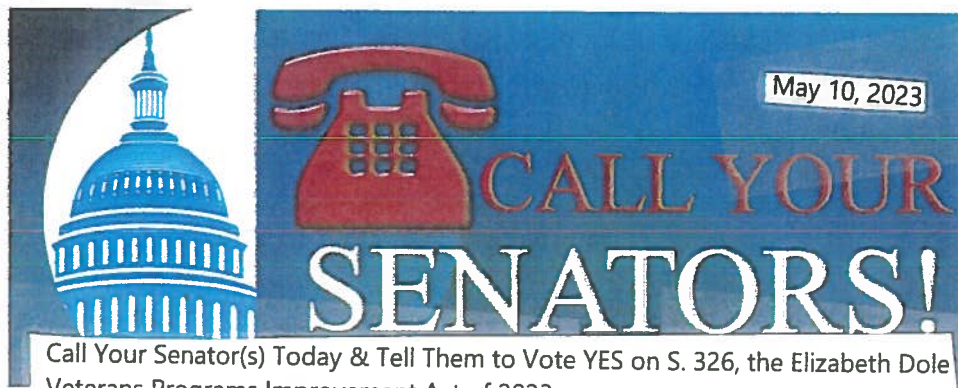
"We owe Native American veterans an immense debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have made for our country," said **Rosen**. "The National American Indian Veterans (NAIV) organization is dedicated to advocating for the interests and needs of these veterans and I'm proud to help introduce this bipartisan legislation to federally recognize NAIV."

"Native veterans in Nevada deserve access to the benefits and recognition they've earned defending our country, and I'm proud to help grant a federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans group," said **Cortez Masto**. "I'll always fight to get our veterans and Tribal communities the resources and support they need."

Click [HERE](#) for full bill text.

###

FIND THIS DOCUMENT ONLINE



Call Your Senator(s) Today & Tell Them to Vote YES on S. 326, the Elizabeth Dole Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023

We need you to take action **NOW** and urge your Senator(s) to keep our promise to America's veterans and their families with swift passage of **S. 326**, the Elizabeth Dole Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023, when this important legislation is brought up for a vote in the Senate.

**What Happened:**

On April 26, the Senate held a cloture vote to consider S. 326, the Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023. This legislative package of bills previously passed out of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee with unanimous consent and is supported by a vast majority of veterans and supporters. DAV CAN members sent more than 17,000 emails to their Senators asking for their support, yet it appears that some lawmakers chose the path of polarizing politics at the expense of our nation's veterans and voted NO on consideration of the legislative package.

S. 326 was amended and renamed the Elizabeth Dole Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023. It contains provisions from the same five bills—listed below. All of these bills are in alignment with at least one DAV resolution.

- S. 106, the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act (Resolution Nos. 014 and 059)
- S. 141, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act (Resolution No. 427)
- 185, the Native American Direct Loan Improvement Act of 2023 (Resolution No. 251)
- S. 216, the RESPECT Act of 2023 (Resolution Nos. 059, 082 and 427)
- S. 326, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2023 (Resolution No. 128)

**What the legislation would do:**

This legislative package would have a profound impact on the lives of veterans and their families, helping to:

- improve outreach and assistance about veterans benefits and services;
- expand long-term care options for aging veterans so they can live more independently with respect and dignity;
- create better home loan options for Native American veterans; and
- study the effects of medicinal cannabis on veterans with chronic pain or PTSD.

DAV supports this legislation and thanks DAV members and supporters for their advocacy efforts last month, but we need your support again.

**What you can do:**

Please use the prepared script below urging your Senator(s) who voted no—to reconsider and support the passage of S. 326, the Elizabeth Dole Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023. We appreciate your continued support through the DAV Commander's Action Network.



# A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

May 30, 2023

## S. 1360—the PFAS Exposure Assessment and Documentation Act

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals that do not break down in the environment and can be found in fire-fighting foam. In the 1970s, the Department of Defense (DOD) began using these foams to fight fuel fires.

The release of these chemicals into the environment during training and emergency responses is a major source of PFAS contamination of ground water on military bases. According to DOD data, more than 700 U.S. military sites are known or likely to have discharged PFAS. PFAS exposure has been related to several diseases including increased risk for kidney cancer, breast cancer, testicular cancer and liver cancer.

The VA does not concede PFAS exposure to those who served at any location, nor have related any diseases to the exposure. This requires veterans seeking VA disability claims for illnesses or diseases related to those exposures to prove their individual PFAS exposure and the relationship to the illness.

1360 would require DOD to provide periodic health assessments of those service members exposed, known to or suspected to be exposed. Additionally, the legislation would require DOD and VA to enter into an agreement to share the exposure and health assessments.

DAV supports the PFAS Exposure Assessment and Documentation Act, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 072. The bill would require documentation of the exposure and sharing of the information with VA. This will assist veterans in establishing their exposure and related disability claims.

Please take action today. Contact your Senators to co-sponsor S. 1360 to ensure documentation of PFAS exposure while on active duty. Thank you for your support.

**Take Action!**





## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

S. 1266—the Love Lives On Act

May 25, 2023

S. 1266 would eliminate the remarriage age for survivors in receipt of Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

The payment of DIC benefits was intended to provide surviving spouses with the means to maintain some semblance of economic stability for themselves and their families following the death of their veteran. For decades, surviving spouses were no longer eligible for DIC benefits if they remarried prior to the age of 57. Then in 2021, the remarriage age was lowered to 55.

Removing the remarriage age for surviving spouses has been a long-standing issue for DAV. In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 162, we strongly support the Love Lives On Act. Surviving spouses that are currently in receipt of DIC benefits should not have to worry about losing their benefits if they remarry before the age of 55.

Please use the prepared email to contact your Senators urging them to co-sponsor and support S. 1266. On April 26, 2023, DAV testified in support of the Love Lives On Act, noting the need to ensure that dependents and survivors of service-disabled veterans are properly cared for and have the resources they need.

Thank you for your support of the DAV Commander's Action Network.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

May 18, 2023

S. 326, Elizabeth Dole Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023

Please thank your Senator(s) who supported S. 326, the Elizabeth Dole Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023, and ask them to continue their support for this important legislation when reconsidered in the Senate.

### **What Happened:**

On April 26, the Senate held a cloture vote to consider an amended version of S. 326, which contains provisions from the 5 bills listed below. All of these bills are in alignment with at least one DAV resolution.

- *S. 106, the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act (Resolution Nos. 014 and 059)*
- *S. 141, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act (Resolution No. 427)*
- *S. 185, the Native American Direct Loan Improvement Act of 2023 (Resolution No. 251)*
- *S. 216, the RESPECT Act of 2023 (Resolution Nos. 059, 082 and 427)*
- *S. 326, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2023 (Resolution No. 128)*

These five bills previously passed out of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee with unanimous consent. DAV CAN members sent more than 17,000 emails to their Senators asking for their support on S. 326, yet it appears that some lawmakers chose the path of polarizing politics at the expense of our nation's veterans and voted NO on consideration of the legislative package.

### **What the legislation would do:**

This legislative package would have a profound impact on the lives of veterans and their families helping to:

- improve outreach and assistance about veterans' benefits and services;
- expand long-term care options for aging veterans so they can live more independently with respect and dignity;
- create better home loan options for Native American veterans; and
- study the effects of medicinal cannabis on veterans with chronic pain or PTSD.

DAV supports this legislation and thanks DAV members and supporters for their advocacy efforts last month. Please send your Senator(s) the thank you message below in appreciation for voting YES to move S. 326 forward—and to ask for their continued support.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

May 16, 2023

H.R. 2414/S. 1119, the CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act of 2023

DAV Supports H.R. 2414 and S. 1119, the CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act of 2023. This legislation would increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA).

CHAMPVA is a health benefits program in which the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) shares the cost of certain health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. CHAMPVA provides coverage to the spouse or widow(er) and to the children of a veteran who is rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability; or was rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected condition at the time of death; or died of a service-connected disability; or died on active duty and the dependents are not otherwise eligible for Department of Defense TRICARE benefits.

When the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010, it required private-sector health plans to allow children to stay on their parents' insurance until they are 26 years old, but this coverage was not extended to military or veteran health coverage. This discrepancy was addressed for TRICARE military health coverage in 2011. However, a child of a veteran loses eligibility for CHAMPVA at age 18 if they are not a student, or at age 23 otherwise.

We support this legislation in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 071. Please contact your Representative and Senators and urge them to co-sponsor and support the CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act of 2023. Thank you for standing with DAV to provide extended health coverage for our nation's service disabled veterans' children.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

H.R. 1606, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Act

May 9, 2023

Join DAV in our support of H.R. 1606, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Act, which would statutorily authorize the Boots to Business (B2B) program that helps transitioning service members to start and grow businesses.

B2B is an entrepreneurial education and training program offered by the Small Business Administration as part of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP). The B2B program offers transitioning service members and military spouses a foundational two-day, in-person course for an introduction to business ownership which can be followed by optional online courses on topics including market research, business fundamentals, and revenue readiness.

The Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act would authorize the B2B program for five years.

In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 439, DAV strongly supports H.R. 1606, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Act. Veterans deserve the opportunity for self-employment that accommodates their employment barriers and provides them with financial empowerment.

Please use the prepared email to contact your Representative to request they co-sponsor H.R. 1606. Thank you for your support and defense of our nation's veterans who were wounded, injured or made ill due to their service.

**Take Action!**





## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

S. 928, the Not Just a Number Act

May 4, 2023

For several years, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made reducing suicides among veterans a top clinical priority, recognizing this goal will require an approach that addresses many factors that affect veterans' risk of suicide. While access to health care and mental health services are crucial, evidence suggests that veterans' risk of suicide is also affected by factors such as stable housing, food security, education and employment.

928, the Not Just a Number Act, would require VA to produce and post an annual National Veteran Suicide Prevention report to include findings on suicide rates among veterans, information on their use of VA health care, Vet Centers and various VA benefits and services. In addition, the bill would require information about veterans use of education programs, job training and housing utilization and an analysis of which benefits and services have the greatest impact on preventing suicide. To promote this more comprehensive view of veterans' needs, the bill would require VA to assess the possibility of moving the Office of Suicide Prevention to the Secretary's level. Finally, it aims to improve suicide data collection, reporting and analysis.

DAV Resolution No. 433 calls on VA to address social determinants of health to create more equitable outcomes for veterans, and allows DAV to give its support to this bill.

DAV National Commander Joe Parsetich stated, "As DAV and our million-plus members continue our work to combat suicide among veterans, it remains imperative that our nation is armed with data that provides a holistic view of what works best in our fight to prevent these tragic outcomes. This bill would help the VA and other federal, state, and local government agencies better understand the role education, job training, and housing programs play in the veteran suicide epidemic. DAV is proud to support S. 928, the Not Just a Number Act, and we applaud Sens. Tester and Boozman for their bipartisan leadership in introducing this important legislation."

Please use the prepared letter to urge your Senators to cosponsor S. 928.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

H.R. 1799, the EMPLOY VETS Act

May 2, 2023

Please join DAV in our support of H.R. 1799, the Ensure Military Personnel Learn Opportunities Yielding Vocations that Employ Transitioning Servicemembers Act, or the EMPLOY VETS Act.

About 250,000 service members transition to civilian life each year. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Transition Assistance Program (TAP) provides information, resources, and tools to service members and their loved ones to help prepare for the move from military to civilian life.

The transition from military service to civilian life can be very difficult for many veterans who must overcome obstacles to successful employment. The EMPLOY VETS Act would expand the definition of eligible veterans for VA job counseling, training and placement services for veterans by adding those service members who are eligible for TAP.

In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 187, DAV strongly supports H.R. 1799, the EMPLOY VETS Act. For many service members separating from service, the immediate focus is seeking gainful employment to support themselves and their families. H.R. 1799 will provide the assistance they need to achieve that goal.

Please use the prepared email to contact your Representative to co-sponsor the EMPLOY VETS Act. Thank you for your support and defense of our nation's veterans who were wounded, injured or made ill due to their service.

**Take Action!**



## Information Alert

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO  
AMERICA'S VETERANS

### Information Alert - April 28, 2023

On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, the House narrowly approved the [Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023](#), an omnibus bill that proposes to raise the debt ceiling and establish 10-year budget limits that would require significant cuts in spending by nearly all federal departments, agencies and programs—including those impacting veterans.

Because the House-passed legislation does not exempt veterans programs, the possibility exists that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) could see a 22% cut in its programming in addition to losing \$2 billion in emergency funding provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to note that this action by itself does not immediately cut any programs or benefits; however, DAV is working with Congress and other stakeholders to ensure that any budget or appropriations legislation ultimately approved by Congress ensures that veterans are exempt from federal budget cuts.

DAV joined with more than 20 other organizations to send a letter to Congress stating that, "If the proposed budget reductions [included in the bill] were applied across-the-board, the impacts would significantly affect the delivery of care and benefits to veterans." [According to VA](#), if cuts of this magnitude were enacted, it could mean 30 million fewer veteran outpatient visits and 81,000 jobs lost across the Veterans Health Administration, leaving many veterans unable to get timely appointments for care. Additionally, the Veterans Benefits Administration might have to eliminate more than 6,000 staff, increasing the disability claims backlog by an estimated 134,000 claims and forcing veterans and their surviving loved ones to wait longer for the benefits they have earned, including pensions, life insurance, GI Bill educational support, and employment services.

Cuts of this magnitude would also hamper VA's ability to implement the newly-enacted Honoring our PACT Act—which expands health care and benefits to veterans who were affected by exposure to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances.

Rest assured that we will vigorously oppose any efforts to cut federal veterans programs that would endanger our nation's veterans from obtaining timely health care and benefits they have earned. DAV will continue working closely with Congress, the Administration, and other stakeholders to ensure that any budget or appropriations package enacted into law provides funding increases for veterans' programs and services as called for by [The Independent Budget](#) released earlier this year. We will keep you informed as we continue to fight for our nation's veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

No action needed.



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

H.R. 693, the VACANT Act

April 27, 2023

Over the past several years, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) added VA health care and acquisition management to its High-Risk List. Addressing longstanding challenges requires sustained leadership and strong management and would help ensure veterans receive the care and benefits they deserve.

H.R. 693, the VACANT Act, would require the VA Secretary to appoint a VA medical center director as acting director after detailing that director to a different position within the Department. The individual appointed as acting director would be afforded all of the authority and responsibilities of the detailed director.

DAV supports H.R. 693, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 056, as it would improve accountability to sustain needed leadership to ensure the VA health care system runs seamlessly during a period of transition and that veterans' continuity of care and benefits are not disrupted.

We call on all DAV members and supporters to contact their Representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 693, the VACANT Act.

**Take Action!**





## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

April 20, 2023

H.R. 542, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act

Over the next two decades, an aging veteran population, including a growing number of service-disabled veterans with specialized care needs, will require long-term care.

The VA must focus on addressing staffing and infrastructure gaps in order to maintain excellence in skilled nursing care. The VA also needs to expand access nationwide to innovative and cost-effective home- and community-based services, such as the veteran-directed care program and medical foster home care.

In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 016, DAV supports H.R. 542, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act, legislation that would enhance the VA's program of long-term services and supports, and increase timely access to both institutional and noninstitutional long-term services to meet increasing demand.

We ask DAV members and supporters to contact their Representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 542, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

H.R. 808, the Veterans Patient Advocacy Act

April 18, 2023

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has designated patient advocates at each VA medical center (VAMC) to receive and document feedback from veterans or their representatives, including requests for information, compliments, complaints and assist with clinical appeals. Given concerns in recent years with VHA's ability to provide veterans timely access to health care, the importance of a strong patient advocacy program has taken on new significance.

H.R. 808, the Veterans Patient Advocacy Act, would direct VAMC directors to ensure there is no fewer than one patient advocate for every 13,500 enrolled veterans. Additionally, it would also address the need for highly rural veterans to have access to the services of patient advocates assigned to rural community-based outpatient clinics.

DAV supports H.R. 808, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 056, which recognizes that staffing shortages and vacancies in the VA health care system, including critical positions like patient advocates, can hamper the ability of veterans who rely on the VA to overcome barriers to accessing the care they need and deserve.

We call on all DAV members and supporters to contact their representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 808—the Veterans Patient Advocacy Act.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

S. 414/H.R. 1083, Caring for Survivors Act of 2023

April 13, 2023

Join DAV in our support of the Caring for Survivors Act (S. 414/H.R. 1083), bipartisan legislation that would ease the eligibility criteria for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and increase the monthly benefit amount to match benefits provided by other federal survivor programs. Specifically, the measure would:

Expand eligibility for DIC by replacing the 10-year rule with a graduated scale of benefits that begins at five years for initial eligibility at 50% and gradually reaches the full benefit at 10 years after determination of disability. For example, if a veteran is rated as totally disabled for five years and dies of a nonservice-connected cause, a survivor would be entitled to 50% of the DIC benefit.

Increase the amount of DIC to 55% of the rate of monthly compensation received by a totally disabled veteran.

We fully support the Caring for Survivors Act, which is in accordance with DAV Resolution Nos. 002 and 162, calling for reducing the 10-year rule and reforming DIC benefits.

Please use the prepared email to contact your Senators and Representative to co-sponsor the Caring for Survivors Act. Thank you for supporting service-disabled veterans, their families and survivors.

**Take Action!**





## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

S. 344 and H.R. 1282, the Major Richard Star Act

April 11, 2023

The Major Richard Star Act is bipartisan legislation that would authorize concurrent receipt of Department of Defense (DoD) retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation for those injured in a combat zone and medically retired under Chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code.

Currently, 50,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for retirement pay from both the DoD for their military service and for disability compensation from the VA for the injuries they sustained. However, for medically-retired veterans with less than 20 years of service, the amount of their disability compensation is deducted from their military retirement pay. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this unfair offset, allowing combat-disabled veterans to receive both their medically retired pay and VA disability compensation benefits.

The bill is named in honor of Major Richard A. Star—a father, husband, and decorated war veteran—who, as a result of his combat-related injuries, was medically retired. Sadly, Major Star lost his battle with cancer on February 13, 2021.

DAV supports S. 344 and H.R. 1282, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 092, which calls for the elimination of the offset between VA and DoD benefits for military retirees discharged due to a combat-related disability.

Please use the prepared letter or draft your own to urge your Senators and Representative to support and co-sponsor S. 344 and H.R. 1282. As always, we appreciate your support for DAV and your participation in DAV Commander's Action Network. Thank you for all you do for America's service-disabled veterans and their families.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

H.R. 1278/S. 592, the DRIVE Act

April 4, 2023

Rep. Julia Brownley (Calif.) and Senators Debbie Stabenow (Mich.) and Peter Welch (Vt.) have introduced H.R. 1278/S. 592, the Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity (DRIVE) Act to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for veterans receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans who are seeking care for service-connected conditions or veterans with service-connected conditions rated at least 30% are among veterans who are eligible for beneficiary travel pay—which may include reimbursement for mileage, tolls and additional expenses, such as meals or lodging.

Unfortunately, the current mileage rates for beneficiary travel do not always cover the actual expenses for gas and associated costs of using a personal vehicle. The difference in the current mileage rate for reimbursement for veterans (41.5 cents) compared to federal employees using personal vehicles for business (62.5 cents) highlights the inadequacy of the rate for veterans' travel. Such expenses may serve as a barrier to care, especially when gas prices are high.

The DRIVE Act would tie veterans' mileage reimbursement to the rate government employees receive for using their personal vehicles for government business. DAV supports the DRIVE Act in accordance with Resolution No. 432, which calls for adopting the General Services Administration increased mileage rate for veterans' beneficiary travel.

Please ask your representative and senators to support H.R. 1278 and S. 592—the DRIVE Act.

Thank you for your support of the DAV Commander's Action Network.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

March 30, 2023

H.R. 1529 /S. 777, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023

DAV Supports H.R. 1529 and S. 777, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023. This would increase VA compensation benefit rates for veterans and those in receipt of Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

Without annual COLAs, many disabled veterans, who sacrificed their own health and family life for the good of our nation, may not be able to maintain the quality of life they deserve. Consistent with DAV Resolution No. 102, we support H.R. 1529 and S. 777. We must ensure that veterans' benefits keep pace for the many veterans and survivors who are on fixed incomes and largely rely on their compensation payments for basic necessities.

Please contact your Senators and Representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023. Thank you for standing with DAV to provide a cost-of-living increase for our nation's service disabled veterans, their families and survivors.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

March 29, 2023

### S. 132—the Daniel J. Harvey Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act

Unfortunately, rates of suicide among veterans still remain much higher than those of other Americans and VA has found that newly separated service members are particularly at risk for suicide. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) notes the initiatives and efforts it is making to reduce suicides among veterans and service members are gradually working toward the goal of eliminating these preventable tragedies.

Sens. Brown (Ohio) and Whitehouse (R.I.) have introduced S. 132, the Daniel J. Harvey Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act, to respond to this crisis among our newest generation of veterans. The bill would create a pilot project coordinated by VA and the Department of Defense to educate transitioning service members about challenges and risks of separating from service, including readjusting to their families and communities, and protective behaviors that may assist them in a successful transition. The bill would also provide a warm hand-off to a VA provider to screen individuals for risks, introduce them to appropriate VA services and provide them with contact information if they are likely to be eligible for services.

DAV Resolution No. 059 encourages Congress to support innovation and enhance resources to support effective programming for mental health and suicide prevention.

Please act today to express your support for this important legislation and urge your Senators to cosponsor S. 132 or thank them for their support of this important legislation.

Thank you for your support of our nation's veterans.

**Take Action!**





## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

H.R. 411, the Lead by Example Act of 2023

March 21, 2023

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, offering comprehensive high-quality health care services to meet the needs of ill and injured veterans. VA has done this by bringing together system-wide clinical expertise regarding service-connected conditions and disorders, utilizing a team approach to primary care that is veteran-centric and has a holistic view of veterans' needs to include, physical, psychosocial and economic determinants of health, and providing critical support services for family members and caregivers.

H.R. 411, the Lead by Example Act of 2023, would require that members of Congress and congressional staff receive health care from the VA, rather than through plans currently available to them as federal employees.

Consistent with DAV Resolution No. 011, DAV strongly supports H.R. 411. Requiring the leadership and lawmakers of our nation and their staff to receive health care from the VA will better enable them to judge the resource needs of the department to deliver timely, high-quality health care to our nation's veterans.

We are calling on all DAV members and supporters to contact their representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 411. Thank you for all you do for America's veterans and their families.

**Take Action!**



## A JOINT MESSAGE FROM DAV and the DAV Auxiliary

H.R. 333, the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act

March 14, 2023

On January 12, 2023, Rep. Sanford Bishop (Ga.) introduced H.R. 333, the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act.

This bill would permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated 40% and below to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation. The bill would also make permanent the eligibility for concurrent receipt for Chapter 61 disability retirees who retired with less than 20 years of service.

DAV supports H.R. 333, as it would end the unfair policy of requiring certain military retirees to forfeit some of their retired pay in order to receive equal amounts of disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs or, in the case of Chapter 61 retirees, having them choose between the two benefits. This legislation is in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 092 and would eliminate the bar to concurrent receipt of these benefits for all retirees.

Please use the prepared letter or draft your own to urge your representative to support and cosponsor H.R. 333. As always, we appreciate your support for DAV and thank you for participating in the Commander's Action Network.

**Take Action!**

# How Veterans Benefits Could Be Delayed in June by a US Default

This June 21, 2013, photo shows the seal affixed to the front of the Department of Veterans Affairs building in Washington. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

15 May 2023

Military.com | By [Rebecca Kheel](#)

Billions of dollars of veterans benefits could be imperiled if the U.S. defaults on its debts, though the full extent of the fallout is uncertain because of the unprecedented nature of a default.

About \$12 billion in veterans benefits are expected to be paid out June 1 -- the same day the Treasury Department has named as the earliest day a default could happen if Congress doesn't act to avoid it.

A default would likely delay those benefits, but for exactly how long would depend on the Treasury's next move after a default, experts who spoke to Military.com said.

"There is significant uncertainty as to what would occur because we've never been there," said Rachel Snyderman, senior associate director of business and economic policy for the Bipartisan Policy Center, the Washington, D.C., think tank that estimated how much money in veterans benefits is due to be paid in June.

At issue is what's known as the debt ceiling or debt limit, which is the amount of money the Treasury can borrow in order to pay the nation's bills. The exact timing of the "X date," or the day the Treasury runs out of cash, is a moving target since it depends on how much tax revenue comes in, but Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has warned it could happen as soon as June 1.

Pentagon officials have [sounded the alarm](#) about how a default could affect paychecks for service members.

House Republicans are demanding spending cuts in exchange for lifting the ceiling. The White House has maintained Congress should raise the ceiling immediately to avoid even the specter of a default and that any talks about spending cuts should be handled separately, though President Joe Biden [has signaled an openness](#) to clawing back unspent COVID-19 funds as Republicans have demanded.

With the deadline fast approaching, Biden and congressional leaders met at the White House last week, and staff-level talks have continued since then. A second meeting between Biden and congressional leaders had been scheduled for Friday but was canceled. Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., are next scheduled to meet Tuesday, Biden said Monday.

McCarthy sounded a pessimistic note Monday, telling reporters he thinks the two sides are still "far apart" and that it "seems like [administration officials] want to default more than they want a deal."

While the Biden administration and House Republicans have been trading accusations about whether the GOP proposal to slash overall government spending would mean cuts to the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), less talked about has been how veterans could be affected by a default.

The Bipartisan Policy Center's estimate of [payments that could be missed](#), including veterans benefits, is based on analysis of past Treasury reports on its daily transactions, Snyderman said. The estimate for veterans benefits covers any benefit administered by the VA, she said.

In addition to the June 1 payment, another round of veterans benefits is expected to be paid June 30.

"With each additional day that impasse continues, there could be an exponential impact on what that payment delay could look like," Snyderman said.



Experts see two possible scenarios for how the Treasury could try to pay U.S. bills after hitting the debt ceiling. In one scenario, the Treasury could choose to prioritize making certain payments before others as cash comes in. In that case, how long veterans benefits and [military pay](#) is delayed would depend on where they fall in line for priorities. Yellen has [downplayed the possibility](#) of prioritizing payments, doubting that it is technically feasible.

In another scenario, the Treasury could wait until it has enough cash in hand to make a full day's worth of payments in the order in which they came due. Then, if a default happened June 1, veterans benefits due that day might see only a short delay, but delays for later veterans benefits and other payments would grow the longer the impasse lasts.

"We've never defaulted, and we've never breached the debt limit, and because it's so unfathomable, there's no public playbook for what to do in a situation when this happens," said Marc Goldwein, senior vice president and senior policy director for the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

"Some prioritization is probably possible, but it would be difficult for them to justify continuing to pay full veterans benefits and not paying other things," he added. "It's possible they would do that. Veterans are very popular. But I think we should assume that at least payments would be delayed."

A lengthy default could equate to up to 30% in cuts for non-interest government spending, Goldwein said.

In addition to potentially hitting veterans benefits, about \$12 billion in military and civilian retirement pay that is expected June 1 and about \$4 billion in military salaries that is scheduled for June 15 could be disrupted by a default, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin alluded to the potential effect on military pay in congressional testimony last week.

"What it would mean realistically for us is that we won't, in some cases, be able to pay our troops with any degree of predictability," Austin said at a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing Thursday.

Administration officials issued similar warnings the last time the U.S. was close to a default in 2021. That year, Congress approved a debt limit increase with days to spare after Senate Republicans agreed not to block legislation. While Democrats controlled both chambers of Congress at the time, they didn't have the 60 votes typically needed to advance legislation in the Senate.

The negotiating dynamics are different this time because Republicans now control the House. The last debt ceiling crisis when Republicans held the House and Democrats controlled the White House and the Senate in 2011 ended with an agreement to lift the debt ceiling in exchange for steep spending cuts.

-- *Rebecca Kheel can be reached at [rebecca.kheel@military.com](mailto:rebecca.kheel@military.com). Follow her on Twitter [@reporterkheel](https://twitter.com/reporterkheel).*

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
www.va.govFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 21, 2023

## Budget Cut Proposals Would Hurt Veterans

WASHINGTON — While the President's Budget details a [plan](#) to honor our country's sacred obligation to care for America's Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, the proposal to cut a broad range of critical programs by 22% would threaten critical services for Veterans — both at VA and across the federal government. **The proposed 22% budget cut to VA would:**

- **Threaten Medical Care for Veterans.** The proposal would mean 30 million fewer Veteran outpatient visits, and 81,000 jobs lost across the Veterans Health Administration, leaving Veterans unable to get appointments for care including wellness visits, cancer screenings, mental health services, and substance use disorder treatment.
- **Undermine Access to Telehealth.** Access to remote care through telehealth is essential for Veterans, particularly in rural areas. By reducing funding for necessary IT infrastructure and support, the proposal would impair VA's ability to expand video-to-home telehealth services and limit the availability of medical equipment that can be provided to Veterans so they can attend important telehealth appointments from home.
- **Worsen Wait Times for Benefits.** Under the proposal, the Veterans Benefits Administration would eliminate more than 6,000 staff, increasing the disability claims backlog by an estimated 134,000 claims and forcing Veterans and their surviving loved ones to wait longer for the benefits they have earned, including pensions, life insurance, GI Bill educational supports, and employment services.
- **Prevent Construction on the Health Care Facilities that Veterans need.** Veterans deserve to receive care in state-of-the-art facilities, but the median VA hospital was built nearly 60 years ago — compared to just 13 years ago in the private sector. This proposal would cut up to \$565 million for major construction projects, including critical clinical upgrades to hospitals and clinics. These cuts would negatively impact Veteran health care across America.
- **Fail to Honor the Memory of All Veterans.** The proposal would require VA's National Cemetery Administration to eliminate approximately 500 staff, jeopardize NCA's ability to maintain the final resting place of Veterans to national shrine standards, and delay the opening of 5 new national cemeteries that will serve nearly 1.6 million Veterans and eligible family members.

Beyond the direct impact on Veterans who use VA, these proposed cuts would negatively impact Veterans who access critical services across the federal government. **Specifically, these proposed cuts would:**

- **Cut Housing for Veterans.** Every Veteran deserves a good, safe home in this country they fought to defend. The proposal would eliminate funding for Housing Choice Vouchers for as many as 50,000 Veterans, putting them at greater risk of homelessness.
- **Increase Food Insecurity for Veterans.** About 1.3 million Veterans rely on SNAP. This proposal would take food assistance away from Veterans who are older by adding burdensome, bureaucratic requirements, and it would limit states' flexibility to protect especially vulnerable people currently subject to work requirements. That would increase the likelihood that Veterans and their families go hungry.
- **Deprive Veterans of mental health, substance use, and other health services.** This proposal would mean deep cuts to Department of Health and Human Services community mental health centers, mental health and substance use prevention grants, and other public health programs. Supporting Veterans and their families in the community, especially those not enrolled in VA health care, has been a priority for HHS and these cuts could reduce access to timely care and services.
- **Eliminate Job Training and Other Supports to Homeless Veterans.** The proposal would mean that 4,200 fewer Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness would receive job training, counseling, and job readiness services provided through the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program.

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This analysis assumes an across-the-board reduction of roughly 22% compared to currently enacted FY 2023 levels for non-defense discretionary accounts. That aligns with proposals to return discretionary spending to FY 2022 levels on an ongoing basis while exempting defense spending.